

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
September 20th, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by out-going President Victor Hernandez. Fourteen people attending. There has been some petty crime in the neighborhood lately, car prowls and the like (lock your doors!), but nothing too out of the ordinary.

Victor officially stepped down as President, thank you so much for your service, sir! Ann Forrest agreed to be President and won a vote by acclamation. Monica Harris agreed to be the new Vice-President as well. Thanks for stepping up.

Ann gave a debrief from August's Potluck. Attendance was about 170 people, down a bit from last year. She surveyed people to find out how they heard about it: 24 said the flyer, 20 the neighborhood signs, 10 word of mouth, 8 from the blog, and 5 from NextDoor. As much work as the flyers are to distribute, they do seem to do the trick.

Emergency Preparedness HUB: Following on from last month, when Ann was going to apply for a matching grant, much has changed. The city's Office of Emergency Management has decided they *really* want more HUBS in the city ("200 in 7 years"!) and so they have made it much easier to get money to help pay for them. They no longer require applicants to match volunteer hours, and they are selling \$1500 "Hub-in-a-box" kits that come with everything one might need (except radios) to set one up. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, September 28th in Lake City about HUBs, and on Saturday, October 1st there will be a "table top exercise" to show us how to marry up resources and needs. It will be held at the Verity Credit Union, 11027 Meridian Avenue N. from 9 AM to noon. The Parks Department has said it is okay for us to use the concrete pad next to the playground to store the bin with the HUB supplies.

Brad reported that the North District Council (NDC) voted on its recommendation for the large (over \$100,000) street fund projects and the highest ranked one is a pedestrian improvement project on 35th Avenue NE next to Fred Meyer. These results will be shared with the city, which may or may not decide to act on them in awarding funds across the city. The NDC itself is a bit of an endangered species after Mayor Murray signaled his intention to do away with the Department of Neighborhood district council system (not to be confused with the city council districts which were created last year). What he wants to replace it with is unknown. But given the Mayor's recent flip-flops (dealing with homeless encampments, the expensive police precinct building), nothing is for sure. Perhaps the NDC will just continue to meet without needing the city seal of approval (or funding).

Ann attending the North Precinct Advisory Council, mostly to hear about HUBs, but she said it was very interesting. One thing she discovered is the Seattle Police Department's 36-foot-long "Mobile Precinct" that tours around to help officers have a more convenient base of operations. She arranged for them to park it next to Victory Heights Park in time for the next meeting on October 18th and neighbors (and their kids) are encouraged to come check it out and get a tour!

The Victory Heights Park playground renovation project has been pushed back yet again and is scheduled to begin in Spring 2017. Which means the playground will be closed most of next summer, although that is convenient for the co-op preschool being closed during the summer anyway. And a petition apparently convinced park designers to drop the “synthetic turf” in favor of good old fashion wood chips. Turf was thought to be cheaper, but the cost of maintaining literally dirt-cheap chips is much less.

Metro Transit announced improvements to its bus service around the neighborhood. The biggest being resumption of Sunday service (via the 73) on 15th Avenue NE. More runs were added to the 77 and 372 lines as well.

Owls (although fewer than last year) are still being seen near Thornton Creek, as well as coyotes, and merlins who famously started nesting on NE 107th Street between 17th and 19th a few years ago (<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/merlins-nest-in-northgate-area-neighborhood/>).

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM. Next meeting is Tuesday, October 18th, 2016.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council