

**HISTORIC JACKSON WARD ASSOCIATION MONTHLY PUBLIC MEETING**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015**

**Jackson Center – 501 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**

Jack Marshall, President of the Board, opened the meeting at 6:05pm. Board members in attendance were Marilyn Milio, Vicki Mollenauer, Lynne Lancaster, Janet Armstead, Zach Jesse and Lorenza Coley.

**Police Update** – Sgt. Jean-Guy Legouffe delivered the Richmond Police report in lieu of Lt. Greene. Violent and property crime are down from this time last year (24% and 15%, respectively).

Other updates included:

RPD is investigating alleged drug dealing and prostitution activity at 21 E. Leigh Street but could not provide further information due to the on-going nature of the investigation

; (b) RPD is aware of roving bands of juveniles were demanding money from neighborhood residents;

(c) RPD has identified the owner of the “backpack” discovered during the most recent Clean Up Day (although no action was taken against the owner, he is known to RPD and being watched); and

(d) RPD acknowledged the uptick in graffiti around the neighborhood.

Sgt. Legouffe particularly emphasized vehicle break-ins. He urged residents to keep their vehicle locked, and noted that these crimes constituted the large majority of property crimes in the neighborhood (thus driving up overall crime rates).

Greg Felton with the VCU Police updated the membership as well. He echoed Sgt. Legouffe’s suggestions about preventing vehicle theft. In cases of graffiti, he urged residents to take a picture and send it to Officer Capocelli of the RPD to help develop cases against frequent taggers. He also clarified the law as it applies to bike riders: if a bicyclist is riding in the street, they are governed by automobile traffic law; if they ride on the sidewalk, they must give right of way to pedestrians.

**RRHA/CPDC Development** – Jack relayed the Board’s plan to negotiate for the inclusion HJWA-sought concessions in the Special Use Permit that RRHA/CPDC needs

to proceed with its proposal. He shared the Board's proposed list of issues and urged residents to contact him with other items they want included in the discussions with RRHA/CPDC. Jack also noted the HJWA ongoing concern about the mix of senior subsidized, income restricted and market rate units in the proposed project. Negotiations with RRHA/CPDC will continue on these and other issues.

**Potential Demolition** – Jack Ryan mentioned that 14½ Leigh Street was scheduled to be demolished. Marilyn suggested that he speak with Lynne Lancaster and herself about the possibility of saving the house on that property.

**BRT** – Jack discussed the HJWA's decision to join with the RVA Smart Transit Coalition and summarized the Coalition's on-going work, including executing a coordinated plan to have multiple speakers at last week's City Council meeting. While the project is likely to proceed unless there are 5 votes on City Council to stop/delay it, the Coalition will continue working to ensure that our concerns are addressed.

**Belvidere Medical Center Acquisition** – Mitzi Lee, Will Martin and Tito Luna, all with VCU, discussed the recent purchase of the Belvidere Medical Center property. While they were unable to discuss details, Mitzi stressed that the property will not be used for student housing or academic classrooms, and that the property would be unlikely to add to parking demand in the area. The funding for the project may be non-traditional, they want the property to be revenue-generating, and the property may be built in phases. VCU expressed its commitment to engage with HJWA on development plans and said it was very interested in developing a project with neighborhood input and support. VCU said it would be back in touch in January with further details about its plans and a process to engage with HJWA.

In the meantime, Mitzi asked the HJWA what it would like to see happen at the property in the interim period prior to construction. Lynne requested that landscaping and general upkeep be done. Any additional requests or thoughts can be sent to neighbors@vcu.edu.

**New HJWA Email Address** – Jack highlighted the HJWA's new email address, HYPERLINK "mailto:hjwassociation@gmail.com" [hjwassociation@gmail.com](mailto:hjwassociation@gmail.com).

**Strategic Plan Committees** – Strategic Plan Committees met for the final 15 minutes of the meeting to discuss their respective action plans.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Zach Jesse

Zach Jesse

HJWA Board Secretary

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