

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2017

Meeting called to order by President Ann Forrest at 7:01 PM. Thirteen people attending.

David Johnson, a board member of Sustainable NE Seattle, spoke about their various programs including urban farms, school garden, the NE Tool Library, education projects and the annual Skills Fair. He also volunteers at the Emergency HUB in Wedgwood at Hunters Tree Farm. It's free to join (www.sustainableseattle.org) and get their newsletter. Upcoming events include a Garden Tour in mid-June and Repair Nights at the Tool Library to get your equipment fixed.

The city is encouraging neighborhoods to do a "Spring Clean" this month, which we've participated in the past. The city loans vests, pick-up tools, bags and arranges trash removal. But rather than a once-a-year thing, we thought it might be nice to have a regularly scheduled event monthly to go around Victory Heights and pick up garbage and whatever else needs to be done to fix up our neighborhood.

In lieu of the late North District Council's recommendation of neighborhood projects to be funded by the city, the city itself is holding a "Your Voice, Your Choice" vote in June to allocate the \$2 million for the most popular proposals. Here in District 5 there are 10 possible projects, the closest is on NE 95th Street.

The Northgate Pedestrian/Bike Bridge project went through a redesign to bring down the costs, thus the fancy model that was shown off to us a year ago is now defunct. But the bridge is going to happen.

The Northgate Transit Oriented Development, aka what's going in next to the Light Rail station, is accepting comments through May 22nd on what exactly they should build.

The Department of Neighborhoods approved our request (great work, Ann) for a grant in return for volunteer hours (mainly centered on traffic circle work parties, but other projects as well). A total of \$4,157.25 has been rewarded, which breaks down to this:

"Welcome to Victory Heights" signs	3	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Plants, mulch, fertilizer, etc. for traffic circle	9	\$130.00	\$1,170.00
"Adopt Me" traffic circle signs (including tax)	15	\$17.65	\$264.75
"Potluck & Ice Cream Social" signs (including tax)	15	\$17.65	\$264.75
"Community Meeting" signs (including tax)	15	\$17.65	\$264.75
Puzzle (3' x 4', 100 pieces) - overhead view of Victory Heights	1	\$230.00	\$230.00
Banner, outdoor, color, 3' x 8' (multiple uses for many years)	1	\$163.00	\$163.00
Ice cream for Ice Cream Social	150	\$0.60	\$90.00
Flyers announcing contest & ice cream social	1,200	\$0.06	\$72.00
Balloons for Walkabout participants & contest winner	45	\$1.40	\$63.00
Lemonade & cookies for Walkabout	1	\$60.00	\$60.00
Metal frame to hold signs	15	\$1.00	\$15.00

We may not get all three “Welcome to Victory Heights” signs, but assuming that is the plan we voted on the three best locations to place them for maximum visibility: on eastbound Northgate way just east of 15th Avenue, on westbound Northgate way at 24th Avenue, and on northbound 15th Avenue at 106th Street.

The long-awaited Victory Heights park renovation has begun at last: or at least the fencing went up and they broke up some concrete. Apparently it’s already behind schedule but that could be due to the very poor weather conditions up until this week.

The Lake City Farmers Market starts up again this year Thursdays beginning June 8th from 3 – 7 PM. The library usually holds some sort of event alongside to keep folks entertained, and it’s all worth checking out, especially when the weather is nice.

At the North Precinct Advisory Council meeting this month the focus was on the mayor’s homelessness committee that started in February. They’ve made some headway but there is still a long way to go.

There are number of events upcoming, check the events calendar on the blog.

The Sunrise Senior Center met with us last month and we continue to talk earthquake preparedness with them. Trash removal will be a big concern, as well as working toilets for staff, guests, etc; and a steady supply of prescription medicines.

A neighbor brought up concerns about City Light’s proposal to install new wireless power meters in homes in lieu of the current analog ones. Some people oppose these for various safety, electronic, and privacy allegations. Others rose to their defense saying they’ve been in use in Tacoma for 15 years, and it would improve on poor meter-reading efforts that plague the current analog versions. There does not appear to be much political willpower to make this an issue for most people.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM. Next meeting will be in the preschool on June 20th (special arrangements were made this year so we can use it during the summer).

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council