

# 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.



## Natural bonding in the neighborhoods

On November 7, the voters in our region passed Metro's \$227.4 million natural areas, parks and streams bond measure by nearly 59 percent, with majorities in all three local counties. (See the accompanying article for more details about the measure.)

The voters' decision reflected their satisfaction with a job well done by Metro on the 1995 open spaces bond measure and a concern that we keep nature near us in the region as we grow. The success of the measure is attributable to the leadership of Metro Council President

David Bragdon and to the many organizations and advocates who devoted their efforts to the campaign, including the Audubon Society of Portland – we owe them our thanks.

A new element in this bond measure was one I initiated and for which I secured support from my colleagues: capital grants to protect, enhance or restore water quality and natural areas at the neighborhood level.

The bond measure provides \$15 million for this use, to be matched two to one from other sources. The applicants can include nonprofit organizations (such as neighborhood associations) as well as schools, universities and local governments. The improvement must be on land owned by the public. Under the proposed criteria adopted by the Metro Council, bonus points will be awarded for projects in lower income neighborhoods and for innovative projects.

I became the proponent of the idea of neighborhood natural area grants after a tour of the Gateway area in East Portland given to me by two neighborhood activists, Arlene Kimura and Linda Robinson. Parks and natural areas are few and far between in Gateway. Linda and Arlene showed me neglected areas, including stormwater storage ponds which could be transformed into small natural areas that help filter water running off roads and parking lots, as well as provide a place in the city for birds and other wildlife. These natural areas will provide green places for people to enjoy. They will contrast with, and complement, the new development of housing, shops and jobs, as Gateway gradually evolves into its role as an important regional center under Metro's 2040 plan for growth.

Just as important is the opportunity for residents to come together around a common effort to make their neighborhood a better place to live. As we work together to restore and protect natural habitat and resources, we will also be building up our sense of community.

— Robert Liberty

## Metro voters approve natural areas bond measure

Voters in the region passed Metro's open spaces bond measure last month by 58.6 percent, indicating to the Metro Council that they are willing to protect local natural areas.

The \$227.4 million measure directs Metro to acquire and protect natural areas, thereby preserving some of our area's best remaining open spaces for the residents of the region.

The approval of Measure 26-80 enables the Council to work in several ways:

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## Natural areas measure passes

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- \$168.4 million will purchase up to 4,500 acres of targeted areas
- \$44 million will be distributed to Metro-area jurisdictions to fund local projects
- \$15 million will fund a new capital grants program through which local organizations can apply for funding for community projects.

The measure was modeled after a successful package approved by voters in May 1995 through which Metro acquired more than 8,100 acres of natural areas. The program will operate entirely on a willing-seller basis. Lands purchased through the bond measure will be retained in public ownership.

To stay informed about the natural areas program and upcoming public involvement opportunities, get on the natural areas mailing list by calling (503) 797-1870 or sending e-mail to [metroparks@metro.dst.or.us](mailto:metroparks@metro.dst.or.us).

## Liberty as Mr. Rock E. Goat at ZooLights Dec. 20

Councilor Robert Liberty gets his own goat again this year when he will portray Mr. Rock E. Goat – also known as Rocky the Mountain Goat – at ZooLights 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20 at the Oregon Zoo. He invites you to bring your family and friends to meet Rocky. Goats don't talk though, so don't plan to discuss Metro issues with him. And don't blame him if you don't like the weather – he's not a scapegoat!

After greeting Rocky, you can enjoy the eco-friendly ZooLights. They feature 478,000 LEDs, or light-emitting diodes, that use only a fraction of the energy of conventional bulbs. The LEDs use only one percent of the energy of standard bulbs and 10 percent of the energy of minilights. The Oregon Zoo has been using the LEDs since 2001, adding more each year, including 85,000 this year. Maintenance costs are also greatly reduced, since the durable diodes last as long as the wires, don't fade over time, are not removable and if one goes out, the rest of the string still stays lit.

ZooLights also features pettable pygmy goats, conservation-themed puppet shows, an eco-friendly artists market, seasonal culinary treats, and music and dance groups.

Visitors who take Max lightrail receive 50 cents off the price of admission. For more information, visit [www.oregonzoo.org](http://www.oregonzoo.org).



Khaath Tran

*Councilor Liberty prepares to butt heads.*

## BES grant opportunity

Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services has announced a grant opportunity for communities affected by the construction of the East Side Big Pipe – the six-mile long, 22-foot diameter combined sewer overflow (CSO) line that will collect sewage and stormwater on the east side of the Willamette River.

The city's East Side Community Benefit Opportunity (CBO) Program lets citizens, neighborhood associations, business groups, nonprofits and public agencies nominate community improvements in neighborhoods affected by east side CSO construction. Nearly \$2 million is available for projects to enhance east side communities. The city will accept CBO project nominations until 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8. More information and application requirements are available by contacting Debbie Caselton at (503) 823-2831 or [debbiec@bes.ci.portland.or.us](mailto:debbiec@bes.ci.portland.or.us).

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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

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