

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2017

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ann Forrest. Eighteen people present.

Gary Prince from METRO and Michelle Chen from the City of Seattle spoke about development plans near the Northgate Light Rail station. Color-coded multi-page handouts were distributed that show the current parking lot at the park & ride will be redeveloped once the station opens in 2021 to be some sort of multi-use mix of affordable housing, office/residential/medical, and environmentally sustainable. The city and county are in this together and will be taking solicitations from developers later this year. Anyone can throw their two-cents worth in directly with Gary: gary.prince@kingcounty.gov

On Saturday April 29th at 1:30 PM there will be an Open House at the Northgate Community Center about the proposed development that will feature SDOT, the City of Seattle, Parks Department and others. An additional Open House will be Saturday May 6th from 11 AM – 2PM at the Hampton Inn featuring representatives from King County.

Elizabeth Lippert and Tyler from the Sunrise Senior Living Center (which focuses on Memory Care) talked about what they would need and do during an emergency. The community council hopes to work with them to see what resources they might need or could share (they have a generator coming online soon, for example, they lost power 12 times last year). They are always looking for volunteers. They handed out branded grocery bags to attendees.

Updates: Seven of 15 traffic circles in Victory Heights have been adopted, so there is still time to grab your favorite (the granddaddy of them all at 19th Avenue NE & NE 107th is still available). Volunteers will maintain their adopted circle and we'll use the hours to match to pay for a grant to get "Welcome To Victory Heights" signs installed. The city will repaint the circles and fix reflectors if we give them a comprehensive list all at once. They will also be supplying plants if we need them.

The Victory Heights Park playground renovation begins May 1st. The park will be closed entirely during construction (except for the school). Money was found for a short walking paved walking path around the park. Ann is going to look for a place to temporarily put the emergency hub we got from the city until it can be permanently installed somewhere in the park after construction. A likely spot is near the school for now.

The District 5 Coalition had a meeting last Saturday in Bitter Lake. They are organizing what the group will be like in the wake of the end of the Department of Neighborhoods District Council system. Should they go micro or macro? For such a large area (basically the entire city north of 85th Street), it's hard to get residents of Bitter Lake, for instance, to care much about replacing the community center in Lake City. The trick is to look for common interests and of course get councilwoman Deborah Juarez on board.

At the North Precinct Advisory Council meeting, councilors from the 4th, 5th, and 6th District all turned up. Juarez supports the building of a new police precinct and the department is working on how to slash

costs, perhaps scaling back firing ranges and parking. A Tiny Housing project (literally made of tiny houses) is going in on NE 88th Street. It will provide 24/7 security for residents and will not have the usual no drugs or alcohol restrictions that usually prevent a lot of people who need it from getting on board. The police feel that this one place—with full time security—is better than a lot of unguarded encampments all around the city. A hotel on Aurora was shut down. A city program that provided community liaison officers that was cut in 2003 will be restored in 2018. While burglaries and auto thefts are down from last year, sexual assaults and car prowls are up, especially between Green Lake and Aurora. We're encouraged to sign up for Smart911 so a cellphone call to emergency services can give operators instant access to information about you that might help save lives. The Find-It/Fix-It app can be used to report needles, they will come take them away.

Upcoming events in the neighborhood include a Book Fair on Saturday, April 22nd from 10 AM to 2 PM at the co-op preschool. A May Day celebration at the school will be held on Sunday, April 30th between 10 AM and 1 PM. Baskets will be made to hang flowers from door handles. Weather permitting the May Pole will be set up.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 16th at 7PM and the hope is to have a speaker from the Mary's Place homeless shelter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council