Carl Hosticka

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 NEWS





Carl Hosticka represents District 3, which includes portions of Washington and **Clackamas counties** and the cities of Beaverton, Durham, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, Tualatin and Wilsonville.

Recycling for regional quality of life

Metro is in charge of the region's solid waste system, and we have a strong commitment to recycling. Currently 59 percent of the waste generated in the region is recovered. The region has a state-mandated goal to recover 64 percent of the waste by 2009. To help us move closer to that goal, the Metro Council is focusing on three sectors where the most recycling opportunity remains: construction and demolition, business and organics.

Construction and demolition recycling

In August, the Council passed legislation intended to increase the amount of materials recycled or recovered from construction and demolition projects in the region. The ordinance requires dry waste from construction and demolition - such as wood, metal and cardboard – to be processed through a recovery facility that pulls out recyclables before the waste is dumped in a landfill.

Known as the Enhanced Dry Waste Recovery Program, the program is expected to result in an additional 33,000 tons of recovered material each year. That means less waste in the landfill, lower waste transport costs, savings in energy and reduction in greenhouse gasses and airborne pollution. On a typical construction or demolition project, more than 90 percent of the waste materials are reusable or recoverable. In 2005-06, however, more than half of the construction and demolition debris was disposed of in landfills.

Business recycling

The Metro Council is in the process of evaluating options for increasing business recycling across the region. The goal is to achieve a 90 percent recycling rate for paper (includes cardboard) and containers (plastic, aluminum or tin) generated by businesses. Currently 14 percent of businesses do not recycle or only recycle cardboard. Each year, 114,000 tons of recyclable paper and containers are sent to the landfill. This represents 25 percent of the garbage businesses throw away. We cannot achieve the region's 64 percent goal without recovering most of these materials.

The Council is currently considering two business recycling program options: 1) mandatory business recycling, and 2) business recycling standards. We will be discussing this with our local partners in the coming months.

Organics

In our region, more than 180,000 tons of food waste is sent to the landfill each year, half from businesses. For more than 13 years, Metro has encouraged household composting of organics by providing composting bins for sale at a subsidized price. The collection of food waste from businesses for composting is on the increase. In 2006, nearly 10,000 tons of food waste from businesses were composted rather than sent for disposal. Metro has also worked to increase the donation of edible continued

Recycling

continued from page 1

food from restaurants, grocery stores and food distributors to those in need. Through the Fork It Over program, more than 70 businesses have agreed to regularly donate edible food to foodrescue agencies to reduce hunger and waste in our community.

Reducing waste saves money, is good for the environment and is part of creating the high quality of life that we all want for our region. I hope you'll do your part to recycle at home and work. For recycling tips and more information on Metro's programs, please visit www. metro-region.org.

— Carl Hosticka

The 2040 match of the century: Corridors vs. Centers Sept. 26

Get a ringside seat for a free lively debate about different strategies for implementing the 2040 growth concept, our region's plan for the future, 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 26, in the Metro Council chamber, 600 NE Grand Ave. in Portland. The match features heavyweight professors Patrick ("Corridors") Condon, University of British Columbia, and Gordon ("Centers") Price, Simon Fraser University, and will be refereed by Metro Councilor Robert Liberty.

Condon, professor of landscape architecture at UBC, favors low and midrise development along transit corridors – three and four story mixtures of housing, stores, restaurants, professional services and offices. Price, director of the City Program at SFU and former Vancouver, BC city councilor, is a strong supporter of the strategy emphasizing growth in highenergy, high-density centers.

Both contenders are internationally recognized experts in their fields and extremely familiar with the Portland metropolitan region. Both approaches are consistent with our region's 2040 plan for growth. Will either strategy be victorious or will it be a draw? Can both sides win? You be the judge.

We'll provide the popcorn.

Metro Council considers options for convention center hotel

The Metro Council is evaluating options to enhance the operations of its Oregon Convention Center (OCC) so as to maximize economic benefit for the region, including a proposed headquarters hotel. In recent years, demand for national conventions at the OCC has leveled off. The lack of a headquarters hotel with a large block of rooms adjacent to the OCC is cited as one of the reasons event planners elect to hold events in other cities.

In February, the Council agreed to study the alternatives, which include:

- Developing a 600-room, publicly owned, privately operated headquarters hotel
- Developing a small-scale privately owned and operated hotel with public financial support
- Providing enhanced financial incentives to prospective conventions, such as improved transportation and visitor service
- Changing the mission of the OCC to focus on attracting regional and local meetings
- Maintaining the status quo and increasing the OCC's levels of financial support for operations.

The studies are now available via the Metro website at www.metro-region.org/hotel.

The Metro Council is in the final stages of evaluating the alternatives. Analysis of the alternatives will be presented 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 6 at a Metro Council work session. The Metro Council will hold a public hearing at its 2 p.m. Sept. 20 meeting and is scheduled to vote at its 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27 meeting. All meetings are in the Metro Council chamber at 600 NE Grand Ave. in Portland.

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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 Kathryn Harrington, District 4 Rex Burkholder, District 5 Robert Liberty, District 6

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