



“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”

BERNIE FOSTER
Founder/Publisher

BOBBIE DORE FOSTER
Executive Editor

TED BANKS
Advertising Manager

JERRY FOSTER
Account Executive

LISA LOVING
News Editor

BRIAN STIMSON
Reporter

DAVID KIDD
Graphic Designer

MONICA J. FOSTER
Seattle Office Coordinator

JULIE KEEFE
SUSAN FRIED
Photographers



The Skanner Newspaper, established in October 1975, is a weekly publication, published each Wednesday by IMM Publications Inc., 415 N. Killingsworth St., P.O. Box 5455, Portland, OR 97228. Telephone (503) 285-5555. E-mail: info@theskanner.com World Wide Web site: <http://www.theskanner.com> Fax: (503) 285-2900

The Skanner is a member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and West Coast Black Publishers Association.

All photos submitted become the property of *The Skanner*. We are not responsible for lost or damaged photos either solicited or unsolicited.

© 2011 *The Skanner*. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION PROHIBITED.

Knowing What's Important Can Change Your Life!

Subscribe to *The Skanner* — don't miss an issue!

Please sign me up for:

- 1 year \$74
- 2 year \$140
- New Subscription
- Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____ Phone _____

Mail with check or money order to: **The Skanner**
P.O. Box 5455
Portland, OR 97228

Who's Next at the PDC? It Matters!

Portland Development Commission is looking for a new executive director, to replace Bruce Warner, retiring after 5 years at the helm. This Friday, Jan 28, you can let the commission know what kind of leader you want to see at a meeting from 1 -2 pm at the Portland Development Commission, 222 NW Fifth Ave. It matters. Here's why.

Warner recently told OPB that he was most proud of his legacy of repairing relationships with minority communities and with residents of N/NE Portland. We agree.

Bruce got off to a rocky start at Portland's crucial development agency. He arrived from Oregon Department of Transportation, an agency with an abysmal track record of fairness to minority communities. We knew he had experience managing \$2 billion in funding and 4,600 workers. We did not know if he had the wisdom to use PDC's \$275 million budget to develop projects for our communities. As it turned out, he became an exceptional leader who made a commitment, backed by the mayor and city council, to fairness and justice in economic development. Equity is the non-negotiable foundation of any sustainability policy.

During the last few years, we have seen real progress in Portland. The North/Northeast development initiative is targeting development dollars to existing residents and businesses in the Interstate and Convention center urban renewal areas. At the Killingsworth Station project, for example, 25 percent of the construction dollars are going to

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Bernie Foster



minority firms and workers.

More than 20 percent of the workers on PDC construction projects are now people of color. On the South Waterfront project, 47 percent of the apprentices were minorities and women, far surpassing the goal of 20 percent, and 35 percent of the workforce quali-

ties in the construction industry to people of color. That's the key to benefiting our communities.

In the past, none of these areas had received this critical financial support.

PDC has built partnerships with minority contractors, providing technical assistance and helping them grow their capacity. PDC is funding vital projects in Gateway and Lents as well as in North and Northeast Portland — projects like Bradley Angle's Healing Roots Center, which helps African American victims of domestic violence; the June Key Delta sorority facility in North Portland; and the rebuilding of the Billy Webb Elks Club. It takes a lot more work to

development and the OHSU Sustainability Center.

PDC's executive director must bring the connections, the skills and the commitment to working in partnership with Portland's minority and urban communities to bring grassroots economic growth to our city.

Many candidates have vision and ability; it's what they will they do with them that counts. Our concern is that any external candidate will need up to two years to get a feel for Portland's big picture.

As the search committee looks for candidates with the potential to take Portland's development to the next level, we urge them to take a long, hard look at leaders within the agency. Inside candidates don't generate the excitement of the new and unknown, but they should have a track record and partnerships with Portland's communities of color. When it comes to creating development that supports our communities, this has to be the top priority.

Whoever is appointed as the PDC's new executive director should aggressively pursue fair, just, sustainable development policies. They must come to the job with strong relationships with communities of color and a track record that inspires our trust. Make your voice heard by attending the meeting. *What Do You Think?*

They must come to the job with strong relationships with communities of color and a track record that inspires our trust

fied as minorities, women and emerging small businesses (MWESB).

The Portland Plan notes that about 13 percent of the city's jobs, 51,000 of them, are located in commercial corridors in neighborhoods. So it makes sense to help local small businesses grow because they create more job opportunities. And, after years of discrimination, it is vital to open up well-paid jobs and opportuni-

carry out these small, incremental projects, but they make a big difference.

PDC staff members, such as John Jackley who is the face of the agency for many of these projects, have shown the vision, the desire and the ability to work with our community, and to get the resources out of the door.

Much more needs to be done. And opportunities are underway, in the shape of the Rose Quarter

You can post your comments on www.theskanner.com

Respect Oregonians' Historic 'Yes'

A year ago Oregonians glowed under the national spotlight. Facing a severe fiscal crisis brought on by the recession, Oregonians voted for a modest tax increase on the wealthiest households and corporations to help protect our schools, our health and human services and our public safety system.

The resounding victory of Measures 66 and 67 demonstrated that Oregonians had cut through the fog of misinformation churned by big business during the campaign. Oregonians said “yes” to protecting important public structures and Oregon's economy.

But as the anniversary of the historic vote arrives, efforts are underway to undermine the will of Oregon's voters. Some lawmakers have introduced bills that completely undo or chip away at Measures 66 and 67. And that's why Oregonians must once again raise their voices in defense of the public structures that we value.

That bills seeking to undo the tax measures have surfaced comes as no surprise. Even after losing, opponents of the measures never stopped campaigning and have persisted in spreading misinformation.

The state's continued revenue shortfall, unfortunately, has provided opponents of the measures an opportunity to continue to mislead. Inexplicably, they blame the

NEW COLUMNIST

Chuck Sheketoff

measures for our revenue deficit.

The cause of the shortfall is no mystery. The Great Recession was deeper and longer than the state economists assumed when they issued the projections that formed the basis of the 2009 legislature's budget-balancing package. That package included not only painful

income tax returns fully filed, state economists now say that Measure 66 alone is bringing in an additional \$333 million this budget period, and next budget cycle will generate \$245 million. The amount generated goes down because on the first day of next year (2012) the wealthiest households will see their top tax rate drop 10 percent.

Besides the efforts to repeal the measures outright, some lawmakers have proposed legislation that

Cutting the income tax on capital gains is even more insidious than simply repealing Measure 66, because it confers preferential tax treatment for the fortunate few who enjoy investment income

cuts to key services but also the revenue instruments that became Measures 66 and 67.

Oregon's budget would be in worse shape had Oregon voters said “no” to the measures. Months after the vote, a state economist told the legislature, “It's safe to say that without Measures 66 and 67 we would be in absolutely lower level of revenue than we are now.” With one year of personal

would partially override the will of the voters by creating a work penalty. The proposals would lower the income tax on capital gains — income earned not from a paycheck but from the profitable sale of assets such as stocks, bonds and real estate. It's the rich who disproportionately have income from capital assets, so a cut in the income tax on capital gains would undo much of Measure 66's

increase in the marginal tax rate for Oregon households making over \$250,000 a year.

In one sense, cutting the income tax on capital gains is even more insidious than simply repealing Measure 66, because it confers preferential tax treatment for the fortunate few who enjoy investment income. Stated differently, it would mean that Oregon would tax income earned from a paycheck at a higher rate than income derived from investments.

Handing a big tax break to the wealthiest Oregonians at the expense of everyone else could not be more at odds with the will of Oregonians reflected in last year's historic vote. Such a move would take needed money away from our schools and other critical public services — exactly the opposite of what voters demanded a year ago.

As the 2011 legislative session gets underway, some lawmakers are prepared to do what millions of campaign dollars from big business could not accomplish in January 2010. That's why Oregonians again must raise their voices in defense of the public structures that we value and ensure that the legislature respects the will of voters.

Chuck Sheketoff is executive director of the Oregon Center for Public Policy.