

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.**



This summer – Come shape your future, shape our region, define a legacy!

In March I wrote to you about a new major program underway to plan the future of our urban communities and rural lands. Now is the time for you to come participate, to come help shape your future!

Over the last 30 years, this region has grown by more than a million people. We've made conscious decisions to reinvest in our existing communities, minimize the impact of growth on existing neighborhoods, protect nature and use land more efficiently while maintaining productive farm and forest land, all while accommodating population growth and welcoming the economic opportunities it offers.

Your elected Metro Councilors, the Board of County Commissioners, and your city mayors and councilors will be making some choices on your behalf, hopefully with your input. These choices can support vibrant downtowns and neighborhood centers with mixed use development. These can include employment opportunities, your neighborhood coffee shop, grocery, retail outlets, restaurants and more. These may also include integrated neighborhood parks and trails, connected roadway grids and walkable and bikeable streets with good transit service. Come and let us know what matters to you.

One thing we have learned in recent years: No matter where new urban growth occurs, we all end up paying a significant fraction of the cost of new development and services. This is achieved through a combination of property taxes, operating levies, utility fees, school bonds programs and so forth. Money spent to construct roads, new schools and parks, fire and police stations and other infrastructure in new, expanding urban growth boundary areas is money that isn't available to support downtown redevelopment or park improvements in existing neighborhoods and communities. It's a challenging tradeoff to consider.

So while this big "Shape of the Region" project may seem like it's just a "Where" question – i.e. "Where will growth go?" – we also have to wrestle with the questions "How will we pay for it to go there?" and "Will the results be sustainable for decades?" Your current quality of life has been influenced by the decisions of prior generations. This is your opportunity to shape the future for yourself, your children, grandchildren and for generations to come. Please come tell us what factors you want to see addressed as we study and ultimately designate areas for expanded urban growth as well as areas to be protected for continued agriculture use and natural resource value.

Open houses are planned throughout our region in the coming weeks of summer. I know that it is a busy time, but this is your future, and the landscape of your future. Please bring yourselves, friends and family members to any of the open houses listed below.

continued

Urban and rural reserves open houses:

5 to 8 p.m. Monday, June 16

Beaverton Resource Center, 12500 SW Allen Blvd., Beaverton

5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 26

Forest Grove Community Auditorium, 1915 Main St., Forest Grove

5 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 7

Multnomah County East Building, 600 NE 8th St., Gresham

5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 10

Tualatin High School commons, 22300 SW Boones Ferry Road, Tualatin

5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 16

Clackamas County Public Services Building, Rooms 369 A & B, 2051 Kaen Road, Oregon City

For more information on these open houses, please contact Marcia Sinclair at marcia.sinclair@oregonmetro.gov or 503-797-1814. Check the Metro website for updated information on the open houses: www.oregonmetro.gov/reserves.

To view my March newsletter, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/harrington.

— Kathryn Harrington

Evaluating regional trail investment

To the delight of trail champions, citizens and local leaders, investments in a connected system of regional trails could be closer to reality if the newly launched Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails deems it a high priority for the region.

On Monday, May 7, the newly formed Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails held its first meeting followed by a reception, drawing over 70 interested citizens, business leaders and trail advocates. The meeting included a presentation on the history of non-motorized vehicles, a video introducing regional trails and visual displays of the 20 proposed regional trail packages. A trail “package” is a proposed trail or set of proposed trails that achieve a particular objective. For example, the “40 Mile Loop” is a trails package that completes a trail “hub” around the region.

As part of the “Connecting Green” initiative to “create the worlds greatest system of

parks, natural areas, and trails,” Metro launched the Blue Ribbon Committee in April to consider the value an off-street trail system could bring to the region, as well as possible strategies for trail expansion.

Dave Yaden, a public official with 35 years of service, will chair the 20-member committee that includes business and nonprofit leaders, health professionals and elected officials from throughout the metropolitan region. In addition to assessing the benefits of an enhanced trail system, the Metro Council has charged the committee with determining the level of commitment that should be dedicated to trail expansion and developing funding and policy strategies required to initiate improvement.

Over the next six months, from May to October, the Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails will continue to hold monthly meetings, on the first Monday of the month, from 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information on the Blue Ribbon Committee for Trails, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/committees

To find a trail near you, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/parks

Events in District 4

Lunch with the birds at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve

noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 11

Spend your lunch hour learning how to identify waterfowl and other birds. Spotting scopes, binoculars and field guides provided. Meet at the north viewing shelter next to the Clean Water Services treatment plant on Highway 219 south of Hillsboro. Cost is free and registration is not required.

For more information, call Sarah at 503-681-6278.

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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
Carlotta Collette, District 2
Carl Hosticka, District 3
Kathryn Harrington, District 4
Rex Burkholder, District 5
Robert Liberty, District 6

Auditor
Suzanne Flynn