

## VICTORY HEIGHTS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

### MINUTES FOR MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2013

Meeting called to order by Ardi Lupton at 7:02 PM. Attending were Ardi Lupton (President), Sharon Haggerty (Vice President), Ryan Johnson (Secretary), Brad Cummings (Treasurer), and Board Members Susan Causin, Justin Almeida, Kate Waterous, Heidi Smeller, and 14 or so residents.

The approved By-Laws are now available on the blog ([http://victoryheights.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/VictoryHeights\\_Bylaws.pdf](http://victoryheights.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/VictoryHeights_Bylaws.pdf))

Seattle Police Department Officer Kipp Strong and Crime Prevention Coordinator Terrie Johnston spoke about recent crime in our neighborhood. Terrie, who works out of the North Precinct, is available for free home security surveys (she can be reached at 206-684-7711 or [terrie.johnston@seattle.gov](mailto:terrie.johnston@seattle.gov)). She also sends out e-lets, and is available for citizens to call and follow up on specific 911 calls. Victory Heights is part of "Lincoln 2" precinct, which also includes Lake City (there is a twitter feed for 911 calls to our precinct: <https://twitter.com/SeattlePDL2>). Terrie had looked up the residential burglary statistics comparing this year with the same period in 2012. In 2012 there were 14 residential burglaries in Lincoln 2 between January 1 and February 19<sup>th</sup>; in 2013 there have been 36 (21 in Victory Heights proper). The Community Police Team, which Officer Strong and Terri are part of, deals with chronic crime problems, which is why it's important to call 911 whenever a crime is discovered, or you see ANY suspicious activity in the neighborhood. Terri said jewelry, laptops, small electronics and medicines were common targets of burglaries. As part of her security survey, she recommends keeping large throwable objects (such as heavy stone lawn ornaments) away from glass doors or windows that can be used by opportunists to break in. Most residential burglaries do not occur during the dead of night, but rather from around 9 AM to 3 PM, when strangers can blend in more easily with delivery and maintenance people in a neighborhood without arousing suspicion. Burglars like unoccupied houses, so if someone knocks on your door, answer it without opening it, just to let whoever it is know someone is home. Don't ignore knocking or doorbell rings. And Officer Strong said, "I'd rather be bothered by a suspicious magazine salesman call than having to dust for fingerprints." He added, "We need your eyes" and that we know our neighbors and what looks suspicious. The efficacy of Block Watch signs was debated, there's no evidence one way or another they deter crime. As many people now use cellphones exclusively, it's important you always know your location if you need to call 911. Unlike a landline, they don't automatically display an address for the operator when you call 911. In King County, there is a service called Smart911 where you can register your cell number, so if you do call, information will be available to first-responders (<http://www.kingcounty.gov/safety/E911/Smart911.aspx> to register).

Art Brochet from the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) did a brief presentation about the paving project that will occur on NE 125<sup>th</sup> Street between Interstate 5 and 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE through Lake City later this year. You can visit a website for more information: [http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/pave\\_ne125.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/pave_ne125.htm)

Justin Almeida briefed everyone about last month's Thornton Creek Alliance meeting. The big news was that Thornton Creek is highly polluted with E. coli, and the public (particularly children and pets) need to

not play in it or by any means drink the water. The source of the contamination is not known, it could be broken sewers, human waste, or even beavers (or a combination of all three). It was pointed out the sewer system was only designed for a 50 year lifespan which it is nearing the end.

Board member Eileen Canola has submitted her proposal for a traffic circle to be installed at NE 105<sup>th</sup> Street and 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE, it was reported.

Ardi needs a volunteer to attend the Lake City Council on Thursday the 21<sup>st</sup> to represent Victory Heights. You can contact her at [ardithlupton@msn.com](mailto:ardithlupton@msn.com) or 206-526-0470.

Brad Owens presented the Treasurers report. Despite zero income for the past 7-8 years due to inactivity, the Victory Heights Community Council still has \$2-3,000 in a bank account.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Ardi will be unable to attend, someone else will have to run the meeting. She would like us to discuss at some point in the future if we want to continue with monthly meetings or go bi-monthly. Sound Transit will be at the next meeting to brief us about the Northgate Link Light Rail station going in at Northgate.

Teresa has been doing clean-ups around the park with kids on Saturdays.

Two of the homeless men who have been living under the bridge at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE made their presence known, much to the surprise of a few people. They seemed like nice guys, just down on their luck. They don't use drugs and keep their camp tidy and scare off graffiti artists. One of them, Russ, said, "It's not fun living under a bridge. I take care of the place."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.