

CITY OF BURIEN, WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Burien PaRCS Department Advisory Board
Burien Arts Commission

cc: Steve Roemer, Parks Development & Operations Manager
Debbie Zemke, Recreation Manager

FROM: Michael Lafreniere, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director

DATE: April 8, 2011

SUBJECT: Summary of Dept-related items in the City Manager's Report

Below is a collection of Department-related items that were submitted and published in the City Manager's Report over the past month or so; the Reports are part of each Council Packet.

Some of the items had exhibits or attachments associated with them. If you are interested in seeing a referenced document, just let us know and we'll be happy to provide it to you.

The following are ordered chronologically, with the most recent items first:

Local Teacher/School receives 2011 Earth Heroes at School Award Environmental Award

Teacher Beverly Mowrer and students from New Start High School have been selected to receive the 2011 Earth Heroes at School Award by King County. County Executive Dow Constantine will give the award at a recognition ceremony on Thursday, April 14 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the Mercer Island Community Center. They were nominated for the award (see attached) by Lisa Aumann from the Burien Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services (PaRCS) Department for their efforts in the City's Adopt-a-Park program and their related environmental education programming. Ms. Mowrer has also been nominated by the Dept. as an Outstanding Teacher for the Highline Schools Foundation Gold Star Award. Winners of that award will be announced on May 13.

City of Burien to mark Arbor Day and Earth Day

City officials, citizens and staff from the Burien PaRCS Department will be gathering at 11:00 am on Wednesday, April 13 at the South Shelter in Seahurst Park to mark Arbor Day as well as Earth Day. A Mayoral Proclamation will also be read out at the event (see attached). The City is celebrating the 139th anniversary of Arbor Day and will be recognized for its 10th year as a Tree City USA by the national Tree City USA organization by its representative from Washington's Department of Natural Resources. Burien PaRCS will be planting a celebratory tree in honor of these annual holidays marking environmental awareness and community sustainability. Staff and others will also take the opportunity to remember Jay Powers, a park maintenance worker for the City of Burien contracted through TruGreen Landcare who passed away in December 2010. Adjacent to the tree, a plaque is being placed which honors the memory of Mr. Powers as a dedicated, hard working and kind person who was known to many people in the community through his years of service in Burien's parks.

Public Works repairs storm damage in Seahurst Park

Crews from the Public Works Department recently completed repairs to a stormwater catch basin in Seahurst Park (see attached). The damage occurred at the lower end of the Upper Parking Lot in the park, when a major storm event in December caused erosion around a blocked catch basin. Public Works crews worked collaboratively with Parks staff to coordinate and make the needed repairs.

Army Corps to take additional steps to move Seahurst Project forward

Concerning the Seahurst Beach Restoration Project, the Army Corps of Engineers has expended all of its feasibility funds allocated to date preparing and submitting their feasibility report/study and the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA). The Seattle District office has determined it can get a jump start on the Design Phase (which requires the PPA to be signed/approved) by moving certain early tasks out of the design phase (such as preparing the design Scope of Work) and into the “Feasibility Phase”. This would use additional funds (including from local funds), but still within the amounts agreed upon in the previous Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (i.e. the 50/50 cost share with the City). Staff has approved going forward with this approach, as it could help expedite initiation of the design/implementation funding as much as possible and lessen the risks that the City would lose the funding it has lined up.

Army Corp Asked to Support Seahurst Project (Pg. 41)

Attached is a letter that was recently sent to the Army Corps of Engineers; it is jointly signed by a number of agency representatives and expresses their support for the Seahurst Park Seawall Removal and Beach Restoration Project. It asks the Corps to make this project a priority as it allocates its federal resources in the coming year. If you have any questions, please contact the Parks Department Director, Michael Lafreniere, at 206-988-3703.

ARTalk Held for Local Nonprofits

Burien’s local arts and heritage organizations were invited to a City-sponsored “ARTalk” entitled “Dynamic Board, Important Work” at the Community Center on March 17. Organizational consultant and South King County Cultural Coalition (“So Co”) board member Marsha Holland Risch offered an excellent presentation on Board member roles, the individual skill-sets needed by board members, categories of leadership competencies, and “failsafe” ways to recruit volunteers and members. Regular ARTalks have developed for these groups by City staff based a desired outcome from the City’s original Art Summit.

Registration Happening for B-Patch Community Garden Program

On March 21, registration opened for new gardeners wishing to rent a plot for this year’s season. The B-Patch was designed in 2010 with Sustainable Burien and is located adjacent to the Annex on 144th Street. The B-Patch has 31 plots, with 21 reserved to date. Registration will continue for plot vacancies on a first-come, first-served basis.

Teens Benefit From “Cove to Clover” Run

For the first time, three teens in the City’s After School program ran the Cove to Clover 5K as part of the event’s “Athlete Angel” program. This enabled them to participate without needing to pay the registration fee and also provided a free pair of new running shoes from Big 5 sports store. The teens successfully “conquered” the steep “snake hill”, the new “uprising”, and the excessively-rainy weather. Teen Program Recreation Leader Meagan Schmieder organized this effort and also ran with the teens during the race.

Transform Burien Serving Homeless Families

Transform Burien (T.B.) is a cooperative group of 10 churches located in the Burien/Highline area and one of the leased tenants at the Annex building, T.B.'s Community Outreach Center is located at the Annex and provides a full dinner, distribution of canned grocery goods, and clothing for families every Sunday and Wednesday afternoons. Approximately 250 and 60 families are served each Sunday and Wednesday, respectively. With plans to expand service to local families, T. B. will be developing a resource center to provide tutoring and assistance for youth, counseling and job training opportunities for adults, on-site mobile medical and dental services, and a "super senior" program to reduce isolation for local seniors City Manager's Report March 28, 2011 Page 3 R:\CM\CM Reports 2011\CM032811Final.docx living alone by connecting them with volunteer opportunities. Additionally, T.B. plans to become certified this fall as a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to assist the city in providing emergency services as needed.

New Teen Late Night Programs Locations

The City has provided both a Friday program at the Community Center and a Saturday program at Sylvester Middle School for more than 10 years. Over the past several months, the number of teens dropping-in to the Friday program had exceeded the space available in the Community Center's Teen Room. Concurrently, the Principal and Community Resource Officer from Highline High School had contacted Parks staff about offering an additional program at their site. As a result, the Friday program recently moved to Sylvester M.S. and the Saturday program was relocated to Highline H.S. An additional benefit of the location change has been the opportunity to offer physical recreation for the teens, due to gymnasium availability at both schools. This expands program options for the teens, since only passive recreational activities were able to be provided at the Community Center.

Spring Recreation Guide Now Available

The new edition of the City's recreation brochure was mailed to all Burien residents and dropped off at community locations the week of March 21. In addition to the volume of Community Center drop-in opportunities, site-based programs at Cedarhurst, Hazel Valley, Hilltop, Highline, and Sylvester Schools, and specialized classes for Burien Heights immigrant families, this year's spring session programs include 243 individual class or trip options for preschool-aged children through older adults.

Earth Hero Award For City-Highline School District-Environmental Science Center Project

King County's annual "Earth Hero" award was given to HSD's New Start High School teacher Beverly Mowrer for her participation in a park project organized by City Adopt-A-Park Coordinator Lisa Aumann and the Environmental Science Center. Ms. Mowrer used this project to develop classroom learning about native plants and habitats, plant identification and care, removal of invasive plant species, restoring park areas, and water testing. She then integrated this instruction by taking her students outside to work in the adjacently-located Salmon Creek Park. An additional on-site experience was then provided at Salmon Creek Ravine. Students removed invasive plants over 14,000 square feet of park land and replanted 9000 square feet with 200 native plants that were grown in their school nursery. King County Executive Dow Constantine will be awarding Ms. Mowrer her award on April 14.

Gray Whale Spotted at Seahurst Park

On March 1, Marine Science Center instructor Joe Weiss reported the sighting of a 40-ft. long grey whale feeding in the shallow sediments along the Seahurst Park shoreline. The whale, probably a male, was feeding at about 10am Tuesday morning and came as close as 100 ft. from the seawall and in about 20 ft. deep waters. At the time Joe was conducting classes and was able to bring the students out to the shoreline for a rare treat.

Volunteers making playgrounds safer

Members from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints came out to Chelsea and Lake Burien Parks on March 3 to help distribute 40 cubic yards of wood fiber throughout the two playgrounds. About 20 volunteers coordinated by PaRCS Adopt-A-Park staff spread two very large piles of chips throughout the playgrounds for an even play surface and re-established the depth of surfacing that provides a safe fall zone around the equipment.

Vandals cause damage at Seahurst Park

At Seahurst Park's south picnic shelter on the evening of February 16, vandals caused about \$700 worth of damage to the concrete surfacing. These vandals apparently pulled rocks from the adjacent retaining walls at the shelter to make a fire ring on the concrete. The heat from the fire caused the concrete underneath to actually explode and damage a 4 ft. square by 3 inches deep section of concrete. A large square of concrete will need to be cut out and removed, in order to re-pour new material. PaRCS staff are proceeding to make the repairs to the concrete surface.