

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2016

Attendees: 25 as of 7:18 pm

Called to order at 7:00 pm by Victor

Katie Bang spoke and introduced project and its goals, which are to add accessibility and update the equipment. Heard a strong voice from neighborhood for loop path – don't know if have \$ for that yet. Budget is 800k, construction 550k. A lot of permitting, earthwork needs to be done. It's a very aggressive construction time. Will design path not sure if it will be done.

Heard from community that it would be beneficial to start in summer but not sure – probably start in late fall into 2017. Want to keep part of park open while underway.

Frank Robinson (from the city – the designer I think) gave a recap from last meeting as well as comments received. Great to see some of the same faces as last time in December when various types of play styles etc. were on display. Also got quite a few responses from online survey. Lots of comments re basketball. Dog walking on and off leash. Off leash area will not be part of this project. New play equipment, new benches. Heard feedback for things for adults to do. That's where the loop trail idea came in as well as the basketball court. Can't do everything but can accommodate some. Discussed styles and gathered viewpoints. In Seattle have tendency to go with "nature" look – Eddie Bauer color scheme – but there were also a fair number of people who said lets go with something more brightly colored. Tonight we have samples that reflect that. Different age groupings were requested from the potential vendors. It was noted that the merry-go-round is very popular and that you want to keep it. Rocks to climb on were mentioned. The project map shows some of that.

Frank reviewed the project map and described various components. Don't want to push play area out into grassy area as it is used by many folks and dogs. Don't want to usurp that area. 3600 square feet will be used for the new play area – the one old is 3400. 3600 is on the small side for play area to include everything we want to. Play areas for 2-5 year old and 5-12 year olds are marked; national standards recommend separation for safety reasons. New safety surfacing – is looking into something different than sand. Having a rubberized surface is current standard (4x more than wood). Frank displayed a sample of what he's thinking of – ForeverLawn – has a resilient underpinning with a grass-like surface. Doesn't need replacing every year like wood chips do. ForeverLawn has been used at Seattle Center play area and Crown Hill. Questions were taken re maintenance of Forever Lawn.

Recapped concerns from last meeting on what to preserve – Japanese maple tree and castings in concrete.

Frank stated that they will remove one tree – a pine but will plant 4-6 more. Will add new benches and tables. Will take out concrete bang wall behind basketball hoop, which was originally built for handball, but is no longer a popular sport and having the concrete wall near the play area is a safety hazard.

Discussed possible loop path. Maybe a tricycle path. Question from Victor to Frank: what kind of surface? Probably a hard surface for tricycles. Asphalt or concrete. Rather not do crushed rock. Comment from attendees: it would really be great since we don't have sidewalks. Number one on wish list.

Frank said that: ForeverLawn also close to top of wish list.

Comment – what are we trading off from play equipment to put in Forever Lawn. No equipment would be given up. Only have room for so much. There will be safe surfacing no matter what. Question from attendees: what about walking path which seems a priority for community – trade off ForeverLawn for that. Answer: not sure about that. Could tie walking loop into ADA.

Frank walked the meeting through a discussion of the alternatives he brought to show. Comments and questions were taken from the audience.

Will collect feedback. 4-5 weeks from now final decision. Then do a display in this building or may weather coat and post a version outside the park building. Looking to get consensus tonight. Final design will be posted on the website – see the agenda – maybe mid-March. Don't have a survey yet on this property –have to do that first. So maybe late March.

Will have a preliminary plan up in a couple weeks – can make comments on that. Can take comments as long as you like. There will be a cut-off once start taking bids.

[http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/victory\\_heights/default.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/parks/projects/victory_heights/default.htm)

The consensus tonight seems to be for the Berliner 5-12 design, and for the GameTime modern 2-5 y.o design, adding musical instruments, a car from the other European manufacturer, and finally to expand sand area. Attendees really like the blue color on the GameTime modern one. Folks want a harmonious color combination of the two vendors' offerings.

In answer to question from audience: musical instruments are not loud. Lake City playground behind library has them, if people want to see what they're like.

Katie Bang, the city project design wrapped up the presentation and thanked everyone for their input.

Brad Cummings had a couple North District Council announcements – the Lake City Farmer’s Market will be re-starting June 9 start. Brad. If you want to become an alternate representative for Victory Heights to the North District Council, see Brad and give him your email.

Adjourned 8:19 pm.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson  
Secretary, Victory Height Community Council