

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting

Minutes for December 17, 2013

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Sharon Haggerty at 7:06 PM. 12 people in attendance who all enjoyed the homemade chocolate chip cookies provided.

Monica will host a caroling party around the neighborhood on Dec. 19th starting at 6:30 PM at her house, and wandering around the neighborhood for about an hour beginning at 6:45. Folks are encouraged to come and participate.

The city is now accepting proposals to Neighborhood Park and Street Fund for 2014. The deadline for applying is February 3. See the press release: <http://frontporch.seattle.gov/2013/12/17/dates-announced-for-neighborhood-matching-fund-opportunities-to-support-community-initiated-projects/>

On December 4th, Eileen Canola received a letter from James Bush, the Manager of the city's Neighborhood District Coordinator & Public Outreach and Engagement Programs, confirming Victory Heights had been awarded the money to have a traffic circle built at the intersection of 23rd Avenue NE and NE 105th Street. It reads in part:

Congratulations! Your Neighborhood Park and Street Fund Project has been awarded!

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods (DON) thanks you for submitted an application to the Neighborhood Park and Street Fund. As the lead facilitator of this process, DON's Neighborhood District Coordinators provided outreach and support to neighborhood residents on the application and process. We are pleased that your project will go forward.

In early summer, your Neighborhood District Council spent numerous hours reviewing and prioritizing projects for the \$1.2 million of 2014 funding available. The top three prioritized projects from each Neighborhood District Council were reviewed by staff from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, Department of Transportation (SDOT), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), and the City Budget Office. The team reviewed them for feasibility and made significant efforts to fund the recommendations from each District Council. In some cases, adjustments were made in terms of size and scope in order to have as many successful projects as possible. Award decisions have now been made and funding has been approved by Mayor McGinn and Seattle City Council.

We are attaching a full list of the awarded projects for your information. A project manager will be assigned to work with you in early 2014.

The SDOT project for our traffic circle was granted \$26,750.

Neighborhood Appreciation Day in Seattle will be Saturday, February 8, 2014. The city encourages neighborhoods to organize community projects such as clean-ups, sports events, emergency preparedness, with Small Sparks grants available which are due by January 8th. Various ideas were

batted around, some involving doing a large event at the Lake City Community Center. However nobody stepped up to take point for this. Trying to organize work parties to work on elderly resident's yards percolated some interest although no volunteers came forward to help organize this or spread the word. Having only three weeks, particularly over the holiday season, seems a bit short to get a grant application sorted. However, it's possible the Appreciation Day topic will be brought up again at our January meeting, so that even without any kind of grant, some sort of activity might still be organized on February 8th.

The vacuum cleaner belonging to the Co-operative Preschool has gone missing, and notices were posted on the blog and Next Door.

Thornton Creek Alliance President Ruth Williams wrote the council about the possibility of bike trails going through Thornton Creek. You can read the full letter along with some responses here: <http://victoryheights.org/wp/2013/12/15/open-letter-oppose-mountain-bike-trails-in-thornton-creek/>

In all likelihood, any change in city policy regarding trails would not specifically affect Thornton Creek, but those who are concerned can write the city council and express their opinion.

Justin Almeida submitted the expenses incurred by Robert Gordon in building the two Little Free Libraries that now adorn our neighborhood. It comes out to just over \$400 in materials, not counting Robert's actual labor (full documentation here: https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B7WeLTcTnI2VU2JtREJLcHJqNzJST0NReIlCTXdhUTR5U2t3/edit?usp=drive_web). Justin was not on hand to discuss paying for this, but it is hoped we can retroactively get a small sparks grant from the city to reimburse Robert, using the number of hours he put into it to match it. Justin will be asked to contact Kate Waterous about applying for a grant after her success in getting money for the Neighborhood Night Out this year. There was also talk of getting Ace Hardware to donate some of the materials. Brad Cummings expressed concern that there had been no discussion beforehand about how much the libraries would cost or how they would be paid for. If the city does not approve a grant, it was suggested some sort of fundraiser be held to pay the expenses. Ryan Johnson assured the council that he would not go ahead and order new yard signs without first securing grant money from the city.

Brad summarized this month's North District Council meeting. They are currently redoing their by-laws, mainly by creating attendance requirements for the various organizations that make up the Council. As things stand, the Victory Heights Community Council and its representation would not be affected by these changes. The Lake City farmer's market is in jeopardy, the city is reconsidering funding it due to its relative small size compared with other markets around the city.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 21st, 2014. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson, secretary of the Victory Heights Community Council.

