November 2007

Rod Park

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 1 NEWS

A message from Rod Park

October turned out to be a "school" of salmon in the Sandy this month! Several important events happened last month celebrating the presence of salmon in the Sandy River. First was the Salmon Festival at Oxbow Park, which celebrated the historic connection, shared between people, nature and wild salmon.

The second event was a gala and auction celebrating Western River Conservancy's (WRC) Salmon in the Sandy project with support from Portland General Electric. Over the summer and into this fall, beautiful signature salmon sculptures could be seen around different parts of the region. If you missed checking them out, go to WRC's website (http://www.westernrivers.org) and click on the "Salmon for the Sandy" to view the 32 sculptures.

I had the opportunity to attend this gala and view the sculptures and was amazed at the work of the various artists. As a result of the hard work of various organizations, Sandy River salmon and steelhead now have a path from the slopes of Mount Hood to the Columbia Gorge and onward to the Paci c Ocean. The Sandy is the only free running river this close to a metropolitan region and it is right in our back yards! And soon, residents in East County will be able to access areas along the Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers. Check out WRC's website for more information.

— Rod Park

Rod Park represents District 1, which includes Fairview, Gresham, Happy Valley, Maywood Park, Troutdale, Wood Village, Damascus and portions of East Portland.

Council votes to continue studying building headquarters hotel

On September 27, the Metro Council voted to authorize the creation of a funding plan for the potential development of a 600-room publicly owned, privately operated headquarters hotel near the Oregon Convention Center (OCC).

Council did not make a nal decision on the actual development of a hotel, instead it requested a comprehensive nancing plan for the project including details of suf cient funding to minimize risk to Metro's general resources. Without this, the hotel will not be developed.

This newest decision allows another seven-month period to identify additional funding before a nal decision to occur in spring 2008.

Metro staff will negotiate with other public entities and potential bene ciaries of OCC to secure additional funding for the hotel project. Metro staff has been in contact with potential public and private partners to discuss their involvement in the discussion regarding the funding plan. Metro's chief operating of cer will report to council by Nov. 1 regarding the progress of these partnership discussions. Council could take action based on the staff report, if necessary, as early as Nov. 8. More information on the Convention Center hotel project, including the studies and analyses commissioned by Metro, can be found online at www.metro-region.org/hotel.