

Victory Heights Community Council  
Meeting Minutes June 21, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Victor Hernandez at 7:02 PM. Twenty-one people attending in the great outdoors in the park.

A resident on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE discussed the current homeless situation underneath the bridge there. Although groups have come and gone since the bridge rebuild (with periodic cleanouts by the city), for several months there has been the presence of Holly, the self-described “troll under the bridge.” A chat with her resulted in a live-and-let-live deal contingent on no drug use, no crime, and keeping the noise down. But more recently many more people have taken to using that space and it being beyond the control of Holly now. A number of objects can be seen from the top of the bridge that apparently have come from the neighbors’ yards, as well as noise problems, and even the occasional open fire (there is a gas line that runs along the exterior of the bridge). Many many calls have been made to the Seattle Police Department which in prior years might have gotten some action, but with the entire Seattle homeless situation in the headlines lately, nobody seems much inclined to do anything dramatic right now. If the police were to hear from other residents then that might register with them more than just complaints from only a single source. There was talk of maybe a non-threatening non-mob type group could go and talk with these folks and hammer out some sort of understanding. Meanwhile, the latest word is that SDOT has a work order in process for a clean-up scheduled that might occur as soon as July 1<sup>st</sup>. However, that merely deals with the temporary symptoms, not the problem, which is sure to recur.

Jim Woodcock, the owner of the “drug house” on NE 105<sup>th</sup> Street, passed away recently. Jim would occasionally attend meetings of the community council and was well aware of the problems his tenants were causing in the neighborhood. His son has already sold the house to developers and the current residents have been given notice to vacate. With property values being what they are right now, it’s a pretty safe bet someone won’t be renting out it for \$100 a room any time soon.

There was a posting on Next Door about someone with a loose dog in “Victory Park” that hassled a woman and her child, but we couldn’t determine whether they meant Victory Heights Park (there was mention of playground equipment) or Victory Creek Park by the QFC at Northgate. In any case, restrain your dogs while in a park.

Kate was annoyed that the Seattle PD's picnic will 'again' be held at the Ballard Seafood Fest. How often do they pay attention to that area and not ours? While it’s unlikely they would do something similar in Victory Heights, at large events like the Farmers Market, or in Maple Leaf or Wedgwood would demonstrate their engagement in NE Seattle.

Ann talked emergency preparedness. This topic has been around for several years but it’s not going to go away. A big earthquake is going to occur someday in our area, and a little bit of forethought and organizing now could save lives in the future. We all buy insurance hoping we never need it, but you sure are glad to have it when something happens. It’s just like that. It starts with having emergency supplies in your house, then making sure everyone is safe after a disaster, then checking the neighbors and then sharing resources and information as best we can. For sure Victory Heights will be cut off from

most of the rest of the city and cannot expect emergency responders for days, if not weeks. Ann would like us have a emergency HUB similar to what exists in Lake City and Maple Leaf for us in Victory Heights so we can keep in touch with officials and pass on information. It will probably take several years to work out the details and get some grant money and she asked for volunteers to help shepherd the effort. There will be presence at the ice cream social as well to create awareness.

The potluck/ice cream social will be on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Effectively, it is exactly like the Neighborhood Night Out events we've been doing for four years, except it's two weeks early this year so we don't pre-empt NNO on the night so neighbors can get together on their particular blocks. We'll need people to bring large garbage bins for garbage/recycling/yard waste. Ann has the form to send to the city to close NE 106<sup>th</sup> Street on the night, and Ryan is to speak to the folks at the local fire department to see if they are interested in dropping by as they have in previous NNO nights. Packets of flyers were distributed to be handed out starting in July, and the yard signs will up around the neighborhood around then too. The event starts at 6 PM on NE 106<sup>th</sup> Street just west of Victory Heights Park. Bring your own food, we will provide plates, cups, and ice cream.

Brad Cummings summarized the North District Council meeting this month. METRO and King County representative Rod Dembowski talked transit, specifically bus service in north Seattle. METRO's motto these days is "Less convenient, more reliable." This philosophy has lead to most bus service getting people to the Link Light Rail station at Husky Stadium, rather than direct service downtown. But officials realize that not all changes were popular. In September they will be modifying routes to return Route 73 service on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE on Sundays, and the 77 Express bus running all day in each direction downtown, rather than just rush hour commuter service. We're five years away from Light Rail service at Northgate, which will mean more changes, and long-term in the next decade or so, converting Routes 65 (through Wedgwood) and 40 (Fremont/Ballard to Northgate) to Rapid Ride service.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM. The Potluck/Ice Cream Social will be July 19<sup>th</sup>. There is no meeting scheduled for August. We return to the co-op preschool on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson  
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council