

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: May 6, 2008 at Riverfront Park

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 7:31 am.

1) Roll Call:

All members were present except for PRPL Director Mike Whitaker, PRC Board Representative James Strecker and Citizen Representative Marcia Clausing. Special guests were: Dell Kay Bertino, Ed Jorden, Todd McLane, Mike O'Connell and Hal Leonard.

2) Approval of Minutes:

Kay Haire made a verbal motion to accept the April 1, 2008 minutes. Elli Whitney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

No additions were made to the agenda.

4) Site Selection-Site Tour:

PRPL Staff Mark Jarvis led committee members and guests on a tour to view the two possible locations available at Riverfront Park. Mr. Jarvis gave information on the first site: Located at the southwest end of the park, east of South Billings Boulevard and the bridge over the river. Parts of this area are heavily wooded, brush will need to be cleared and chippings from the clearing operation can be used for maintenance of the dog park, area would be less likely to have wildlife around, be more of natural area, and would be fenced off by a six foot fence, great shading, about 5-7 acres and easy access. Mr. Jarvis gave information on the second site: Located on the back side (east side) of Cochran Lake, less shade, great water opportunity for dogs, long and narrow, has a lot of wildlife; walking trails could pose challenges, not as much land

and harder to get to. Both locations have pros and cons which include possible environmental issues, mosquitoes, and flooding.

Overall comments expressed by Committee members showed they favored the first site location. Some committee members even suggested the Parks department consider looking into using both sites; the first site location could be used during the winter months and then the second site with the lake for summer water activities.

5) Park Theme:

Park Theme will be discussed further once a decision has been made on the final location of the park.

6) Fundraising:

It was announced that committee member Kay Haire has accepted the position of fundraising committee chair. Fundraising will go into full swing once a location has been finalized.

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

A guest expressed concerns on health issues. Mr. Jarvis talked about posting a sign at the dog parks outlining the health safety requirements before any dog is allowed into the park.

Several ideas were presented by the committee and guests. The following are some of those ideas:

- Bring programs and clinics to the dog park for owners to participate in.
- Put together a volunteer clean-up team to come out on a regular basis and clean up the park.
- Should have a maintenance person assigned dog park duties.
- Have a fenced off area for smaller or more intimidated dogs.
- Should do an ad in the local paper expressing thanks to all the donors once the park is completed.
- Should look into having the Boy Scouts volunteer some of their time to do some of the prep and cleanup work.
- Pick up stations at every park.
- Look into having a seasonal employee come on board to keep track of the dog parks.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am