

Victory Heights Community Council
Meeting Minutes May 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Ann Forrest. Twenty people attending.

Seattle Police Department Officer Bryan Kennedy spoke about dealing with homeless issues. With the city council providing oversight, he said, "Our goal is not to arrest our way out of this issue." Hence, non-enforcement of laws about sleeping on sidewalks, in parks, etc. Typically they try to do an assessment of any homeless people and try to hook them up with services, but often they are dealing with people with mental health and addiction issues. There is a Navigation Team to deal with large encampments. If you see someone sleeping on public property, use the "Find It, Fix It" app (or website) to report it. On private property where trespassing is an issue, or if there is a crisis moment occurring, you should call 911. Ultimately he said of homelessness, "This kind of issue isn't resolved quickly." The SPD is keeping an eye on a nuisance house on 22nd Avenue NE up in Pinehurst where an absentee owner is letting his addiction-issues daughter live, which attracts other problems.

At the monthly meeting of the North Precinct Advisory Council, statistics show the North Precinct, the city's largest by far, not surprisingly has the highest crime figures as well. Among crime tips discussed were not to give the media video you have of criminal activity, it can taint a criminal investigation. Let the police have it first. Don't confront car prowlers. Have photos of your jewelry (pawn shops melt down any jewelry after 30 days, and it can't be claimed if you can't prove it's yours).

The Lake City Neighborhood Alliance Meeting announced the return of the summer Farmer's Market to Lake City (despite the library being closed through Autumn) starting June 7th every Thursday. Fourteen new vendors have been added this year. And Habitat For Humanity is building 16 townhomes by the Value Village early in 2019.

The North District Council still meets quarterly after "officially" having been dissolved by the city last year. A King County Council representative talked about changes with METRO transit. New lines are being added in September, and many will be rerouted in 2021 when the Light Rail station at Northgate opens.

The emergency communications HUB in Victory Heights Park has been installed next to the tennis court. There was a successful [drill](#) last month. There are extra keys for neighbors interested in holding one (see Ann). The [GoFundMe campaign](#) to raise funds to buy more HUB gear is still ongoing. We need to cultivate ham radio operators in the neighborhood.

A neighborhood-wide Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, June 16th. NE 106th St. west of the park will be closed for people to set up in one central location, or sell items directly from your own yard or garage.

The annual Ice Cream social/potluck has been moved up a week to Tuesday, July 17th. Usual time and location next to the park.

We might solicit designs for the traffic circles. A suggestion was made to put in counter-clockwise arrows to show the correct way to drive around them.

Tuesday, July 24th there will be a Block Leader Meeting with guest speaker, our local crime prevention coordinator.

Still planning on an Urban Survival Skills demonstration this fall in the park once the new path opens.

We might hold a “Tallest Tree In Victory Heights” contest where people can nominate trees and we’d designate some Scouts to accurately determine the winner.

A “Stop The Bleed” course on applying tourniquets will be scheduled at some point, good first-aid training!

Still talk about repairing the wooden fence on the east side of the park. The trouble is the city’s idea of a replacement is either concrete Jersey barriers or a metal guard rail. Yuck! However, if wooden parts were mysteriously replaced and stained in the middle of the night, the city’s inaction about deciding who is actually responsible for the fence (Parks or SPU) probably means no department would take responsibility for undoing any “unauthorized” work in any event. Just sayin’.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 19th, probably in the park as we don’t have access to the preschool building during summer months. The speaker will be Tracy Cramer, a sharps disposal educator.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council