

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM by interim President Ann Forrest. Twenty-two people attending via Zoom.

Kyle Boyd, the Director of Fan Development at the new Kraken Community Iceplex did a quick presentation of their facility. There have three ice rinks located where a central chunk of Northgate Mall used to be, and has been opened about six months now. The Kraken have financial assistance available for low-income families for access and to defray the costs of equipment and transportation. Their goal is to promote diversity and inclusion in what has seemed a very white sport. He also mentioned that Simon Properties, owner of the mall and the land around it (including the Iceplex), are going to build a small park just south of the complex. Free parking (unlike the rest of the mall) is available for Iceplex patrons in their lot just east of the building (across from the library).

After introductions, we heard from the Committees:

Finance: We have \$3,050 in our checking account and are only financial obligations currently are the fees for hosting the blog at \$42 a year (the new victoryheights.cc site was donated).

Safety: Amber, Carl and Matthew reported about the vacant/abandoned house on 15th Avenue NE just across Northgate Way from the mosque which has been empty for 5 years now. The police are aware of it, and there have been fines levied on the owners but they just pay them and do nothing. Despite it being “an eyesore” it’s not legally a “nuisance house” although that status could change depending on how many reports the city receives about it. Overgrown vegetation and possible occupancy in the backyard are typical complaints.

The North Precinct Advisory Council meeting highlights: Deputy Director of SPD's Office of Police Accountability, Anne Bettsworth, spoke about what the OPA does, and how to make a complaint about an officer (in 2021 there were 3000 complaints filed versus 19,000 in 2020). Megan Wesphal in the City Attorney's office advised us to expect new policy and procedure changes, e.g. already changed that all cases will be reviewed with 5 days of filing. There was discussion about resources for abandoned houses and/or trespassers (see above). The Police Captain reported year-to-date crime statistics compared to last year: North Precinct overall crime down 29%, however city overall is up 15%. Good news: burglary is down 34%, larceny theft is down 42%; Bad news: robbery is up 51%, aggravated assault is up 25%, vehicle theft is up 47%.

Social: Dan announced Food Truck Fridays resume on May 6th from 6 – 8 PM, with two (sometimes 3) trucks that will be parked on 19th Avenue NE next to the park which will be closed to traffic. Bring tables and chairs and enjoy a nice meal *al fresco*. We’ll see new trucks that weren’t here last year, and it will run 17 weeks through August 26th.

Joint Committee Project: Safety & Beautification & Conservation are all teaming up to look into traffic calming for our neighborhood. The wish is to hire a consultant to create a “holistic approach” to dealing

with traffic, as the city won't consider extreme measures like speed bumps or signs unless three major accidents at an intersection have occurred. In order to pay for this expert, we are going to apply for a matching grant and "pay" for it with volunteer hours, namely helping clean up the sidewalks along Northgate Way between 15th and Lake City Way (and maybe doing the Adopt-A-Street program).

We are looking for someone to attend meeting of the Northeast District Council as our representative. It's a fast ticket to our Board of Trustees, and just once a month.

Other projects in the works: Revising the by-laws. The Board will be working on a draft we hope to present to the community in April for a vote. It's been nine years since they were last updated. We also need new yard signs, they need to be designed, made, and paid for. And we're looking into insurance, namely do we need it (for park events), and how much would it set us back?

Teen Feed is back, the 2nd Monday of each month (we've done 18 of them so far—great work, everyone!). Sign up at VH.TeamFeed@gmail.com.

On April 30th there will be a Skills Fair/HUB drill at the tennis court in Victory Heights Park. It will probably take about 3 hours, we'd like people to volunteer for 90 minutes.

We need two handwashing stations assembled. Ann has all the parts and instructions (it's basically a large bucket with a spigot), someone handy can probably do the work in an hour.

We want to replace our hard-copy "Welcome Wagon" hand-outs with a 20 minute YouTube video that basically has the same information. We'd then hand out business cards with QR code that people could use to find the video and see all the resources we have available in the neighborhood.

Next meeting is Monday, April 18th and will either feature someone from Build Lake City Together or Redistricting Seattle.

Our May meeting (5/16) will either have King County Council chair Rod Dembowski or Thornton Creek grants.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council