



Burien

Washington, USA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
FROM: Mike Martin, City Manager
DATE: February 22, 2010
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report

I. INTERNAL CITY INFORMATION

A. Highline Medical Center Granted Temporary Occupancy

Building staff has completed the final inspection for Highline Medical Center and granted temporary occupancy approval. Temporary occupancy allows hospital personnel to enter the new facility for the purpose of setting up equipment, bringing in furniture and providing staff training while the contractors continue to complete final items needed to obtain a certificate of occupancy. The Highline Medical Center permit was applied for on April 29, 2008. It included the construction of a new three-story, 79,607 square foot addition to the Birch Wing and involved hundreds of hours of staff time performing review and inspections. All additional work needed to obtain final occupancy is expected to be completed by March 17, 2010.

B. City Attorney Hiring Process

29 applications were submitted for our recent City Attorney job opening. Staff is encouraged by the pool of applicants as several of them have considerable municipal experience and interesting backgrounds. We have started the first round of interviews and hope to have a new City Attorney named by the end of February.

C. City Awarded Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Mini Grant

The City of Burien has been notified of its award of the 2010 AWC Wellness Mini Grant. The city will receive \$5 per AWC Trust insured employee for a total of \$300. These funds will be used to fund follow-up education that targets the high risk areas identified by our employees' 2009 Health Questionnaire responses: stress, emotional health, and weight.

D. Building Staff Expedite Permit for Apartment Units

On January 6, 2010 one of the English Garden Apartment buildings was damaged by fire causing six of the units to be uninhabitable. The displaced occupants were relocated to other apartment units. A demolition permit was issued the same day so the contractor could get the clean-up started immediately. On February 8, the contractor applied for the Building Permit for the repair work. The Permit was expedited and approved by Building Staff within two days of receipt.

E. Parks to Maintain Water District Property in 2010

Parks Department Director Michael Lafreniere and Parks Development & Operations Manager Steve Roemer met with King County Water District #20 Commissioners on February 3 to discuss the future of Southern Heights Park, located in Burien's annexation area. The property is owned by the District and has been maintained by King County Parks through a revocable easement for public use. In the view of Parks staff, the site does not provide full value or function well as a park, thus staff had proposed sharing the responsibility for maintenance of the property with the District, with Parks taking a secondary role and to inspect and maintain the new playground only. The majority of the Commissioners were not receptive to such an arrangement, so the Parks Department will continue the status quo through 2010 while it further evaluates the property's utility or need for a park in this area.

F. City Financial Statements Receive Certificate of Achievement for Excellence

Burien has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its 2008 comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). This award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting. Burien's CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR. The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals with offices in Chicago and Washington D.C. The 2008 CAFR is available for download from our website: <http://www.burienwa.gov/DocumentCenterii.aspx?FID=99>.

G. Large Response to Cedarhurst GYMJAM

Over 120 parents and children attended the City's first GYM JAM evening at Cedarhurst School on February 3. This annual program offers a convenient location where neighborhood families can get healthy together during the winter months. Held in Cedarhurst's gym, physical activities rotate each week and include volleyball, soccer instruction, basketball, karaoke and dance. Social activities such as "Movie Night" are also scheduled. The program is offered free-of-charge in an effort to better serve the neighborhood's low-income families with recreational opportunities. Currently 71% of Cedarhurst's students meet federally-established standards for being at or below the poverty level. Another GYMJAM program is scheduled to start at Hazel Valley School on February 23.

H. Valentine's Ball Attracts Dads & Daughters

The 13th Annual "Daddy-Daughter Valentine's Ball" was held on Saturday night, February 6, with 223 in attendance. Both early and later evening sessions were held, with the earlier session selling out. Dancing, photos, refreshments and door prizes were featured. The event is always a wonderful opportunity for fathers and daughters to spend an enjoyable evening together, and has many returning couples in attendance.

I. Seniors Intent on Staying Fit

With 54 and 16 participants respectively, the City's "Enhance Fitness" and "Fit-n-Fun" programs continue to meet the customized needs of senior adults. The continued partnership of King County Emergency Services (KCES) and their marketing efforts has resulted in increased attendance for all of the Community Center's adult fitness and dance classes. Especially attractive for new participants is the \$10 registration fee discount if aged 50 yrs or older, which is available through KCES's funding.

J. "No-School" Day in the Snow

On January 29, the City's Teen Program took 19 middle and high school youth to Crystal Mountain for a day of skiing and snowboarding. The Highline School District has multiple "no school" days scheduled throughout the year in addition to regular vacation weeks, so these trips are a convenient way for parents to keep their children busy, active and supervised on these dates.

K. City Pursues Congressional Assistance

The City's key federal legislative priorities this year focus on the future of the Northeast Redevelopment Area (NERA), the area in Burien most affected by the Sea-Tac third runway. The City's main priority involves starting a major project to improve access to the NERA through the addition of new ramps at the interchange at SR 518 and Des Moines Memorial Drive. The City's Government Relations Specialist has been communicating the City's priorities for the NERA to our Congressional delegation members' local staff, in preparation for the City's submittal of formal Appropriations requests this month and the upcoming visit to Washington, DC, by Mayor McGilton and Councilmember Keene in March.

L. King County Council Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Approval

Economic Development Manager, Dick Loman, attended the February 16 King County Council public meeting at which the Council approved the next phase of the Burien Transit Oriented Development.

The approval took the form of an ordinance relating to a portion of the County-owned Park and Ride Lot. The ordinance approved a ground lease of the site from the County to Alliance Wasatch I, LLC, and a lease by Alliance Wasatch I, LLC, back to the County of a parking garage to be constructed on the leased site. The County Executive is authorized to execute the final forms of the ground lease and project lease, and approve certain other provisions of the lease-leaseback transaction.

The County plans to exercise its option to purchase the parking facility upon completion for \$20,500,000. The ground lease, which is expected to be dated April 1st, is subject to receipt of legal documents from Sound Transit, the Federal Transportation Agency, and the U.S. Department of Energy, the County's funding partners. Once final legislative approval from the County Council is received and the lease is executed, the developer will have 90 days to eliminate construction financing and building permit contingencies.

The final phase of the TOD, construction of approximately 100 affordable multi-family units, will proceed as soon as financing is available.

M. Planning Commission Meeting Changes

Beginning February 23rd, the Planning Commission will be meeting in the 1st floor Meeting Room/Council Chambers at the Burien Library/City Hall. Regular Planning Commission meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. This switch from the 3rd floor lobby will enable more people to comfortably attend the meetings. The meetings will also be televised live on TBC 21 (The Burien Channel), live streamed on our website, and available via archived video on our website.

Audio recordings of the January 12 and January 26 Planning Commission meetings are also available on our website at <http://www.burienwa.gov/index.aspx?nid=752> under "Shoreline Master Program Update". The February 9th audio will be uploaded soon.

N. Mathison Park Project is Now Complete

The Parks and Public Works Departments have completed improvements to Mathison Park and held a soft opening on February 9, following some minor delays due to heavy rains in November and December. The improvements include a paved trail running the length of the park and a soft woodchip trail, giving visitors a more rustic hiking option. A new playground for 2-to-5 year olds was also completed. It includes a climbing apparatus, spinners and swings. Other park and trail amenities are additional picnic tables, BBQs, benches and signage with both interpretive and wayfinding themes.

The project has substantially opened up or made the park accessible to many more visitors. Previously, five of the park's six acres consisted of impenetrable thickets of blackberries and the steep slopes prevented access into the park interior. The new main trail has been constructed in a manner that provides gradual slopes as it winds its way through the park, giving visitors of all abilities an opportunity to enjoy a leisurely stroll and enjoy views of the wooded forest and even Mt. Rainier. A formal Park Opening is scheduled for April 13 at 10 am to allow representatives from granting agencies and other supporters an opportunity to share the day in the park. The project budget of \$550,000 was funded through City CIP fund, as well as grants from the State of Washington's Wildlife and Recreation Program (\$210,000) and King County's Youth Sports and Facility Grant program (\$53,317).

II. COUNCIL UPDATES/REPORTS

A. Mayor McGilton Receives Thanks for Serving on Advisory Committee (Pg. 95)

Mayor McGilton received a letter of thanks from newly selected King County Councilmember Jan Drago for her service on the Advisory Committee that filled the King County Council position vacated by Dow Constantine. The letter is attached.

B. Mayor Receives Letter from King County Executive Constantine (Pg. 96)

Mayor McGilton received a letter from King County Executive Dow Constantine letting Burien know that he looks forward to working with us, and that he plans to visit us sometime in the spring. A copy of the letter is attached.

C. Potential Tax Increase and Other Suburban Cities Issues

The King County Sheriff and Prosecuting Attorney are working on the idea of a possible ballot measure in the County to raise funds for criminal justice services. The two officials presented information on the concept of a 3/10 of 1% sales tax increase to the Suburban Cities Association Public Issues Committee (PIC) on February 10. The PIC was told that the possible tax increase was under discussion and if the County Council agrees it could be on the August ballot. Of the entire King County budget, 76% goes to public safety costs – for courts, jails, prosecutor's office and police. The tax under consideration would be split 60-40, with the cities getting 40%. Of that 40% the cities would have to use one-third for public safety, while the other two-thirds could be used for other city services.

The PIC also heard updates on numerous regional issues, including planned budget cuts affecting human services in King County, such as programs for mentally ill or developmentally disabled persons, and changes in the permitting/inspection of pet-related businesses outside of Seattle (Public Health will be responsible as of March 1, 2010).

D. January 2010 Citizen Action Report (Pg. 97)

Community Development staff has provided Council with a copy of the January 2010 Citizen Action Report, attached.

E. Website Statistics Report (Pg. 103)

Finance staff has provided Council with the attached 2009 Website Statistics Report.

F. Economic Indicators Graphs Update (Pg. 107)

Attached is the latest version of the Burien economic indicator graphs. While the picture is not rosy, the graphs indicate that we are at or near the bottom of the decline and may even be seeing small signs of recovery in parts of the markets. Following the prediction of many economists, we have planned for a slow recovery in the shape of a long U or bathtub. If that is indeed the case, it appears we are sitting at the bottom of the tub anticipating the start of revenue recovery sometime in the next few months.

G. Advisory Board Meeting Minutes (Pg. 111)

The following approved Advisory Board minutes are attached:

- January 13, 2010 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.