

Victory Heights Community Council Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7 PM by President Ann Forrest, twelve people attending.

David VanderZee, in the service planning group of Metro transit, did a PowerPoint presentation about the proposed bus route changes that are being considered when the link light rail extends to Northgate in autumn 2021. The short version is, most buses will terminate at a light rail station (either Northgate, Roosevelt, or Brooklyn in the U District) rather than providing direct service to downtown any longer (except the 309 which goes to First Hill). However, this will be offset by trains every 6 minutes during rush hour and 15 minute service from Northgate to Westlake Station. And more bus runs as they'll have shorter routes, and much more crosstown service is coming. Currently we are in "Phase 2" of the plan (March –April 2020) where "nothing is finalized" and with outreach to the public (us) to get feedback. This will be taken on board as the concept is "refined" over the summer, a revised "Phase 3" will roll out in the autumn, with another chance for more public feedback and refinement, and then having a final concept around November-December 2020. THEN, the King County Council has to approve a service change this big in Spring 2021 for it to then take effect that autumn. The resistance to having to change seats halfway through a journey (bus to train and vice-versa) is hopefully redeemed with more reliable and frequent service. Also, the stations are being designed so buses can transfer passengers as close to the entrance as possible, and provide shelters. Apparently "lessons were learned" at Husky Stadium where nearly every bus connection from the light rail requires crossing a street or a long walk. This website has all the information about specific route changes and how to provide feedback: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/transportation/metro/programs-projects/fares-routes-and-service/north-link-connections.aspx>

At the Lake City Neighborhood Alliance meeting, the director of neighborhoods spoke, and the old Value Village location is going to be razed and replaced with 260 affordable housing units in a 5 or 6 story structure.

Young volunteer Dillon and Peter Neilson are overseeing the fence replacement project along the east side of Victory Heights Park. If the city were to do it, they would just put in an ugly metal guardrail. We want to retain the ornamental wooden barrier that now exists. Incredibly, the city has given us permission to do this ourselves. A survey reveals there are 54 posts, many rotting along the top to form "bird feeders", and 51 boards. We would trim down the affected posts and recap them to prevent further water damage. In March we will powerwash the fence so we can see how many boards actually need replacing. A budget will be drawn up and then we'll apply for a grant that would be offset by volunteer hours, similar to what was done several years ago to pay for the traffic circle plantings.

The homeless encampment under the 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue bridge is getting bigger all the time, "Structures are being built," said one witness. Debora Juarez, our city council representative, is aware of this, but Navigation teams can only move so fast, and right now there is no timeline for this encampment to get cleared out.

Ann will be teaching a free Earthquake Preparedness Class on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the North Seattle College from 9 AM – 1 PM. Email her to register: [victoryheights.seattle@gmail.com](mailto:victoryheights.seattle@gmail.com)

The next day, on Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Ann is hosting a concert featuring live chamber music performed at her house in a hour-long presentation to celebrate Daylight Savings Time. It's \$3 to reserve a seat and then they pass the hat (suggested donation \$10) to the musicians afterwards. RSVP here: <http://l.grpm.us/S0gIPg>

The next meeting is St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Submitted by Ryan Johnson  
Secretary, Victory Heights Community Council