

The Historic Jackson Ward Association

HISTORIC JACKSON WARD ASSOCIATION MEETING

TUESDAY, March 21, 2017

UNOS/Jackson Center – 501 N. 2nd Street

Marilyn Milio, President of the Historic Jackson Ward Association called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 pm. There were approximately 38 people in attendance.

UNOS Fun Run

Lisa Schaffner relayed to the HJWA membership an upcoming UNOS Fun Run and 5K, slated for April 29. While the race is taking place in Innsbrook, Jackson Ward residents are nonetheless encouraged to participate. The race is a family friendly walk/run to honor organ donors and support the mission of UNOS.

Committees

Marilyn encouraged new HJWA members to check out the strategic plan and various HJWA committees on the website. She is planning on sending out a summary on each group in a week or two which will include details on what's going on within each committee.

Police Updates

Lt. Greene spoke to the membership and handed out fliers and a sign up sheet for those intending to attend for a 4/19 Town Hall Meeting at the Police Station on Chamberlayne Avenue. He asked that Vicki scan the completed sign in sheet and email it to him since he could not stay.

He relayed crime statistics over the past 28 days. Overall, it was a positive report:

- No violent crime
- Two burglaries, although these were the result of unlocked doors
- Slight increase in motor vehicle theft with 8 in the last 28 days: 4 windows were smashed; 3 were unlocked; 1 window was pushed down.
- One robbery from a business at Rite Aid. The Tobacco shop on 1st was broken into 3 times and has since installed more robust security measures.

Lt. Greene then highlighted Officer Frank Misiano, the local RPD representative responsible for graffiti in the neighborhood. Officer Misiano noted that the city will help remove graffiti from private property, but residents would need to fill out a form that can be found on the Richmondgov.com website. He noted that if homeowners have their outside paint color, the city will use that in their clean-up process. Marilyn reminded folks to email her with new graffiti that they see in the neighborhood.

Greg Felton of the VCU Police thinks most of neighborhood issues have been handled.

Neighborhood Clean Up Day

Vicki reminded the HJWA body of the semi-annual Clean Up Day. It's currently scheduled for April 22, from 8-12, meeting under the gazebo in Abner Clay Park. Residents are encouraged to attend; if unable, they are encouraged to clean up on their own schedule.

Fire Department presentation

Brian Turnage, the interim deputy chief of the Richmond Fire Department, sought input from Jackson Ward on some city-wide name changes they were looking to implement. In an effort to foster positive community relationships, the fire department was interested in potentially two changes and wanted to gauge Jackson Ward's opinion: (1) renaming the Fire Station #5 (currently at the corner of Brook and Leigh) to "The Jackson Ward Fire Station;" and (2) changing the number of that fire station to "Engine Company 9." This second change seeks to commemorate the first African American firefighting regiment which was located in Jackson Ward [This might be inexact. Please correct if wrong].

Vicki made a motion in favor of supporting both of these changes. Janet seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

EPA Flooding Input

Jennifer Ciminelli from VCU gave a short presentation on a recent EPA grant that VCU received. Looking to leverage technology and community to develop a greening plan within the city to help mitigate urban runoff, the EPA grant helped fund a study to identify locations in the study area (which includes Jackson Ward) where flooding and water pooling occurs. Jackson Ward residents are encouraged to use the website [forthcoming? I didn't get it from Ms. Ciminelli] to pinpoint areas of localized flooding. While dates were not finalized, Ms. Ciminelli suggested that this data was being collected from April 2017 for 2-3 months.

Psych Dept. in Jackson Center

The VCU department of Psychology now has an office in the Jackson Center. It's located across from the HJWA meeting room and has "Motivate" emblazoned on the door. Dr. Misha Terplan discussed how the center was a closed clinic--patients must be referred from the hospital rather than being able to simply walk in to receive an appointment or treatment.

Jay Som inquired about parking. Lisa Schaffner, while unsure of the numbers, suggested that they had designated spots to accommodate patients.

Coffee Roaster on Smith

Vickie and Shawn Fleming presented on behalf of their son (currently living in Washington state). He sought a special use permit for a coffee roasting business he aimed to install at 417 Smith Street. The address is currently zoned for a hair salon. His parents read a statement he wrote in which he spoke about his passion and study of coffee and the many awards he's won in that field. He hopes to start as soon as the SUP is approved.

Jay made a motion to support the SUP. Vicki seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Sadia's Juice Bar/Yoga Bar/Coffee Bar

Marilyn highlighted this new Jackson Ward business located on 2nd Street.

Bike Lanes on 1st and 2nd

Lester from Mama J's led the charge against the proposed bike lanes being envisioned on 1st and 2nd as part of the city's Bike Master Plan. He emphasized that, while these lanes aren't taking up parking per se, they are still interfering with local business, in particular complicating delivery issues.

Membership was largely supportive of bike lanes in particular, but negative of the plans proposed by the city as is. In particular, one bike rider noted the safety issues these proposed plans seemed to ignore. Kim Gray also noted her skepticism of the plans.

Jay made a motion that those present indicate their support or non-support of the project. Marilyn suggested that even non-members should participate in the vote. One person was in support of adopting the route as is. A majority was not.

Dues were collected by the treasurer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35

Respectfully submitted,

Zach Jesse

HJWA Board Secretary