

## Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7 PM by President Ardith Lupton. Nineteen people in attendance.

Alex Vallandry, Project Coordinator of the Seattle Neighborhood Group, a non-profit organization, gave a presentation about avoiding theft, namely automobile and mail. Car prowls and thefts are on the increase, although 86% of stolen cars are recovered and most are found within 12 blocks from where they were taken. Crimes of opportunity, sometimes it's easier for a criminal to just steal a car for a short ride somewhere than do anything else. The Seattle Police Department has a Twitter account (@getyourcarback) to announce stolen cars. Don't leave valuables in your car—ever. Package theft is a huge problem this time of year, particular in an upscale neighborhood like ours which tends to attract criminals from outside the area. If you can't be home during the day, find a neighbor who is and have packages delivered there instead. Or delivered to work. Going in with neighbors for a large locking mailbox is a (not cheap) solution too. Alas, the police aren't going to investigate package thefts, even if you see someone do it and get a license number.

Nominations are open for community council officers and board members. The current terms end on January 31, 2015. Neither Ardith nor Sharon Haggerty want to run again as President and Vice-President, so we need to find new candidates. Brad Cummings offered to run as Treasurer again, and Ryan Johnson offered to continue as Secretary. Some new people asked to become board members, along with returning members Kate Waterous, Heidi Smeller, Eileen Canola, Sharon, and Ardith. No word yet from Keith or Justin. Kate asked how many board positions are there? [Article 5.1 subsection d states, "Number and Quorum: The Board of Trustees shall consist of no more than 15 members nor less than the minimum quorum. A quorum at a Board of Trustees meeting shall be five (5) or 51%, whichever is greater."] The election will be held at the next meeting

Old Business: Eileen updated us on the CleanScapes award situation. They have suggested, in lieu of any of our proposals, either an art project or distributing compost bins to every household. There was a proposal to put art on the basketball backstop in the park until Monica Harris pointed out it would immediately become a target for graffiti. Eileen figures we would be better off making direct grant proposals next year for the things we want. Ryan suggested doing a mockup of a "Welcome To Victory Heights" sign for the Neighborhood Night Out next year and attempt to drum up support (i.e. \$\$\$) to pay for it ourselves. When the topic of doing some sort of "traffic calming" at the intersection of NE 105<sup>th</sup> Street and 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Avenue came up, it was proposed to combine these two ideas and ask CleanScapes to give us some money to produce street art in the intersection (literally, painted on the street—no new structures) and see if that doesn't slow down cars who use that intersection. This idea was approved.

Brad gave us an update from the North District Council meeting. While the Lake City corridor project is still happening, it was decided to not start construction until after the Meadowbrook project on 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE was completed and the street opened up again before working on doing improvements on Lake City Way. That should happen in the next few weeks. The lobby at the Lake City post office is now

closed after hours due to undesirable activity going on there, a great inconvenience for people wanting to access their post office boxes or ship a package using the vending machine. Victory Heights (and Maple Leaf) resident Mian Rice (son of former Seattle mayor Norm Rice) is going to run for the open city council position in next year's election. When the city was divided into districts that required candidates to be residents of that district, the north end was the only one without an incumbent member of the council. In theory, a lot more attention will be paid to our neighborhoods as a result of this.

Eileen reported on the Lake City Neighborhood Alliance. Their big cause at the moment is the Lake City Community Center which is woefully in need of either a major remodel, or tear down and replacement. Eileen and many others went to a meeting of the city council to lobby for this effort, and 100 letters of support were also sent. There is no funding at the moment but Parks Department is looking at different options and doing feasibility studies.

Monica said caroling will occur again this year, starting at 6:30 on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> starting at her house, 10512 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. "Music sheets, cookies, and hot cider will be provided."

A residents said kudos to those who wear reflective clothing when walking around the neighborhood. Several others reported nearly hitting pedestrians who wear all-black clothes and aren't on the edge of the road.

Someone asked the status of fixing the broken fence on the east side of the park. Ryan had been in contact with some neighbors who had talked to SDOT and discovered this was a turf battled between them and the Parks Department over who is responsible for maintenance. He said he'd follow up again and try and see if anything has happened.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, 7 PM at the pre-school building in the park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson, Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council