

Lisa Clausen

From: Public Council Inbox
Sent: Monday, June 06, 2011 9:15 AM
To: 'Vera Wunderlicht'
Subject: RE: Please remember you are representing all of the people who own Lake Burien

Thank you for your message. It will be forwarded to the City Council and included in the Correspondence for the Record for a future Council meeting.

L. Clausen
City Manager's Office

From: Vera Wunderlicht [<mailto:vera.wunderlicht@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, June 03, 2011 11:44 AM
To: Public Council Inbox
Subject: Please remember you are representing all of the people who own Lake Burien

Dear Council Members, City Manager Martin and Mayor McGilton,

While I'll concede the point that there's currently a way to access our Pacific Ocean via public property, the same does not apply to our Lake Burien. Currently, the private properties surrounding our lake have created what is, for all intents and purposes, a reverse moat around a public property.

Imagine that a public city park with a playground on it, a block away from that city's downtown core, ended up being completely encircled by private properties. Then imagine that the people who lived around that park tried to push through an ordinance which stated that if ever the opportunity arose for public access to the park, that then suddenly the rules would change and no one could walk on the grass. Of course the people living in the homes surrounding the park are expected to act in their own self interest (read: property value). But then imagine this: the group of officials elected by the people of that city, those charged with carrying out the public interest, actually helped push through this ordinance. Not only that, when a bona fide opportunity arose to purchase land that would connect the rest of the residents of the city to the park, it wasn't even considered (again due to pressure from the residents of the lake). Imagine that this City Council allowed itself to be strong-armed by a small group of wealthy, well-connected citizens instead of acting as the voice of reason and standing up for the people who elected them.

Replace "park" with "lake" and this is exactly what is happening.

I truly respect the City Council for most of what you do for the city of Burien. My hope is that somehow through this visioning process you initiated, it has become clear that the people who elected you do not wish to squander another opportunity for public access to Lake Burien. It's very obvious that it was communicated to the residents of our lake that they should keep a low profile and not use the water ever since this controversy began. However, the slides atop every other private dock and paddle boats lying in wait in adjacent yards make it crystal clear what the *residents'* vision is for the future of our lake. I'll tell you one thing, they aren't planning to drag those paddle boats down to Seahurst Park.

Maybe it's time for one of you to helicopter into the center of the lake à la Governor McCall of Oregon!
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oregon_Beach_Bill

Thanks,
Vera

CFTR: 06/20/11

