

CITY MANAGER WEEKLY UPDATE REPORT ~ KENT MYERS

April 2, 2010

First of all, I want to thank you for your participation in the Economic Development Summit Phase I meeting last night. The fact that all seven City Councilmembers attended this meeting helps to confirm the importance of this issue to the City. Overall the meeting went very well and I received some very positive comments from several of the attendees. I was very pleased with the turnout and most major local companies and community organizations were represented at the meeting. I was somewhat disappointed that local young professionals were not well represented and I have sent the local organization a follow up request for their comments. One of the keys for the future of our community is attracting, retaining, and engaging young professional leaders and I hope that we can get more of their input in the current economic development planning process.

I received word in the past week that the local Farmers' Market is already experiencing some growing pains at their new location in The Gateway. The response from vendors has increased over the past year and the Market has run out of room to accommodate new vendors. Next week City staff will meet with Farmers' Market representatives to explore options to adding booth space in the area around the current location. As you know, it is important that we continue to grow this activity in the downtown area and make it a major attraction for our community.

The City Management Conference I attended this week provided a great opportunity to network with some of my colleagues from Washington and Oregon. It is interesting to note that most of these communities are dealing with the same financial challenges that we are facing. Many of them are attempting to take steps to stimulate their local economy by reducing or delaying the payment of impact fees and other actions. A word of optimism was expressed by two economists who spoke at the meeting that the current recession was now over and financial indicators were showing improvement. However, both speakers agreed that the recovery would be very slow this year and next and full recovery would not take place until 2012 or 2013.

- Kent Myers