

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by President Ben Cober. Seventeen people (plus one guest) attending via zoom.

Dean Allsopp with Debora Juarez's office gave a presentation about the Seattle City 2022 budget that is about to be voted on. He walked us through how the sausage is made (the Mayor proposes spending, the city council puts in their specific requests, some get approved, some don't, there are public meetings, and then it's voted on 30 days before the end of the year by state law). The budget must be balanced, they can't spend more than they take in. Juarez typically puts in for \$3-4 million a year in requests (versus some sky-high proposals made by other nameless council members) in the hopes that they will make the cut. To cut to the chase: there won't be any playground improvement at Victory Heights Park next year because of work done in 2018. Dean's advice is to be in the mix for the next Metropolitan Parks District six-year spending cycle that will begin a public engagement process beginning in 2022. This is where the organized community council have make a big impact. As far as intersection improvements, SDOT has not evaluated NE 107th Street as a project, despite needs at 19th Avenue, 20th Avenue and 23rd Avenue (where someone took out one of our art boxes earlier this year). Dean recommends to fund SDOT to outreach to the neighborhood to design a "Home Zone" for the area, their buzzword for a more holistic approach to pedestrian safety and could include more improvements for the neighborhood to consider. However, forget sidewalks, they cost a crazy amount of money.

Ann Forrest announced that on Sunday, December 12th we will be sponsoring Winterfest starting at 4PM in the park. There will be treats, singing, and bags available to create luminarias that can be used to line the path in the park. Teen Feed next month will be Tuesday, December 7th, and then January 4, 2022. The Feed has gone from needing to feed 80 kids down to 65 most recently. Find the QR code on the Facebook group to sign up to make something. There will be a Disaster Preparedness Event on Sunday November 21st at 1 PM, rain or shine at the tennis court in Victory Heights Park. Learn how to charge your phone with your car among other tips.

The North Seattle Sock Drive ended Tuesday. "So much better than I could have possibly imagined," said Ben. 146 pairs of socks were donated by Victory Heights residents, and Nancy R. helped a lot in Pinehurst. The St. John's Lodge No. 9 donated 2000 pairs to the drive!

Gingerbread houses return for the holiday season. Ryther Kids Home wants 20 kits this year. We'll be selling kits (asking for donations, actually) to Victory Heights residents. A pick-up will be at Winterfest or arrangements can be made for later. Some assembly required.

Ben presented the 2021 Report of Victory Heights on the highlights for the past year.

Hallmark Campaigns:

- Utility Box Art Project – 8 boxes were unveiled during the summer
- Food Truck Fridays ran from April to September with 17 different trucks, 2 per week

- Neighborhood Survey in May
- Mayor Mondays – nearly every candidate did an hour Q&A for us
- Teen Feed

Social Events:

- Community Scavenger Hunt on May 23rd
- Fall Chili Cook-Off
- Community Yard Sale had 40 participants in Victory Heights and Pinehurst
- Two Craft Circles were held
- Monthly Meetings with interesting speakers
- August Silly Walk in the park

Communications:

- Facebook Groups were consolidated into one
- Fliers distributed to let people know about us and our Groups
- Commons Message Board in the park
- Strengthening Connections with other organizations and city departments
- Google Voice – we have a voicemail number (804-557-4273) for people to leave messages to us

Building Community / Neighborhood Improvements

- Two new park benches were donated and installed
- Sanicans were procured for the park to help out at Food Truck Fridays (they're still there)
- Neighbor Labor
- Invasive Species Removal
- NE 106th Street embankment clean-up
- North Seattle Sock Drive
- Significant communication and research around park improvements
- Significant communication and research around traffic calming

Strengthening Community Connections:

- Valentine's Day card campaign "Show The Love"
- Community Connections
- Community Interest Groups
- COVID Vaccination Drive
- Victory Heights Voices

Coming Soon in 2022:

- Traffic calming and roadside safety
- New website

- Recruit and energize volunteers

Calendar of Events – the Social Committee has been working hard

- Logo and Branding
- Food Truck Fridays
- Sharing Goals to Recruit Support
- VH Co-Op Preschool
- Strengthen Local Business Relationships
- Playground Toy Drive

There won't be a meeting in December, next meeting is January 18, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council