

2005 Regional Livability Summit
Connecting People, Policy & Practice: Creating Livable Communities
March 3 & 4, 2005

PROCEEDINGS

The Summit began with an opening reception on March 3rd with political cartoonist Jack Ohman, and music by pianist Janice Scroggins.

Close to 200 people participated in this year's Regional Livability Summit, representing a broad range of interests from throughout the region. The Summit is the annual networking and information-sharing event for people in the Portland area who are involved in shaping the future of their communities. This year we had increased participation from business representatives and Washington and Clark County residents. Participants gave strong reviews to the speaker presentations, and felt that the summit helped them strengthen the relationships that make our collaborative work possible.

Where Are We Now and Where Are We Headed? The State of the Region

Sheila Martin, Director of the Institute of Portland Metropolitan Studies at Portland State University.

Please call 503-294-2889 if you would like to request a CD of Dr. Martin's powerpoint presentation.

Community Caucuses

We split into six groups: Clackamas County, Clark County/I-5 Corridor, Washington County, and three Portland groups. Each group discussed numerous issues of interest to the participants, began to build relationships with each other, and sought ways to work together.

Awards Presentation

Jim Labbe, Urban Conservationist for the Audubon Society of Portland, received this year's **Robert L. Liberty Regional Leadership Award**, in recognition of his exceptional work leading citizen efforts to shape regional plans for protecting 20,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat.

CLF also honored **Mike Houck** with a special **Lifetime Achievement Award**. While we have no doubt that Mike will have many more achievements in his lifetime, we felt it was an appropriate time to honor his many accomplishments and tireless work over the past 30 years for our urban parks, habitat lands, wildlife and waterways.

Talking Smart About Growth: How Portlanders can learn from and lead the nation

David Goldberg, Communications Director for Smart Growth America

To request an audio CD of Mr. Goldberg's keynote address, which includes five key messages to use when talking about growth and development, email teresa@clfuture.org or call 503-294-2889.

A few highlights:

“We’re fumbling toward something like a CLF right now in Atlanta, and interestingly it’s being led by the business community. We hit the wall in Atlanta with transportation, water, and now housing affordability, and the business community is concerned that they won’t be able to recruit people anymore to come to Atlanta. So they’re leading the charge.”

“Who decided that these automobile-only suburbs were the best environments for raising kids? Who determined that the natural habitat of kids below 16 was the rear seat of an SUV? I’m here to tell that you that an urban environment that functions well is far superior to what we call kidland, which sucks for kids. They can’t go anywhere. My oldest kid at home now, who’s 15, for the last three years has been able to get around and do stuff on his own. He goes to get his own haircut, goes to the library, goes to meet his friends down on the square, walks to soccer practice.... I think these things are incredibly important for kids, and I know they’re important for parents.”

Straight Talk About Measure 37: A Community Conversation

Measure 37, passed by Oregon voters in November, requires local and state governments to compensate private property owners when a land use regulation restricts the use of private property and reduces its fair market value, or waive the land use regulation. This measure has enormous implications for the future of our communities, putting at risk the things we care about: vital, well-planned neighborhoods, access to nearby nature, healthy working farms and scenic Oregon landscapes.

Following a briefing on the measure by Mary Kyle McCurdy, Staff Attorney for 1000 Friends of Oregon, participants discussed some larger questions related to Measure 37: How do we re-frame the public dialogue around our values, values that many people share, so that we move toward sustainability and justice in our communities?

To request an audio CD of Ms. McCurdy’s comments, and David Goldberg’s summary of points made in our discussion, email teresa@clfuture.org or call 503-294-2889.