

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2014

Meeting called to order by Vice-President Sharon Haggerty at 7:02 PM. Twelve people in attendance.

No news from CleanScapes about the award submissions that we put in last month. Is no news good news? It turns out the Co-Op Preschool also requested money for improving the playground equipment and putting in a public toilet at the park.

Neighborhood Night Out planning is moving ahead with Heidi Smeller on the case. She met up with last year's chair, Kate Waterous, and now has all the material she needs. Heidi will be making a SPARKS grant application request once she has a budget, it's assumed it will be approved as quickly as last year. The July Community Council meeting will be when things kick into high gear, with specific job duties assigned and flyer distribution organized throughout the neighborhood. That meeting will come exactly three weeks before the August 5th NNO. Steff asked if she could set up a table at the NNO about invasive plants. Everyone thought this sounded swell.

The Emergency Preparedness Communications HUBS around the city had a practice drill on May 17th. At least four VHCC board members participated. Full details on the blog:

<http://victoryheights.org/wp/2014/05/17/emergency-drill-prepares-hub-volunteers/>

There was a meeting of emergency preparedness block captains on April 29th to see how things were proceeding. At the meeting we were shown four comic books produced by King County Public Health called "Survivors Tales." It was decided: each block should choose a meeting point, we should apply for a grant for a First Aid kit, and we need to find more captains for those blocks where one has not been assigned yet. The plan is to do recruiting during the NNO in August.

The annual Spring Clean is this Saturday, May 24th. They'll be meeting at the park in front of the pre-school at 10 AM to get supplies (vests, gloves, paint & brushes, bags and pick-ups will all be provided). Last year's graffiti removal was quite successful. If anyone knows of spots that need to be repainted this year or areas in need of trash removal, they should contact Ardith (ardithlupton@msn.com). The weather forecast isn't promising for Saturday but then again they said the same thing last weekend and it was sunny and warm nearly the entire time.

It's been noticed that invasive plants are growing near the ends of the 15th Avenue NE bridge. It's not advised to attempt to use poison on them, but rather try to whack them down if possible or call the city and let them deal with it, to keep their infrastructure clear. Speaking of the bridge, the encampments that were underneath were cleared out as of two weeks ago.

Supposedly there is a clean-up scheduled on May 25th on Thornton Creek starting at the 17th Avenue NE entrance but I have yet to find any evidence of such an event on the internet (only one over at Beaver Pond by Northgate). If it is happening they should publicize it better.

The North District Council meeting this month featured City Councilwoman Sally Clark speaking. The topic of small lot development received some attention (The Seattle Times has covered this quite a bit lately as well). On June 3rd there will be an Open House for the proposed pedestrian/bike bridge across I-5 at the Northgate transit center. It will be from 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM at Olympic View Elementary School. The funding for this project is still up in the air as costs have risen to \$25 million. The Seattle Musical Theater's production of "Tommy" opens this week at Magnuson Park. There will be a vote on creating a Metropolitan Park District on the primary ballot in August. And the Lake City Farmer's Market opens June 12th.

The Knickerbocker Floodplain project will begin work next month, with the pedestrian bridge removed and the footpath closed for two months. There is a neighborhood meeting down on NE 100th Street to meet with Seattle Public Utility officials to discuss the particulars on May 29th at 5:30 PM.

Brad reported that \$175 had been donated to the Community Council to help reimburse us for the costs of the Little Free Libraries. It is much appreciated.

Keith Dekker reported that 35th Avenue NE at Meadowbrook would be closed all summer as they replace the bridge. As of today it was still open however. Lake City Way is going to have major work done on it from NE 145th Street all the way to the freeway entrance at NE 75th Street. New signs, curb crossings, radar speed signs and intersection overhauls will occur. Also in Lake City, Pioneer Days has been rebranded SalmonFest as it coincides with Seafair in August.

The floor of the pre-school is being replaced the first week in June, paid for by the different classes. As usual, our access to the pre-school in summer changes, so we'll be holding the June and July meetings off-site (and no meeting in August in lieu of the NNO).

The next meeting will be June 17th at Ardith Lupton's, 10408 23rd Avenue NE. The July meeting will be at Heidi's on NE 105th as we plan make our NNO plans with her.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson, secretary, Victory Heights Community Council