

VISION FOR BURRIEN

Our Future. Our Choices.



Minutes - Steering Committee Meeting (#2)

March 1, 2011, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Burien City Hall, 1st floor meeting room

Steering Committee Members:

Name:	Primary Affiliation:	Present?
Kristine Brecht, MD	Family Practice Physician	✓
Rose Clark	Councilmember	✓
Jim Clingan	Burien Planning Commissioner	✓
Virgil Domaoan	White Center Community Development Association	✓
Mike Fosberg	Principal, Highline School District	✓
Michael Goldsmith	General Manager, Elliott Bay Brewery; BEDP Advisory Board Member	✓
Genesis Guardado	Youth representative	✓
Kathy Hand	Former school board member	✓
Pam Harper	Community activist, and historian	✓
Butch Henderson	Boulevard Park Resident	✓
Maureen Hoffmann	Former Burien Arts Commission member	✓
Rachel Levine	White Center Library Guild President	✓
Scot Rastelli	Graduate Student UW Evans School of Public Affairs	✓
Rod Robbins	Burien business owner	✓
Jerry Robison	Councilmember	✓
Angelica Alvarez	Highline School Board Vice-President	✓
Gordon Shaw	Councilmember	✓
Jean Spohn	Parks Board member	✓
Margarita Suarez	Translator and counselor	✓

City Staff & Consultants:

Jenn Ramirez Robson	City of Burien, Management Analyst
Mike Martin	City of Burien, City Manager
Craig Knutson	City of Burien, City Attorney
Larry Blanchard	City of Burien, Public Works Director
Michael Lafreniere	City of Burien, Parks and Recreation Director
Kim Krause	City of Burien, Finance Director
Dick Loman	City of Burien, Economic Development Manager
Scott Greenburg	City of Burien, Community Development Director
Angie Chaufy	City of Burien, Human Resources Manager
David Johansen	City of Burien, Senior Planner
Dori Babcock	City of Burien, Management Analyst
Brian Scott	BDS - Planning & Urban Design
Dwyn Armstrong	BDS - Planning & Urban Design
Susan Millan	Susan E. Millan Consulting

Welcome

Mike Martin welcomed the steering committee back. He said the City is already learning lots and they are seeing some unexpected outcomes.

Introductions

Brian Scott, BDS - Planning and Urban Design, asked members to introduce themselves again as there were a few new members present.

Process Update

Brian Scott gave a process update. Things are on schedule and going well. He reported that he has completed 10-12 stakeholder interviews to help identify primary issues and to know where to push during discussions in order to encourage more in-depth feedback. He is also just starting the Affinity Groups. There are 10 scheduled - all in next 2 weeks. Results of those will base of the Steering Committee's primary work on next meeting. The committee will be reacting to it and synthesizing issues. This will determine what the priority issues for the Community Meetings planned for April. People are showing up motivated, care about Burien, and want to participate.

Input-to-Date & Affinity Group Update

Jenn Ramirez Robson has put the Vision process on City's web site at www.burienwa.gov/vision4burien. Via an online survey she has asked folks the questions that were asked of Steering Committee last time. There has been quite a few responses. Jenn gave a summary of what the team has learned from web site online survey to-date. She also reported that there are 120 fans on the Vision for Burien Facebook page.

118 online responses as of today. She described the survey response distribution map included in the committee packets. The colors indicate intensity of numbers of responses. The map reflects about 60 responses, not the 118 received so far. The City working to start filling in spots on the map and Jenn Ramirez Robson asked for help getting the word out to these white or lighter colored sections of the map. Paper surveys will help fill in so we know reaching out to many areas. If you know people who live in white or green areas roust them out so we can get response that are representative. Hopefully Steering Committee has taken the online survey!

Question was asked about how long the survey will be live. Answer: Until March 30th, then a second survey will go up while having the Community Meetings.

Jenn also presented a word cloud. The more a word is mentioned in the online survey the bigger it will be. The cloud was pulled tonight from 118 online responses. The smallest words were probably mentioned one time. She is starting to see some comments on survey that she can tell are from people who usually don't write in.



There was a discussion about the negative words and a desire to be attentive to them. The small words evoke conversation. A desire to address all the words was expressed. Open-ended comments are coming.

Brian Scott described emerging themes from his conversations with the 10 or so interviewees. He asked each who they were, what their story was and pushed at them on their issues. The Emerging Themes handout highlights things he heard lots of times. The information presented tonight is not scientific, not the final list of issues. *It is intended to get us talking.* The goal is for him, and the committee, to understand what it says - so he knows where to push on Affinity Group participants.

Maureen Hoffman asked Question about if folks can come sit in and listen during Affinity Group meetings. Brian Scott explained that will identify issues for Steering Committee to T-up for use in final Vision. If we get spectators it will dampen feedback. He noted that for those that have happened more people would have quashed the discussion. Brian can bring up difficult issues more successfully when the group feels comfortable.

Rachel Levine asked how the stakeholders were identified. Mike Martin said council members gave a one name each. Brian Scott also got names from staff leadership and his own experience.

Some highlights of the synthesis of the stakeholder interviews:

- People value living here, big sense of nervousness, but really hopeful
- Lots of /big deal emerging role as multi-cultural/multi-ethnic community -
 - Mike Martin noted that the 2010 census shows a doubling of the Hispanic population in Burien from 10 to 20%.
- Some fear and lack of trust; comments about broken promises
- Disparate needs and expectations - different demands.
- Sense of coming competition with small businesses
- Mixed messages on schools. Community not support school district vs. we should just take it over. Concern that district only gets kids from families who can't afford to send kids to private schools. Some helpful suggestions emerged - youth sports program, being ready in early grades and afterschool activities
- Wariness expressed in relation to the North Burien annexation and Roxbury annexation.

The committee discussed the emerging themes. Butch Henderson asked how representative the interviewees were of the various geographic areas. Dr. Kristine Brecht noted that change makes people nervous. Committee members pointed out several issues weren't on the list: Transportation & Mobility (including potential long-term plans for light rail through Burien), Parking, and Jobs. Rachel Levine shared that at the Seniors Affinity Group she attended sense of being connected/mobility and aging in place were also issues. Kathy Hand asked if parking had been mentioned at the Affinity Groups so far. One person raised the issue.



Virgil Domaoan commented on the issue raised of haves and have-nots. He talked about the Vision including support services to deal with needs or to combat some of those issues out in the community.

Michael Goldsmith shared that he is “weary of wariness”; sees it as a scale problem - what we are going through as country now. He noted a disconnect between what we can do as community & what we can do as City. Expectations for some things are too high.

Kathy Hand reflected on past civic programs (WWII era metal drives, victory gardens...) that built sense of community.

Dr. Kristine Brecht asked for explanation of comment from last meeting regarding “not become Renton”.

Scot Rastelli explained that he sees Renton/Tukwila’s giant parking lots, big box stores and wants Burien to be more walkable.

There was some discussion of empty homes, people needing homes and whether the city has a social contract to help address these problems. Pam Harper noted that family wage jobs would help. Kathy Hand commented that it would be “fun” to have high-rise office spaces for people to work.

Scot Rastelli & Rod Robbins urged including light rail contingency plan in the Vision. Brian Scott suggested it is very appropriate to embrace multimodal & high speed transportation as a community.

Butch Henderson talked about the purpose is to have vision - we need to figure out what we want to happen in Burien - “this is where we are going, we know what we’re doing now.”

There was discussion of making the message that we are embracing diversity.

Jim Clingan reflected that Burien is a “hard-charging and determined community.” We tend to work through these things.

Margarita Suarez expressed her belief in the importance of school and libraries and being convinced the solution is for lots of us to support schools and libraries. She noted that while we are visioning there are people in despair and who are not making it. Also she asked for reasons to be hopeful, like the tutorial service.

Butch Henderson noticed that schools were not mentioned in word cloud and is concerned that education is not as good as it was in the past.

Virgil Domaoan remarked that having folks ready to be engaged community starts in preschool. He suggested thinking about who is supporting families so kids know they are supported in school and outside (eg before and after school, wrap around services). There was a discussion of schools and the role of the school district and City, also of whether efforts are better spent in the schools with the children or helping to educate



families to support education at home/outside school. No consensus about whether schools are doing adequate job.

Maureen Hoffman noted that Arts with a capital A were not on the list and asked, "What do we want the experience of Burien to be? She suggested a city identity that communicates all of the things we are talking about and looks to Old Burien's character and visual texture as a flavor of Burien.

Rachel Levine noted the diversity of activities: the influence of Dotty Harper on a park & visual arts; the Burien theatre; and the 3rd annual jazz festival. We need a way to communicate diversity here.

Kathy Hand commented that we need a reason to bring people here when they have 4-hour layovers at the airport -expand vision as to how we attract people.

Brian Scott will bring back feedback from Affinity Groups to help Steering Committee start turning this into menu/agenda for Community Meetings.

Community Meetings - schedule; locations; outreach; etc.

Jim Clingan suggested holding Community Meetings at each elementary school - do as many as you can. Kathy Hand suggested using the PTA to get word out.

Michael Goldsmith suggested providing history context, rather than asking questions in a vacuum.

Virgil Domaoan recommended taking flyers to schools and follow-up phone call in language that family speaks - at least 3 approaches to get people there.

Kathy Hand suggested tailoring the flyer and mention something targeted for each community Brian Scott asked members if they email list that they could forward something out to?

Butch Henderson suggested placing flyers in Safeway, but commented that people probably won't respond online. Jenn Ramirez Robson said we can provide postcard with questions on back, perhaps in mult-languages. The key is getting them back.

Kathy Hand urged not relying only on email as it would likely limit valuable input from those without Internet/e-mail access.

Virgil Domaoan said it would be helpful to have team of folks to canvas, door knocking and focus on apartment complexes. Include information in communications from landlords (bills) that folks get. Brian Scott said we'll send out invite to you folks to do that. It will be great if you can do that!

Rachel Levine commented on how communities are not defined by city boundaries. The boundaries are porous.



Nature of community meetings how to get people out?

Margarita Suarez noted that we need to be clear on what is wanted from potential participants and Steering Committee members. People need to see City of Burien getting excited.

Virgil Domaosan remarked that child care and food are needed if you want parents to come to community meetings. Meetings need to be family friendly too - possibly with entertainment for the whole family.

Margarita Suarez and Mike Fosberg expressed need to get word out to non-parents to.

Pam Harper noted that most people have no idea what vision for Burien means. Unless you can get their interest and understanding about how it is important to their community.

Feedback on the card is that it is too dry. Consider making it a business reply card. List the questions then folks can pop back into mail. Simple.

Rod Robbins commented that this is process that continues building from beginning. Overtime interest can build. Brian Scott shared that his experiences is that when vision projects start small positive rumors start and people don't want to be left out.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

