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Post-Primary Report to Supporters of the David Bragdon for Metro Campaign

David Bragdon

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rhetorically imply that it *can't* be done, and set up false choices. My greatest respect goes to those who make real choices, and tell me it *can* be done. **Amanda Fritz**, an ardent defender of watershed protection and a neighborhood leader in Southwest Portland, is just such a remarkable mind. She swashbuckles bureaucrats with one hand while gently yanking ostriches' heads out of the sand with the other.

Meeting **Ted Gilbert** this spring was another rare elixir for both heart and head. He blends social conscience with commercial success, to make sure that an increasingly prosperous Portland includes us all. As a profitable builder and property manager and as a leader of the non-profit Home-Ownership One Street at a Time (HOST), Ted reminds me that the marketplace can indeed do some wonderful things — and needs to be just as efficient in correcting some of the not-so-wonderful externalities, such as young people's loss of the realistic aspiration of homeownership. Many other community development leaders also gave generously of their housing ideas. I will need continued advice and support from people like them.

The entire region shares my debt to incumbent **Patricia McCaig**, who has valiantly served four years in the seat I am now seeking. Without her energy and passion, we might not even have a Greenspaces acquisition fund today. **Mike Thorne**, a finely-tuned analytic machine with global range, continually redefines "regionalism" for me, pointing out how Portland's quality of life is influenced by nuclear proliferation in Pakistan or rural education in Umatilla County. I appreciate his support and the reminder that we live in an interdependent world and state. Old friends like **Warren Rosenfeld** and **Al Solheim** were enthusiastic and early supporters, and embodiments of the fact that livability also includes economic vitality, creative arts with scrap metal, and "recycling." They do more to shape this community in a week than a Metro Councilor can do in four years.

The most practical intellectual gift came from architect **Gary Reddick**, who let us use his firm's office for volunteer phone banks: it was suitably appropriate to call voters and ask them to vote for a better city, while I sat surrounded by Gary's bold sketches of what that city could look like.

I'm grateful to the many people, mentioned and unmentioned, who have spent time sharing their ideas with me and who believe I could do the daunting job of taking these much-needed ideas to the Metro Council. No candidate could have better tutors and supporters. Thank you! Keep those ideas coming.

Thank You for the Nepalese Hot Momos

Thank you to the many friends who opened their homes for coffees, brunches and dinners where David met the neighbors. It was a great way to talk with voters in depth, and we'll continue it in the fall.

Thank You Hall of Famers

"I haven't canvassed for years — I had forgotten how many great stories you get on the doorstep. This is better than a novel!"

— **MIKE LINDBERG**, CITY COMMISSIONER EMERITUS & HALL OF FAMER CANVASSER, in a torrential downpour on S.W. Corbett Street in April 1998, canvassing with David Bragdon.

On rare occasions the Gods gather on Mount Olympus to discuss the good old days: Athena reminisces about the past glory of democratic participation, while Pan recalls what good music we had before this grunge craze. In Portland politics, the Gods look

back on the halcyon days of the 1970s. This year, some of the Gods came down from Olympus to help us younger Mortals: humble thanks to **Peg Henwood**, who Godmothered several phone



On the road to a better city in 1974.

banks. The fabled "volunteer coordinator" of the grassroots Re-elect Goldschmidt campaign who taught me how to canvass in 1976 is still helping (and teaching!) me in 1998. The annals of canvassing have few peers like **Ron Buel** and **Darr Durham** or **Ernie Bonner**. Once upon a time, dogs from Lents to St. Johns chased them right into City Hall, where they laid plans for the city we enjoy today. They took their dog-bite scars and passion for Portland back out on to the streets for me this spring. **Mike Lindberg** came out of "canvass retirement" to knock on doors in Johns Landing, where he proved to be either the best or the worst of canvassers: because he knew virtually everyone, it took him about an hour per house — but they all said they would vote for me. Meantime, up the hill, **Caryl Waters** and **John Perry** spread the word to their neighbors, reminding me that the battle they organized to preserve Lair Hill neighborhood from traffic is still going on. The Secretary of Shoe Leather, **Phil Keisling**, walked Sellwood with me in 1998, appropriately to some of the same streets I had once canvassed in his behalf in 1988. Big footprints indeed: **Thank You** to all you Olympians of politics — including the founding members of the Lenox Hill Democratic Club, like **Paul** and **Nancy Bragdon** — who taught me about the grass roots many years ago. Please walk another mile this fall.

Where is Metro District 7?

Our district covers both the southwest and southeast side of the Willamette River. District 7 includes portions of Milwaukie.

