



**Historic Jackson Ward Association
Public Meeting Minutes
502 N. 2nd Street
October 17, 2017**

Marilyn called the meeting to order at 6:02. Board members in attendance:

- Zach Jesse
- Jay Som
- Marilyn Milio
- Gary Flowers
- Janet Armstead
- Julius Richardson
- Janis Allen
- Lynne Lancaster

Richmond Police Department - Officer Zelas

Officer Zelas gave the report in Lt. Greene's absence.

Over the last 28 days, crime in the neighborhood has decreased:

- Violent crime was down 68%. There were two violent crime arrests made in Jackson Ward, both involving carjacking.
- Property crime was down 36%.

Several community members highlighted crime issues within the neighborhood:

- Jim Vigeant - mentioned a drug transaction occurring at 1st and Clay out of a parked car
- Julius Richardson - mentioned another drug transaction, this time in the parking lot of the 400 block of North 2nd Street
- Janet Armstead - mentioned there was a man on a bicycle who she believed was pimp

VCU Police - Tito Luna

Tito Luna spoke for Greg Felton today as the officer was under the weather.

The only concern voiced was about a party house on the 100 block of East Clay.

City Council - Kim Gray

Kim offered HJWA residents free tickets to a Richmond Symphony event scheduled for Friday, October 27 at 6:30. Residents who are interested but did not receive tickets can email either Kim or Marilyn Milio.

Kim also suggested that the HJWA look into a “design overlay district,” a project that the Grace Street neighborhood of the Fan was considering. She suggested that it may help protect the architectural integrity of our neighborhood, preventing what is likely to happen with the planned project on Marshall Street.

Kim asked residents to support businesses on Broad along the Pulse corridor. Many business, restaurants in particular, had seen a serious drop in their revenue during construction and some were in jeopardy of closing.

Finally, next week there is a Black History Museum / Civil War Museum co-sponsored event.

Abner Clay Park - Timmons Group - Scott Wiley

Scott Wiley recapped the events of past several years, culminating with the current iteration of the Abner Clay redesign project. Some notable points he made were:

- The basketball court will remain where it is. It will not have a fence around it. It will leave access to the new school parking lot
- The Bike Share will move closer to pavillion area.
- Timmons does not plan to address any of the sidewalks or streets during this phase of construction. In response to neighborhood request, they will replace the large, gaping hole in the sidewalk near Brook and Clay.
- He also talk about the issues concerning Prentice Street, the short street adjacent to the playground. In particular, there was concern about the fact that the street consisted of both cobblestone and asphalt. They plan on keeping parking on that street, but look to prevent people from driving up from the basketball courts through that area.
- The art installations currently planned for the park are not intended to be permanent and can be changed. There will only be a foundation laid so that the installations can change.
- The park, currently, is not going to be lit. This is a decision made by Parks and Rec, one that is consistent with other Richmond parks. Thus, the park will only be lit with street lighting around the perimeter.
 - This also entails removing the floodlights. There was some objection by residents as to this news as the floodlights are used by events such as the Down Home Family Reunion. Scott Wiley said he would bring that concern to the attention of Parks and Rec.
- The park’s walkways are currently planned as concrete outlined with brick. There is currently no plans for any activity trail. While a History Walk is something planned for the

future, there is not enough money in the budget to tackle that project currently. Money would likely need to come from grants or private donors.

The budget for the project is currently estimated at \$863K (this figure already takes into account Kaboom! money and money from RPS). We will need to raise another ~\$200K.

The timeline for the project is:

- November - submit the plans to CAR
- December - go in front of CAR
- Spring 2018 - begin work

Scott suggested that any folks who had comments or concerns should forward them to Timmons directly or Marilyn. The plans are currently on the HJWA website.

New RRHA Project - TK Samanath & Brian Jackson

RRHA came before the membership to discuss a zoning change they are seeking for a 3 acre plot at Jackson and 3rd near Club 533. At present, they have neither a definitive plan nor a time table; RRHA is merely seeking input into potentially rezoning the plot in order to attract a major developer to the area.

The area is currently zoned as residential. They would like to rezone it as mixed-use, specifically B-7. This zoning designation would allow for not only residential, but also retail and office space as well.

The B-7 zoning would allow up to 6 stories in height. This is ideal for a boutique hotel which RRHA envisions in the property. This is likely the only building in that plot that would be that high. RRHA has suggested that they would ensure the properties would not seek SUPs to go higher.

While B-7 zoning allows a laundry list of buildings, RRHA has agreed in writing - a "proffer" - to exclude certain types of construction, such as an auto repair shop. These limitations would be binding on future owners as they would be part of the zoning restrictions. They have sought input from residents as to what types of buildings they would like or not like to see. Residents with opinions can email RRHA directly or Marilyn.

In response to concerns about architectural integrity, RRHA has suggested that they could include language to force purchasers to abide by historical neighborhood architectural standards.

Responding to a request by a member regarding minority developers, RRHA will try to encourage African American developers, they are prohibited by law from requiring that from a developer.

VCU Book - Tito Luna

Tito took a moment to promote VCU's required reading, a book titled Dreamland. Residents interested in a copy can email Tito.

Updates - Marilyn Milio

Kaboom!'s build day is scheduled for Friday, November 17th. It is an all day event and residents are encouraged to participate.

Elections for the HJWA Board will happen at next month's public meeting. Folks interested should message Marilyn with a bio and/or resume. There are five positions open and only five people have declared they are running.

The bi-annual neighborhood cleanup is scheduled for this Saturday, October 21st at 8:00. It is dedicated to Zach's father Robert, who recently passed and who was a common participant in the clean ups.

The Holiday Celebration is scheduled for December 12th at Sahara's Mediterranean Grill.

Meeting end

Marilyn adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Zach Jesse, Secretary