

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by Vice-President Sharon Haggerty with 16 people present.

A neighbor on NE 106th Street, across from the park, arrived home on February 11th to discover an attempted break-in at his house earlier that morning. One of the co-op preschool teachers heard the sound of glass breaking and witnessed a car with a driver parked in front of the house. Two men got in to the car, a silver Volkswagon and drove away. The teacher called 911 and police responded 10 minutes later. There are photos of the vehicle. As always, the message is, if you see something suspicious, call 911. In this case, the burglars never entered the house and nothing was stolen.

There was a discussion about which ideas the community council should get behind to submit to CleanScapes for the \$50,000 award before the April 15th deadline. Annie Fanning, a volunteer forest steward for Green Seattle Partnership, made a presentation for putting some large boulders near the trail head on Thornton Creek at 17th Avenue NE that “could provide seating out of the mud for meditation and quiet enjoyment of Thornton Creek.” She estimates this could be done for less than \$5,000, but permission from the city would be required. The results from the SurveyMonkey poll asking residents which proposal they liked best were read out. 60 votes were cast in total. A Greenway or pedestrian path down NE 104th Way to Lake City Way received the most, 17 votes. A BBQ site at Victory Heights Park (pits, benches, trash bins), 11 votes. Welcome to Victory Heights signs, 8 votes. Toilets in Victory Heights Park, 8 votes. Covered picnic area in Victory Heights Park, 6 votes. Improve basketball court in Victory Heights Park, 4 votes. Add dog poop bag dispenser in Victory Heights Park, 2 votes. Mural wall, 2 votes. New drinking fountain in Victory Heights Park, 2 votes. Recycling bins in Victory Heights Park, 0 votes. In addition, people could write in proposals, 17 people did so. These comments included: A trashcan on Access Road to Kingfisher Natural Area, Replace playground at Victory Heights Park, A better information kiosk at the park, improve pedestrian pathways north and east of VH park & around traffic circle, signage (yield sign, caution children) in improve safely at 104th and 19th/20th, traffic bumps throughout the neighborhood to slow down speeders, beautify Northgate Way from 23th to Lake City Way-ugly fencing, no dumping signs down 104th Way to Lake City Way. Unfortunately it was pointed out the most popular option, the pedestrian path on 104th, would cost far in excess of \$50,000 because of the water control issues (and Seattle’s notoriously expensive sidewalks). Everyone was encouraged to think about what they would prefer and we will revisit this issue at the March meeting. Most likely we will employ a “scattergun” effect and submit several proposals, in the hope that one makes it through. Also, we can later recycle some of these ideas and apply for SPARKS grants from the city and perhaps make them a reality.

The Neighborhood Night Out will be August 5th, and we are hoping to replicate the success of last year’s event. Heidi Smeller volunteered to register us with the city, assisted by Sharon. At the March meeting will discuss specifics of what we’d like to do this year.

Justin Almeida reported he had finally been approved by the city to submit a SPARKS grant to reimburse the cost of making of the two Little Free Libraries. Now the waiting begins.

Victory Heights was determined to be the most politically average neighborhood in the city, according to an article last week posted on Crosscut.com. Read the details here:

<http://victoryheights.org/wp/2014/02/13/crosscut-victory-heights-most-average-political-neighborhood/>

Brad Cummings updated us on the latest North District Council meeting on February 5th. The Lake City Neighborhood Association is pushing for a full-service community center in Lake City to replace the worn out building now in use. SPU is going to be doing "significant work" at the Thornton Creek confluence (i.e. Meadowbrook) later this year which will cause 35th Avenue NE to be closed for several months while a new bridge over the creek is installed. The big topic was the Lake City Farmer's Market, which needs to improve turnout this year or risk it closing for good. A focus group will be convening soon to come up with ideas that will help promote the market and bring in more customers. The market will be open from 3-7 PM Thursdays from June 12 to October 2nd.

New Business: Comcast was down for nearly two days over the weekend due to a fiber optic cable being down in Lake City. Supposedly if you call and complain, you can get a rebate.

The Victory Heights Blog had 412 unique visitors over the past 30 days, an improvement from last year. Traffic rises significantly on the site whenever a new article is posted. The rest of time, it's pretty flat.

The North Helpline Emergency Services & Food Bank is having a benefit on February 28th with entertainment, a spaghetti feed, and raffles. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for kids. Call 206-367-3477 to RSVP.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 18th, 2014. On the agenda will be voting for CleanScapes proposals, and Neighborhood Night Out planning.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

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