

Jerri Doctor

I am starting with the greatest challenges I see facing Whither Portland followed by some good, bad and ugly observations.

1) The largest future challenge and/or question: With younger and newer population increase, will there be new vision and leadership? In other words, we old timers are dying off or fading away and have we prepared the next generation or two for leadership roles?

2) Future challenge of changing from a Mayor/Commission form of city government to a strong and experienced City Manager. I suggest this would provide PROFESSIONAL leadership versus often inexperienced elected officials. Feel this might prove critical in specific department areas: ie water/air quality, traffic management, police, fire and public safety, density and zoning and might I add, even homeless population.

The GOOD:

Growth of PSU and OHSU as major job and idea incubators. Development of Park Blocks with Art Museum, History Society, and performing arts as anchors in vibrant city center. This includes creation of Pioneer Square in center serving as public forum space. Especially important due to loss of major, quality newspaper and decline of remaining ONE.

Realization that Portland is a River City leading to cleanup and development of Willamette River including vital sewer project. Also, addition of Esplanade on East side of Willamette. (Obvious problem of freeway location limiting future projects on East side.) Glad OMSI is there as anchor.

The creation of “village like” neighborhoods: Alberta/Mississippi corridor; Hawthorne and Belmont, etc. Followed by massive re-gentrification of entire neighborhoods, homes, restaurants and small businesses. Much like the “village” of NW Portland. (Success breeds huge parking and traffic problems!)

Which leads directly into the BAD:

TRAFFIC — brought on by the “success” of urban density and well-planned downtown development. Hooray for Tri Met and Light Rail Max but ---answer???

HOMELESSNESS - Major issue - should be the focus of all civic groups (Where are City Club, downtown business groups, service clubs and churches?) There has to be the money and leadership to at least provide basic human needs: ie providing toilets and showers in large semi-like vans, tents or unused buildings. There also could be eating camps or tents. Realize this will

never solve the problems of the mentally and physically ill, the drug population, etc. but at the most it would address the daily needs of this part of our fellow human beings lives and give hope to some of our city's most needy. I served on Transition Projects Board for a number of years along with the late, great Lloyd Anderson. Jean De Masters was then chair and as I look back we had it easy addressing the homeless population! We didn't face the insurmountable drug and mentally ill problems. Amen.

Just wanted to add that I LOVE Portland and although we now live in Palm Springs, our hearts will always be there. We CARE and realize that we are now facing some of the same problems, (especially with our homeless neighbors here,)that Portland has. We are all in this together but I haven't given up hope as I come from the generation that put men on the moon, changed our lives with cell phones and computers and has driverless cars!