

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: December 2, 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 7:35 am.

1) Roll Call:

All members were present except for Warren Osik and Ellie Whitney.

2) Approval of Minutes:

A correction was noted in the minutes under *Fundraising*; the final sentence in the first paragraph should read April 25th not March 23rd. Kay Haire made a motion to accept the corrected November 18th minutes. Marcia Clausing seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

Rachel Cox announced that she may have a west end site location for a third dog park. She spoke with a gentleman about Sharptail Park, located north of the gravel pits off Hesper and Shiloh Road. The park is around 20 acres and is county owned. Rachel said she would know more in January.

4) Additional Committee Member:

Mark Jarvis told the committee that he has spoken with the PRC Board requesting to have a replacement for committee member James Strecker. He said at this time no one has come forward. During the meeting a suggestion was made to invite Ed Jorden, an owner of several veterinary clinics in town and frequent visitor to the monthly meetings, to be a Committee Member. All present agreed and Kay Haire volunteered to extend the invitation.

5) Fundraising:

A suggestion was made about selling signage. Advertising could be sold to a group or business for a certain amount for a length of time such as six months; money from the proceeds could go towards the maintenance of the park.

Promotional ideas were also presented and included bumper stickers and doggy t-shirts.

6) Work on Donation Brochure:

- **Mission Statement**- Committee members worked to develop a mission statement. Mark will finalize the wording and send it out to Committee Members for their comments. A final mission statement will be approved at the next meeting. Note: the following 3 versions of the mission statement developed by the Committee were sent out:

- *To create fun off leash parks for your dog to romp and run in a safe secure setting with other dog friends. Promote a sense of community by bringing dogs and their owners together for socialization and educational opportunities that support dog health and welfare.*
- *To develop parks where dogs can romp and play off leash in a secure setting with their owners and other dog friends. Promote an environment of health and welfare for dogs through socialization and educational opportunities.*
- *Creating parks for dogs to romp and play off leash in a secure environment with other dog friends. To promote socialization and educational opportunities that support healthy dogs and fosters a sense of community by bringing dogs and their owners together.*

- **Committee Name Change** – Committee members gave the following list of names for the committee name change.

- Dog Heroes Committee
- Dog Lovers Committee
- Dog Lovers Park Enthusiasts
- Dog Lovers Park Group
- Dog Lover Enthusiasts
- Love My Dog Parks
- Love Your Dog Parks
- Dog Parks of Billings
- Dogs Come First Parks
- Dogs First Park
- Wag the Dog Park
- Parks for Barks
- Canine Community
- Dog Park Pack – Join the Pack
- Doggy Park Enthusiasts
- Puppy Park
- Pooch Park
- Pooch Park Lovers

- Friends of Billings Dog Parks
- Billings Dog Park Enthusiasts
- Friends of the Dog Park

Mark said he will send an email out to everyone for the final top three choices before the January meeting.

7) Additional Comments and Questions Discussed:

Rachel Cox told the committee that the Park, Recreation, and Preservation Foundation are considering matching funds for a dog park. She said they have not said anything on funding the wetland survey for Riverfront.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 am