

**BURIEN BUSINESS AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (BEDP)  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** July 13, 2007

**Time:** 7-8:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Harvey Aulger, Rick Cosgrave, Nancy Damon, David Elliott, Bob Ewing, Kevin Fitz, Michael Goldsmith, Jim Hughes, Karen Lautermilch, Mark Minium, Jane Voget

**Excused Absentees:** Mary Averett, Geri Fain, Doug Moreland

**Staff:** Mike Martin, City Manager; Dick Loman, Economic Development Manager; Janet Stallman, Department Assistant, City Manager's Office

**Guests:** Mayor Joan McGilton, Councilmembers Sue Blazak and Gordon Shaw, Kathy Keene, business owner, Stewart Low, downtown Burien property owner, Marco Milanese, Port of Seattle

**Call to Order:** Meeting opened at 7 a.m. by Kevin Fitz, Chair

**Minutes:** The minutes from June 22 were approved as recorded.

**Speaker: Lynda Isernio, President, Discover Burien (DB)**

Lynda announced that Discover Burien has hired Patty Sader as the Interim Executive Director. Patty is working on the monthly newsletter, communicating with 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. S. businesses and on an email database so that communication with businesses may be sent via email, when possible.

Patty & Linda are putting together a survey of the businesses to determine what they want from Discover Burien. The survey will be available on Discover Burien's website, when finalized, and it will go out with the August newsletter. They hope to have results back in September. Based on the findings, DB will have a better idea of what it will expect from the permanent executive director.

Discover Burien is in the process of moving. They are currently renting office space from Keybank, and will be moving to the new Urban Partners Sales Center by the end of the month. The savings in rent will be significant, and this money can be put to other uses. There will be some surplus office equipment when the move occurs, so there may be a sale.

Discover Burien is in the process of evaluating its current services and events to see whether they'll continue to be offered to the community. It will investigate whether these are the types of events that businesses want. Some of the information comes as feedback received after events, but the survey that businesses complete will also ask for thoughts on the current events promoted by Discover Burien.

The charter says that Discover Burien provides education, business seminars, and training for businesses. This piece went away at some point. We are evaluating whether this is a service that would be desired again. We're looking at other services – such as our copying service, too, to see whether we continue to provide it or not.

We are also re-evaluating all of the contracts we currently have. We will be determining whether they are still appropriate as we move forward. Ideally, our plan for moving forward will be decided by late August or early September.

The office number at DB is 433-2882. It is picked up by an answering machine, but Patty returns all calls. The timeline for the new executive director is that the search will probably start in late August or September. We want to understand what DB will be focusing on before we begin the new search.

Lynda was thanked by all for volunteering to lead the Discover Burien Association and for attending this meeting on short notice.

#### **Chair's Report – Kevin Fitz**

Kevin noted that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade was an absolute success and thanked the Southwest King County Chamber of Commerce staff and the numerous volunteers that made it possible.

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

Thanks to Nancy Damon and the Chamber for stepping up and taking on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

#### Annexation

On July 9<sup>th</sup> the Growth Management Hearing Board delivered a non-decision. Neither Burien's appeal of Seattle's PAA nor Seattle's appeal of Burien's PAA was granted.

Options to consider are: Appealing the decision of the Growth Management Hearing Board, negotiating with Seattle, having the Growth Management Planning Council figure this out, or move forward with annexation. Council will be deciding whether or not to appeal the decision.

Annexation is a complex decision. It is not strictly about finances. This decision is also about how the city operates. There are two fire stations in the Potential Annexation Area. If Seattle annexes, response time to existing Burien neighborhoods could be adversely affected. Other issues exist as well.

#### Lora Lakes

The Port is proceeding with plans to demolish the apartments. Work will get underway in August, and should be wrapped up by November. The County Executive says he will no longer block the Transit Oriented Development funding. No formal correspondence was ever delivered regarding this point. When we responded to the County's most recent proposal, we made sure that we noted that King County Executive Sims' office had rescinded their statement that the TOD funds would be held back. Council was extremely consistent on their position throughout this process. Because they were so resolute, history will treat us very well on this issue – we took the high road!

We don't want to lose site of the fact that redevelopment of the 162 acres in the northeast redevelopment area is on our work program, and this hasn't changed.

### Budget

Every city has a structural deficit built-in because of the property tax cap. Property taxes can only increase 1% per year, but expenses rise at a rate of approximately 4% a year. We are in good shape, however, and we will not need a Levy Lid Lift at this time, as we had earlier considered. Our budget is coming together, and I'm pleased with the process.

Q. How do you see the role of this group? A. It is great for vetting tangible issues, i.e. the downtown parking plan. I value this group as a sounding board. It is one of the ways I get feedback from the community. Without a group like this, it is very easy to get disconnected from the business community. I look forward to the feedback I get from this group.

### **Dick Loman – Economic Development Update**

- Over 50 condominiums (out of 124) have been sold at Town Square.
- Office Depot has filed for a tenant improvement permit at the old Longs' Drugstore site on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- The RFQ for the TOD has not gone out yet, but is expected soon.
- The Hotel RFQ has had general interest, but we don't have a serious group as of yet.

### **Round the Table**

- Jane Voget – With I-5 closures, will we get a heads up on what the impact will be on Burien, or 509?
- Mark Minium – Burien Block party this weekend
- Karen Lautermilch – Highline Medical Center has been given a national award for quality relative to hip and knee replacements. They were ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the nation. HMC was recognized in USA Today.
- David Elliott – Lynda Isernio is doing a great job. She is a real asset to the community.
- Nancy Damon – There is a membership luncheon today.
- Jim Hughes – It is important to continue enforcing parking time limits.
- Michael Goldsmith – Concerned about scale issue: Wonders if Burien is going from 0 – 60 mph, without taking any interim steps. Mike Martin acknowledges this as a fair comment. The City is trying to be conscious of this as we progress.
- Rick Cosgrave – A suggestion for a future agenda item is traffic issues in downtown Burien.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 a.m.**