

Nov. 28, 2006
Blue Lake Meeting

Notes from Question and Answer session

Why is Interlachen PUD well #4 not visible on Metro's site analysis map? It should be added. (citizen comment)

Will there be an IGA between Metro and Interlachen PUD, similar to what Metro is proposing to do with Portland? (citizen question)

Jim Desmond, Metro Parks Director said Metro would be happy to explore an IGA with Interlachen's PUD.

How will you eradicate the blackberry? (citizen question)

Elaine Stewart, Metro biologist, explained how restoration activities on the site would be conducted, first removing the blackberry and then replanting and maintaining aggressively until the native plants can compete.

Good project overall but more important is the issue of the lake itself. This lake is dying (natural cycle of lakes). 300K people a year visit this park. This should be Metro's top priority. (citizen comment)

Several people indicated agreement with previous statement.

Questions about golf layout. (citizen comment)

Answered by DesignWorkshop staff.

I really like the community aspect of golf, the democratization of golf, for example municipal golf course in Lake Oswego – at one time was only played by seniors. In Lake Oswego lots of players belong to private clubs. At the Lake Oswego municipal course – they bought up tee times and opened it up to kids and families. Great community building. Now we have a waiting list for young people who want to participate. Parents are the limiting factor. (citizen comment)

This idea sounds great for families getting to know each other and the same for kids. (citizen comment)

Appreciate the community aspect of the golf course design. Particularly like the idea of the walking trail and other improvements that benefit the general public. But what do you have budgeted for cleaning up the lake? (citizen question)

All we've heard about the lake is studies. We are willing to help. (citizen comment)

This year you had a contaminated lake. Metro had to post warnings regarding the blue green algae. Yet you are building a golf course on this lake. (citizen comment)

Copper sulfate is the solution to the algae problem. Lake Oswego uses it. (citizen comment)

With the lake in this condition, we can't sell our property. (citizen comment)

The challenge for Metro is to improve the lake. (citizen comment)

How are you going to pay for golf course when you can't properly maintain the lake due to lack of funding? (citizen question)

Metro staff explained that the financial analysis for this project is not complete but that the creation of the Nature and Golf Learning Center would be funded by a combination of grants, one time dedicated funds from the Multnomah County parks transfer to Metro and revenue bonds. Funds for the golf course project will not take away from management of Blue Lake Park.

Solar bee? Won't work – she agrees. (citizen comment)

Can you give me names of who to contact regarding the lake issues? (citizen question)

Teri Dresler, Parks deputy director indicated that she is the staff point person on the lake issues.

Who would operate the golf course? (citizen question)

Outside or private operator, we hope. Similar to the arrangement we have at Glendoveer Golf Course. (Metro staff).

If chemicals were detected in the aquifer, what would happen? (citizen question)

Detector systems would give early warning. These detectors are designed in such a way that they detect a problem far before the chemicals are in contact with the aquifer. (Tom Callabrese)

Traffic problems? How will you address this? (citizen question)

Foot traffic is also an issue. Need safe places to walk for everyone. (citizen comment)

Part of the next phase of design work would have to address issues such as studying traffic impacts and other details. However, it is not anticipated that there would be a very high traffic volume at the course compared to the amount of visitors Blue Lake Regional Park receives. 175 parking spaces for the learning center are planned. (Metro staff)

How wide is the safety zone along Blue Lake Road? (citizen question)

150 feet. (Design Workshop)

I can support the golf course as long as it's environmentally safe – and cleaning up lake will only add to that. (citizen comment)

What is the depth of groundwater levels in your study? (citizen question)

25 feet. Also analyzing shallower depths such as 10 feet. (Tom Callabrese)

This is designated a high risk area by city of Portland Water Bureau. No clay layer. (citizen comment)

Are there other communities building golf courses over aquifers? (citizen question)

Yes Palm Springs – don't know depth (Design Workshop)

Staff from Design Workshop explained the construction of USGA greens which acts as a natural barrier to prevent any chemicals leeching through to the ground water.

Metro should research information about a floating green on a lake at a golf course in Coeur d' Lane Idaho. USGA has done long term study on this issue.. (Stone Creek golf course superintendent)

Too bad it has taken so long for Metro to get to this project. Master Plan completed in 2001. (citizen comment)

Water quality. Sonar applied to Lake. Copper sulfate applied. Adding water to Lake also done. This worked for years. When we got involved with DEQ had to get a permit. It was quickly discovered that you can't get a permit, or it's too expensive. But I have a letter stating that DEQ is not enforcing these rules. If someone gets ill and we had no permit, what is the risk exposure? Lake Oswego is doing this currently without a permit. They have a letter of understanding among Lake owners that they will not sue due to lack of a permit. (citizen comment)

It is correct that current law requires an NPDES permit from DEQ to apply pesticides directly to water. We follow the law whether or not the rules are being enforced. (Elaine Stewart, Metro biologist)

I'm encouraged by what you are doing. (citizen comment)

Don't hide behind problem. (citizen comment)

The Lake is our greatest asset. Could we find a way to maintain levels of the lake? (citizen question)

We think Blue Lake is not connected to Blue Lake aquifer. Instead it's probably Sand and Gravel Aquifer. That aquifer is dropping. City will provide water to Blue Lake if Metro requests it. The City only charges for the cost of electricity to pump water into the lake. (Randy Albright, City of Portland, Water Bureau)

When we are pumping for supply it is not possible to pump for the lake. (Randy Albright)

Teri Dresler explained that there was a miscommunication this summer which resulted in some of the problems that occurred with the water levels in the lake. Metro declined when City of Portland water was offered. Later in the summer, we couldn't get water when we realized it was needed. This was an unusual circumstance due to the fact that the City of Portland wells were in use for such a long period late in the summer and again in early fall.

Teri Dresler indicated that Metro would have a standing policy in the future to accept water from the city whenever it is available.

Where will water for golf course come from? (citizen question)

The plan is to use the existing well at the park for irrigation of the golf center. Metro intends to have very low water use on this project. We are trying to modernize our irrigation systems at Blue Lake for the park which could free up water for other uses, such as irrigating the golf center. (Metro staff)

Is anyone taking minutes? (citizen question)

Yes. We will post them to our website. (Metro staff)

I'm interested in fitness aspect of the project. I suspect the fitness trail at Glendover Golf Course is more highly used than the golf course itself. (citizen comment)

Another idea if golf doesn't pan out. This area could be used as a fitness park – like Alton Baker Park in Eugene. (citizen comment)

Would this be a soft surface trail? (citizen question)

Yes, that is the plan but the 40-Mile Loop section would likely need to be hard surface. (Metro staff)

Suggest addition of soft surface trail next to 40-Mile Loop segment – dual path. (citizen comment)

Question about distance of the fitness trail. (citizen question)

The fitness trail is estimated to be about 1.5 miles. (Design Workshop)

What about traffic? Is there any consideration of limiting or closing access to Blue Lake Road? Limiting to residents only? (citizen question)

That was explored during the master plan update. I don't think that is possible. (Metro staff).