



## PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

### RESTORE FOREST PARK COMMUNITY MEETING

DATE: August 10, 2015

TIME: 7:00 PM-8:30 PM

LOCATION: Willis Community Center, 360 NW Greenleaf Rd.

#### Meeting Outcomes

- Inform the public about Restore Forest Park project
- Understand concerns, and
- Answer questions

#### Meeting Summary

- I. Twenty-one people attended the community meeting. Meeting introductions were done and the facilitator went through a set of ground rules, asking the audience to add any that they felt were needed. One additional ground rule was to use Latin names for the plants. This was said in jest and got the meeting off to an amicable start. All participants agreed to the ground rules which were:
  - i. *Listen carefully and speak honestly.*
  - ii. *Respect the views and opinions of others.*
  - iii. *Keep an open mind.*
  - iv. *Critique issues, not people or organizations.*
  - v. *Allow everyone the opportunity to speak once before speaking twice.*
  - vi. *If disruption occurs, give permission for a minute of total silence to restore order*
- II. Presentation by Portland Parks & Recreation Staff and Forest Park Conservancy
  - a. Kendra Petersen-Morgan, Ecologist with Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R). In a PowerPoint presentation, Kendra presented "Restore Forest Park" a long-term invasive species management strategy to reduce the impacts of invasives of the structure and function of Forest

#### Administration

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Park. Kendra described the negative impacts that invasive plant species are having on the natural ecosystem. She told the audience about the efforts to date to remove the invasive plants and subsequent revegetation. She described the need for removal, the methods to be used and the impacts removal will have on Forest Park. She outlined the schedule, which will begin on August 17, 2015. Restore Forest Park effort is part of a 20-year effort to “Renew Forest Park”.

- b. Renee Myers, Executive Director, Forest Park Conservancy (FPB) spoke about the partnerships in place to help in the invasive species control efforts, and conservation activities. She also shared information on the pre-and-post vegetation monitoring work to document change from the restoration work.

### III. Questions from the Audience

- a. Several questions were received on index cards from the audience. Each question was directed to the appropriate responder by the facilitator.
  - Q. What is the level of support from Commissioner Fritz and the other commissioners and from Mayor Hales?
  - A. The level of commitment is high. Restore Forest Park project has funding for the next 3 years. We will continue to seek funding for the remainder of the effort with help from our partners.
  - Q. What are the protocols for invasive species removal including: holly, “dollar plant”, others?
  - A. Invasive species removal protocols are very specific to the particular species being targeted. Holly is removed by cutting the stump and following up with a targeted stump treatment with herbicide to avoid re-sprouting.

In general, throughout Forest Park invasive species are addressed by numerous programs. Over half of the park is enrolled in the “Protect the Best” program. There are programs to help remove and control invasive plants on private property that are coordinated by West Multnomah Soil and Water

Conservation District and implemented by FPC. Portland Parks & Recreation has a long-standing program called the No Ivy League which works inside the Park; educating and informing people about the threat of invasive species through stewardship events. There is a ban on selling ivy in both Oregon and Washington states. Q. What is the cost per acre for the ivy removal project?

- A. Costs are approximately \$3,500 per acre for a site that is in poor ecological health, and \$600 per acres for a site in good ecological health.
- Q. I'd like a description, year by year, of the succession from a sprayed mat of well-established ivy on a steep slope, to native vegetation.
- A. Kendra described the first few years of a restoration project. In the first year, ivy leaves begin to wither and die and by the first spring following treatment there is often an abundance of spring wildflowers like trillium, wood violet and miner's lettuce that populate the site. Over time as the ivy dies more bare ground is visible and available for natural regeneration from the previously suppressed seed bank and/or reseeding from existing tree canopy. If natural regeneration is not sufficient active revegetation will occur through the installation of native trees and shrubs and reseeding of forbs.
- Do FPC and PP&R have a position/input on Metro's decisions about what recreation (especially mountain bike trails) will be provided in the Metro acquisition properties north and west of the Park? There were several follow up questions on this topic.
- A. This is still in the discussion phase. There is no position from either entity at this time.
- Q. What kind of outreach is occurring inside urbanized neighborhoods (both Portland and in nearby Washington

County) that may provide “nature-starved” people an opportunity to enjoy Forest Park as they volunteer some time? Many property owners near Forest Park love the park, yet are stretched to care for their own acreage.

- A. There are many programs within Parks as well as other groups such as FPC that conduct outreach and involve community members in caring for the park. There are “Friends” groups, youth groups, environmental education groups and more that work to get people into the park and interested in caring for it. However, more outreach and engagement work can always be done.

#### **IV. Conclusion of Meeting**

- a. The meeting closed with information on how to follow up on the Restore Forest Park efforts. Kendra Petersen-Morgan passed out her business card to those requesting it.