

Carlotta Collette

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS



METRO

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**Carlotta Collette
represents
District 2, which
includes the cities of
Gladstone, Johnson
City, Lake Oswego,
Milwaukie, Oregon
City, Rivergrove and
West Linn and a
portion of Southwest
Portland.**



A message from Carlotta Collette

This is my first District 2 newsletter, and I'm using it as an opportunity to introduce myself. In future issues, I'll talk more about what Metro is up to. Also in the future, I'll be sending this via e-mail, rather than in the mail. If you want to continue to receive it, please send me your email address. Mine is: collettec@metro.dst.or.us.

I have been on the Metro Council for just under a month, having been appointed on November 6th to replace Brian Newman. I am honored to accept this appointment and serve you, the citizens of urban Clackamas County. In order to continue to serve you, I filed for election to this position, which means I will run in the May primary.

Let me briefly introduce myself. I was born and raised in Minnesota and moved to Oregon in 1979 to lead RAIN Magazine. Some of you may remember RAIN as a journal dedicated to what we now call "sustainability." As editor, I researched and wrote about successful efforts to provide affordable housing, protect family farms and small businesses, reduce energy consumption, design livable communities and accomplish a wide array of environmental goals.

From RAIN, I moved on to the Northwest Power Planning Council where I worked for 14 years. I helped create local strategies for Oregon, Montana, Washington and Idaho to adopt energy conserving building codes, a Columbia River basin-wide fish and wildlife recovery effort and a regional electric power development plan.

In 2004, I was elected to serve on the Milwaukie City Council after several years as a neighborhood leader and public involvement consultant. At the city, I continued to work with neighborhoods and businesses, focusing on revitalizing downtown and resolving transportation problems. I was Milwaukie's delegate to and co-chair of the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee, which represents the cities and special districts of Clackamas County in policy discussions with the county, the state and Metro.

I also am vice president of the Board of Education for Clackamas Community College.

I bring to Metro, and to you, a deep, lifelong commitment to making our communities wonderful places to live, work and play. Oregon is a progressive state that truly values citizen involvement. Our legislature is considered a "citizen legislature." Goal 1 of our Statewide Planning Goals is citizen involvement.

Citizen involvement is my primary goal as well. As Metro moves forward with plans to accommodate growing populations, we must engage our communities. We need to hear from you – our citizens, business owners, farmers, environmental stewards, educators and local and tribal officials – because our quality of life in this region requires that we get this right. I will try to use this newsletter to keep you up to date on the issues. Help me get the word out.

—*Carlotta Collette*

Restoration and enhancement grants open for pre-application

Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program is now accepting pre-applications for restoration and enhancement grants to protect fish and wildlife throughout the region. A total of \$250,000 is available for projects in the 2008 grant cycle. Projects will enable citizens and communities to enhance water quality or restore, improve or create wildlife habitat.

The grants are open to community, school, faith, non-profit, government and business groups. The only requirements are that projects are within the metro region and applicants match their grant request with outside funding, in-kind services or volunteer hours.

Pre-applications are due Jan. 16. After a panel of reviewers evaluates the submissions, selected pre-applicants will submit a final application due in March. Projects to receive funding will be announced in May.

Free grant writing workshops are being offered for new grant-writers and interested individuals. To reserve a spot at an upcoming session, call Janelle Geddes at 503-797-1550 or email geddesj@metro.dst.or.us.

For more information, visit the Metro website at www.metro-region.org/nature.

Metro Council invests in revolving fund for affordable housing

In response to the region's growing need for moderately priced housing, the Metro Council voted to invest \$1 million in seed money to create a permanent regional resource for affordable housing. Championed by Metro Councilor Robert Liberty, the Regional Housing Choice Revolving Fund would provide the incentive for a variety of public, private and charitable partners to invest in a \$10-\$20 million partnership to help protect affordable housing in the region. The fund would be managed by an experienced non-profit community-based administrator and governed by a regional board of directors.

Metro's contribution is contingent upon the fund having at least \$10 million in capital,

Metro representation on the governing board, and Council confidence that the funds will satisfy professional standards. Council has set aside a period of two years during which these conditions must be met.

The funds could extend low-interest loans to jump-start the development and preservation of affordable housing in the Metro area. For example, \$1 million could produce 250-350 affordable units every two years and leverage an estimated \$40 million in public and private investments in the housing.

The Housing Choice Fund also would help implement Metro's 2040 Growth Concept by promoting mixed-use, mixed-income patterns of development in regional centers, town centers and transit corridors. In keeping with the Concept, the fund would also promote best practices in green and sustainable design.

Action scheduled for Lake Oswego to Portland corridor

Metro Council will take public testimony and vote on which alternative to recommend for an Environmental Impact Study to improve transportation between Lake Oswego and Portland at its Dec. 13 meeting.

The alternatives recommended for further study include: streetcar to Lake Oswego; streetcar to the vicinity of SW Nevada Ave. with enhanced bus service to Lake Oswego; enhanced bus service to Lake Oswego along SW Macadam Ave.; and no new transit investments.

Contact Karen Withrow, withrowk@metro.dst.or.us or 503-797-1932 for further information.

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About Metro

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 25 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

Your Metro representatives

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David Bragdon

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Carlotta Collette, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
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