

April 12, 2011
To The Burien Planning Commission
The Burien City Council

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To the Planning Commission;

The Burien Comprehensive Plan provides for Neighborhoods to have Neighborhood Plans. This was established as policy in 1999 and still exists in the current plan –page 2-43. Under this goal, the intent was to have at least two neighborhoods per year develop a plan. The importance of the neighborhood plan was that it would provide a mechanism for neighborhoods to have their input for updates to the Comprehensive Plan brought before the Planning Commission as well as the City Council. Since 1999, only one neighborhood has been allowed to develop a neighborhood plan.

Since 2009, the Lake Burien Neighborhood has requested of the city staff and the City Council- on several occasions- the right to develop a neighborhood plan. The city staff has stated that the City Council must approve a staff member to work with a neighborhood before a neighborhood plan will be allowed. City Council members have stated that they don't know how the process is supposed to work or they are not sure what neighborhoods are. When the Lake Burien Neighborhood has appeared before the City Council and asked that their neighborhood be allowed to develop a neighborhood, the City Council has refused to even respond with any answer. A couple of Planning Commission Meetings ago, the city staff stated that they didn't know how to define a neighborhood.

The Comp Plan does contain a definition for a neighborhood. It is contained on pg.5 of the Salmon Creek Neighborhood Plan/2004. In the application form for changes to the Comp Plan, the application clearly states that neighborhoods-through a neighborhood plan- have a right to apply for a change to the Comp Plan.

Therefore, it seems to be the responsibility of the Planning Commission as well as the City Council to establish an ordinance, policy or process that clearly states how neighborhoods request, apply for and qualify to have neighborhood plans. The Lake Burien Neighborhood is requesting that the process for being able to have a neighborhood plan be established in this update of the Comp Plan. Also, the Lake Burien Neighborhood is requesting the right to have a neighborhood plan so that the neighborhood has the right to full public participation in updating the Comp Plan. Currently, most neighborhoods are being denied that right in the City of Burien.

Sincerely,
Bob Edgar
Lake Burien Neighborhood

CFTR: 04/25/11

