

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: April 1, 2008

DOG PARK COMMITTEE:

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

PRC BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Rachael Cox, James Strecker

PRPL STAFF: Mike Whitaker, Mark Jarvis, Melonie Trang

Sue Bressler called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

1) Roll Call:

All members were present except for PRPL Director Mike Whitaker, PRC Board Representative James Strecker and Citizen Representative Warren Osik

2) Approval of Minutes:

Kay Haire made a verbal motion to accept the February 26th, 2008 minutes. Rachel Cox seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

No additions were made to the agenda.

4) Site Selection:

Mark Jarvis updated the committee on Zoo Montana which was discussed at last month's meeting as a possible site location. He was told by Dave Mumford, Director of the zoo board that a dog park located inside the zoo could pose possible health risks to the contained animals. Diseases carried in by outside animals like dogs, can be transmitted and life threatening to their animals.

Mr. Jarvis said Riverfront Park is still considered as the number one choice with High Sierra Park ranking second.

Riverfront Park is considered the most buildable for a dog park. The Master Plan for the park is currently under revision and includes outlined areas for a dog park. Consultants along with the Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a town hall meeting on May 1, 2008 to

present a draft of the revised Master plan. City residents will have an opportunity to comment on the revisions and the possible addition of a dog park.

Rachel Cox asked if there were plans on presenting High Sierra along with Riverfront Park when it is presented. Mark Jarvis said High Sierra's Master Plan does not include a dog park and would have to be updated and then presented to the public for discussion before any further steps can be taken.

Mr. Jarvis said he doesn't see any usable land at this time for a third location on the westend.

Rachel Cox asked if there was a possibility using the land at the airport. Mr. Jarvis said he didn't pursue looking in to it any further since last month's meeting due to the fact that we have a heights location with High Sierra Park.

A question was asked if we could look further at Phipps Park for the westend location. Mr. Jarvis said that the park comes with several restrictions such as getting water out to it.

A suggestion was made to speak to the home builders association about the dilemma regarding a westend location. They might be able to give suggestions and possibly offer some of their undeveloped land.

5) Park Theme:

Committee member discussed using one park as a more natural open area for dogs to romp around in while the other for educational purposes such as a training course with ramps and other training objects.

6) Fundraising Ideas:

Committee members expressed several ideas and suggestions on fundraising. Several suggestions presented were; have a detailed brochure on the dog park concept to pass out with the option to donate at different financial levels, create a calendar with local owners and their dogs to sell, sell commemorative bricks or benches, speak with charitable foundations for donations, and check into grants.

Sue Bressler expressed that there would be a better chance at fundraising if we would present up front the possible locations. Her suggestion was to present them as Riverfront Park Phase 1, High Sierra Phase 2, and then a possible future westend location as phase 3. Committee members agreed.

Mark Jarvis spoke on creating a sub-committee to handle the fundraising aspect of the project. He would like to see the committee created right away and include one Dog Park Committee members as a liaison to communicate for both committees. Committee members agreed and committee members were willing to help in the process.

7) Additional Comments, Questions and Information Discussed at the Meeting:

A committee member made a suggestion to create a logo for the dog park. Mark Jarvis expressed that it was a great idea. He said this would be something for Dog Park Committee to work on.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 am