

## **HJWA Membership Meeting**

**March 21, 2007**

Meeting opened by Charles Finley, Board President and initiated introductions of board members and guest presenters.

Minutes of the February 2007 HJWA membership meeting reviewed and approved.

**Major John Dixon-** Discussed the second annual Police Sectors' Community Problem-Solving workshop to Build Better Communities. It will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 24, 2007 at the ACCA Temple located at 1712 Bellevue Ave.

**Carolyn Mosby-** A certified representative of the Community Emergency Response Team. Ms. Mosby provided information on certification training. Former city councilman, Bill Johnson leads a newly created department on emergency response for the city of Richmond. Upcoming training dates are: May 11-12, 2007, August 10-11, 2007 and October 12-13, 2007 at the Ambulance Authority. Citizens must be at least 18 years old to participate. Emergency Response bags with equipment are given upon completion of the classes.

**Ebenezer Baptist Church** is conducting a program entitled Bridging Employment Gaps on March 24, 2007 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Bill Pantele, City Council President and 2<sup>nd</sup> District Representative**, unable to attend due to participation in a forum on city of Richmond Property Assessments and the Richmond Times-Dispatch offices.

**Abner Clay Park Beautification Project** – City Lights and Lewis Ginter Park collaboration, Jennifer of Lewis Ginter Park reports that Davis Trees has offered free pruning of the trees and fertilization of greenery. Should large planters be a part of the beautification project, who would be responsible for maintaining them and is there water accessibility at the park? The University of Richmond Landscaping Design Team has offered their services. There are some questions concerning whether or not these services would be short-term or long-term. Other members at this meeting had questions about lighting to which Lt. Gary Ladin responded that there is a comprehensive plan on lighting. S additional questions arose concerning types of plants for the area as well as the possibility of a dog park for some part of the park area, it was decided that a survey should be done to determine on the types of plants and the interests in a dog park. The next scheduled meeting to discuss the Abner Clay Park project will be held at 2:00 p.m. on March 26, 2006 at Lewis Ginter Park. Sandy, Leighton, Whitney and Cassandra have agreed to attend this meeting.

**Bio-Tech Park**, Nikki Colome of Bio-Tech Park informed of the wish of her organization to create a sense of community with Jackson Ward and its residents. Board President and Member, Marilyn Milio participated in a tour of the Virginia Consolidated Lab and found it quite interesting in all of the activities it is involved in that affect the entire United States.

**Lt. Ladin of Sector 413** – Lt. Ladin reminds the members of the Sector Training that takes place on Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 8 – 4 p.m. The Jackson Ward and Monroe communities have been linked to partner together at the training based on their geographic proximity and the similarity of their crime issues. The Broad St. merchants are banding together and have been encouraged to get together with us,

the Jackson

Ward community. He encourages members to attend First Fridays as a show of support of our Board Street merchants. Members remarked on how please they were to participate in First Fridays and the sense of security of have police presence. Board member, Julius Richardson was also commended for the presence of his staff.

Lt. Ladin states there has been no change in violent crime, there's been a 33% decrease in property crime. Sector 413 would like to support the April 21<sup>st</sup> clean-Up day and plans to use kids ordered by the courts to participate in community service activities to assist in this effort. The officers of Sector 413 have conducted several traffic check points; one at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Duvall was fruitful the recovery of illegal items.

**Activities and Dates of Note:**

VSU Gospel Chorale concert on March 30, 2007 at 7 p.m. in the Adult Career Development Center (ACDC)

Reception for Jackson Ward businesses on March 30, 2007 at 6 p.m. at ACDC prior to the concert; the ACDC Culinary Arts students will cater the food.

Unveiling of the Slave Reparation statue will take place on March 30, 2007 at 4 p.m.

Jackson Ward clean-up on April 21, 2007 starts at 8 a.m. in Abner Clay Park

Armstrong Alumni Association is unveiling a granite monument at ACDC on April 22, 2007

The Ward newsletter deadline for submission of articles, patronage, etc. is set for April 23, 2007.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Demmie Murray, HJWA Board Secretary

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