

Victory Heights Community Council Minutes  
Meeting May 17, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by Treasurer Brad Cummings (President Victor Hernandez arrived a few minutes later). Fifteen people in attendance.

Art Brochet from the Seattle Department of Transportation did a presentation about the coming pedestrian and bicycle bridge across I-5 that will connect the Link Light Rail station at Northgate in 2021 with North Seattle College on the west side. He had a dandy model for display. Originally neither Sound Transit nor the State was interested in taking the lead on building a bridge, so the city stepped up and began commissioning designs several years ago even though funding was uncertain then. South Transit had promised \$5 million in matching funds if the city did the same, and eventually the state ponied up \$10 million. Funding was secured when the Move Seattle levy injected another \$15 million, which conveniently fully pays for the expected \$35 million price tag that is based on the 30% engineering design work that has been done so far. The current design is for an open-air tubular structure with two supports, and a 5% grade from its highest point on the east side to clear the northbound lanes of I-5. It will have a 16 foot across path, with lighting and other amenities determined later. The alignment is at NE 100<sup>th</sup> Street where there will be a stairway on the east side to skip the long switch-back ramp down to street level that will include a side ramp that will enter the Light Rail station at the mezzanine level except for the hours when the station is closed between 1 – 4 AM (the bridge will be open and accessible 24 hours a day). In November the project was put on hold to confirm the feasibility of the budget based on the current design. If it looks good and no redesign is ordered, the project will restart again to reach full design by 2017 and put it out to bids for construction. It is a “Tier 2” project for Move Seattle, which means it must wait for the projects ahead of it to be funded first, although delays on those or extra money left over means it could happen faster. Construction could start in 2018, plenty of time to be ready when the station opens in 2021. However, should a redesign be needed, that pushes everything back. Councilwoman Juarez has expressed an interest in having a bigger bridge. However that will increase the cost, so justifying that to taxpayers will be a good trick. There was some concern about safety (i.e. crime) with such a long enclosed structure, but there is no roof, it will be cold, rainy, windy and noisy, and not a particularly convenient place for anyone to want to hang out just to make trouble. And if the new station is as big a success as the UW and Capitol Hill ones, the amount of foot traffic will seriously deter would-be criminal activity.

Molly Burke, the representative from the Farmer’s Market, gave a brief promotion of this year’s Lake City Farmer’s Market which starts Thursdays beginning on June 9<sup>th</sup> through September from 3-7 PM. The Lake City Seattle Library provides an excellent partner for providing storytelling events for kids, poetry, and other activities for kids and adults. New vendors include artisan chocolates, a new honey person from Shoreline, heirloom peaches in August, and a new Eastern Washington farmer. Lake City Future First will have a pop up tent each week with news and information about what is going on in the neighborhood. Come support your local market.

Ann Forrest volunteered to organize our Ice Cream Social that will be on July 19<sup>th</sup>. This potluck will attempt to replicate what we’ve done on Neighborhood Night Out in years past, but on a different date.

Flyer distribution will occur at our next meeting (please attend), and there will be the usual yard signs and other promotions leading up to it. We need someone to take care of garbage collection this year as Keith has moved away.

The next meeting will be on June 21<sup>st</sup> (Solstice!) held in the great outdoors in the park because we don't have access to the preschool during summer months. Instead of a July meeting we will have the Social, and we will skip August unless there is pressing business.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson  
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council