



**Historic Jackson Ward Association  
Public Meeting Minutes  
501 N. 2nd Street  
May 15, 2018**

Janis Allen called the meeting to order at 6:05. Board members in attendance:

- Zach Jesse
- Jay Som
- Marilyn Milio
- Gary Flowers
- Janet Armstead
- Janis Allen
- Lynne Lancaster
- Jourdan James
- David Hahn
- Vicki Mollenauer

**UNOS**

A UNOS representative welcomed attendees and noted that UNOS was in need of volunteers. Please contact UNOS for more information.

**Richmond Police Department**

Lt. Roberts was not at the meeting. Another RPD member gave the latest Jackson Ward crime report in his absence:

- Major crimes were down 49%. These included 5 thefts from a motor vehicle reports, although 3 of these thefts were made possible by the vehicle being left unlocked. RPD stressed that people should lock their vehicles and be careful to not leave items in plain sight in cars.
- Violent crime was down 43%.

Several community members highlighted crime issues within the neighborhood:

- Janet Armstead - Noted issues along Duvall and 1st.
- Kim Gray - Voiced concerns about reports being linked to property addresses, potentially explaining low amount of crime actually being reported. These reports can potentially affect insurance rates, property prices, etc.

- Several people voiced concerns about a youth in the area, a Jackson Ward longtime roamer. One member alleged that this person stole a bike from his apartment complex.
- Barbara Givens - Discussed how a person had stolen tips from Stoplight Gelato Cafe. The incident was caught on camera, but she had concerns about what was in fact the point of reporting these incidents since nothing had seemed to have been done yet.

RPD stressed that people should report all crimes and recommended that call the non-emergency police line (804-646-5100) or simply 911.

### **City Council - Kim Gray**

Kim Gray quickly reported on two pieces of news.

- An email about an Oregon Hill zoning concern--the “37 minor arterial roadways transitional decision”--was recently sent to the HJWA board. Kim noted that, while she was looking into the issue, it likely was not as concerning as the email suggested and would likely not impact Jackson Ward in the future. Of note however, Leigh Street is one of the 37 roads that may be affected by the zoning board’s recent decision.
- Kim also provided an update to the “Belvidere to Broad left turn” issue. Her research concluded that this was an issue that city council could change, and she submitted an ordinance on Monday to reinstate the left turn. Ultimately, there is a 60-day DPW review process that will need to take place before any reversal goes into effect.

### **VCU Police - Greg Felton**

Greg Felton noted that VCU Police had interactions with several Jackson Ward residences recently. Responding to a question from Jim Vigeant, Officer Felton noted that there was no update on the jurisdictional issue.

### **Parking Permit - Lynne Lancaster**

Lynne Lancaster ran a short session on beginning to outline a potential parking permit plan. Ultimately, little concrete progress was made.

Zach wisely made a motion to hold a special HJWA public meeting focusing solely on parking issues. Marilyn seconded the motion and the motion carried. The meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of June, the 19th, at 6:00, location TBD.

Jourdan put together a survey to send out to people on the HJWA mailing list pertaining to the parking permit issue. The survey will likely go out the week prior to the special meeting. Only members will be able to vote; non-members will be encouraged to join.

Lynne will send along the ordinances from Carver and the Fan so that we might use them as templates for our own ordinance.

## **Announcements**

Janis delivered several short announcements about updates:

- Janet Armstead graduated from the Richmond Police Academy
- Bulk and brush will now be picked up by the city. The pickup will occur every other week on the recycling day schedule. Appliances are prohibited. See more on the HJWA Facebook page
- Janis commended various groups, such as VCU and the Maggie Walker House, for participating in clean ups of Jackson Ward in recent months
- The call for UNOS volunteers was reiterated. Training days are May 19 and 22nd. More info is on the UNOS website.
- The HJWA website redesign has had seven RFPs submitted. A decision will be made by the board in June. New website up and running by October.
- A dedication ceremony for the new Abner Clay playground is in the works. No details yet.
- VCU is looking to conduct a focus group for the upcoming 2nd Street Festival (October 6-7). Message the HJWA email to be considered.
- 511 West Marshall is being renovated into a 3-bedroom set of apartments. They don't need anything from us, but were informing us as a favor.
- David Hanh announced the upcoming "Welcome to Jackson Ward Day," currently scheduled for this Saturday, May 19, from 9-4 at his restaurant Salt & Forge. Veil Brewing and other unique consumables will be available.
- Tito Luna announced VCU's annual Neighborhood Forum will take place at the ICA on June 12 at 4:00-5:45. Those interested can also message him to take part in a guided tour of the ICA from 3-4 beforehand.
- The Maggie Walker House is celebrating its name sake's birthday on July 14 from 11-3.
- Stoplight Gelato Cafe's 2nd anniversary is on July 15th.
- Lynne noted that Liza Steel is currently in hospice and in need of thoughts and prayers.
- Janis noted several summertime opportunities for children. Contact Janis for more details about either.
  - The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design is having two week session throughout the summer for elementary and middle school students.
  - The Office of the Attorney General is hosting a law-themed summer camp.

## **Meeting end**

Janis adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Zach Jesse, Secretary