

West Avenue Improvement Association
Fall Member Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Marty Martin and the minutes from the Spring meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: WAIA Treasurer Earle Morrison presented his report on the balances in the general fund, Stuart Circle fund, tree box fund, and security fund. The total of all of the association's total of all the funds is currently \$7,466.04.

Crime Update: Mayor Marty welcomed and recognized Richmond Police Lieutenant Edward Capriglione for a neighborhood crime review. Lieutenant Capriglione reported the following: overall crime is down; while there was a period in the late summer where there were many reported robberies, the Richmond PD has made recent arrests and believes it has the suspects responsible for these robberies; burglaries are down by approximately 30% in 2009, however car break-ins have increased. He advised that residents not leave any valuables in their cars that are visible from the outside, including cell phone chargers and GPS docking stations, and that all car doors are locked. He also stated that if anyone sees any individuals testing to see if car doors are unlocked or peeking in to cars, he/she should call 911 and report this suspicious behavior. In regard to the graffiti, he stated that the City has a program whereby it will promptly send out City employees to remove any graffiti. The contact person for this is Ward Cooper. He also stated that the City has implemented a party patrol to respond to noise complaints. The patrol operates Thursday through Saturday evenings.

A representative from the VCU Campus Police Department also addressed the meeting. He confirmed that VCU PD's jurisdiction ends at Lombardy Street and stated that he would make sure its dispatchers are aware of this fact (apparently a resident recently contacted VCU PD and was told that it had no jurisdiction beyond Harrison Street). He also acknowledged that given VCU PD's relatively few officers, there are times when all of them may be engaged in other matters and therefore it would be necessary to involve Richmond PD.

Both Lieutenant Capriglione and the representative from VCU PD acknowledged that VCU is now disciplining its students for complaints arising from parties held at their living units, even if these living units are not owned by VCU.

Food Bank: Jean Longest informed the meeting that the Virginia Food Bank is experiencing substantial short falls in supplies and money. She plans to leave envelopes in our mailboxes and encouraged everyone to donate as they can. In addition, it was suggested that anyone attending the Fall cocktail party bring a donation of either food and/or money.

VCU Expansion: Mayor Marty updated the membership on the ongoing discussions with VCU concerning the school's expansion. He noted that VCU purchased the property of the former Ukrop's store and will use the property for classrooms and parking. He also stated that VCU has acknowledged that it is in its interest to cooperate with local residents in regard to its continued

expansion. To that end a draft Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared and is being considered. Mayor Marty has a copy of this draft should anyone care to review it.

Mayor Marty recognized the need to protect Harrison Street and the surrounding residential areas since it contains one of the largest concentrations of Victorian houses in the country.

One resident in attendance stated that he had recently attended a meeting during which an official from VCU stated that the school's plans are to continue expanding to the east, south and west.

Parking: Mayor Marty reported that since many VCU classes are 50 minutes long, he has proposed that the time limit for parking in the area be reduced from 60 to 30 minutes. Other options being discussed include the use of St. James' parking deck on Franklin Street and VCU opening its parking garages to students on weekends for free. Some residents in attendance acknowledged that there seems to be less of a student parking problem and suggested that the reason for this is VCU having moved many of its evening courses to its new buildings east of West Ave.

Fall Cocktail Party: Mayor Marty advised that he and wife Thea will be hosting the Fall cocktail party on Saturday, November 7, 2009. All residents are encouraged to bring a food and/or monetary donation for the Food Bank. In addition, the alley clean-up will be held on the morning of Saturday, November 7th.

70th Anniversary: Mayor Marty noted that the Association's 70th anniversary will be in 2011. Planning and event committees will need to be formed.

Garden Tour: The 70th Garden Tour will be Sunday April 25, 2010. Scott McLaughlin has agreed to chair the Garden Tour committee; however, an assistant is still needed.

Upon motion duly made, the meeting was adjourned.