

Robert Liberty

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 6 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Robert Liberty
represents
District 6, which
includes portions of
Northeast, Southeast
and Southwest
Portland.**



Where did that quarter century go!?!?

The marked change in weather from summer to fall this past month brought to mind a similarly abrupt change in the season 25 years ago.

Late on a Friday afternoon in mid-September of 1981, a group of us left our offices just as the temperature plummeted, the wind picked up and then it started to rain. I remember this afternoon in part because it was the end of my first week as a staff attorney at 1000 Friends of Oregon. It was the beginning of what has become a quarter century of involvement in helping Oregon's communities shape their future growth.

Thousands of people have participated in this effort, from governors to neighborhood activists, from farmers to developers and conservationists. The hard work was done quietly, at desks late at night, noisily in rancorous public hearings, creatively at drawing boards and in legislative committee hearings, very publicly at the ballot box, and in many other places and times.

Objective research (see for example, "The Portland Exception" report at the Sightline Institute's website: www.sightline.org/research/sprawl) as well as our personal experiences confirm that our efforts have made a tremendous difference in what Oregon's cities and countryside are today.

So that's where the quarter century went. And I suspect that is where the next quarter century will go too ...

— Robert Liberty

Junketopia: Animal Spaces

Councilor Liberty serves on the Oregon Zoo's Future Vision Committee, which is charged with updating the master plan for the Zoo. That plan encompasses everything from the Zoo's business operations to its educational and conservation mission, as well as plans for changes to the zoo's campus at Washington Park.

As part of the committee's education, it enjoyed a junket to Northwest Trek near Eatonville, Washington (operated by Tacoma's Parks District), Tacoma's Point Defiance Zoo and the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, to see how they addressed the same issues faced by the Oregon Zoo.

Of particular interest to Councilor Liberty were these zoos' educational facilities for

children, enhancements to zoo animals' quality of life and the other zoos' different approaches to governance and funding.

Just as importantly, he was encouraged to observe that these other zoos look to the Oregon Zoo and its director, Tony Vecchio, as a leader within their profession.

Junketopia: People Places

Metro's plan for growth in our region calls for focusing much of the new jobs and housing in regional and town centers and along high-frequency transit corridors (both bus and light rail). To help the public, local officials and developers understand how these goals might be accomplished, Metro has been sponsoring "Get Centered!" educational programs, including site visits and guest lectures.

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People Places

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As part of that program, about 35 local officials, developers, architects, planning commissioners, government staff members, students and interested citizens, participated in a high-intensity three-day junket to the Vancouver BC region in mid-September.

Rather than Vancouver's famously vertical downtown peninsula, the trip focused on town center development in suburban cities — New Westminister, Port Moody, Coquitlam, North Vancouver and older neighborhoods of Vancouver, Collingwood, South Granville and Kitsilano. Councilor Liberty was particularly struck by three things — the very high quality of public amenities provided in most of the town centers, the intensity of the development in the town centers and the impressive speed and capacity of the transit system.

Field trip participants were very enthusiastic about the trip and decided to gather afterwards to share their impressions and insights.

2008-11 Transportation Priorities seeks public comment

The 2008-11 Transportation Priorities process started in April, soliciting project applications from local jurisdictions. Funds for the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) will target economic development in the region's mixed-use and industrial areas and help meet transportation-related air quality requirements.

This summer, staff ranked projects to create a "First Cut" list, which contains 67 projects and programs requesting \$133.5 million. Since only \$45.4 million is actually available, Metro is looking to the public to help narrow the list. The official comment period begins with the release of the First Cut list on October 13 and ends on December 1, 2006. The First Cut list will be posted on the Metro website, www.metro-region.org.

Comments can be submitted in several ways, including at one of the public Listening Posts Metro will host around the region in November. A Portland Listening Post will be held 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, November 16 at Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave. To ensure that oral testimony is accurately recorded, please also submit comments in writing.

For more information, including the full list of Listening Posts, and to submit comments, contact Metro at:

Email: trans@metro.dst.or.us

Fax: (503) 797-1911

Phone: (503) 797-1900

US Mail: Ted Leybold, Metro Planning Dept., 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232

Web: www.metro-region.org

After the First Cut list is narrowed, a draft final list will be released for further public comment next January before the Metro Council's final adoption of the plan in March 2007. Project funding will begin in October 2007.

Volunteer with Councilor Liberty Oct. 28 and Nov. 4

Metro Councilor Robert Liberty invites you to get your hands dirty and help him plant native trees and shrubs along Johnson Creek 9 a.m. to 12 noon Saturday, Oct. 28 at the Johnson residence, 3635 SE Johnson Creek Blvd. (at SE 36th Avenue) in Portland. Dress for the weather. SOLV will provide tools and training, and all ages are welcome. To register to volunteer or for more information, please visit www.solv.org or contact Rhyan Grech at ryhan@solv.org or (503) 844-9571 ext. 363.

The following weekend, Councilor Liberty also encourages you to join him for Southwest Neighborhoods' Inc. Annual Fall Cleanup 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4 at Portland Christian Center, 5700 SW Dosch Road. They need people to direct traffic, unload yard debris from cars and trucks into dumpsters, and assist drivers with picking up debris from residences. They especially need volunteers with trucks for picking up debris at seniors' and disabled citizens' homes. If you are interested in helping, contact the Southwest Neighborhoods office at (503) 823-4592.

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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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October 2006 dch/final
Printed on recycled paper