

HJWA Membership Meeting September 16, 2008

Call to Order by Charles Finley, HJWA Board President

Harvest Festival-Elizabeth McAdams:

Del. J. McClellan has indicated that they don't need money this year but would like donations of candy. It's basically a Halloween party for the kids. They are looking for any new ideas for booths or activities. There will be a volley ball game going on simultaneously and the players will interact with the kids. Sign up sheet started for volunteers for the Harvest Fest. Obama campaign workers will be on site also. The date is October 31, 2008 and it starts at 6 p.m.

Special Guest – Mrs. Lisa Dawson, 2nd District School Board Member, was not present.

Introduction of New Board Members

Some individuals have stepped down from board positions and according to the Association By-Laws; these positions can be filled by the President with the concurrence of the remaining board members. The Board President appointed the following individuals to the HJWA Board of Directors; Lynn Lancaster and Sharon Richardson. Bill McGhee, our ACDC representative who resigned due to newly assigned responsibilities is replaced by Elizabeth Maddox from ACDC. Next month is the Annual Meeting and we will elect full term board members then; we need nominations.

Police Department Update- Officers Kim Drake and Robert Kleinholtz

Crime for the sector and city, as a whole, is down. There have been thefts from motor vehicles that brought our stats to a 66% increase of 40 this year and 29 last year at this same time. No sex crimes reported car jackings however; there were 6 shootings last year compared to 10 at this time last year, 12 residency burglaries which are up 4 from last year. There was a purse snatching around Rite-Aid. There were some storage break-ins near Adams, 40 thefts from vehicles this year compared to 29 last year due in part to items left in plain view. There was a catalytic converter taken from a van at 2nd and Jackson and 7 have been taken from the Franklin St. parking deck. There have been 22 bicycle thefts compared to only 14 this time last year. Some residents are welcoming police into their homes to sit and observe potential crime activity. Always call the non-emergency number for concerns.

Annual Meeting and Election of Board Members

Christmas Party – Tentative Date, December 16th – Committee Members Needed. Venue is at the 533 Club. Pat Smith and Demmie Murray have volunteered but they could use additional volunteers.

Cap One Volunteer Fair- September 24th – It will occur from 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., volunteers are needed 10-3p.m. There were no volunteers at the meeting. It was suggested that maybe this request should be sent out via the e-mail list.

Sports Backers HJW Walk

Sports Backers are considering this event for sometime next spring on a Saturday morning to walk a course through JW and have a few houses open for touring.

VCU 40th Anniversary Celebration – Volunteers

October 25, 2008 at Monroe Park, an exhibit of communities, looking for additional volunteers; 12 to 5. Again, there were no volunteers from among the members present. We are working with the Black History Museum to provide some artifacts.

2nd Street Festival – Volunteers Needed

First weekend in October, HJWA had a table at 2nd and Clay last year. Activities are scheduled for Saturday 12-8 and Sunday it is 1-5. Again, there were no volunteers from among the members present.

Beautification Project Proposal – Adopt-A-Tree

We will be spending Cap One money on a beautification project. Deadline is 10/1/08. Tree aerators (green bag), water it once a week. Urban Forestry (Norm Brown) has a program called **Tree Stewards**. There are some matching funds from your Council person. You can get certified and use the pump truck to go around and water the trees. Three trees you can pick from. Call Marilyn if you are missing a tree. There are not enough trashcans in neighborhood; Marilyn has called the city; they are \$700 each. There is letter in the Newsletter about keeping your property clean.

Clean-up Day- Vicki displayed the new banners that will be hung at the park and near ACDC to advertise upcoming cleanups. She asked that members save the date of 10/11/08 and volunteer to assist.

Discussion/Comment Period

Nixon Booker interested in serving on the parking permit committee.

There are leftover decorations for Christmas, 700 block was not decorated last year.

Mike from MLW House announced that a new Lead Ranger has been appointed to serve the site. Her name is Eola Dance and she transferred from the Frederick Douglass site in DC. She can be reached at 771-2017, ext.22.

Zoning Issues, Dept. of Community Development usually keeps us abreast.

Hunt only has a demolition permit for the property at 111 W. Marshall St. not a permit for construction. His request for a variance from off-site parking restrictions was granted by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Marilyn Milio needs volunteers for community distribution of our neighborhood newsletter. Again, there were no volunteers from the members present.

RRHA North JW development meetings will be held on 9/30 at the Calhoun Center, 10/30 at Calhoun, Final plan meeting is in early December.

There is a paper before Council for city to acquire 133 W. Jackson; comments and concerns can be made on September 22 at a city council meeting starting at 6 pm, item # 2008-204. Members were asked to e-mail council members to support the paper.

Respectfully Submitted,

Demmie Murray, Secretary
HJWA Board of Directors