

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2017

Meeting called to order by President Ann Forrest at 7:02 PM. Twelve people attending.

Ann wants us to come up with some goals and produce a mission statement for what the community council should focus on and stand for. Send in suggestions. Someone suggested a mental health outreach event (not unlike the “Seattle Freeze” one scheduled February 25th at Northgate Mall).

Ann has talked to a representative at the Idris Mosque about having a speaker at one of our upcoming meetings. Ann would like to organize some sort of outreach to them as a show of support. Earlier today Mayor Murray spoke at the Mosque for the “State of the City” address, a big feather in the cap for our neighborhood. It was broadcast live on the Seattle Channel.

Monica briefly described the results from our 2016 online survey. People wanted more events. Music in the park. And dogs? Maybe not the latter. 75% of those surveyed had been to one of our August Ice Cream Socials. Ann & Monica will go over the complete results.

Brad Cummings attended the Lake City Neighborhood Alliance meeting (held every 2nd Thursday of the month). They are the defacto north end community group now that the city’s “official” North District Council has effectively disbanded. Instead of the NDC voting and recommending grants for neighborhood projects (such as traffic circles), the city has instigated the “Your Voice, Your Choice” program where groups (like the LCNA and VHCC) can make suggestions which the city will consider funding. A speaker from the city told the LCNA about the “upzoning” plans around the city, one was just approved in the University District near the coming light rail station, and possibly in Lake City around NE 125th that would allow for buildings up to 13 stories tall. The Lake City plan has not been finalized, there is a draft environmental impact station due in March and a final decision will be made in May. Folks in Lake City naturally are wondering, “What’s in it for us?” So far, a 4-way stop is coming to 28th Avenue NE & NE 127th Street near the library, and any development will require new affordable housing, although it could be located in a separate part of the city. According to Brad, the once-vibrant Maple Leaf Community Council has been dormant since last summer! A combination of apathy, the organization being run by a few individuals who moved, and the resolution of the contentious building site on 15th Avenue NE has lead to this. Ironically, the Victory Heights Community Council is healthier and more vibrant these days!

Ann attended the monthly North Precinct Advisory Council meeting. The mayor is convening a 40-person task force to discuss the opioid epidemic in Seattle and make recommendations. Heroin use is on the rise because it’s harder to get prescription drugs now and the price for heroin is relatively low. Heroin injection sites are coming (though not to Lake City—per what Sabrina told us at the last meeting). Rumors are one will be situated in the north end in Licton Springs near the new school that is being used. While not ideal, studies show patients will only travel about 5 blocks to a site, and you have to put them where the problem is. In the US now, more people 25 to 65 years old die from heroin overdose than car accidents! One problem is people who have recently detoxed resume at their old dosage levels and their bodies can’t handle it. Meanwhile, it was announced the North Precinct is *not*

going to be split into two, that plan is shelved for now. And if you want more police officers, it was recommended that groups like the community council write a letter and send it to the police department. Plans are afoot to have us draft one.

The emergency preparedness HUB, that is a box that will hold our communication equipment, will be ready soon. Ironically, work on the park renovation project is about to start in mid-April through the entire summer, so access to the entire playfield, including the tennis court will be closed. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new park playground is planned for September, assuming the work is finished by then. <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/about-us/current-projects/victory-heights-park-play-area-renovation>

The eventual permanent spot for the HUB will be on the concrete pad next to the tennis court, permission was secured from the parks department. Meanwhile, volunteers can do some training drills so we can be ready in the case of an emergency.

Ann arranged to have the northern boundary of Victory Heights on Next Door set at NE 125th Street so we could include people north of Northgate Way and make the park the center point of our neighborhood.

Ryan suggested we buy four \$300 "Welcome to Victory Heights" signs from the city. We originally proposed this back in the CleanScapes award days, but they went ahead and decided to give everyone Little Free Libraries instead. Rather than raise the money ourselves, we are going to look for some city grant money to pay for it.

Post cards are being designed to advertise the community council and will be distributed door-to-door sometime soon.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 21st.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson,
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council