

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2020

Meeting called to order by President Ann Forrest at 7:00 PM. Twelve people in attendance on a very rainy, dark January night.

Brad Cummings reported about the latest Lake City Neighborhood Alliance meeting where the director of SDOT spoke. Highlights include a spring start to a repaving project of Highway 522 (Lake City Way) from the city line to the freeway. The city has plans over the next 12-18 months to reduce the speeds on all arterials to 25 mph and is seeking a waiver from the state to adjust the speed limits on SR522 (Lake City Way) and SR99 (Aurora Avenue).

The long awaited Northgate pedestrian/bike bridge across I-5 to connect North Seattle College with the new Link Light Rail station finally begins construction on Monday the 27th. Readers of the blog will recall articles about the proposed construction in March 2018, May 2016, May 2015, and February 2015 to name a few. Over five years later it's finally happening! (The Northgate extension of the light rail opens September 2021).

The Welcome Wagon is still waiting to roll out the wagon, specifically two new home sales on 21st Avenue NE that have yet to be occupied by the new owners. But when they do, Sheila and Ryan plan on giving them our fancy new information packets.

Gingerbread House debrief: Twenty-six houses were baked and 16 were sold, we made a profit of \$180. Alas, the Ryther Children's Home closed (or rather, rehoused its children) due to changes in state funding. Changes for this year will include needing more volunteers (Ann can't do it all herself) and using less heavy decorating materials (their weight was causing the roofs to collapse).

A Seed Swap will be held Sunday, February 9th at 3 PM at the co-op preschool building. Bring your seeds (and seed catalogs) to swap.

The January meeting of the North Precinct Advisory Council was cancelled due to snow, but in December Ann gave a talk about the emergency HUBs. As usual, the message from SPD is always call in anything suspicious. It's THEIR job to decide how important it is, but either way, it will be entered as a statistic and the police will focus on areas where the need is greatest.

Pete Nielson is looking into costing and funding the replacement fence we want along the east side of Victory Heights Park.

There is now a big homeless encampment under both ends of the 15th Avenue NE in the watershed. One neighbor described it as "It's a significant problem and it's getting worse." It is out of sight if you are just driving by, but the more calls (and Find It Fix It complaints) the city gets, the more likely the Navigation Team will eventually get around to clearing it out.

Ann showed off some new emergency equipment specifically designed to recharge mobile phones after the power goes out. The solution? Car batteries. A \$12 jumper cable (available on Amazon) put on a car

battery has a cigarette lighter socket on the end. Plug your USB adapter into it and you are in business. There are also \$46 inverters available that will convert a car battery to 110v AC, enough to run low amperage devices.

A Doodle poll will go out soon to determine the best time to schedule a disaster preparedness meeting in the future.

As part of Sustainable Seattle NE's event on Saturday, February 8th at the Meadowbrook Community Center, Victory Heights will mount a kid's "Skill Fair" that will include a chance to use a fire extinguisher simulator, and make "Get Home" bags. That will be from 2-5 PM.

An omnibus four hour Earthquake Preparedness Class will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 9 AM to 1 PM at the North Seattle College. Normally this is done in two sessions but the college wanted it done in one.

A new blog, Enjoy Lake City, "is a group of residents, business owners, and organizations working together to create a sustainable organization, engage businesses, and develop a strategic plan through a common vision." <https://enjoylakecity.org/>

Seattle Public Utilities is going to start constructing a natural drainage system on 23rd Avenue NE south of Northgate Way, similar to what is along some streets in Pinehurst. Dare we say sidewalks? Read more about it: <https://www.seattle.gov/utilities/environment-and-conservation/projects/thornton-natural-drainage>

A discussion was held about whether it is legal when making a left turn at a traffic circle to cut the corner (i.e. not go around counter-clock-wise 270 degrees). Essentially, while State law says it's illegal, the city's attitude is "It's fine if it's safe, we aren't going to give you a ticket." This debate has been going on for years and if you want to read more you can start here:

<https://www.seattlepi.com/local/transportation/article/Getting-There-Who-has-the-right-of-way-at-888518.php>.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 18th, 7 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council