

Kirkland Business Roundtable
April 9, 2008
University of Washington -Tech Management MBA
Meeting Minutes

Introduction and Welcomes by Mayor Jim Lauinger and Host, Louise Kapustka, Director of the Tech Management MBA branch of the University of Washington.

Sharon McGavick, President of Lake Washington Technical College, updated the members on the status of the polytechnic proposal. Currently, there is no polytechnic school in the State of Washington and because of Kirkland's technical business cluster, it makes sense to locate a polytechnic institution here. Transitioning to a polytechnic institution is a very long process and may not happen for many years due to fiscal and political reasons. However, Lake Washington Technical College is committed to the ultimate goal.

Currently, Sharon and staff have received the approval of the SBTCC (State Board of Community and Technical Colleges) to offer a Bachelor of Technology in Applied Design Degree and are looking forward to gaining approval from the HEC (governing board of four year educational institutions). She asked for the support of Roundtable members, by a continued letter writing campaign to political representatives, particularly key supporters, Representative Roger Goodman and Senator Rosemary McAuliffe. She also invited anyone who has not been to the campus (or wants to visit again) to contact her to schedule a tour and lunch on campus.

New consultants for the City of Kirkland were introduced. Dana Blozis, Virtually Yourz, is a freelance writer, hired to compose the written material for the City of Kirkland's marketing packet. She is looking forward to scheduling interviews with willing Roundtable members to get a better sense of why companies locate in Kirkland and what their potential employees are looking for when being recruited.

Kathleen O'Brien, President of O'Brien and Company and Yvonne Kraus, Project Manager spoke briefly about the Sustainability Assessment of the Kirkland Economy, the project that they in conjunction with ED Hovee have been hired to conduct. These consultants will also be sending out a survey, likely via email, to Roundtable Members to better understand the Kirkland economy and green practices.

Ethan Yarbrough, President of Allysis and Chair of the Communications Committee demonstrated how to use, post information and engage in conversation through the Roundtable's new Google-apps website. www.kirklandbusinessroundtable.org. All Roundtable Members should have received via email their user id and password. This is a secure, closed site available to Business Roundtable members only. Ethan emphasized that this is *not his* website, this is a *group* website. Christopher Vander May, Senior Product Manager at Google, supported Ethan's demonstration and answered questions. Any questions regarding the site can be directed to Ethan ethany@allyis.com or Chris cvandermey@google.com.

Scott Fleming, the Puget Sound Regional General Manager of Clearwire International, LLC, offered a 6-month free trial of the PC card to Business Roundtable members (excluding City Managers, Staff and Council Members). The PC Card allows access to the internet from most locations and should allow for greater connection between Roundtable members. Members willing to participate in the pilot program were asked to do the following; fill out a contact information sheet, return the PC Card after the six month period is done (unless of course, they love the service and subscribe) and provide feedback to Scott about their experiences with the PC Card.

Conveniently, when technical difficulties prevented access to the newly created Kirkland Roundtable Website, Scott's laptop with the PC Card had conductivity and enabled the presentation to continue.

The second half of the meeting was devoted to the Business Case for Kirkland. Eric Campbell briefly discussed the special needs of intellectual property/IT firms and introduced AP Hurd, Project Manager and Douglas

Howe, President of Touchstone Corporation who presented Parkplace as a case study. AP discussed the special needs of technology based companies, particularly proper ventilation for servers and large floor plates that foster creativity and communication among employees. Douglas discussed a previous, successful Touchstone project in the Belltown neighborhood of Seattle. This project allowed a growing bio-tech company to expand their facilities without having to move outside of their place of origin, Belltown. Strategies used in this project included: open floor plates to meet the needs of the technology firms, sustainable building practices and three external facades to reduce the appearance of the half block building and maintain the neighborhood character. AP and Douglas also discussed the following: the plans for the Parkplace redevelopment, the financial benefits of moving forward with the 8-story, mixed use plan, the opportunity for other tech firms to be housed in the facility and the aesthetics of the plan including a vibrant, active, open space designed by a landscape architect.

Eric Campbell closed the presentation by discussing the opportunities available to comment on the Parkplace proposal through the policy and permitting process including:

- April 10, 2008 at 6:30 - Planning Commission Meeting – Discuss Planned Action Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)*
- April 24, 2008 – Public Hearing before SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) official, Eric Shields, on (DEIS) and Planning Commission on private amendment requests
- May 22, 2008 – Public Hearing before Planning Commission on private amendment requests

*All meetings are open to the public and all occur in Council Chambers 123 Fifth Avenue unless otherwise noted.

The meeting concluded with summary remarks by Dave Ramsay, City Manager for the City of Kirkland.

Thank you to all of the presenters for insightful presentations. Thank you also to the committee members for all of their time and effort.