

Kathryn Harrington

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS



METRO

PEOPLE PLACES
OPEN SPACES

**Kathryn Harrington
represents
District 4, which
includes Northern
Washington
County, Cornelius,
Hillsboro, Forest
Grove, Northwest
Beaverton, Aloha,
Rock Creek, Bonny
Slope, Bethany,
Raleigh Hills, West
Slope, Cedar Mill
and Cedar Hills.**



Vibrant communities—Let's go downtown!

When we think about our communities, we often think of where we go to work, shop, dine out, meet friends for coffee, catch a movie, stroll the farmers' market, sit at the library and enjoy a movie. We love to gather. Downtowns are hubs of people activity. In my position as Metro Councilor, I get to spend time in many Downtowns across the region, and I can tell you that while no two are alike, all are extremely important to their citizens. Enhancing and enriching Downtown is a core component of most community visions.

Helping our local communities achieve their visions for Downtown is an important part of our long-term regional growth plan. Your regional government, Metro, has been working in tandem with your local governments on projects to continue improving the value and vibrancy of your Downtown. Some of these projects are in the form of land purchases for future redevelopment, contributions towards development or renovations, and transportation and livability improvements such as sidewalks, benches and attractive streetlights.

Metro considers these projects to be investments in community development. This kind of Downtown development will help us accommodate our expected population growth, without crippling infrastructure costs or undue impact to our surrounding rural areas.

Our mission in these projects is to encourage landowners and developers to work with the community to achieve their mutual vision for Downtown. As an example, the Town Theater project in downtown Hillsboro is one exciting new opportunity. The Metro Council recently authorized \$250,000 to support renovation of the old Town Theater. This investment combines with a commitment by the City of Hillsboro of \$750,000 to this project, to help realize a significant piece of its Downtown revitalization strategy.

In planning terms, Downtowns are part of the "Centers and Main Streets" strategy, centers of choice and activity, from employment and housing to education and entertainment, a variety of housing choices, arts and culture, and let's not forget fine food and drink! They truly are a place to be! In District 4, all of our Downtowns and Main Streets in Beaverton, Hillsboro, Forest Grove and Cornelius are benefiting from investments such as this, made over time by Metro with your local city governments.

I've had an exciting first year working with local government partners in District 4 to help realize your visions for vibrant Downtowns and overall quality of life, and I look forward to more of the same in the future.

— Kathryn Harrington

Metro appoints new councilor

The Metro Council unanimously voted at its Nov. 6 meeting to appoint Carlotta Collette as Metro Councilor for District 2, replacing Brian Newman, who resigned in October. Eleven residents of District 2 applied for the open position.

Following the vote, Collette resigned from her position on the Milwaukie City Council that she was elected to in 2004. Collette has managed her own communications consulting business and worked for 14 years on the staff of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

District 2 covers most of urban Clackamas County, including the cities of Gladstone, Johnson City, Lake Oswego, Milwaukie, Oregon City, Rivergrove and West Linn. It also includes a portion of Southwest Portland in Multnomah County.

Collette's appointment will run through Jan. 5, 2009.

Nature in Neighborhoods 2008 restoration grants open

Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods program is now accepting pre-applications for restoration and enhancement grants for restoration and education. Up to \$250,000 is available for projects in the 2008 grant cycle. Projects chosen will enable citizens and communities to enhance water quality or wildlife habitat.

The grants are open to community, school, faith, nonprofit, government and business groups. The only requirements are that projects are within the Metro service district boundary and applicants match their grant request with outside funding, in-kind services or volunteer hours.

Pre-applications are due Jan. 16, 2008. Selected pre-applicants will be invited to submit a final application due in March. Projects receiving funding will be announced in May.

Free grant writing workshops are offered for new grant-writers and interested individuals. To reserve a spot, call Janelle Geddes at 503-797-1550 or e-mail geddesj@metro.dst.or.us. For more information, visit www.metro-region.org/nature.

Metro invests in affordable housing fund

In response to the region's growing need for moderately priced housing, the Metro Council voted in October to invest \$1 million in seed money to create a permanent regional resource for affordable housing. The Regional Housing Choice Revolving Fund (RHCRF) would provide the incentive for a variety of public, private and charitable partners to invest in a \$10-\$20 million partnership to help protect affordable housing in the region. This fund would be managed by a nonprofit administrator and governed by a regional board of directors.

Metro's contribution is contingent upon the establishment of a fund with at least \$10 million in capital that fulfills Metro's predetermined objectives, Metro representation on the governing board, and Council confidence that the funds will satisfy professional standards. Council has set aside a period of two years during which these conditions must be met.

Funding could be used to extend low-interest loans to jump-start the development and preservation of affordable housing. For example, a \$10 million fund could catalyze the preservation of 250-350 affordable homes in the region every two years and could leverage an estimated \$40 million in public and private investments in the housing.

In addition, the fund would help implement Metro's 2040 Growth Concept by promoting mixed-use, mixed-income patterns of development in regional centers, town centers and transit corridors. The RHCRF would also promote best practices in green and sustainable design.

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

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David Bragdon

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Carl Hosticka, District 3
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