

Kathryn Harrington

METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 NEWS | February 2009

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.



Agriculture: Providing significant economic value and food security

A personal message from Councilor Harrington

Farms large and small, both inside and outside our urban areas, provide significant economic contribution and food security to our community. They keep land in production, practicing principles of 'highest and best use,' changing crops to support our market needs. This flexible contribution to our state and local economy can be seen as true revenue glory – dollars¹. In addition to your local farmers

market and supermarket, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) providers also allow our households to benefit directly from locally grown produce².

In my adult life, I have had the opportunity to travel to many countries for business and pleasure, including to Finland. The events of World War II caused folks in Finland and many more in Europe to experience widespread deprivation and even starvation. As a result, Finland has invested over a long period of time in flexible agriculture infrastructure. Today a vast network of greenhouses is used for a thriving blooming flower industry. That infrastructure along with associated readiness plans ensure that a domestic food supply can be rapidly developed – grown - to feed Finland's population in the event of global food system disruption. They learned that they never want to go hungry again and have invested in the infrastructure and tested plans to switch as needed. Are we similarly prepared? Could we sustain ourselves in similar situations?

Farmers in our fertile Willamette Valley, here in Washington County, Clackamas County and Multnomah County can tell us that we have the soil to sustain our needs, and that those lands and that soil "stand ready." In the meantime, they keep those lands, that soil in production, for its current highest and best economic use.

The Metro 'Making the Greatest Place³ program is a multi-faceted program of policy choices dealing with land use, transportation and public investment. Do we wish our urban areas to grow out and reduce the nearby farm lands? Do you want the farm lands to be further away from your neighborhood, further away from your local farmers market, reduced in scope and capability? Moving forward, we too, like the citizens of Finland will need to make hard choices – do we want the flexibility to sustain ourselves in future times of need? Do we want to retain local control of our most basic needs?

There are consequences to our choices, for example, choosing more growth at the edge of the existing urban growth boundary (UGB) means reducing the health and contribution of our farm and nursery industries.

You have said time and time again that you value our nearby rural lands for their agriculture and natural resource contributions, including clean air and water. Our important work this year, throughout 2009, is intended to support your desire for a high quality, healthy, and vibrant urban-suburban lifestyle which includes nearby rural areas and their productive use.

continued



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I hope to see you participate in discussions with me at Metro open houses and community meetings, as well as at your local city council and county commission meetings.

- Kathryn Harrington

1: See "Oregon Agriculture and the Economy" at <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog/pdf/sr/sr1080.pdf> and summary statistics at <http://oregon.gov/ODA/docs/pdf/pubs/ff.pdf>

2: See more at <http://www.localharvest.org>

3: See www.oregonmetro.gov/greatestplace

Final chance to weigh in on the 2010-13 regional flexible funding recommendation

On January 30, 2009, the Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC), which provides technical advice to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) released a draft final recommendation for Metro's 2010-13 regional flexible funding allocation. Release of the draft recommendation kicked off an informal public comment opportunity that ends with a formal joint JPACT/Metro Council public hearing at 4 p.m. on February 12, 2009.

The public is urged to first review the proposed programs, projects and recommendations by visiting the project web site at www.oregonmetro.gov/regionalflexiblefund and then submit comments in one of the following ways:

- online through the project web site
- email trans@oregonmetro.gov (regional flexible funding in the subject line)
- fax 503-797-1930 (regional flexible funding in the subject line)
- mail to Regional flexible funding allocation, Metro Planning and Development Center, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232
- in person at the public hearing on February 12, 2009. To ensure the accuracy of the public record, please also submit a written version of your testimony. Make sure your name is on all written material.

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 4 p.m. in the Metro Council Chamber, 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland. (Take Tri-Met bus #6 or MAX to the Oregon Convention Center.) Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. Testimony times are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Metro is ADA accessible. Listening devices for the hearing impaired are available upon request at the hearing. Interpreter services for limited English speakers or the hearing impaired may be arranged with a 48-hour notice. To request these services, call Pat Emmerson at 503-797-1551 or T.D.D. (503) 797-1804.

Councilor Kathryn Harrington named Metro's Deputy Council President

Appointed by Metro Council President David Bragdon and confirmed by the Metro Council, Metro Councilor Kathryn Harrington is the new Deputy Council President. The Deputy Council President presides over the Council when the President is absent and assists with management of the Council's legislative agenda and calendar.

The term of the Deputy begins at the first Council meeting in January and lasts one year. The appointment must be confirmed by a majority of the Council. Metro Councilor Robert Liberty served as Deputy Council President in 2008.

Harrington serves as Metro's lead Council liaison on the Regional Reserves Steering Committee, a group that works to identify and designate urban and rural reserve areas. Harrington's other current Metro assignments include serving as Council liaison to the Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation (JPACT) and the Waste Transport Contract Committee.

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

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