

Burien Business & Economic Development Partnership

Study Session

Date: March 27, 2009

Time: 7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Members Present: Alice Madsen, Dave Elliott, Kevin Fitz, Michael Goldsmith, Jim Hughes, Mark Minium, Doug Moreland, Nancy Hinthorne, Rick Cosgrave, Judy Coovert, Geri Fain

Excused Absentees: Bob Ewing, Mark Minium, Jane Voget

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

Guests: Mayor Joan McGilton, Councilmember Gordon Shaw; Patty Sader, Executive Director, Discover Burien; Maureen Hoffman & Donna DiFore, Arts Commission; Dan House, The Tin Room .

Call to Order: Meeting opened at 7:00 am by Michael Goldsmith, Chair

Minutes from February 13, 27 and March 13, 2009 were unanimously approved.

Chair's Report -- No Chair report.

City Manager Report

Mike reported that the Fire Department had passed a bond to rebuild two fire stations, and they would like to find an arrangement whereby they could have the Municipal Parking Lot on which to build. The City is trying to find them another property, or make sure that at the least, if they do get the Municipal Lot, there will be replacement parking provided in the downtown area.

Mike mentioned that a meeting had taken place with the Port on Monday where the discussion was of the planning that has been going on in NERA. An auto mall has been part of the planning. The City received a letter of interest from auto dealers in Burien stating their desire for an auto mall in NERA. The corridor plan may be changed as soon as May. This would allow for the diamond interchange to be completed on Des Moines Memorial Way, rather than 24th Ave. S. This is a long-term project.

First Ave. S. carries 30,000 cars per day. If the auto dealers moved to NERA, probably 25 acres could be reclaimed on First Avenue, which would allow for additional retail that would diversify our revenue stream.

Michael Goldsmith mentioned that Mark Minium was planning to address the group regarding the state of business in Burien, but that he was out of town. Instead, Michael mentioned that Mark had really wanted to encourage people to shop local to support our own businesses. It can make a big difference when people buy local, and we should be promoting this.

Discover Burien

From December to the end of February, Discover Burien has delivered "welcome bags" to 55 new businesses. They are averaging 3-4 new memberships per week. Patty attributes this to a new spirit of businesses wanting to find ways to help each other out. One such collaboration is that the Tin Room is pouring Elliott Bay Brewery's beer, and EBB has sausage from Dan the Sausageman on their menu. Both find that customers appreciate this supportive collaboration.

Discover Burien networking events are regularly attended by about 50 people. The most recent event was hosted by Evergreen Eye Center – one of the most well know retinal specialists is operating out of the Burien Office.

BEDP & Arts Commission

Michael asked Maureen Hoffman to remind the group of the previous conversation that she and the BEDP had last year, and let us know who might be a good contact for the BEDP while Maureen is in Italy for a year.

Maureen introduced Donna DiFore, the new Vice Chair of the Arts Commission. Maureen reminded members of the discussion of a cleaned-up or new Logo for the City and the idea of having banners that might provide a positive overlaying aesthetic on the City. Maureen showed the examples of what had been suggested last year, which were a textile concept that would be durable, but inexpensive. They could be used as banners or for wayfinding. Maureen clarified that the City currently is postponing the idea of a new logo until after the annexation vote and possible new visioning process takes place next year.

There was discussion of whether the banner idea would be feasible. It was agreed that maintenance issues should be considered when making any decisions. There is a wind tunnel affect on 152nd Street. Maureen suggested that the banners could be put along Ambaum Blvd. to include areas that don't get as much attention.

What would it take to generate a proposal for banners? The Arts Commission has had offers from the Art Exchange downtown for textile patterns. Other cities that have done banners could be contacted to see what their experience was, and what the cost was.

Geri Fain emphasized from a facilities standpoint, to be sure to include maintenance in the planning – not to be shortsighted. Geri responded to a question about whether the school district might be able to provide some insight as to what cultural groups we might include in this project. There are 5 major languages in schools; 75 languages and cultures are represented.

Dan House suggested testing the idea first with limited resources – a pilot program that could be added to or learned from.

Michael Goldsmith asked if the Arts Commission would discuss what infrastructure they believe fuels an active arts community. And, he requested they get back to BEDP with ideas. He would like to have the input from the Arts Commission incorporated in the Economic Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

Michael announced that the meeting on April 24th would only be one-hour in length, due to a previously scheduled meeting in the room.

Next Meeting: April 10, 2009, 7:00 a.m. – Interim City Hall