

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting
April 17, 2018

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

We heard from Hisham Farajallah, a WSU alum who is on the Board of Trustees at the nearby Idriss Mosque on Northgate Way. They will be having a pre-Ramadan pot luck event on Saturday, May 5th starting at 5:30 PM that will include tours. Everyone welcome. He also talked about the unfortunate situation of a provocateur who has been showing up outside the mosque on Friday afternoons looking to start a confrontation. Armed with a GoPro video camera and increasingly offensive signage, he wants to document some sort of “violence” that will somehow prove his point. The best way to deal with him apparently is to just ignore him, he hates that. If people would like to help attendees avoid this guy, please come around the 5 PM prayers on Fridays to assist. They don’t want a counter protest. They don’t want to engage him. Just have everyone ignore him. Sometimes though, easier said than done.

The emergency communications HUB box has been delivered and installed in the park next to the tennis court, apparently it’s somewhat larger than we had been lead to believe. Nevertheless this sets up our “NO POWER, NO BARS” drill that will be held between 9 AM and noon at the park on Saturday, April 28th. We need HUB volunteers (no experience necessary, and you get to wear a neat hat), as well as actors who will be given scripted scenarios to help the volunteers practice (again, no experience necessary). You might end up doing both. Bring the kids, last year’s drill included a very helpful Scout troupe. Our GoFundMe campaign is still going on, we hope to raise some funds to buy walkie-talkies, tables, and other things that the HUB didn’t come with. <https://www.gofundme.com/preparing-for-the-big-one>

At this month’s Lake City Neighborhood Alliance (LCNA) meeting, Wells Fargo announced a \$550,000 donation that will be doled out over the next five years to help the Children’s Home Society, LCNA, and Lake City Future First. There will be another District 5 meeting on May 31st at the Haller Lake Community Center from 7-9 PM. No word if representative Deborah Juarez will be there, but our two “at-large” city council people will.

The Victory Heights Neighborhood Yard Sale will be Saturday, June 16th from 9 AM – 2 PM. We have received permission to close NE 106th Street along the west side of the park, if people want to bring their stuff to be sold in one central location. Or let us know where your yard sale will be and we’ll have maps.

If people want to participate in a neighborhood “Spring Clean,” the proposed date is Saturday June 9th.

There’s no new news about when work on the field as part of the park renovation might get started. Once it’s completed in the autumn (fingers crossed), we’ll host an “Urban Survival Skills Walk” along the new path that will have booths set up with demos on low-tech toilets, water filtration, emergency supplies, etc.

Do you have a high-traffic area in front of your house and would like to put up one of our yard-signs, contact us at VictoryHeights.Seattle@gmail.com . We have easy-to-plant plastic signs for advertising our community council meetings as well as promoting "Something Happening" in Victory Heights.

The plan to replace the wood fence along the east side of the park is now this: apply for a city grant and then get the city to determine who exactly is responsible (Parks or Public Utilities). We want to keep it wood and ideally would paint the posts black and put caps on them to prevent rot, and maybe have families sponsor the pieces of wood that would form the fence.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 15th when Officer Kennedy from SPD will be speaking about dealing with homelessness, particularly the person who is camped out on 19th Avenue NE and Northgate Way.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council