

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2021

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM by President Ben Cober. Fifteen people present on Zoom including observer Ben Southern from the Community Involvement Commission (they are looking for new commissioners if you are interested).

From the President's Desk: Neighborhood Beautification continues this Sunday, May 23rd at 9 AM with the last cleanup of NE 106th St just east of 15th Avenue NE. Hopefully a trailer will be provided to haul away all the yard waste.

The Victory Heights Neighborhood Survey is still open, please go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd0wsY6UXIn43ozll8gpkLOdnzYnWbEmSIY7jdPiDRjvR_Rhg/viewform and fill it out (okay for more than one person per household to respond).

Neighbor Labor is ready and willing to work on someone's property who is unable to do the work themselves. At the moment, no one has put in a request for help after last month's effort.

Food Truck Friday continues through September and has been "very well attended." The Himalayan Dumpling truck was a big success during the Art Tour party on Saturday night, and they will be folded into the weekly rotation of trucks.

Mayor Monday continues, three down, many many more to go. Dan Rivers has been added and requests are out to two other new candidates. We'll keep going until we run out of people running!

A discussion was held about what do on the 4th of July. Plans for a fireworks display (sorry) went up in smoke, when it turned out permits would not be forthcoming from the Fire Department to shoot off fireworks in the park. Should we do a parade instead? Combine it with the annual potluck? After much talk it was decided that a lot of people would probably take advantage of that long weekend to get out of town, so we won't try to compete with that. The potluck/ice cream social is still tentatively scheduled for July 20th, assuming we can get a permit from the city for a large gathering.

Brad Cummings reported the Lake City Neighborhood Alliance is taking some time "re-evaluating its purpose" after 7 or 8 years of independence after the Department of Neighborhoods disbanded the previous organization.

The Art Box Tour on Saturday night was a big success, all five pieces were auctioned off (proceeds to the artists), the event was popular, the boxes look great, and Ben posted a recap video on our Facebook page. We took a minute to salute Ben for willing this project into existence and making it happen. Have you discovered the secret on all the boxes yet?

Ann Forrest reported on the Black Live Matter committee. After the shrine at the bulletin board at the park was respectfully dismantled to make room for community announcements, a more permanent place called Victory Heights Voices will hopefully appear soon as "a place for people to express their thoughts." Twice a year, the community would clear that board and let people start over. We're waiting

to hear from the city about how they might help us put up a new board. It was asked what about in the meantime until it's ready, but there were concerns about keeping the current bulletin board clear in order to spread information to the community which is what it was designed for (not everyone uses the internet to find out what's going on around here). There are guidelines posted on the board right now explaining the rules to everyone. It was suggested we post a notice that a new board is coming. There was some discussion about what would constitute "expressing their thoughts," with the hope that overtly political material (i.e. "Vote for X") would not be part of it. The trick is how to define what is political.

There is an effort to start a "Storycorp" type of project to record the experiences of residents of Victory Heights. Whether this would take the form of podcasts, or videos, or something else, is being worked out.

Someone asked what to do with the strip of land along NE 106th now that all the invasive plants have been removed. Suggestions included a community garden, a P-patch, a Food Forest, or maybe just plant native species. It is a bit steep, so any sort of garden would have to be terraced.

The Pinehurst/Victory Heights Scavenger Hunt is this Sunday, May 23rd. There are 40 items to locate throughout our two neighborhoods. Come by either the Pinehurst Pocket Park or Victory Heights Park starting at 1 PM on Sunday for instructions and a question and answer sheet. Volunteers will be there until 4 PM to give you help. There are no prizes, this is meant to be "fun and low-key, a very family-friendly" event. And not one you necessarily have to do on that Sunday either, no doubt the instructions will be posted online afterwards to do yourself in your own time.

Saturday June 12th will be the Neighborhood Yard Sale. So far five sales have signed up. Maps will be released at 8:45 AM the morning of the sale and not one minute earlier. No early birds. The event will run from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council