

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.



Eternal hopes of spring

This past winter has been a tough time for optimism.

It seems every day brings a new report about climate change, accelerated melting of the ice in Greenland, Antarctica or the Arctic. I have seen, firsthand, the rapid retreat of the glaciers in the Cascades. Newspapers bring reports of the accelerating extinction of species around the globe and the dangerous decline of salmon in Oregon's rivers.

Meanwhile, our own country has little cause for optimism — a divisive war, rising animosity toward the US abroad, record budget deficits, corruption in high places, and a great American city still largely in ruins. Among blue- and white-collar workers there is a nagging unease about job security, the feasibility of retirement, spiraling medical costs and how to pay for higher education for the next generation. Candidates for governor have been trying to outdo each other in denouncing the laws and programs that have kept Oregon, Oregon.

Fortunately, this spring provides moments of inspiration and new hope for the future: The youthful energy and enthusiasm of Portland middle-schoolers ready with ideas about how to tackle accumulating plastics in the Pacific Ocean; the packed Metro Council chamber on a showery April Saturday where beaming student-artists are recognized for designs promoting reduction, re-use and recycling; and finally, the delicate flowers of the trout lily, blooming between the trunks of Douglas fir on the south side of a butte in the middle of the city.

For this elected official, hope is more important than coffee in helping me begin each day of work to keep our region livable and lovable (as Tom McCall used to say).

Happy spring.

— Robert Liberty

Bike Commute Day May 19

Metro Councilor Robert Liberty invites you to join him on Friday, May 19, National Bike Commute Day, for his morning bike ride from Southeast Portland to the Lloyd District Bike Commute Day party. The Lloyd District Transportation Management Association will be serving a light breakfast and handing out prizes 7:30-9 a.m. at Oregon Square, on Holladay Street between NE 7th and 9th avenues, adjacent to the NE 7th Avenue Max station. Councilor Liberty's ride will start at 7 a.m., and you can join him at points along the way. The route and ride schedule is posted on his web page www.metro-region.org/liberty. For more information, contact Linnea Nelson at nelsonl@metro.dst.or.us or (503) 797-1886.

Council supports Housing Choice Task Force work

On April 27, the Metro Council voted to amend its 2006-07 budget to provide continued staff support for carrying out the recommendations of the Housing Choice Task Force (HCTF). Councilor Liberty co-chaired the HCTF and proposed the budget amendment. It will include integrating consideration of affordable and other housing in all of Metro's activities and providing staffing for the "pre-development" phase of affordable housing projects.

This action establishes a stable commitment for Metro in housing affordability; provides

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Housing Choice Task Force

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in-house expertise to help local governments increase housing supply and housing choices and preserve existing housing; makes it possible to bring housing leadership together to support a regional agenda for housing choices; and allows Metro to take a stronger leadership role in the research and presentation of data that helps the region understand the extent of the affordable housing issues and monitor the progress that the region is making.

The HCTF report, presented to the Council on April 20, addresses enhancing regional livability for all residents by providing a range of housing choices across the region. The report documents that regional home prices have increased faster than wages, that families with children have migrated outwards from central areas adding stress to public services, and that a decline in living wage jobs has limited the purchasing and rental power of residents earning average or less than average salaries.

The report recommends funding and land use solutions, as well as technical assistance solutions that would increase the affordable work force housing built and preserved. For the full report and more information, visit Metro's website at www.metro-region.org/housing or call (503) 797-1737.

Metro's Nature in Neighborhood grant program awards funds

Interested citizen groups, businesses, nonprofit organizations, school groups, neighbors, government agencies and service organizations submitted more than 80 applications for \$560,000 in funds for nature-friendly projects through Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grant program.

The grants, to be announced May 11, will be awarded for projects focusing on restoration, conservation education and other innovative ways to motivate communities to protect the nature of our region. The grant program is part of the Nature in Neighborhoods initiative, the Metro Council's commitment to protecting fish and wildlife habitat in the region.

Check the Metro website at www.metro-region.org after May 11 for grant winners and their projects.

Metro receives Oregon Food Bank Stone Soup Award

On behalf of Metro, Senior Solid Waste Planner Jennifer Erickson and Councilor Robert Liberty accepted a Stone Soup Award from the Oregon Food Bank (OFB) at the April 10 Luncheon of Champions and Hunger Heroes. Stone Soup Awards honor exceptional, innovative contributions to OFB's mission. Awardees have had a deep, personal involvement with OFB for five years or more.

Over the past decade, Metro has given more than \$370,000 to OFB. Much of this money has been spent on refrigeration systems to keep food fresh. In addition to its financial contributions, Metro has provided staff and materials for education and outreach, as well as committee participation and leadership. Metro's support has enabled OFB to greatly increase its distribution of perishable items, which might otherwise have gone to a landfill.

82nd Avenue of Roses

Next time you drive down 82nd Avenue, notice the new rose bushes that have been planted recently. In an effort to enhance the area's aesthetic appeal, east Portland businesses and residents are encouraging a new image based on Portland's signature blossom—the rose.

Led by the 82nd Avenue of Roses Business Association, successful projects to date include requesting local agencies to refer to the street as "82nd Avenue of Roses," with new street signs appearing soon. Also, business owners are being encouraged to use roses in landscaping projects.

If you would like to help, contact Ken Turner at (503) 771-3817 or kenmc@qwest.net.

Councilor Robert Liberty contact information

Address	600 NE Grand Ave. Portland, OR 97232
Phone	(503) 797-1552
Fax	(503) 797-1793
E-mail	libertyr@metro.dst.or.us
Assistant	Linnea Nelson
Phone	(503) 797-1886
E-mail	nelsonl@metro.dst.or.us
Web	www.metro-region.org

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

Metro Council President
David Bragdon

Metro Councilors
Rod Park, District 1
Brian Newman, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Susan McLain, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Alexis Dow, CPA