

CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

October 7, 2011

Following the discussion on utility rates at last Tuesday's Council meeting, we have continued to get comments from local citizens on the proposed increase in electric rates and the changes in recycling fees. In terms of the electric rate increase, city staff will be prepared to present three different options for consideration by the Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) next week. This includes increasing only the base rate, increasing the consumption rate, or a blending of these options with slight increases to both the consumption rate and the base rate. The UAC's recommendation will then be available for full Council consideration at the next public hearing on October 18. In terms of the changes in recycling charges, it was the intent of staff to create some dialogue on this issue and provide some cost savings to certain customers to offset the proposed electric rate increase. So we are continuing to get a lot of dialogue that will hopefully be helpful to the Council in making the final decision on recycling charges.

Next Monday, our staff will have an initial kick-off meeting with HBB Architects to discuss the Lincoln Park Master Plan. Following this meeting we hope to be able to announce the date and time for the first public hearing on this Master Plan. HBB was selected for this planning process due to their extensive experience working on park master plans for facilities adjacent to airports such as SeaTac Airport. Also they have a broad background in creative approaches to parks landscaping. So we expect that they will offer a number of future opinions for transforming Lincoln Park over the next 10-20 years that will make it compatible with the future of our Airport.

This week we hosted the second regional meeting on GIS mapping which was attended by about 20 representatives of various agencies involved in GIS mapping activities. We agreed to meet again in January and invite representatives from the City of Bellevue who have created a consortium of GIS providers in their area. There appear to be some cost savings opportunities, as well as the ability to share data and expertise by working together between the various jurisdictions in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

This week a final debriefing was held on the Celebrate Elwha event. At this meeting, the various representatives were very complimentary of the City's support especially from the standpoint of security, downtown beautification and coordination of events at the City Pier and Vern Burton Center. At this meeting we were also provided copies of articles that appeared in the national media of the Celebrate Elwha event including articles from the New York Times, Washington Post and LA Times.

Last week City staff was provided some initial training by Buxton on their new community analytics report available on the software that we have been provided. Needless to say, we were amazed at the wide assortment of consumer data that is available for our city that will be very useful in identifying the retail needs of our citizens. Buxton is now in the process of matching this data with their national data base of retailers to determine specific retailers that might be interested in considering our market. We plan on providing a brief demonstration on the Buxton software at next week's Retail Sector Group meeting. Once all of the data has been entered for our area, in about 30 days, we would like to provide a presentation to the City Council.

Please help us spread the word on the CSO presentation that is planned next Tuesday, October 11 at 6 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Following the presentation there will be time for questions and answers.

- Kent Myers