

Business & Economic Development Partnership
September 9, 2011
7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Burien City Hall
400 SW 152nd Street, 3rd Floor
Miller Creek Conference Room

Minutes

Present: Ryan Adams, Judy Coovert, Kevin Fitz, Suzanne Greive, Jim Hughes, Mark Minium, Lynn Wallace, and Lindsay White

Excused absence: Carmen Moore, Bob Ewing, David Elliot, Bryan Suter, and Paul Smith

Guests: Councilmember Gordon Shaw; Marco Milanese, Port of Seattle; Katie Salinas & Will Ibershof, Waste Management; Shannon McIntyre Hernandez, Sea Real Investments

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

Presenters: Rodolfo Romero Hernandez, Co-owner, Sea Real Investments

Rodolpho Hernandez and Shannon Hernandez focus on helping the Latino community get through the large number of bank foreclosure actions currently pending in Burien and South King County in general. The happier half of their business involves helping U.S. investors find property in Mexico, especially for retired individuals. Retirement money goes a lot further in the beach communities of Mexico, which historically have been considered very safe.

Rodolfo went on to emphasize the large number of foreclosed properties and short sales in Burien and how few have been sold, creating a significant “shadow” market here. He and other real estate people are working on a State level to introduce legislation that would require bank-owned properties to be well maintained and prohibit claims for deficiency against homeowners who agree to a “short sale.” He left detailed written handouts with the BEDP members (see attached). He closed by saying that the best way to reach the Latino community was through the Latino businessmen.

Chair’s Report

Carmen Moore was unable to attend today’s meeting and Kevin Fitz, Vice Chair, opened the meeting. Minutes for August 12 and 26, 2011 were approved as written. He also reported that Paul Smith has written Carmen requesting an excused absence from BEDP meetings between September 26 through December 8, 2011.

City Manager's Report

Mike Martin announced that approximately 30 resumes were submitted in connection with recruiting Dick Loman's successor. Six interviews are planned for next Tuesday and Wednesday. The plan is to ask the various groups that interact with the City to appoint one or two members to an employment committee tentatively scheduled to meet at 9:00 a.m. on September 19. Lynn Wallace and Suzanne Greive volunteered to represent the BEDP. Both the Chair and Vice Chair are not available toward the end of September.

Mike again mentioned his work with individual Highline school principals to identify practical, effective ways the City could help with the educational challenges here, especially in preschool and early grade youngsters, many of whom are from Latino or low-income families.

Economic Manager Report

Dick Loman thanked everyone for their support over the years. Dick is retiring on September 30th after serving ten years as Burien's Economic Development Manager.

Discover Burien Report

Jim Hughes reported that Nancy Hinthorne has resigned as interim executive director of Discover Burien. Gina Bourdage, Administrative Coordinator, Debra George, Event Coordinator, and Board President Brian Frederick and former President Lori Alden are all working together pending the appointment of a new Executive Director.

Round the Table

Ryan Adams suggested that the City look into an ordinance similar to those recently enacted by several cities in California, requiring owners of foreclosed properties to maintain them in a neat and orderly way. More discussion was held on "Shadow Market."

Next Meeting: Friday, September 23rd, 7 AM, City Hall