

Lisa Clausen

9

From: Council
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2009 4:46 PM
To: 'Philip Tenning'
Subject: RE: Burien/Interim Art Space

Thank you for your message to the Burien City Council. It will be included in the Correspondence for the Record for an upcoming Council meeting.

L. Clausen
City Manager's Office

-----Original Message-----

From: Philip Tenning [mailto:Philip.Tenning@AlaskaAir.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2009 8:07 AM
To: Council
Subject: Re: Burien/Interim Art Space

Re: Burien/Interim Art Space

Hello,

I grew up, lived and worked in Burien until I was about 27 years old. While visiting the license agency near the post office yesterday, I was shocked when I saw the Burien/Interim Art Space. I actually thought it was a movie set at first. Then, when I found out it was an art project, I thought "Oh my, what are these people thinking here?!" In my opinion, I think the whole thing is ugly, hideous, and obnoxious! It looks like a garbage dump for industrial and construction waste! Oh, and nice purple bus! I'm glad I don't have to see this thing on a regular basis. Additionally, if I was a business owner looking for space, I'd sure look somewhere else for a storefront that was not in view of this spectacle. Sorry, I just don't see it as a "sculptural garden" or "art".

It appears White Center (Rat City) has migrated south and taken a strong hold in Burien! Looks like my old stomping grounds are going to pot! Good luck with this Burien.

Sincerely,

Philip M. Tenning
9220 148th Street CT E
Puyallup, WA 98375
(253) 435-1680

*cc: Michael Lafreniere, PAs
CFTR: November 9, 2009*



Burien

Washington, USA

400 SW 152nd Street • Suite 300 • Burien, WA 98166

Phone: (206) 241-4647 • FAX (206) 248-5539

www.burienwa.gov

November 4, 2009

Philip M. Tenning
9220 148th Street CT E
Puyallup, WA 98375

Dear Mr. Tenning:

Thank you for contacting the City of Burien regarding the sculptures next to Town Square Park. The sculptures and the area you are referring to are part of the Burien Interim Art Space (or B/IAS) project. For your information, the project is not part of the Town Square development, Town Square Park or on public property; it is on private property. The B/IAS project is a temporary art park that is open to the public and was created by community volunteers. It is designed and intended to creatively use land that would otherwise be sitting idle. The site is scheduled for construction of the next phase of the Burien Town Square project; at that time the art will be removed and returned to the artists. More information about the project is available at www.interim-art-space.com.

Certainly many people often have a wide range of opinions regarding public art, and I do respect your point of view. As has long been said, art is in the eye of the beholder. It is also the case that we have heard many positive comments about the project from the public. It has also led to some interesting partnerships that are beneficial to the community. For example, students from the Highline School District's Puget Sound Skills Center recently learned to fabricate metal sculptures for display at the site, and members of the local plumbers and pipefitters union stepped forward to work with the students on this effort. There is also art there made by students at Gregory Heights and Cedarhurst elementary schools, and the hubcap art was done by students from Highline High School. Due to the uniqueness of the B/IAS concept regarding the use of unused spaces for community art, this project has certainly received considerable press, most all of it positive, and significant regional attention for the city of Burien. The site has also served as a venue for several successful community gatherings and community events that have attracted people from throughout the region.

As I clarified earlier, the B/IAS site is not part of the City's new park but is on private property; it is not owned or maintained by the City. The artwork placed there does not require the Council's review or approval. The bus you mentioned was only parked there temporarily. The site is maintained by community volunteers from a local non-profit arts organization. The project is a partnership between a handful of art organizations and the property owner, i.e. the Town Square developer, Urban Partners. As I said, the site and its art installations are expected to be on display through the end of the year, and they will be removed by the end of the year. We can relay your comments to the citizen volunteers who have organized the B/IAS project, or if you would like, you can contact them directly through their website.

If you have further questions or suggestions, or if you have some art that you would like to contribute to the space, you can contact our Cultural Arts Supervisor, Gina Kallman, at 206-988-3713.

Sincerely,

Michael Lafreniere, Director
Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department

cc: Council Members
Mike Martin, City Manager