

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2021

Meeting called to order on Zoom by President Ben Cober, 19 people plus one guest virtually attending.

Joann Kerr, the co-founder of Sustainable Northeast Seattle, told us the history of the ecologically focused organization. Other Seattle neighborhoods already existed (Sustainable Ballard, Sustainable West Seattle) when Joann became interested in climate issues in 2008 and decided our part of the city needed something similar. Her first meetup was in May 2008 at the Grateful Bread in Wedgwood and had 45 attendees. They partnered with the Wedgwood Community Council to help the Hunter Tree Farm property on 35th Avenue NE expand public use of the property in months when they weren't selling Christmas Trees. They have also sponsored Solar Cookouts, the Skills Fair at Meadowbrook Community Center, host an Investment Group, public garden, and (oh yeah) The Northeast Tool Library (see last month). Their goal is to "try to build our sustainability in resilience," by creating programs that will endure, and "getting to know people in your community and expand beyond your boundaries" (to that end, partnering with "Sister Communities" not only in other cities, but other countries). Lately they've been working with folks on eco-friendly stoves, and waste stream initiatives. Find out more at: <https://sustainableseattle.org/>

Ben announced the return of the Seattle Police Department sock drive in November. We might try to start early with a collection bin during the Pinehurst Halloween walk on October 31st (see below).

Dean Allsopp, Debora Juarez's District Director, contacted us recently and asked if there were any items we think should be included for Victory Heights in the 2022 city budget! Ben had some thoughts and sent him a long document based on the various polls and feedback we have received this year. The word back is nothing will be done in the park due to the six year rotation schedule run by the Parks Department and it's not our turn, but traffic calming is a definite possibility ("He's feeling confident there's a very good chance")—and a top concern for residents. Dean will be the speaker at the November community council meeting, where no doubt he'll have more information.

Halloween 2021: By all means, decorate those houses, we love seeing the creativity. We are going to join forces with the Pinehurst Halloween Parade that starts at 11 AM at the Pinehurst Pocket Park, 11700 19th Ave NE, on Sunday, October 31st. This kid (and pet) friendly event will then proceed east to 20th Avenue NE, head north to NE 123rd, then back down 22nd Avenue NE, west on NE 115th, and then back north on 20th to the Pocket Park. There will be a costume contest (for pets too), masks required, keep pets on leashes, and socially distance for safety. Afterwards, Zylberschein's Deli at 11752 15th Avenue NE, will have a party between 1 PM and 3, with pumpkin carving, fresh cider, donuts, and beer specials. As for trick-or-treating, a recent poll showed people were overwhelmingly in favor of it, 47 to 2, with the idea to "distribute with distance."

The Green Seattle Partnership is gearing up for volunteer work parties in our green belts around Thornton Creek. Sign up for the one on November 18th:
<https://seattle.greencitypartnerships.org/event/20150/>

Chloe from the Victory Heights Preschool announced an Open House there at their building in the park on Saturday, October 23rd from 2-4 with treats available.

Amber updated us on the Teen Feed, "It's going well." They have a new chef, donations from farms are coming in, often at the last minute and with surprises (last month, lots of kale!). Victory Heights will be participating again on Monday, November 8th.

The new Community Connections Program is still organizing, with the ironic problem of plenty of volunteer helpers but not so many takers so far.

Traffic Calming was a topic for discussion, particularly the intersection of NE 105th street with 19th Avenue and 20th Avenue NE. Drivers often fly through that jig-jog uncontrolled intersection, and it's only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. Amber wrote to the city about this and amazingly got a response, that said:

- Demand has outpaced their ability to respond
- Some traffic calming techniques such as parking more cars around the intersection to help slow people down (?), or posting "Slow Down" signs
- Suggested applying for the Neighborhood Matching Fund
- Contact the city council for "Your Voice, Your Choice" funding

The Your Voice, Your Choice is what was used to get the traffic circle installed on 23rd Avenue NE (which took five years of lobbying).

The price tag for various items are: Painting a design on the pavement in the intersection (must be city approved): \$2,500 + maintenance; Speed bumps/cushions/tables are \$5-10,000 each; a traffic circle is \$20-25,000 and will only be considered after five collisions reported to the police have occurred. Traffic will probably increase as the work on 23rd Avenue NE narrows that street and puts cars on adjacent streets. Ben says he will start a task force to focus this with Debora Juarez's budget offer and other concerned neighbors.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM. Next meeting is November 16th. There will be no meeting in December.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council