

## Victory Heights Community Council

### Meeting Minutes July 16, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Sharon Haggerty at 7:07 PM at host Heidi Smeller's house with 16 attendees.

A motion was moved, seconded and approved to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting.

Introductions were made by the attendees.

Brad Cummings summarized the July 3<sup>rd</sup> North District Council meeting where a vote had been taken for prioritizing allocating funding for grants from the Parks and Street fund. (You can get more details here: <http://victoryheights.org/wp/2013/07/05/the-long-road-to-getting-a-traffic-circle/>) One of the three proposals was the Victory Heights traffic circle at 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE and NE 105<sup>th</sup> Street. The traffic circle came in second in the preference poll and will likely get a portion of the \$90,000 available, with the rest going to a study to improve pedestrian access in Lake City.

Justin Almeida updated us on the progress of his recent break-in and how he recovered one of his stolen laptops from the thieves. They used it to upload images to an account he had access to and he was able to use that information to track them down and confront them. He turned the information over to the police a month ago but hasn't heard anything more from them. There are free apps available for your computers and smart phones that can allow you to track them if they go missing. He suggests doing that as well as using cloud backup for your personal information and setting a password on the BIOS on your computer to render it useless to thieves. He volunteers to assist anyone who needs technical help doing this. The good news he says are crime statistics are in fact down, although reporting them is up. If you see someone suspicious you should call the police. Eyes on the neighborhood are the best defense against crime.

Kate Waterous did a presentation on the Victory Heights Neighborhood Night Out (NNO) scheduled for August 6<sup>th</sup> with a potluck/ice cream social. It will start at 6 PM on NE 106<sup>th</sup> Street just west of Victory Heights Park. We got a \$300 matching grant from the city to cover expenses (ice cream, bowls, fliers, garbage bags, etc). We match it with volunteer hours (we needed 15, just having 16 people at the meeting tonight for an hour fulfills that). Packets were distributed to attendees with flyers to be distributed to every home in Victory Heights. Everyone took a different section, marked on a map. Flyers can be left on or by the doors, and should be distributed by July 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are registered with the National and City NNO websites. The Pinehurst NNO will be on the same night, and we invited them to come join us for ice cream afterwards. There's also another one on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE just north of the traffic circle. The Department of Neighborhoods logo needs to be on all advertising. The Night Out is a "get to know your neighbors" event. People will bring food, we will provide the ice cream, plates, utensils and clean up. Kate asked for volunteers to do shopping, bring tables, help set up at 5 PM, and assist with clean up and trash removal. Bring coolers for the ice cream. Bring tablecloths. Label your food ingredients on what you bring. Kate will purchase paper plates and utensils for people to use. We'll

bring pop ups in the unlikely chance of rain, and put out a donation jar for future Community Council activities. Eileen will solicit ideas from attendees on what they'd like to see in Victory Heights. Kate said dealing with the City's online interface for getting the grant was very easy and responsive. She'll help anyone out who wants to try for a grant themselves. Ryan and Heidi will redo the street signs to promote the event and get those deployed by the end of next week.

Old Business: The Emergency Planning Committee had a meeting last night (July 15<sup>th</sup>) at Susan Causin's house where a representative of the City's Office of Emergency Management gave a presentation to all the zone captains about how to contact your neighbors to schedule a meeting where a city employee or volunteer will do a one hour presentation on emergency preparedness. These should be happening around the neighborhoods block-by-block over the next several months. There are still areas without zone captains yet, hopefully some recruiting can be done at the NNO.

More Old Business: Brad gave more details about the voting at the North District Council for the traffic circle.

New Business: The deadline for applying for a city SPARKS grant is July 18<sup>th</sup>, too late to do anything this year. But there was discussion about looking into grants next year for anything we'd like to do around the neighborhood.

Karen Meadows announced Feet First's inaugural event which will be a neighborhood walk on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. It will focus on clean-up and awareness. She will have fliers at the NNO and there will be more information on the blog as we get closer to the event.

Brad updated us on the homeless encampment under the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge. It was cleaned out by the city (except for a lone chair) in late June.

There is no meeting scheduled in August. Instead we will have the NNO in three weeks time on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting is Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Pre-School building in the Park as usual, starting at 7 PM.

A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and passed at 8:01 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson, secretary of the Victory Heights Community Council.