

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2019

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

Ann did a PowerPoint presentation about earthquake early warning systems and where the technology stands right now. There are two kinds of waves generated by a quake, P & S, and if sensors can detect the first, fast P waves which aren't dangerous, it can send a warning before the potentially devastating S waves hit. Four sensors are necessary to be able to triangulate the source of the quake, and they are placed near fault lines, mainly in California on the West Coast and around the major volcanoes in Oregon and Washington. The question then is, who exactly and how do you notify people there is an imminent quake? In Los Angeles they have just introduced an app, ShakeAlertLA, for residents to get warnings for any 5.0 magnitude or more quakes. They have budgeted \$40 million in California to capitalize the project and then \$18 million a year to maintain it. In Oregon, about \$12 million has been budgeted for a similar project, but only \$5 million was proposed in Washington and didn't make it out of the House. Meanwhile, in Mexico City they've had a cheap and effective warning system in place since 1991! It uses air raid-like sirens placed all around the city to warn of a quake, and regular drills are conducted. It's just considered part of living there, even with the occasional false alarm. In the US, the debate goes on about what to do with a warning: should bridges be closed? Roads closed? Trains? Data security? Fire station doors? Elevators? Hospital O.R.s? Alas, mobile alert systems are too slow and aren't universally received. So far in Washington, the focus has been on securing the water supply by turning off pumps and preventing reservoirs from draining in case of a major quake. A rupture caused by the Seattle Fault Line could cost an estimated 1,780,000,000 in economic loss.

On June 1st, Victory Heights will be participating in a city-wide Emergency Communications HUB drill. Our HUB is located next to the tennis court in Victory Heights Park and would be set up to 1) share information and 2) coordinate "neighbors helping neighbors." There are no supplies per se, just tools to help facilitate those two goals (i.e. clip boards, info books, white boards, pens, etc). Ham radio operators will be set up as well to share information between other HUBS or the city. We participated in a quick practice drill during the meeting with some assigned roles and scenarios.

At the North Precinct Advisory Council meeting this month, SPD announced the first-in-the-country program, a Regional Domestic Violence Firearms Enforcement Unit. If you know someone with a gun who might pose a danger, you can file a claim to have the unit come in and confiscate their guns if a judge approves it. Statistics provided by the North Precinct say that response times to police calls are slower than other precincts but mainly that is due to it being the largest most spread out precinct, and a lack of good east-west arterials for getting around quickly.

Ann showed samples in order to solicit feedback of the Welcome Aboard Packets we want to put together for new residents to our neighborhood.

We are putting together a fundraising site to help buy swimsuits for the kids at the Ryther Children's Center on NE 95th Street. It will be called "Summer Splash," more details to come.

The deadline this year for “Your Choice, Your Voice” to vote for city projects that might get built near us is May 31st. We’ve never been successful at winning part of the \$2 million pot, but you might see a project you like: <https://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/programs-and-services/your-voice-your-choice>.

June 6th is the next meeting of the ReVisioning Northgate committee.

June 6th is also the opening day of the Lake City Farmers Market which will be bigger and more awesome than ever this year, every Thursday through the summer. Debra Juarez, our city councilperson, will be there on the 6th.

The Thornton Creek Alliance is having a Confluence Event on June 9th.

On Saturday, June 15th we will conduct another neighborhood wide yard sale. Folks can either set up on NE 106th Street next to the park or on their own properties. We’ll have maps but won’t release the information until 8:30 that morning.

There will be a District 5 city council candidate forum held June 27th at North Seattle Community College. It’s an election year, so get informed.

Our annual potluck/ice cream social will be held on Tuesday, July 16th next to the park.

The next meeting of the community council will be Tuesday, June 18th with guest speaker Vicki Stiles, a historian who can tell us what was in Victory Heights before the houses!

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Height Community Council