

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: June 3, 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. Special guests include Veterinarian Doctor Ed Jorden and Veterinarian Doctor Hal Leonard.

2) Approval of Minutes:

Kay Haire made a verbal motion to accept the May 6, 2008 minutes. Marcia Clausing seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

No additions were made to the agenda.

4) Site Selection-Site Update:

PRPL Staff Mark Jarvis said that after reviewing comments from the last meeting held at Riverfront Park that the overall consensus was to build it in the area closest to the road due to fewer constraints.

Mr. Jarvis said he will be having a meeting with the Audubon Society to get their input on the park area since they will be building an education center there at Riverfront. He will also be meeting with Terry Walter from the Fish and Wildlife to get some good input from them and also Ms. Walters will be checking into any other agencies out there they may interfere with the construction of the park.

Mr. Jarvis believes that at the next meeting a spot should be finalized.

5) Park Theme:

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

6) Fundraising:

Committee member and Fundraising Chari Kay Haire said they are just beginning to put together the fundraising effort of this project. She said they have already received word from the several individuals who are interested in supporting the project financially. Ms. Haire also said they are considering doing a brick campaign and that she already has someone willing to do the masonry work. A suggestion was made to have a potential donors list ready so when the time came for fundraising everyone could go out to the potential donors and ask them for money.

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

- Mr. Jarvis said the area closest to the road will be around 6 acres and will be fenced in using chain link. A suggestion was made to look into using chicken wire. It would be a little less expensive than the chain link.
- A question was asked on the water aspect of the park. Several committee members gave the following ideas: allow the dogs to have access to the Yellowstone River or ponds, irrigate water from the Yellowstone or ponds, attach a pipe to already existing water pipes used for a drinking fountain or bathrooms, tell dog owners to bring their own water or bring in a water tank. Concerns were expressed regarding using Yellowstone River and pond water due to the problems micro-organisms and bacteria. Dogs are susceptible to various organisms and can become very sick.
- A question was asked as to how much it would cost to fund a dog park. Mr. Jarvis said it should be around \$25,000.
- Committee members continued to discuss using wood chips on the ground floor for both a soft cushioning effect and to help keep moisture in the ground.
- Mr. Jarvis said they are looking into possibly having a two gate entrance to help reduce the concentrated traffic area.
- Mr. Jarvis said he would like to open up some areas within the dog park for owners to throw things for their dogs like a branch or ball.
- A suggestion was made to look into possibly open up a trail at Riverfront Park to allow dogs on leashes to walk their owners.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 am