

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes  
September 18, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ann Forrest. Seventeen people present plus five guests.

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) in conjunction with their general contractor put on a presentation about what is officially called the South Thornton Natural Drainage Project, but better known in our neighborhood as the 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE revision. There are actually four separate streets around the South Thornton area that are getting the new drainage/walkway systems, but 23<sup>rd</sup> will be started first, possibly in mid-October. In describing the new space they said, "It's not a ditch, it's more like a roadside garden." Many would call it a swale, the idea being that any rain water and run off would be absorbed in it within 24 hours. Technically the contractors are still in the submission phase right now, hence there is no end date for the work, but all four roadway projects are predicted to take 14-16 months to complete, although work will be staggered between them. The work hours will be 7 AM to 5 PM daily and the contractors are required to not to impact access or create safety hazards. They are planning on a "drop in" session on 23<sup>rd</sup> (basically a table and some representatives) sometime in the next few weeks. You can review the plans for 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue here: <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/SPU/EnvironmentConservation/SThornton-23rdAveNE-Board.pdf>

We did a quick summation of this year's Food Truck Fridays which ran for 15 weeks this year. 29 trucks were approached and of those 16 showed up, 8 were no shows for various reasons. A survey will go out soon for feedback about next year.

This month marks the third year of Victory Heights' participation in Teen Feed, which occurs on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. Valerie has taken over the organizing. Sign up to create a dish for next month here: <https://signup.com/group/9469851534109900121>

Another Chili Cookoff is coming (our third year), we'll need volunteers to help set up, mainly providing and running all the extension cords we need for the crock pots.

Victory Frights II: The Conjuring returns for a second year, on Halloween night, October 31<sup>st</sup> again on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE across from the park which will be closed and provide spooky surroundings for you to hand out candy to neighborhood children starting at 4:30 PM. 125 kids showed up last time, probably more than you'll see at your house.

Victory Barks: Yet another Victory pun, this time a dog parade is in the planning stages, probably also on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with the street shut down, and an opportunity to give neighborhood dogs (on leashes of course) treats.

Someone asked what happened to the Porta-Potty that has been by the preschool since the pandemic. Someone at the school was going to look into it, apparently even the Park Departments thinks there should be some sort of facility for a space like ours.

Ann is concerned about NE 104<sup>th</sup> between 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue NE and Lake City Way and how dark it is, and the blackberries are encroaching on the roadway, making it unsafe for pedestrians. Some attempt will be made to persuade the city to do something about it, although adding lighting is probably a long-shot, they'll just recommend folks use the staircase on NE 103<sup>rd</sup> south of there, which is maintained and lit.

The next meeting (probably in person) will be Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson  
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council