

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by President Ben Cober. Thirteen people (plus two guests) attending via Zoom.

Guest speaker Rod Dembowski, our District 1 King County Council representative (and chair) did a presentation about what's happening in the county. As of 7/19/21, 1,561,660 King County residents (80.9%) 16 and older have received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. In North Seattle & Shoreline the percentage is slightly higher (81.8% of eligible residents). The county has received in total \$1.2 billion in federal dollars for COVID relief. Many, many supplemental budgets have been passed to distribute the money and get it to where it's needed most. He also talked about upcoming transit changes when the new Light Rail stations open in October, and promoted the Best Starts For Kids 2.0 levy that is currently on the August primary ballot.

In Victory Heights Park and playground news, we've been negotiating with the city about expanding the message board at the north end of the park. It's a "work in progress." The grass field has mostly died and rather large weeds have taken its place. The Parks Department says someone will come out to take a look at them. Not much good news about the wooden fence that runs alongside the east side of the park next to 19th Avenue NE: if they city were to replace it would be with an ugly metal highway barrier. Yuck. It appears we won't be able to update it ourselves and keep it a nice wooden fence. Replacing with plants would require a lot of maintenance, assuming SDOT would even approve that.

On July 4th, a car took out one of the new art utility boxes on 23rd Avenue NE. Comcast replaced it with a temporary box but as they don't need it any more, instead it will be permanently replaced with a flush cap. We still have the original art (that is, we can reproduce more appliquéés with the design on it), so perhaps a future art project will see it resurrect.

The annual potluck/ice cream social would have been held tonight but the city wouldn't allow a large group to congregate without onerous testing and guidelines. But Neighborhood Night Out lives on, this year on Tuesday, August 3rd. The folks on 23rd Avenue NE between 107th and 108th are holding a potluck. Maybe your local block will organize one too (or you could get the ball rolling). It's a great way to meet your neighbors. The ice cream social MIGHT be rescheduled later this year if the city suspends its requirements.

Food Truck Fridays continues to be a big hit, with trucks reporting they are tripling their minimum requirements for coming. Friday July 23rd will feature CheBogz Filipino Food Truck, and a newcomer: TukTuk Mobile Feast. 11 AM to 2 PM at the park.

Mayor Mondays have three more interviews with candidates scheduled: Monday, July 26th; a special Wednesday one on July 28th with Jessyn Farrell; and the last on Monday, August 2nd. Ballots must be postmarked by the 3rd.

Ann Forrest said the May Scavenger Hunt will relaunch again for those who missed it. No prizes, but a fun excuse to walk around the neighborhood.

Coming in August in both Victory Heights and the Pinehurst Pocket Park: The Silly Walk—watch for signs and be prepared to post on social media! Ann thanked Sheila and Nancy for assisting in all this.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson

Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council