

West Avenue Improvement Association

Fall Meeting Minutes– Monday, October 25, 2010 – 7:00PM

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert Smith and a motion was made and passed to accept the meeting minutes from the spring meeting.

Officer Mullins of the Richmond Police Department gave an overview of crime in the area. Violent Crime against individuals, Property Crime and Crime involving motor vehicles were all down. There was a small increase in larcenies, mostly due to unlocked vehicles and crimes of opportunity. There was no pattern to the crimes that did occur. The most common attribute was individuals not being aware of their surroundings. Officer Mullins reiterated that the best way to prevent crime is to **be aware of your surroundings, don't leave possessions in plain sight and lock your home and vehicles**. RPD has also partnered with the VCU Police on the Party Patrol program, bringing academic repercussions to repeat noise ordinance offenders that are students. Also, members were encouraged to continue to **report criminal activity, including graffiti**.

Doug Klefner, of Johannas Design, presented the proposal for renovations to a property on 1012 W. Franklin by the owner Ron Nixon. The property is currently vacant, but as recent as July had seven apartments, ten bedrooms and 2 parking spots in the rear. The proposed renovation will have seven apartments and twenty bedrooms. No new parking was proposed. The property is currently zoned R6 which is for single family attached housing. The property owner is seeking a special use exception to the zoning to allow for multi-family use, prior to performing the renovations. Mr. Klefner said the process for approval began with his presentation to WAIA, followed by an October 27th presentation to the FDA. As of yet unscheduled meetings with Richmond Commission for Architectural Review, Planning Commission and City Council would also be required. Discussion of the subject by the membership occurred after Mr. Klefner was excused. The discussion yielded a motion that was passed to send Barbara Hartung of the FDA an official response from the WAIA stating we do not support the proposed special use exemption and oppose the planned renovations as presented.

Mayor Smith gave a report on the MPACC (Mayor's Participation and Community Corp) for our section 313. This is an effort by Richmond Mayor Jones to improve customer service by the City and get things done. The objective is that the City will respond to issues within 10 days. Additionally, the City plans to pave 1/3 of the city in the next three years.

Former Mayor Marty Martin provided an update on the VCU Community Advisory board. The next meeting of the board is November 2nd. The VCU Capital plan is smaller than previously discussed, but there are plans for 2 more parking decks to be built in the Grace Street corridor. VCU continues to attempt to move evening class to the eastern portion of their campus to alleviate evening parking congestion. They also demonstrated a tracking program for the Party Patrol program where the

numbers of complaints are tracked for each property in the area. Repeated violations will lead to academic dismissal from the university.

On a different note, Marty is following up with the City on an issue with the new parking decals. The decals position on the front window violates Virginia State Inspection rules.

Vice Mayor Tim Feehan discussed the upcoming WAIA 70th Anniversary Gala to be held in September, 2011. Tim made a plea for volunteers to assist in the planning and execution of this event. Anyone interested in getting involved please contact our Vice-Mayor, Tim Feehan, at feehan@chlhf.com.

Mayor Smith covered the details of several upcoming events including Halloween, the Fall Alley Cleanup, Fall Cocktail Party and Santa's visit. A special issue of the West Avenue Gazette will be issued in the next few days to cover all the details of these events. Also, members who spot issues with city signage or other services are encouraged to send them to John Fottrell at JohnFottrell@gmail.com.

Reverend Randy Hollerith of St. James Church addressed the membership. Reverend Hollerith expressed his appreciation and support for the WAIA and asked that if any issues relevant to St. James come up to please contact him directly. His email is RHollerith@Dewers.com.

No other new business was presented and the meeting was adjourned.