

12 December 2014

To each and every Champion, whether you only read our notices, whether you have volunteered at an event or been involved in a planning session, whether you have been in the trenches on the Steering Committee or involved in the many predecessors to the Champion:

The end of 2014 marks a huge turning point in the Capitol Hill Champion's work and focus. After many years of community input, advocacy, planning, negotiation, monitoring, and strongly occupying our seat at the table, dating back to the first Sound Transit vote in 1996, we are in the midst of Sound Transit's selection process for development of the sites around the station. Proposals have been submitted and they are being scored. The focus and nature of the Champion's work will change in the New Year as Sound Transit awards the sites and begins negotiations with the winning developer(s). At last we will be able to work concretely with the developers of the sites.

As the year turns, it's time for me to step down from the Champion Steering Committee. It's been a long haul – seven years and counting. I served on the committee that commissioned the TOD Recommendations Report in 2009 and formed the Champion in 2010, and before that I served on the Seattle Design Commission's Light Rail Review Panel for the Capitol Hill and University Stations.

We have a fantastic team of new Co-Chairs who chaired their first steering committee meeting this month: Brie Gyncild and Tim Farrell. Brie joined the Steering Committee a year ago, and Tim joined in April of this year. Brie has many years of community activism and social justice work under her belt. She lives at the junction of Capitol Hill and Squire Park and currently co-chairs Central Seattle Greenways and serves on the 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Stewards. Tim is an architect and works as a developer for Tarragon Development. He is very knowledgeable about development processes, is a former Capitol Hill and current Squire Park resident, and is developing the Beryl at 12<sup>th</sup> and Pike.  
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As you all know, I serve as vice-president of Capitol Hill Housing's PDA board. In that capacity, I will continue to champion the needs of this neighborhood, whether or not CHH is developing any property at the Station. CHH has contributed substantial staff time and leadership in cooperation with the labor and efforts of many others -- property owners, business people, residents -- to successfully engage Sound Transit and the City in this process. I can't begin to list the names - but my thanks for all your support, encouragement, persistence, questioning, arguments, everything that has gone into manifesting the neighborhood vision for these sites. This community owes each and every one of you endless thanks. I personally owe you thanks for supporting me in this work which I have found incredibly rewarding in spite of the challenges.

We have accomplished a lot. There is more to come as the properties are developed and come on line – The Champion needs each and every one of you to help us steward this development into being and reunite Broadway.

Here's to the interesting opportunities of 2015 and fun realizing them!

Cathy Hillenbrand