

**Historic Jackson Ward Association  
Monthly Membership Meeting**

**Meeting Notes**  
February 21, 2006

**Welcome and Introductions.** HJWA Chair Charles Finley opened the meeting and asked for a round of introductions from those present.

**HJWA Financial Report:** HJWA Treasurer Pat Smith reported on the association's financial position.

**City Council Update:** 2<sup>nd</sup> District Councilman Bill Pantele offered congratulations on the recent positive publicity received through the news and Times-Dispatch. He reported the following:

The City has narrowed down proposals for the OIC (Leigh School) building to two.

The Mayor's budget proposals will be received by March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Public Safety: The first two months of 2006 have been rough for Jackson Ward, but 80 arrests have been made in Gilpin in the last 30 days and police are cracking down on abandoned vehicles.

Councilman Pantele would like to see an initiative started among Biotech, Convention Center, VCU, and Jackson Ward in which residents could partner with them for jobs.

Property values are rising rapidly, but assessments must be set at 100% fair market value. City Council has plans in place to assist with taxes for certain age brackets in order to keep current residents in their homes.

MeadWestvaco, which is relocating to Richmond, might choose office space in downtown Richmond.

**City of Richmond Tax Relief Programs:** Kevin Ervin of City's Finance Department reported that the Virginia Car Tax Relief will not remain at 70%. In the City of Richmond, the tax relief will most likely be between 50% - 69%. City vehicle decals have been eliminated as of January 1, 2006. If you owe the city any license fees, you will not be able to renew your license plates with DMV. City real estate assessments will arrive in mid-March; appeals are due by 3/31/06. There are tax breaks for those who are 65 or over if they make less than \$50,000 and assets are less than \$200,000. There is also a tax freeze program available for those 65 or over. Boot program in effect in the City of Richmond. After third unpaid parking ticket, your vehicle is booted, requiring credit card payment to remove boot.

**Update on 1<sup>st</sup> Street houses:** Charles Finley reported that 524 and 526 North First Street houses have been sold. Proceeds will be returned to the city. 522 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street has been

sold and 522 ½ is under contract to be closed next Friday. The Association might break even, but at the very least should not owe anything.

**Capital One update:** Charles Finley reported that he and representatives from other Jackson Ward entities attended a meeting the prior week with Adele Johnson of Capital. Nothing is finalized yet as to the various programs they are going to assist HJWA with in the coming year, but follow-up is coming very soon.

**HJWA Bylaws:** Vice Chair Leighton Powell reported that following the January membership meeting, she had emailed the new Bylaws to the membership and asked for comments by the end of January. She did not receive any. A motion was made to adopt the By-laws as presented at the January HJWA meeting. Seconded. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**Crime Prevention Meeting:** Charles Finley reminded residents that the Richmond Police Department was hosting a crime prevention meeting the next night – February 22, 2006 – at the Richmond Convention Center.

**Spring Clean Up Day:** Vicki Mollenauer handed out flyers about the upcoming Clean-Up Day to be held on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am. We will meet at Abner Clay Park, and Capital One volunteers will be assisting us. Refreshments will be provided.

**Spring Festival (May Fair) – Ebenezer Baptist Church:** Mona Mallory, representing Ebenezer Baptist Church, handed out flyers about the upcoming Festival that will be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> from 11 am – 4 pm in Abner Clay Park. This event is sponsored by Ebenezer Baptist Church, located at 216 W. Leigh St.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicki Mollenauer

