

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by outgoing President Ann Forrest. Seventeen people attending virtually via Zoom.

Ann summarized the State Of The Neighborhood as of now: The VictoryHeights.org blog has 75 email subscribers, and 175 individual visitors to the site last month. There is \$2,585 in our checking account. The Mailchimp email distribution list has 267 neighbors, and stats show that 45-65% of emails sent out are opened (it peaked at 73% for “Local mosque needs a favor”). And Victory Heights Community Council has a new YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCOBZ43ZDg2ijtL1Dw9bAyA>

Ben Cober said the Public Arts Project is finalizing paperwork with the city and getting contracts out to the artists.

Gingerbread House Fundraiser: It costs us approximately \$1.65 to produce a house (77¢ per house for ingredients, ~85¢ for the icing and candies to decorate). 36 houses have been ordered, so our profit should be around \$140. 16 houses were delivered on the 14th to the resurrected Ryther Children’s Center free of charge. Their cottages are opening up again in 2021 after they found a new source of funding.

Teen Feed: This year we provided hot meals for 80 homeless youths on four separate dates (once a month). Amber Benson has helped accept all the food and deliver it, so there only has to be one point of contact with the shelter. Our next date is Wednesday, December 23rd and will feature Cranberry Rosemary Chicken. We’re hoping our consistency will move us up in seniority to snag more weekend dates in 2021 rather than weekdays when it’s harder to find volunteers. We also donated Trail Mix snacks.

Ann Forrest is stepping down as President of the community council after a run of 4 years and 3 months dating back to September 2016. We all are extremely thankful to her for the huge amount of work and effort she put into community, particularly securing the emergency communications hub. Ann says she will be staying in the neighborhood and will help as needed going forward. She just received a grant from the city to spread emergency preparedness to non-English speakers in the city. Three cheers to Ann! (Be sure to check out her great YouTube tutorial videos on preparedness and how our hub works: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SeattleemergencyhubsOrg2015/videos>)

Lacking the ceremony of the recent Electoral College, Ben Cober was the only person interested in taking over the Presidency of the Community Council and was affirmed by unanimous consent. He wielded a wooden croquet mallet in lieu of a gavel. In his opening remarks he said he had lived in three different parts of town and that Victory Heights “is the Goldilocks neighborhood.” Ann will turn over a binder of information she has collected about the community council so far. The office of Vice President continues to be open.

There will be no caroling this year due to the pandemic.

Cara Mattern updated us on the Victory Heights co-op preschool. The youngest kids attend virtually, but there are small “pods” of 5 or so of older kids meeting in person outdoors at the park (the building is only used for washrooms and supplies). We currently have the largest program of the North Seattle College’s co-ops. NSC is about to absorb Central’s co-ops as well. NSC is the oldest co-op in the state and the best funded. As for building itself, the Seattle Parks Department has been leasing it year-to-year rather than signing a five-year lease, so rents could go up. Ironically, the lack of ADA accessibility and presence of some lead paint in the basement would cost the city a lot of money to upgrade, so it’s possible they’ll just continue the same arrangement going forward.

There is a new Little Free Library at 10734 17th Avenue NE. It was hand-made and dedicated last week.

There was a discussion about walking paths in the Kingfisher Natural Area around Thornton Creek. There aren’t any official maps because the naturalists prefer to keep it from being overrun, but there are several paths, one starting at the west end of NE 100th Street, the other at the bottom of 17th Avenue NE.

The next meeting will be January 19th.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council