

**Historic Jackson Ward Association
Monthly Membership Meeting**

**Meeting Notes
May 16, 2006**

Welcome and Introductions: HJWA Chair Charles Finley opened the meeting and asked for a round of introductions from those present.

Minutes from April 17, 2006 Meeting: Not available

HJWA Financial Report: HJWA Treasurer Pat Smith reported on the Association's financial status. The current balance is \$7,649.67 of which \$340. is membership dues. The sale of the 1st Street properties cleared \$70,000

Monument Construction: Tom Dickey and Chris Johnson 3300 W. Clay St. 303-7347. Proposal to rehab 9 East Clay St. into eight (8) condominiums that will be for sale; six (6) must be owner occupied, twelve (12) off-street parking spaces. Each condo will be 1,000 square feet, three (3) stories priced at \$180,000 – 200,000. the proposal should go before City Council on July 10, 2006 and the Planning Commission the fourth Tuesday in June 2006.

Shifflett Family Proposal for the Armory: Gary and Larry Shifflett have a submitted a proposal to purchase the Armory located on Leigh St. to renovate it into 13 apartments; 11 one-bedroom and 2 two-bedroom apartments. The one-bedroom apartments will be approximately 575 sq. ft. and the two-bedrooms will be between 800 and 900 sq. ft. Rents will be in the range of 800 to 1100 per month with everything included except the phone. The proposal includes a security system and “permit only” parking in the rear of the building. They plan to set aside a small space to display the African American history of the Armory.

The project is presented to this body for vote. Results are:

Ten (10) YES

Seven (7) NO

The HJWA will submit a letter of support. The expressed continued concern in how the RFP was handled.

Great American Clean-UP: Philip Morris, USA collaborating with to clean up and beautify the Jackson Ward community. It will be held on May 20, 2006 beginning at 8:00 a.m. Croaker Spot is providing breakfast and Philip Morris, USA is providing the tools, plants, mulch and other equipment.

City Council Update: 2nd District Councilman Bill Pantele stated that the city of Richmond budget should be voted on May 20, 2006. The General Assembly cut 10 + million dollars from the city of Richmond. The Richmond Police Department will be placed on a step-pay plan with salaries at competitive levels and the Richmond Fire Department will have a comparable plan. Five (5) million dollars above the Mayors figure has been proposed for city of Richmond Schools. The Mayor's “City of the

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Future Plan” cites the upgrading of schools at a total of \$3 million and will require the public schools to take advantage of cost-saving opportunities. Some will be spent on crime prevention and neighborhood infrastructure. There is a proposal to build a 14-theatre movie complex at the Boulevard and West Leigh St. There is talk about re-developing the Diamond.

Richmond Police Department: Overall crime is down 10%, robbery of individuals is up 1000%.

HJWA Nominating Committee: Lynne Lancaster has agreed to lead this committee. Individuals interested in membership on the HJWA Board of Director need to see Lynne Lancaster.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Demmie Murray, HJWA Board Member