

Friends of Pier Park

February 19, 2013

6:30 pm to 8:15pm

- Introductions
- 27 attendees were counted, including the FOPP board and several representatives from Portland Parks and Recreation.
- There will be a work party on Saturday, February 23 from 9am to 1pm.
- Drainage around disk golf practice basket to be addressed
- Invasive plant removal
- Fallen limb removal
- Extent of work is dependent on the number of volunteers that attend.
- Concern was expressed over gravel piles. PP&R confirmed that these would be gone by Saturday.
- The Doug Fir that was removed was diseased. Presentation by Larry (Urban Forestry Supervisor)
- It had a fungal infection known as "red ring rot" (RRR).
- This is an air born disease that likely entered through a pruning cut in the tree.
- Sealing of pruning cuts is not a viable option for prevention of this disease.
Sealing cuts causes more harm than good.
- Spraying fungicide is also not an acceptable option for controlling RRR.
- Larry provided a hand out with additional information on RRR.
- The diseased tree represented a safety concern due to it's large size and

proximity to high concentrations of activity.

-The decision to remove the tree was not taken lightly as the removal itself

was a very dangerous job.

-Other potential diseased trees have not been identified at this time.

-Sue from PP&R stated that there is not a "requirement" for "notice" prior to

removing a trees that is a "safety" concern.

-A greater effort to inform park users of the reasoning for removing the trees

could have been made. Internet may not be the best avenue for this.

Perhaps a

posting in the information kiosk would have been appropriate.

- The removal of the Giant Sequoia for the Bridge Project. Initial presentation by

Susan, the Project Manager with PP&R.

-The pedestrian and bike bridge which will connect Pier Park and Chimney

Park, is part of the North Portland Greenway Trail Project.

-Funding is already in place for the project.

-ODOT and Metro are partners in the project.

-Bids for work are due on February 28, 2013.

-Actual work should begin in July.

-Completion of the bridge project is expected December 2013.

-There is a requirement to replace with 1" (diameter) of tree for every 1" removed. Therefore, 34 x 2" trees will be planted to replace the sequoia being

removed.

-It was expressed that during previous open house meetings, the sequoia

were supposed to be "safe" . This claim was disputed and it was said that this

tree was identified as needing to be removed.

-There was question as to the opportunity to place the new bridge in connection with the current vehicle bridge (Columbia Blvd.) crossing the railroad

tracks. It was reasoned that this had not been an option due to the interest in

keeping bikes and pedestrians separated from traffic.

-Elizabeth from PP&R discussed that a "Good Faith effort" had been made

in order to inform stakeholders of the consequences of the project.

-It was also identified that the bridge has been part of plans for more than

10 years.

-A popular suggestion was to make use of the wood from the Giant Sequoia

to create some sort of remembrance of the tree. (ie. a bench)

-Sue (PP&R) said she would follow up on the plans for the wood from the

tree.