

Lisa Clausen

From: Michael Lafreniere
Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 11:57 AM
To: sjchiro@gmail.com
Cc: Public Council Inbox
Subject: RE: In support of Burien Little Theatre

Ms. Chiro,

I have received your recent e-mail to the City Council and would like to offer some clarifying information.

The Burien Little Theatre is currently renting the former Burien Community Center, a facility owned by the City of Burien. Despite what you may have heard however, it is not correct that the facility is to be replaced with a commercial water park. The City's long-range plan for the site is to replace that facility with a new City-owned community recreation center in order to better meet the recreation needs of its citizens, particularly youth, families and seniors of low-to-moderate income who cannot afford private recreation facilities. This project would move forward once funding is in place, and that is not anticipated for several years; further, no commercial interests are involved or have ever been contemplated to be part of the project. The arts organization's board of directors is aware of the City's long-range plans for the site, and is exploring options and planning for the eventual relocation to a more suitable facility that can better meet its own future needs.

Michael Lafreniere, Director
Burien Parks and Recreation

From: Sarajennifer Chiro [mailto:sjchiro@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2010 1:29 AM
To: Public Council Inbox
Subject: In support of Burien Little Theatre

Dear Burien City Council,

I am writing in support of Burien Little Theatre.

I am a Seattle Independent film maker. When we had a day of shooting on the road, we were looking for a place to call home base. We were at a loss. My first A.D., Maria Wardian, worked at Burien little theater years ago and had wonderful memories of the place. On a whim she called and asked if they had space for us. Not only did they welcome us, but, mindful of the tight budget of an independent film, did not charge us. The wonderful open spirit of the arts permeated the Community Center Annex. While we were there the sounds of kids rehearsing Les Miserables filled the halls. It is clear this wonderful community theater serves a large and much needed and appreciated spot in Burien. It is rare to find such open hearted cooperation anywhere, and BLT's warm welcome of an independent film crew from Seattle demonstrates that it is not only the city of Burien who benefits from this organization. Burien Little Theatre is a treasure that must be respected in the community. It has come to my attention that there is talk of tearing down this treasure and replacing it with a commercial water park. I can't tell you how sick this made me feel. I implore you to use what ever means in your power to prevent this disaster. It is places like BLT that give a community hope. Please do not let commercial interests destroy the heart beat of the arts in Burien.

CFTR: 08/30/10

A big thanks to Eric and to Burien Little Theatre for all they do.

Sincerely,

SJ Chiro
director/producer Howard From Ohio
SJ Chiro
<http://www.violetfilms.com>