

HISTORIC JACKSON WARD ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2005

The Chair of the Historic Jackson Ward Association (HJWA), Charles Finley, opened the meeting.

Charles Finley provided an update on the First Street properties.

522 and 522 ½ are on the market for \$189,000 each.

There are 3-4 contracts on the shells located at 524 and 526 at an average price of \$130,000.

City of Richmond wants funds back on 528, which was sold to ElderHomes.

Kelvin Harris, Director of the Richmond Career Advancement Center (RCAC)

RCAC is a “One Stop” employment and training center located at 201 E. Broad St.

Virginia’s unemployment rate is 2.5%, metropolitan Richmond, which included the surrounding counties, has an unemployment rate of 3.5%. The city of Richmond’s unemployment rate is 5.2%.

Individuals who participate in the full gamut of employability training services can receive a “Career Readiness Certificate.”

City Councilman, Bill Pantele, declared October as “Workforce Investment Month”.

RCAC collaborates with over 25 agencies to provide intensive services to an average of 1800 visitors per month.

ECPI has selected RCAC as one of its continuing education sites.

The latest innovation of RCAC is “RCAC on the Go”, a mobile employability and training center that reaches individuals, providing the same quality services that its “one stop” center on Broad St.

The RCAC slogan is a statement of what it does best, “Cultivating Talent for Richmond’s Workforce.”

William Pantele, 2nd District Councilman

A paper introduced to city council proposes privatization of the streets of Gilpin Court. This will allow the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) to have more control over its trespassing policy. Comments of this body included questions about how the streets will funnel traffic.

The city of Richmond’s financial statements, which, have not been audited, are available.

Mr. Pantele’s community newsletter will be out in December 2005.

Many planned condominiums are coming downtown and retailers are interested in the area.

In 2007, there will be some bills coming due for the city of Richmond however, Mr. Pantele feels positive about the city.

HJWA November 15, 2005 Meeting Minutes, continued

Marilyn Milio of the VCU Headstart Program shared information about the “Holiday Store.” She is seeking volunteer and donations to stock the “Holiday Store” with items such as paper products, cleaning supplies, etc. Volunteers are needed to stock the house on 12/6/05 and 12/7/05. December 8, 2005 is the sale date. Marilyn can be reached at 828-4101.

RPD Officer, Christine Thornton provides updates on crime and safety issues in Jackson Ward. Comparing October 2004 – November 2004 to October 2005 – November 2005, robbery is up

150%, theft from motor vehicles is down 50%, vandalism is up 133%.
RPD has a light trailer that can move to different locations in the city that shines a bright light on problematic areas.

Leighton Powell, Vice Chair of the HJWA discussed the by-laws.

A motion was made and passed to delay the bylaws vote until January 2006.

A volunteer committee (Marilyn Milio, Max Williams, Steve Hennessy, Julie Hassan, Kelvin Hansen and Demmie Murray) will meet to hammer out a draft before the vote in January 2006. The HJWA Holiday Party will be held at the Historic Fire Station on Marshall St. on December 12, 2005.

An anonymous donor gave \$400 towards the HJWA party.

Mr. Hansen volunteered Pat Smith to help coordinate the HJWA Christmas Party.

Decorations for the Jackson Ward street lights may be obtained from Richmond Renaissance.

HJWA residents will meet on Sunday, November 27, 2005 to decorate their blocks.

Kelvin Hansen extended an invitation to his company Christmas Party that will be held on 12/16/05 at the Omni.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Demmie Murray, HJWA Board Member

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