

Victory Heights Community Council
Meeting Minutes April 19, 2016

Meeting called to order by President Victor Hernandez at 7:04 PM. Fifteen people present.

Robin talked about recent criminal activity in the park. There have been two or three 911 calls regarding drug use, in one instance heroin, occurring under the playground equipment. In one case a patrol car did come by but the suspects merely wandered away without any interaction. The preschool checks the grounds for needles daily. The hope is the construction project later this year will keep the park closed long enough for the drug users to forget about it and not return. The new equipment will be too small for anyone to use as cover, plus there will be lights and better sightlines. There is a controversy about what the ground material under the equipment will consist of. The Parks Department wants to use the rubberized material similar to what was installed in Maple Leaf Park. However, inspection of that site reveals it has suffered serious degradation and has been replaced several times (although a similar install at Seattle Center is holding up just fine—different material or just better installed?). A petition is going around to persuade Parks to use wood chips (what's currently there) to avoid this whole problem. While harder to keep clean of objects, it's proven to last and works.

Ann is going to hold a May Day Celebration on Sunday, May 1st at her house across from the park at 10540 19th Avenue NE starting at 10 AM until noon. Fun for all ages, participants will get to make simple paper May Day baskets (all materials provided) to fill with flowers and hang them on neighbor's doors. So come be a part of this family event, or be surprised by one being left on your door handle. Info or more details at victoryheights@aol.com.

Eileen Canola talked about the Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA) which we are a part along with other neighborhood groups and businesses. Brad provided her with enough email addresses for us to be recertified as an actual functioning organization (similar to what just occurred with the North District Council) and to help pay our \$25 annual dues. Victor will need to sign the form and then we're good. Eileen will keep us informed of LCNA activities via email and attend meetings when she can. Andy Forrest is her second. Among the issues the LCNA is following are zoning changes which will be occurring around Lake City. More here:

<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/cityplanning/completenesslist/lakecity/whatwhy/default.htm>. North Helpline's "Empty Bowls" Annual Luncheon and Auction is May 1st, and a Spring Clean will be going on in Lake City on Saturday April 30th. More info at <http://lakecityfuturefirst.org/>

Brad updated us on the North District Council meeting this month. The Small Neighborhood & Street Fund grant proposals were voted on. There were 13 proposals (none from Victory Heights) which council members had toured previously. With the preference vote, the recommendations sent to the city were: #1) 35th Ave NE & NE 135th near Fred Meyer, improving pedestrian crossings; #2) improve the crosswalk at 35th Avenue NE & NE 105th Street just up from the Meadowbrook Community Center; #3) improve the crosswalk on NE 110th between Nathan Hale and Jane Addams school.

The Lake City Farmers Market opens Thursday June 9th. Live music, food, and kids activities will be part of the weekly event throughout the summer.

Our annual Neighborhood Night Out event has been rebranded the Victory Heights Ice Cream Social and will be held two weeks early this year on Tuesday, July 19th (in lieu of a community council meeting) on NE 106th St, next to the park as we have done in previous years. This way we will not conflict with Neighborhood Night Out on August 2nd where this year we encourage people to meet with their neighbors on their block and get to know them. Obviously we will promote the NNO at the social. We're hoping we can persuade the city to do some sort of ceremony for the upcoming park renovation. We will still need to find an organizer, but after three years, we pretty much know how to put this on.

There was a suggestion to have a movie night in the park. Possible hiccups include very late sunsets during the summer, the park closing at 11 PM, and getting electricity into the park to run a projector and sound equipment. But people seemed to think this was a viable idea.

Art Brochet will be the guest speaker next month at our May 17th meeting to talk about the pedestrian bridge over I-5 that will be built from the light rail station at Northgate over to the college.

Also next month we will elect a Vice President to fill the vacancy we've had since last year. Ann Forrest has expressed interest in filling out the term until our next election in 2017.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council