



April 2007

**On the Field**  
Details on the next RGF - CIC meeting to be sent out shortly.

The Scrimmage Line serves as the Current Issues Coalition's "Condensed Minutes."

CIC is a committee of the Responsible Growth Forum and meets monthly to review issues relating to growth in Southwest Washington.

For more information on the CIC, please contact Megan Forell at (360) 695-1385.



R E S P O N S I B L E G R O W T H F O R U M



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## The Scrimmage Line

*Tim Leavitt, Vancouver City Council Member and Engineering Manager for PBS Engineering, was the guest speaker at the May 2, 2007 RGF – CIC meeting. Tim has been a member of the council for 4 ½ years, running for reelection this fall. A native of Vancouver, Tim attended Washington State University in Pullman for both undergrad and graduate school. He currently works for PBS, an environmental consulting firm. Tim's past and current community involvement spans many different arenas including, the Clark County Planning Commission, Rotary and he currently serves as Chair of CTRAN. Additionally, Tim graduated from the Leadership Clark County program in 2000. Tim believes he brings a progressive voice to the council, coupled with a pro-business perspective. He did not support the B&O tax and would like to see more incentives put in place, encouraging business growth and economic development.*

### Q&A

**RGF members present at the meeting, questioned Tim on several issues. Below you will find a synopsis of those presented.**

**Cowlitz Casino** – Tim is not convinced that the casino brings anything productive to the county, besides jobs.

**Bonding Capacity** - When asked about the City's bonding capacity, Tim stated that they are at 100% capacity, completely tapped out for council bonds that do not require a vote.

**City Hall** - RGF members believe that City Hall is out of touch with the community.

The Kasaab deal is drawing a lot of criticism from the business community, feeding the perception that this deal was done "behind the scenes." Tim agrees. When asked what council plans on doing, Tim stated they already voted to approve (6-1), his vote the only opposition. In the future, RGF members expect more transparency in public transactions.

**Business Advisory** - Tim does not know why council members are split on the formation of a Business Advisory Council but he supports it.

**Perception** - Public perception continues to be that the city is spending too much money, especially considering the downtown subsidies. RGF members suggested the city consider priority based budgeting with disclosure of the discretionary programs.

Tim would like to see more advocacy from the business community and invites members to join him at the "Paradise Group." This informal group meets monthly to talk about the issues of the hour. No action items come out of this group but it is a productive time to learn about what is going on within the community.

**GMA** - RGF members asked if there is a council member charged with tracking the progress of GMA and Tim answered no.

**Parking Lots** - When asked about paving parking lots? Tim responded that it's been set back and the downtown vision plan will return.