

## Burien Business and Economic Development Partnership

**Date:** November 12, 2010

**Time:** 7:00-9:00 am

**Members Present:** Judy Covert, Dave Elliott, Bob Ewing, Kevin Fitz, Nancy Hinthorne, Jim Hughes, Alice Madsen, Sherrill Miller, Mark Minium, Carmen Moore, Doug Moreland

**Excused Absentees:** Geri Fain, Michael Goldsmith, Jane Voget

Absent:

**Staff:** Mike Martin, City Manager; Dick Loman, Economic Development Manager

**Guests:** Mayor Joan McGilton; Councilmember Gordon Shaw; Steve Gilbert, Executive Director, Discover Burien; Katie Salinas, Waste Management; Marco Milanese, Port of Seattle

**Call to Order:** Meeting opened at 7:00 a.m. by Judy Covert, Chair.

### **Guest Speaker**

Dick introduced Anthony (Tony) Andrews, Sales Manager at All Freight International, Inc. All Freight employs about 20 people and owns the office building at 131 SW 156<sup>th</sup> Street. The company is considered a freight expediting firm and is one of approximately 44 such firms within 5 miles of downtown Burien. As a group, several hundred jobs are provided in the Burien area.

Among the challenges facing the industry are increased costs of homeland security and continuing local transportation issues with freight movement especially by truck. Tony mentioned that major exports from Seattle/Tacoma include grain, hay, wood and other agricultural products as well as aircraft and, air craft parts, and some heavy equipment and machinery. The cheap dollar on the international exchange market is continuing to help our export sales with their business being about evenly divided between imports and exports. During the question period, Bob Ewing asked if Tony felt the economic direction the city was going in was the right one. He responded by saying yes, the gentrification was helping to attract new business to Burien and he felt we are going in the right direction.

### **Chair's Report**

Judy Covert updated the group on the latest legislative activities of interest to business and mentioned that Geri Fain's son, Joe Fain, was elected to represent the 47<sup>th</sup> district as state Senator.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

The Annexation and Sustainability Committee proposed a motion to bring before the City Council a recommendation that Hyett-Palma be retained to update its economic study that was done years ago in 1998. After some discussion, the motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the October 8, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

### **City Manager Report – Mike Martin**

Mike discussed the biennial budget which is expected to be approved by the Council at their regularly scheduled meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Burien is very fortunate in that ends are meeting and no layoffs or major cuts in programs are needed to balance the budget. Mike went on to say that we have hired a new finance director, Kim Krause, who will be joining the Leadership Team the middle of December. Kim has many years of experience and comes to us from Bell Garden, California.

Mike continues to think in terms of creating our Burien Police Department in the years ahead. He also wants to encourage residents to prepare for cold weather, and not depend 100% on government.

### **Economic Development Manager Report – Dick Loman**

Dick reported that the Phase I, Town Square foreclosure action was completed on October 29<sup>th</sup>. Title to the unsold condominiums and retail space went to a limited liability company controlled by the FDIC. Another FDIC company, ST Residential, was named to manage the asset, pending an RFP to the private sector requesting marketing and real estate management services during the sales program.

A lot is going on behind the scenes and a new grand opening and marketing program is being planned for some time after the first of the year.

### **Discover Burien Report—Steve Gilbert**

Steve Gilbert announced that they are beginning a holiday season “buy Burien” advertising and promotion campaign including numerous radio spots. Holiday decorations are going up in the downtown area, while the Winterfest holiday celebration is being planned for December 4<sup>th</sup>. Steve also mentioned that Discover Burien was partnering with the Burien Parks Department to create and install colorful banners along 153<sup>rd</sup> Street some time after the first of the year.

### **Round the Table**

Doug Moreland requested that the BEDP return to meeting twice a month. This subject will be included on the December agenda for discussion. Katie Salinas from Waste Management announced that 40 new commercial accounts had signed up for recycling services. She also mentioned that special arrangements are available during the holidays to pick up used cooking oil. Councilmember Shaw questioned why ST Residential is not considering renting the condominiums for a couple years until market conditions improve.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.