

Dog Park Exploratory Committee Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: Dog Park

MEETING MINUTES

RECORDED BY: Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: Discuss the development of a Dog Park

MEETING DATE: November 18, 2008 at the Billings Community Center

DOG PARK COMMITTEE:

CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES: Suzanne (Sue) Bressler, Marcia Clausing, Kay Haire, Warren Osik, Ellie Whitney

PRC BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Rachael Cox

PRPL STAFF: Jon Thompson, Mark Jarvis, Melonie Trang

Sue Bressler called the meeting to order at 7:40 am.

1) Roll Call:

All members were present except for committee members Marcia Clausing and Ellie Whitney. Special guests include Ed Jorden and Eagle Scout Mike O'Connell

2) Approval of Minutes:

Committee members reviewed the October 7th minutes and it was noted under heading *Riverfront park Update* in the first paragraph the wording "tax **right** off/donation" should read "tax **write** off/donation".

Kay Haire made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Rachel Cox seconded. All were in favor and motion carried.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

No additions were made to the agenda.

4) Fundraising:

Fundraising Chair Kay Haire told committee members there was currently \$3,500 in dog park funding. She discussed possible funding coming in from various local veterinarians. She said a suggestion has been made to her to have a kick-off BBQ inviting potential donors. The kick-off would be used to do a presentation and inform donors on what the committee hopes to accomplish and how they would like to get it done. It was discussed to have a private kick-off party with possible donors first and then having a public kick-off after that. The committee looked at possibly having a one of the kick-off's on March 23rd.

Committee members discussed several fundraising ideas; selling naming rights of the dog park, sell memorial bricks, benches, trees and shelters in memory of a beloved pet, produce and sell bumper stickers, have a dog walk or shot clinic and a part of participation fees go towards the dog parks and creating a brochure giving the mission statement, goals we want to obtain and donation opportunities with clear dollar amounts.

Park Planner Mark Jarvis commented on having a dog park brochure ready by the end of March. He believes the department may be able to produce it in house; if not the department has connections with some of the printing companies in town who may be willing to provide printing services at costs.

Mr. Jarvis said he would check into costs for several of the fundraising ideas such as bricks and benches so they may put together donation amounts to use in the brochure.

5) High Sierra Park:

Mr. Jarvis told committee members that High Sierra residents have signed waivers of protest. As stated in the October 7th minutes; *Waivers that have been signed by residents cannot protest against any development of the park; if waivers are not signed then the residents could protest the development of the dog park.* With the waivers of protest in place Mark said he will have High Sierra's Master Plan which will include the dog park in the plans, hopefully ready in the new year for a recommendation by the Park Board and then a final approval by City Council.

6) Riverfront Park:

Park Board member Rachel Cox told committee members that she was able to contact some of the private consultants to see if they would donate their time to do the wet land survey. She was told by the consultants that it was not a good time right now.

Ms. Cox informed the committee that she has been attending meetings with the Park, Recreation, and Preservation Foundation. The foundation is a 501 C3 organization, which has funds available to be donated to various projects throughout the city. Ms. Cox will be meeting with the foundation on November 20th to discuss having them fund the wet land survey. A report will be given at the next dog park meeting on what they said.

7) Additional Comments and Questions Discussed:

- A question was asked if Coulson Park would be considered as a possible site location if Riverfront Park does not work out. Mark Jarvis said yes it could be considered. The park is located near the power plant along Yellowstone River and is around 80 acres.
- Mr. Jarvis discussed having the Park Recreation and Preservation Foundation do the channeling for donations to the dog park.
- Park and Recreation Board member James Strecker sent a letter informing committee members that he will no longer be serving on the committee.

8) Next Meeting:

- The next committee meeting will be December 2, 2008.
- At the meeting the plan will be to develop a fundraising brochure.
- Members were asked to provide thoughts on a mission statement and bring ideas of donation opportunities.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 am