

Fairview 15

Taping Date: August 28, 2009

Host: Stephanie Somanchi

Guests:

Rod Park – Metro Councilor

Joe Gall – City Administrator

1. Tell me about Blue Lake Park. Who runs it? Where is it?

Currently the park provides swimming, a spray ground for small children, picnic opportunities, an event center for catered gatherings, horse shoes, volleyball and playing field space among other activities. The park is located off of Blue Lake Road in the City of Fairview and is run by Metro. The park is much loved by the community and is very heavily used during the summer months.

2. What kind of improvements are coming to Blue Lake Park?

Metro is planning to develop a Nature and Golf Learning Center at Blue Lake Regional Park and complete a number of other upgrades to the park. The project includes a 9-hole golf course, 6-hole pitch and putt, driving range and a golf/operations building. A walking trail will be installed around the golf course. We have a similar feature at Glendoveer golf course that is very popular.

The existing Lake House Event Center will be replaced so that larger events can be held at the lake throughout the year. The new lake house will be in the same location with fantastic views of the lake and Mount Hood.

A key component of the project is the restoration of an existing wetland and developing high quality habitat that can provide educational opportunities. Our consultant team is looking for ways to incorporate the lake into the design and to enhance water quality. Blue Lake Park and the undeveloped portion of the site are located within a groundwater protection area that contains a number of drinking water wells for the City of Portland.

Another improvement project is the completion of a portion of the 40-mile loop trail adjacent to the park. Currently in the design phase, this project would connect over 10 miles of additional trail along or near Marine Dr. Funding for the design and engineering phase of the trail connection comes from a congressional earmark from Representative Earl Blumenhauer. The trail will provide users access to blue lake and will have a connection to the new walking trail.

3. What kind of amenities/activities will be available at the park?

All of the amenities discussed previously will be available to patrons using the park. Our objective is to improve existing facilities and provide better circulation and use space

more efficiently within the park. The golf course related improvements will provide the community with more recreational opportunities. The idea is to grow young golfers and to provide an opportunity for experienced golfers to enjoy to the course as well.

4. Who will be organizing the improvements?

Metro will be completing the majority of the improvements to the park. Waterleaf Architecture is the design firm that is heading up the consultant team working on the design of the golf project. Metro will work closely with the City of Fairview to complete the land use and building permit review process and the City of Portland to set standards to protect the drinking water supply.

5. Are there green/sustainable attributes to this undertaking?

There are a number of green/sustainable attributes that are planned to be incorporated in the project. The golf course will be developed to meet the highest level of environmental sustainability possible. Metro is working with Salmon Safe to develop a pilot program that can be applied to other golf courses and will include best management practices, operational and monitoring procedures. Metro will also be designing the golf course to obtain certification through the Audubon sanctuary program. Metro will expect the golf course operator to meet performance standards to protect water quality and natural resources.

Metro is also partnering with Energy Trust of Oregon and has been selected to participate in the pilot Net Zero program. This program is helping us to incorporate energy saving features and practices into the design of the lake house. We will be evaluating the potential for wind and solar power generation and will employ advanced techniques in energy modeling. The building will be designed to meet a minimum of Gold LEED building. Site improvements are likely to incorporate infiltration of stormwater, green building walls, local and sustainably produced materials in the construction process and recycled materials.

6. How will it be funded?

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The project will be funded through the sale of bonds. Metro will contract with an operator to run the golf course and Lake House event center. These operators may be asked to make some improvements as part of the contract for operating these facilities.

7. What is the improvement timeline?

Design and engineering is underway and is expected to be completed by next spring. Metro will be working with the City of Fairview to complete the land use review and approval process by early 2010. It is expected that the Lake House will be the first improvement to occur within the park. Golf course construction is weather dependent and will likely take more than a year from the ground breaking to have the course grown

in and playable. All construction will be coordinated and staged to minimize impacts on the surrounding neighborhood and on the use of the park during the peak summer season.

8. Will the park be open to everyone?

Yes, the park will continue to be open to community. Metro is committed to the community and the region to provide open space, park amenities and recreational opportunities at Blue Lake Regional Park.

9. Are there fees for the park? Will they vary as the park improves? Who benefits from the fees?

Metro currently charges \$5.00 per car as an entrance fee to the park. Golf fees are expected to be reasonably priced to attract young and new golfers. All fees will be used to offset operational costs in the park.

10. How does this project affect Fairview?

The project has a number of positive benefits for the City of Fairview and the region. Metro is investing approximately \$11.5 million dollars to improve an older park facility that serves more than 250,000 visitors per year. This project will be an economic boost to the local community in terms of construction jobs and continued revenue to operate and offer services in the park.