

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:06 PM by President Ardith Lupton. 17 people attending.

The Lake City Farmer's Market needs people to attend this year or else it may go under. It starts on June 12th and runs every Thursday through the summer. They have an online survey they would like people to fill out that will assist them in targeting advertising and resources: <http://tinyurl.com/LakeCitySurvey>

The Neighborhood Night Out will be Tuesday, August 5th. Plans are afoot to recreate last year's successful event in Victory Heights with a few tweaks. Board member Heidi Smeller was unable to attend but she has registered us with the National Night Out and is working on the Seattle one. She will also be meeting with Kate Waterous to get the skinny on applying for a matching grant.

Five proposals were submitted to CleanScapes on behalf of the community council in hopes of getting some of the \$50,000 award that was granted. The proposals were: Adding four "Welcome To Victory Heights" signs (to be built and installed by the city at a cost of \$1200), a new bulletin board for the park, installing a solar light for the bulletin board, installing two dog poop bag dispensers at the park, and building a 24' x 30' covered picnic area/pavilion in the park (estimated cost on that: \$20,000). Signe Gilson with CleanScapes acknowledged receiving our five proposals before the April 15th deadline. What happens next is they will vet all the submissions and decide which ones are viable. Then a committee will be formed with a representative from each neighborhood (Victory Heights, Pinehurst, Northgate and Maple Leaf) who will then decide exactly which proposals will be granted. We will need to select a representative from Victory Heights who can attend these meetings and negotiate on our behalf.

Bob Gordon was reimbursed \$402.21 for the cost of materials building the two Little Free Libraries last year. Alas, we weren't able to retroactively get a SPARKS grant from the city because the work had already been done. If folks want to make donations to help reimburse the council, send them to Brad Cummings made payable to "Victory Heights Community Council." Two or three times both libraries have had all their books removed. Some people are clearly ignoring the "Give a book, take a book" sign on them. Fortunately they are quickly replaced, but we need to keep an eye on them to make sure this isn't an ongoing concern.

There were a number of car prowls on Victory Lane recently, and ideas were solicited to help combat this. One suggestion was to plant a "sting" car with nearby video surveillance to catch thieves in the act. "Then what?" was asked. If nothing else, it would make for a dramatic video to be posted on the blog that might attract attention. Setting up a block watch was mentioned, although apparently according to the police, Block Watch signs don't actually deter crime (though alarm signs do sometimes). But vigilant neighbors help, so keep your eyes peeled. One resident says she always takes the long way around on her way to and from home in order to drive the nearby streets and just check and make sure nothing suspicious is going on.

Brad Cummings summarized this month's meeting of the North District Council. The Lake City Traffic Safety Corridor (essentially from I-5 all the way up to the city limits at NE 145th Street) was the big talk. A lot of work is going to happen, much of it still in the planning stages. All the signs will be replaced. There will be more curb cuts installed. Two or three radar speed signs added. A lot of work at NE 110th is planned. 24th Avenue NE will be completely redone. If enough money is allocated, NE 95th will be redone as well. Signal improvements at 20th Avenue NE, etc. Meanwhile the police are increasing enforcement on Lake City Way to catch speeders, people running red lights, etc. In other news, work begins in May on the Thorton Creek confluence at Meadowbrook, which will entail closing 35th Avenue NE for six months to widen the creek and build a new bridge over it. And Brad spotted signs of more homeless encampment occurring underneath the north side of the 15th Avenue NE bridge. An investigation will be made to determine if another call to the city needs to be made. It's still illegal to camp on public property.

Ardith reported a large accident (a collision between a truck and a car) last week happened at the intersection of 23rd Avenue NE and NE 105th Street, ironically where the city is scheduled to build the long-sought after traffic circle this year to prevent just such an occurrence.

Susan Causin attended the meeting of the Lake City Neighborhood Alliance. Pioneer Days has now been rebranded as Salmonfest Seattle, as part of the Seafair Celebrations. It will be August 1-3 this year, and as the new name suggests, there will be plenty of salmon to eat.

We're still looking for emergency preparedness block captains for certain areas of Victory Heights. These people would distribute city-produced literature on disaster preparation and designate a meeting place for their block in case of an emergency. Susan will be having a meeting of the captains later this month to discuss the operation so far.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 20th. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson, secretary, Victory Heights Community Council