



Burien

Washington, USA

15811 Ambaum Blvd SW, Suite C, Burien, WA 98166
Phone: (206) 241-4647 • FAX (206) 248-5539
www.burienwa.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Mike Martin, City Manager
DATE: December 1, 2008
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

I. INTERNAL CITY INFORMATION

A. 2008 National Electrical Code Update

We had planned to bring Council an Ordinance to adopt the 2008 National Electrical Code and a package of local amendments in December. This adoption needs to be delayed to early 2009. We are working with a number of other area cities to adopt the same amendments, which will simplify electrical design and permitting across jurisdictional boundaries. Unfortunately, due to the number of cities involved the proposed amendment package will not be complete until next year.

B. Commercial Business Anti-Graffiti Program Update

As Council may recall, we recently received a grant from the Washington Sheriffs and Police Chiefs Association to fund a commercial anti-graffiti program. Commercial property owners can sign-up with the City for quick graffiti removal, funded by the grant. We have mailed program information and sign-up sheets to about 75% of local commercial property owners. We have about 50 properties signed up so far. Our graffiti removal company has cleaned about 6 sites so far, all within the 5 business day requirement. Information on this service will be added to our new website soon.

C. First Burien ARTalk Held

As a result of last spring's Arts Summit, a series of focused-topic workshops, entitled 'ARTalks', have been planned by City staff and 4Culture for the upcoming year. The first workshop was held November 14 at the Burien Community Center and presented information on collaborative marketing and promotions. Representatives from the Burien Arts Association, NW Associated Arts, the Highline Historical Society, Artists United, Breeder's Theater, B-Town Blog, Burien Coalition for the Arts, and Burien Little Theater attended along with City Arts Commissioners Donna DiFiore and Rochelle Flynn. Another follow-up conversation on this topic will be scheduled to pursue further interest in collaborative efforts. ARTalk topics in 2009, yet to be scheduled, will include facility space and pursuit of funding, such as grant writing and sponsorships.

D. Break-dancing Battle Comes to Burien

On Friday November 7, the Burien Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department and the Burien Teen Leadership Council hosted their 2nd "Battle of Burien" break dance competition. It was a huge success, and one of the participants was featured in a 11/15/08 Seattle Times front page story and on the Oprah show on 11/17/08. There were approximately 160 in attendance. Battles included a Top Rock Cypher (all moves must be done standing up), grudge battles for bragging rights and 4-on-4 crew battles. The dancers were amazing and very talented.

E. New Adult Sports Leagues Coming to Burien

Parks staff has been working hard to fill a void in the active adult recreation niche in Burien. The PaRCS Department will soon be contracting the Underdog Sports Leagues of Seattle (USL) to address this unmet demand for adult sports. Scheduled to begin in winter 2009, the co-ed sports of dodgeball, kickball and volleyball will be offered to "bring out the kid" in Burien. These sports will be scheduled to play at Cedarhurst and Hazel Valley Elementary Schools, along with Sylvester Middle School. More information about USL can be obtained at www.underdogseattle.com. USL will also be creating a co-branded website with Burien PaRCS to help track Burien registrations.

F. Moshier Access Road Surplus Update

The PaRCS Department has concluded the potential surplus of property at the northeast corner of Moshier Park. Since January 2008, an access road located there off Des Moines Memorial Drive has been used by residents of the Discovery Landing apartments under the terms of an interim license agreement with the apartment owners. Appraisals and appraisal reviews were completed and the fair market value of the property was determined. However the owners have indicated they are unable to acquire the property at price that is reasonably close to the appraised value. Effective January 1, both parties have thus agreed that the license agreement will terminate and the area will revert to its previous no-parking conditions.

G. Gang Awareness Seminar a Success

The Burien Police Department and King County Sheriff's Office put on a Gang Awareness training at the Washington Criminal Justice Training Center in Burien on November 13th. Approximately 250 people including citizens from around the region, educators and school security staff, police and elected officials attended the presentation by Detective Joe Gagliardi.

H. Police Chief Attends Conference

Burien's Police Chief attended the 115th Annual International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in San Diego, CA on November 7th through the 12th. The conference is designed to bring the best practices from around the world in a variety of policing topics. In particular, the Chief attended seminars on policing in an immigrant community, an administrative citation program for neighborhood noise issues and updates for investigating identity theft.

I. Videostreaming of City Council Meeting Really Works

If a meeting streams on the web and no one tells us that it works, does it really work? That's the question that the IT department has been asking since we began streaming the city council meetings last summer. So we recently asked staff to test whether they could successfully stream a Monday night council meeting on their home computers. We are happy to report that the results do confirm that the solution provided by Puget Sound Access is, in fact working as we had hoped.

J. Police Chief Attends Design Meeting for Proposed Jail

On November 20th, Chief Kimerer attended an all day meeting with the architects of the proposed SCORE regional misdemeanor jail. The meeting was part of what will be an ongoing process to provide input on the design and security elements of the new jail.

K. Financial Statements Receive Top Honors from Government Finance Officers Association

The City of Burien's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has again been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Burien's 2007 CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program. The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) is a nonprofit professional association dedicated to enhancing the professional management of governments for the public benefit. GFOA promotes the highest quality financial policies and practices in government finance.

L. Police Chief Participates in Meeting for Effective Community Outreach

On November 17th, Burien staff met with Jorge Madrazo, VP of Community Relations at Sea Mar Community Health Centers. The topics were the Police Department policies on working with Immigration authorities and effective outreach with the Latino community. This was a very positive meeting with goals for future cooperative efforts.

M. Parks Board Approves Smoking Ban

The Parks Department Advisory Board recently adopted a motion endorsing the idea of banning smoking in public parks. They favored an approach modeled on one implemented in Marysville in 2002, i.e. the "ban" would take the form of a non-enforceable guideline to the public that smoking is not welcome in public parks. The public would be informed through signage, however there would be no penalties for lack of compliance. Parks staff will work with the board and interested parties to move this forward in the coming year.

N. King County Budget Funds Senior Programs

The budget recently passed by the King County Council authorized \$45,423 for FY2009 for the Burien senior program. Staff responded to the County's grant RFP process earlier this year and were pleased to learn that they were successful. The amount was \$1,366 less than FY2008.

II. COUNCIL UPDATES/REPORTS

A. Suburban Cities Association Annual Meeting – November 19, 2008

Councilmembers Keene and Nelson attended the SCA's Annual Meeting on November 19. The SCA membership approved the Association's budget for 2009 and the 2009 membership dues.

B. Suburban Cities Association Public Issues Committee (PIC) Meeting -- November 12, 2008

Councilmember Sue Blazak and staff attended the November 12 meeting of the Suburban Cities Association Public Issues Committee (SCA PIC). The PIC held an in-depth discussion of potential legislative requests that King County may pursue in Olympia, to help address the County's budget crisis. The PIC recommended to the SCA Board that the Association support several steps but not all of the options. The PIC also recommended to the Board the 2009 Regional Appointments of SCA members to serve on regional boards and committees.

C. Transportation Boards/Committees in November

Councilmember Blazak participated in the November meetings of the Puget Sound Regional Council's (PSRC's) Transportation Policy Board (TPB) and the PRSC's Project Selection Task Force.

The TPB on November 13 addressed items such as recommending projects for specialized transportation funding and the consideration of potential legislative recommendations for 2009. It also received a report on the work underway to update the regional transportation plan; when the update is completed the plan will be transformed from "Destination 2030" into "Transportation 2040."

The Project Selection Task Force is a subcommittee charged with determining the new policy direction for distributing Federal funding for regional and local transportation projects in the four-county area (King, Pierce, Snohomish and Kitsap counties). At its November 20 meeting, the Task Force agreed to include new criteria for the evaluation of transportation projects, such as health benefits and the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Councilmember Blazak also attended the November 18 meeting of the South County Area Transportation Board (SCATBd). The Board received a report on potential "non-motorized" projects in South King County to recommend for Federal funding (such as trails/bike lanes). SCATBd discussed priorities to communicate to the State Legislature and agreed to work on improving communication with legislators. The Board also reviewed proposed revisions to the "subarea" agreements that govern the operations of the South County Board as well as for the boards that involve jurisdictions east of Lake Washington and in Seattle/North King County.

D. National League of Cities Conference, November 2008

Councilmembers Nelson and Keene attended the annual fall conference of the National League of Cities (NLC), known as the "Congress of Cities." Councilmember Nelson reports, "The Congress of Cities offered an interesting array of workshops, on-the-ground mobile classes and speakers whose messages were timely and on target. Perhaps the most interesting speaker was Thomas Friedman, noted economist, author and editorial writer for the New York Times. He reviewed the economic meltdown and did not proffer an optimistic view for recovery any time soon. A variety of workshops on issues facing cities included discussions on climate change, emergency preparedness, public finances and infrastructure improvements. The Public Safety and Crime Prevention Steering Committee approved a number of resolutions and heard a legislative update from staff, a presentation about FEMA and a report from the Department of Homeland Security. I am pleased to report that I was selected to be the new Chair of the committee for the year 2009.

I was asked to participate in two focus groups. One was a review of a new initiative developed by NLC, with a call to action urging immigrants to become citizens in order to 'strengthen your community, city and your country.' There will be direct links to the local governments with information related to eligibility requirements. We know the immigration system is broken and we hope the educational piece of this will be useful. The other focus group was convened by the Equity and Opportunity Panel, where participants were asked to provide feedback on ways cities can build capacity to address poverty. Both groups were very worthwhile but we acknowledged that immigration and poverty issues have huge implications for cost and resources in difficult times for all cities across America."

E. Sister Cities Association Conference

Councilmember Keene attended a conference about the Sister Cities Association, held in Issaquah in November. She reported, "I went to it knowing nothing about Sister Cities and came away both impressed and wanting to know more." She was particularly interested that the Association's mission is to promote "peace." She also said there are opportunities for communities from around the world to connect with each other in arts and culture, and for economic development. She would like to have further Council discussion of this program at a future retreat: "I think this could be a program our citizens might really enjoy."

F. 2008 Transportation Issue of the King County Benchmark Report

The City has received the above Benchmark Report on Transportation for 2008. The Report will be on file in the City Manager Office, should any council member wish to review the report. The report is also available online at:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/budget/benchmrk/bench08/transportation/transportation.htm>

G. Major Projects Status Report (Pg. CM-7)

Staff has provided Council with a Major Projects Status Report dated 11/25/08.

H. Advisory Board Minutes (Pg. CM-11)

The following Advisory Boards have submitted approved Minutes:

- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes of September 10, 2008