

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: July 8, 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 7:30 am.

1) Roll Call:

All members were present except for PRPL Director Mike Whitaker, PRC Board Representative James Strecker, Citizen Representatives Maria Clausing and Warren Osik. Special guests include Veterinarian Doctor Ed Jorden

2) Approval of Minutes:

Kay Haire made a verbal motion to accept the June 8, 2008 minutes. Ellie Whitney seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

No additions were made to the agenda.

4) Site Selection-Site Update:

Riverfront Park: PRPL Park Planner Mark Jarvis informed the committee that after speaking with several agencies there is a possible set back with the Riverfront Park location. He has been told the site is likely to be in a 100-year flood plain area. Mr. Jarvis said he would like to continue to look into the matter further to determine if the site is part of wetland. He said if it is, they will have to look into either going around or mitigate the area. Mr. Jarvis said the Parks Department will have to also obtain a 404 permit that is used nationwide to do any filling of the area if they should decide to do that.

Mr. Jarvis said he also has spoken with the Audubon Society. They have expressed that they fine with the idea but would prefer us not use Norm's Island for the dog park because of the bird habitat in that area.

High Sierra Park: Mr. Jarvis said that due to the set back with Riverfront he would like to move forward on High Sierra Park area. Mr. Jarvis showed a possible 7-acre location close to parking, is water accessible, and includes wonderful rock formations that would be great for the dogs to play on.

Views and thoughts from committee members regarding High Sierra Park are as follows:

- Committee members expressed that this location should include some sort of buffer between the housing development and the park.
- Committee members would like to have the maintenance issues of the park looked into. Mr. Jarvis said there is currently a park maintenance district attached to this park; which means area residents are currently paying thru their taxes to have the park maintained.
- Committee members expressed their concern with having area residents paying for the park with a citywide accessible dog park attached to it. They expressed that the dog park should have separate funds to maintain it so residents do not feel that they are paying for something that everyone in the city can use.

Committee members came up with a couple of ideas for the maintenance funds. Those are as follows:

- Attach a fee to licensing your dog through the Animal Shelter.
- Require dogs to wear a special tag showing they have access into the parks and those could be purchased for a fee.

Committee members suggested that any money that would come in from these fees would be specifically ear marked for the park.

Mr. Jarvis asked for the committee's support on going forward with High Sierra; the committee unanimously supported moving ahead.

Mr. Jarvis said for the Parks department will begin the preparation of updating the master plan and then set-up a town hall meeting with area residents hopefully by the end of August.

5) Fundraising:

No comments were made at this time regarding fundraising.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 am