

Minutes for the Victory Heights Community Council Meeting

April 16, 2013

Meeting called to order by President Ardith Lupton at 7:05 PM.

Attendees introduced themselves.

Susan Causin updated the Council on the efforts by the Emergency Preparedness Committee. On a meeting on April 6th, the members of the committee decided to divide the entire neighborhood into two block sections, each with a Block Captain who would provide one-on-one outreach with each house in their section. Using material provided by the city, information would be distributed about emergency preparedness. A further meeting on the 20th will see the creation of a map and attempting to identify possible Block Captains for each section.

Kate Waterous talked about the proposed July picnic. Everyone was keen to have one until it was realized it would cost \$455 just to put on a four hour event at Victory Heights Park (\$75 to apply for a permit from the Parks Department, 4 hours of use @ \$20/hour, and \$300 to get the insurance the Parks Department requires for such activities). Renting a porta-potty if necessary would cost even more. In light of this, the Committee decided to scale things back and instead do something informal without spending any money. Piggybacking on the city's Neighborhood Night Out on August 6th was the preferred alternative, with a proposal to close off NE 106th Street next to the park and use that as a gathering place to hold a potluck (similar to what Victory Lane did last year for its block party).

Ardith discussed the City's "Spring Clean" event which is described as, "Seattle's premiere clean-up event. Held each year in April and May through an SPU partnership with Parks and Recreation, Department of Neighborhoods, and Department of Transportation, Spring Clean provides opportunities for residents to keep our city tidy." There was confusion among attendees whether this was a public works clean-up party, or the city offering to pick up extra unwanted items from residents and haul them away. Research on the City's website revealed it was the former, limited to public spaces only. No motions were made although a sign up sheet was circulated.

Brad Cummings summarized the recent North District Council meeting where Eileen Canola's proposed traffic circle on 23rd Avenue NE and NE 105th Street was voted on by the council as one of three items to be forwarded to the city for consideration with its 2013 street fund. It received 10 out of 15 votes, coming in second out of five proposals. The Seattle Department of Transportation also announced that it is going to spend extra money left over from the Spokane Street improvement project to make Lake City Way safer for pedestrians and bicyclists in central Lake City. Eileen also mentioned the city has a PACE program, "a civic leadership development program that builds the skills of emerging community leaders." The \$100 9-month program beginning in September (on the same night as the VCCC meets each month) teaches community building, neighborhood planning, leadership and outreach. Applications can be made at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/poe/pace.htm before May 8th.

Victory Heights Pre-School representative Monica informed the council that it was recently discovered their insurance does not cover adults in their building (not even their teachers). Issues of liability for something occurring during a meeting has raised the possibility we may not be able to use the Pre-School building for much longer without obtaining some sort of insurance. It is okay for us to meet there in May, but as previously discussed, during the summer months (June, July, August), the Pre-School does not lease the building from the Parks Department and we are on our own to negotiate an agreement with Parks to use the building then. In September after the Pre-School resumes its lease, without insurance, we might not have access to it. Also, the current directors of the Pre-School are changing next month, so we will have to seek out the new ones with regards to any negotiations going forward. Susan pointed out the Parks Department has not been the most helpful with us in regards to the building, at one point flatly denying they even owned that property. And the employee who does know something at Parks (whom the Pre-School deals with) is currently out sick with a foot injury. Brad said he had spoken to Thomas Whittemore of the Department of Neighborhoods to see if he could help us grease the wheels of bureaucracy here. Everyone is at a loss to suggest a suitable alternative meeting place in Victory Heights should the Pre-School building become unavailable to us. Moving to Northgate or Lake City is not desirable.

A motion was made, seconded and approved for Brad and Ardith to explore finding a new financial institution to use for the Council's checking account, seeing as Bank of America will begin assessing fees once our balance drops below \$3000. One of the credit unions, perhaps BECU, was suggested as possibility. Brad said he would investigate.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize two new Victory Heights dry erase board yard signs to be made by the company that supplies Susan, at a price of \$90 each.

Brad would like us to begin thinking about fundraising in the future, particularly if we are going to be spending money out of our account.

Next month's meeting on May 21st has the tentative agenda of: Sound Transit will return to make a new presentation about the Link Light rail, this time for the portion south of Northgate; more planning for the Neighborhood Night Out event in August; and plans to put up some Free Library kiosks around the neighborhood, similar to what's been done in Pinehurst, that allow people to exchange books from small unmanned booths.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 PM, with a promise to better promote the next meeting through Next Door Neighborhood and the various e-mail lists around the neighborhood to better put out the word.