

METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION RECREATION COMMISSION

Resolution No. 07-19

For the Purpose of Recognizing George Forbes's Contributions to the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission.

WHEREAS, George Forbes has served as a Board Member and Officer of the MERC Commission since November 2001, providing exemplary leadership and wise counsel to the agency; and during his tenure, the agency produced notable achievements that include:

- Development of a five-year strategic business plan that provides MERC with an innovative blueprint for its continued growth as a premiere public venue management agency.
- Created MERC's first Values Statement with unprecedented employee engagement. The five values—Respect, Excellence, Teamwork, Innovation and Community—reflect the agency's aspirations.
- Worked effectively with regional stakeholders to advocate for the development of a convention headquarters hotel adjacent to the Oregon Convention Center. Forbes' steadfast leadership helped achieve significant milestones that include the selection of a hotel development team by the Portland Development Commission and gaining Metro's commitment to evaluate the feasibility of a convention headquarters hotel.
- Implemented an enterprise wide Event Business Management System to enhance MERC's capacity to more effectively manage its business, financial, events and sales operations.
- Developed an innovative, performance-based National Sales, Marketing and Convention Services Agreement with the Portland Oregon Visitors Association to ensure the Oregon Convention Center is effectively positioned to secure premium national convention business.
- Demonstrated environmental stewardship and leadership by achieving the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) certification for the Oregon Convention Center.
- The Portland Expo Center was connected to the region's lightrail transportation system with the development of the Interstate MAX Lightrail line service.
- Secured the hospitality industry's agreement to fund the expansion of the Oregon Convention Center.
- Provided effective oversight of a multi-year construction project that doubled the size and renovated the Oregon Convention Center, making it the largest convention center on the Pacific Northwest. The \$116 million construction project was completed on time and under budget.
- Secured \$1.8 million from the Metro Tourism Opportunity and Competitiveness Account (MTOCA) to make investments in MERC to maximize the competitiveness, financial viability, economic impact, and continued success of the Oregon Convention Center.
- Facility infrastructure and system enhancements were made at Oregon Convention Center, Portland Expo Center, and Portland Center for the Performing Arts venues to enhance energy efficiencies, reduce operating costs, advantage emerging technologies, and improve customer and patron experiences.

WHEREAS, the Commission and its staff appreciate George Forbes' dedicated service as Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Commission,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Commission thanks George Forbes for his service, leadership, quick wit, thoughtful counsel, and enthusiasm as a MERC Commissioner.

Passed by the Commission on June 27, 2007.

Approved as to Form:
Daniel B. Cooper, Metro Attorney



Don Trotter - Vice Chair

By:  _____



Janice Marquis - Secretary-Treasurer