

**Historic Jackson Ward Association  
Monthly Membership Meeting**

**Meeting Notes  
September 19, 2006**

**Welcome and Introductions:** HJWA Chair Charles Finley opened the meeting, requested introductions from those present. Mr. Finley informed that the Historic Jackson Ward Association Annual meeting would be held in October 2006.

**Minutes from August 2006 Meeting:** Unavailable

**City Council Update – Bill Pantele:** Mr. Pantele informed this body of a number of reports on drug houses in the community. He has also received quite a few calls on the status of the Armory. The flood situation for the residents of Battery Park is tragedy. The estimated cost to solve this problem is \$30-40 million. The same situation with flooding in Shockoe Bottom needs to be addressed and fixed. Mr. Pantele states the need for an accountable city government. There is a proposal on the table for the re-zoning of Jackson Place. It was initially zoned for residential but now should be mixed; an RFP is coming. He will recommend that a member of the Historic Jackson Ward Association participate in the selection process as a proposal reviewer.

**Treasurer’s Report:** SunTrust Bank membership account at 8/31/06 after sending \$3,000 to Elegba Folklore Society for Down Home Family Reunion was \$3,996.11; on 9/13/06 Capital One check deposited for an adjusted membership account balance of \$43,996.11. Consolidated Bank & Trust account balance at 8/31/06 was \$87,020.07.

**David Cooper of Code Enforcement:** Mr. Cooper informed that city inspectors go out to blighted properties upon request only and that there is usually a response from his office within 3-5 days. Calls and/or e-mails are the preferable method of reporting such properties. At that point, a notice of code violation is issued and the owner has 7 days to make repairs. There will be due process or the city will contract for the job to be done at the owner’s cost. The members of this meeting requested feedback on their complaints of blighted properties. A member of this meeting requested a more focused effort on the Madison Street property that burned. Mr. Cooper suggested that individuals go to the General Assembly to get more action on ways to handle such issues. Citizens need to communicate in a forcible way with the city administration. Councilman Pantele suggests getting on the city’s tracking system to report. He also suggested a follow-up meeting with William Harrell; **Chief Administrative Officer** Citizens want an account of what is done after their complaints.

**Richmond Police Department:** Sgt. Barlow has been receiving e-mails from residents. There have been three (3) felony arrests in Abner-Clay Park. Vice-Chair, Leighton Powell requested she receive e-mails concerning property crimes.

**Amy King of Rebuilding Richmond Together:** Capital One is a partner with City Lights for the “Christmas in April” program that provides low-income, elderly citizens with repairs to their homes to ensure warmth, dryness, safety and weatherization. Ms. King was informed that Elder Homes might have a list of elderly citizens they could review for possible service needs. The association voted to join Rebuilding Richmond in conducting a project in Jackson Ward next fall.

**Mavis Wynn of Venture Richmond:** Ms. Wynn provided information on the 18<sup>th</sup> year of the “2<sup>nd</sup> Street Festival” which began with a film review at the Valentine Museum. Now there are around 40-50,000 people who attend this event. This year it will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2006. The festival area will begin from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street between Marshall and end at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jackson. Lt. Gary Ladin will have the mobile command center and provide walkie-talkies for individuals who sign up to volunteer to be “ambassadors” at the festival.

**Vicki Mollenaar:** Thanked everyone who helped and participated in the National Night Out Against Crime activities. Bob Wheatley designed the T-Shirts. Residents invited to participate in putting up Christmas Decorations on November 25, 2006.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Demmie Murray, HJWA Board Secretary