

Brian Newman

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 2 NEWS



METRO

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Brian Newman represents District 2, which includes a portion of Southwest Portland and much of urban Clackamas County including Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oak Grove, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn.



A tale of two livable cities

In early June, I was glad to participate in a study tour of Vancouver, BC that Metro organized for local officials, planners, architects and developers to learn about its successful mixed-use development and planning. With its vibrant urban centers and highly developed suburban communities, Vancouver exemplifies what is possible through the utilization of creative public-private partnerships and livable-community design standards.

The similarities between our two regions are striking: The city of Vancouver, BC has a population of approximately 600,000, which is slightly more than the population of the city of Portland at 562,690. The metropolitan area of Vancouver, BC has two million people, which is about equal to that of the greater Portland-Vancouver, WA region at 1.9 million.

Yet the Vancouver, BC region accommodates its population in half of our land area, while remaining an international leader in livable communities. This area is proof that density in urban centers is not only able to co-exist with natural areas, but actually improves the accessibility of natural areas to more people. For example, in central Vancouver, BC, more than 20,000 people walk to work and thousands of people enjoy greenways and waterfront right outside their doorstep.

With Vancouver, BC as a nearby and accessible model, it will be easier for Portland to envision and create vibrant, livable communities. Finding ways to fund such development will continue to be a challenge, but our Canadian counterparts have developed a model of success that we can hopefully emulate.

— *Brian Newman*

Metro and partners succeed with land-use law reforms

Recently, Metro—working closely with local governments, business leaders, agricultural interests and others—achieved passage of important legislation that will enable us to better plan for growth in the years ahead.

Metro is the only jurisdiction in the state that is required to review its urban growth boundary (UGB) every five years to make certain that it contains a 20-year supply of land to accommodate growth. Oregon House Bill 2051 provides Metro with a two-year delay—to 2009—to review and consider its current expansion.

Oregon Senate Bill 1011 enables the creation of urban and rural reserve areas, allowing Metro

and local governments to set aside regions that may be suitable for growth over the next 40 to 50 years, while protecting valuable farmland and natural areas from expansion and development for the same period of time.

The two bills provide greater flexibility for the development of vibrant communities within the existing urban growth boundary while protecting resource land and natural areas outside the boundary. Rather than focusing on an arbitrary 20-year land supply requirement, Metro will make growth management decisions based on how efficiently land within the existing UGB is used. In addition, the ability to create reserve areas now provides greater predictability over

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Land-use law reforms

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how and where population and employment growth will or will not occur.

Now that both bills have been signed into law, Metro will work with its regional partners to develop a more flexible and comprehensive growth management process, with the goal of more effectively implementing the 2040 Growth Concept, the region's long-range growth management plan.

Let's Talk Trash

Metro wants to hear your thoughts on a new ten-year plan for managing solid waste in the region. The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan (RSWMP) will ensure continued progress in reducing the amount and toxicity of the trash we generate, and will blaze new trails in advancing sustainable operations for the solid waste system.

During the past 20 years, Metro and its partners have established a comprehensive solid waste management system that includes disposal and recovery facilities, curbside services, household hazardous waste collection, a paint recycling operation, and reaching a regional recycling rate of 58.6 percent (one of the highest in the nation).

Despite these achievements, we continue to send more than 1.2 million tons of garbage to the landfill each year, half of which could be recycled. Making less garbage in the first place, avoiding the use of toxic products, and implementing sustainable business practices into solid waste operations are other strategies to be considered.

To read the plan and to comment, go to www.metro-region.org/letstalktrash or contact the Metro Solid Waste and Recycling Department at (503) 797-1650 by August 3. The Metro Council will hold a public hearing and will consider the plan for adoption this fall.

Zoo concerts and highlights: Summer 2007

Now that the summer is underway, check out the Oregon Zoo for a variety of activities and events to enjoy. One of the most anticipated events this summer is the Wells Fargo outdoor concert series

presented by Fred Meyer. This series includes the Zoobeat Premium concerts, featuring artists like Keb' Mo' and Pink Martini, and the World Music Wednesday Concerts, which showcases performers from around the world such as the Wailers or South African artist Hugh Masekela. Ticket prices vary, but the World Music Concerts are free to Zoo members. Tickets are on sale at TicketsWest.

In addition, the Oregon Zoo is putting on its annual fundraising event, Zoolala, on July 21. Come and enjoy a summer evening at the Zoo, filled with dancing, food and drink from the region's top restaurants and help support the upcoming African lion exhibit. Finally, explore the Zoo with a daytime visit this summer and see the Winged Wonder exhibit, a large greenhouse filled with over 450 free-flying butterflies from Costa Rica and a certified backyard habitat that features about 3,900 trees and 80 plant varieties.

Please visit the Zoo's website at www.oregonzoo.org for more information on these upcoming events and to check out the Zoo's other summer programs and opportunities.

Event of note in District 2

9 a.m. Sunday, July 8
Willamette Challenge at Oaks Park
The Willamette Challenge is a 6-mile paddling relay from the banks of the Willamette River at Oaks Amusement Park. All are welcome at this annual fundraising event for Willamette Riverkeeper. Activities include competitive and family-style races, raffle, display booths and park rides. For more information, visit www.willamettechallenge.org.

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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.

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