

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes  
December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Meeting called to order by President Victor Hernandez at 7:02 PM. 24 people present.

Representatives from Seattle Parks and Recreation, Karimah Edwards and Frank Robinson, made their presentation about the Victory Heights Park playground renovation project coming in 2016. An hour earlier they had display boards set up showing various proposals and alternatives for residents to examine. With \$893,000 budgeted for the project, it needs to be completed by the end of 2016, so the plan is for construction during mid-2016 for our one acre park. Robinson, a designer with 20 years experience who has redone one playground a year for the city, plans on creating two play areas: one for children ages 2-5, and a separate one for ages 5-12, both of which would be in plain view for parents seated in a central “plaza space” by the Japanese maple tree. The concrete wall next to the basketball court, a relic of the 1950s, would be demolished and the court would be reconfigured and moved slightly south with better sightlines. The drinking fountain will be moved, the entire area will be ADA compliant, and there will be an access road to allow maintenance. The grass flat will be untouched, although if the budget permits, a “loop path” might be put in around it (it’s “an alternate bid item.”).

Parks are still in the preliminary planning stage, taking feedback, like the meeting tonight, and talking to play equipment manufacturers. “This is an important night for us,” says Robinson. There are four possible types of styles of equipment (nature, theme, modern & traditional), and seven types of play elements (muscle, development, thrills, discovery, passive, creative, imaginative, learning), so lots of choices depending on what people want their kids to be doing in the park. Robinson said, “You are the decision makers” when it comes to choosing the style of equipment.

After a preliminary design is made, Parks will be back in February (presumably at our Feb 16<sup>th</sup> meeting) to get further feedback from the community.

They opened the floor to questions from the audience, a majority of them moms who had various concerns or items they wanted more information about. Things that won’t be changed: the field, the building, and the lighting (“Parks is not inclined to do that...It’s not currently in our budget.”).

In other business, Monica will again be organizing caroling around the neighborhood between 5 & 7 PM on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. People should meet up at her house around 4:30 to practice and hot chocolate: 10512 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

One of our original a-frame yard signs appears to have disappeared sometime on the 15<sup>th</sup> from its location in the traffic circle just north of the preschool. Be on the lookout for it.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Happy holidays, everyone!

Submitted by Ryan Johnson  
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council