

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

Date: July 27, 2007

Time: 7-8:30 a.m.

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

Excused Absentees: Mary Averett, Geri Fain, Kevin Fitz

Staff: Mike Martin, City Manager; Dick Loman, Economic Development Manager; Janet Stallman, Department Assistant, City Manager's Office, Maia Piccagli, Hispanic Outreach Coordinator, City of Burien Contractor

Guests: Mayor Joan McGilton, Councilmembers Sue Blazak and Gordon Shaw, Kathy Keene, business owner, Marco Milanese, Port of Seattle

Call to Order: Meeting opened at 7 a.m. by Doug Moreland, Vice-chair

Minutes: The minutes from July 13 were approved as recorded.

Speaker: Rubén Olivares, Owner, Arthur's Salon

Rubén Olivares worked as a factory manager on a fish processing boat in international waters near Alaska for many years. Dealing with a very diverse crew, he learned to speak some Japanese, Vietnamese, Polish, Russian, and Samoan. Rubén thought he would continue this line of work until retirement, but sustained an injury that changed his long-term plans.

Rubén was born and grew up in Vera Cruz, Mexico, and arrived in our area in 1998, while he was still working aboard the fish processing vessel. He noticed that there were few businesses where Spanish was spoken. Rubén had some English from High School. It helped him try to pursue the American dream. Rubén opened a hair salon in Burien 1-1/2 years ago, after his injury. The name of Rubén's salon is Arthur's. It is named for his father who was a hairstylist for over 40 years in Mexico. Rubén likes Burien. He feels that it is a very safe place.

Rubén would like to get other Hispanic business owners together and let them know what is going on with the City. They are interested and they want to know what's happening. Some single Hispanic people are interested in the Condos at Town Square. Traditional Hispanic lifestyles of large families and big homes are beginning to change some. The Hispanic community is interested in making Burien a better place for all residents. They want to do better for themselves and their families, but they don't know where to get help, or how to get it. Language is definitely a barrier. One of the concerns that Hispanics have right now is the immigration issue.

Rubén is encouraging other Hispanic business owners to learn English so that they can better communicate with their customers, and be more involved in their community. Rubén would like to become more involved now and is interested in Discover Burien.

Chair's Report – Kevin Fitz

Kevin was excused today and no report was given.

City Manager's Report – Mike Martin

Lora Lakes

On July 19th, the Port's contractor began to survey for hazardous materials. There was a protest that morning by the SHARE/WHEEL group, and nine people were arrested for trespassing.

On July 20th, the King County Housing Authority gave Lora Lake Apartments back to the Port by quit claim deed.

The following Monday afternoon, July 23, a service of lamentation was held by the Greater Seattle Church Council. A number of the folks did a ceremonial trespass, and they were ceremonially arrested, and then removed from the property.

Tuesday, July 24th, an impromptu press conference was held at Lora Lakes, by Ron Sims and Bob Edwards. They announced they were trying to get demolition of Lora Lakes Apartments delayed. That afternoon at the Port of Seattle Commissioners' meeting, a decision was made to delay the demolition until at least the next meeting on August 9, when all commissioners would be present to vote.

This has become a symbolic battle. It's clear that the 162 units here are not the issue. It is frustration with the lack of advancement of the County's 10-year plan to end homelessness.

The Burien Planning Commission voted by resolution to support the City Council's position on Lora Lake Apartments.

Q. Would it be helpful for somebody from BEDP to speak at the August 9 meeting? **A.** Yes. The group suggested Kevin Fitz could speak on behalf of the Partnership.

The City will have many supporters speaking on its behalf at the August 9 meeting.

Seattle City Light ripped out the utilities to the Lora Lakes compound, which is unfortunate, because it could have provided lighting to help keep the area safe.

General

Mike Martin said that the City is working on the budget and by mid-August it should be ready to preview. He also mentioned that Highline Medical Center is working on a Good-to-Great Campaign, not too different from what we're planning to do here at the City. He had an opportunity to spend some time at the hospital recently, and was impressed with the staff's knowledge and buy-in to the program.

Annexation

The City is “staying the course,” which means that by doing nothing, we have not changed our position in claiming a Potential Annexation Area (PAA). There is no process or clear way to settle this lack of decision by the Growth Management Board. On October 10th, the Growth Management Planning Council may or may not make a recommendation as to how to resolve the issue. Most likely, they will not make any decision. It is likely that nothing will happen in the next 2-3 months.

Q. Who makes up the Growth Management Planning Council? **A.** It is made up of city people and staff. Lucy Krakowiak sits on this Council as the Suburban Cities Association (SCA) representative.

Bob Ewing stated that the group would like to see the Berk & Associates tool. He thinks the City can take advantage of this time where no decision will be made to really study the implications of annexation. Some information, especially the capital costs cannot be garnered by the Berk model. Councilmember Shaw stated that “on the ground assessments” are needed to decide what the need is on the capital side. While there is still a conflict with Seattle over the PAA, there is no way to reasonably spend taxpayer money to assess the capital needs.

Mike will have the Finance Director, Scott Hardin, come to the next BEDP meeting and demonstrate the Berk model.

Q. Is there any potential in getting into a long-term thoughtful mediation process with Seattle? **A.** (Mayor McGilton answers) Probably not; Seattle seems to have decided that there is more benefit to annexing all of North Highline.

Fire District 11 on 112th Street provides service to Shorewood. The issue of infrastructure needs, particularly fire and police, are still up in the air.

Q. Has anybody asked the people of North Highline what they’d like to do? **A.** There was a survey, but it was inconclusive. The point at which they would participate is when they get asked to vote whether or not they want to belong to Burien, if the process gets that far.

The BEDP unanimously voted to support the position of the City Council on the issue of Lora Lakes.

Jim Hughes – mentioned that he is disappointed that the city’s not defending itself publicly.

Discover Burien – Mark Minium brought up an issue regarding use of tables and chairs. Dick Loman explained that there are some clarifications that need to be made, and until such time, there is a moratorium on the borrowing of tables and chairs.

Mike Martin noted that the tenor of the BEDP meetings tend to deteriorate toward the end of the meeting. Some general discussion occurred regarding the meetings, and it was agreed that we

would have an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss how the meetings could be improved. Some suggestions included better agendas and putting time limits on agenda items.

Round the Table

Jane Voget – Has concerns about I-5 closures. Also, she's noticed that there is still no cover at the bus stop by Staples and no bench for people to sit on.

Mark Minium – Burien Block party – went well; good crowd

Bob Ewing – I'd like to see principled logic used on the issue of annexation;

BEDP needs some leadership that we're not getting.

Karen Lautermilch – Agendas could be better

David Elliott – Pleased with the direction Discover Burien is going.

Doug Moreland – When issues arise, they're not pretty. It is partly the process of resolving things.

Rick Cosgrave – Agenda items are a good thing; Elliott Bay Brew Pub was written up in P-I.

Michael Goldsmith – I do feel like I'm missing something with this meeting, but don't know what it is. With annexation – what it comes down to at the end is -- are we going to make Burien as attractive an address as Seattle? We want to be good neighbors – to share information, and to take leadership and ownership in our communal space. I enjoyed hearing Rubén's story.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 a.m.