

Attachment A

Dog Park Exploratory Committee Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: Dog Park

**MEETING MINUTES
RECORDED BY:** Melonie Trang

MEETING PURPOSE: Discuss the development of Dog Parks

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2009 at the Billings Community Center

DOG PARK COMMITTEE:

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

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 Kay Haire, Warren Osik, Ellie Whitney.

2) Approval of Minutes:

Committee members reviewed the minutes. Rachel Cox made a motion to accept the April 7, 2009 minutes. Marcia Clausin seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

None

4) Fundraising:

Mark Jarvis recognized Rachel Cox for her contribution to the Preservation Foundation for dog parks. He said funds are currently at \$5,000.

Kay Haire was not at the meeting so Mr. Jarvis requested the committee to start discussing campaign planning.

Rachel Cox brought up getting started on the kick off campaign. She expressed we need to get together key individuals to inform them on what are plans are and to hopefully get their support. She felt we should plan to hold the kick off sometime during the upcoming summer months.

Ed Jordan mentioned that he will be doing an open house on May 30th at each of his three animal clinic locations. He told the committee he would like to do advertising and give out information on the dog parks. The committee expressed that would be a great idea and members offered their time to be at the event to answer any questions.

5) Sharptail Park Update:

The Parks department is still continuing their look into Sharptail Park. The section of the park the department feels would be a good area for a dog park is the marshy/flood plain area, which is about 30 % of the 75 acres. Mr. Jarvis said the city's Engineering department has also expressed interest in that area and would be willing to work with us in using that land together. There will be further discussion with the county on this matter and an update will be given at the next meeting.

6) Riverfront Park Update:

Mr. Jarvis said he is in the process of getting the estimates for the wetland determination study. The Preservation Foundation will be donating the funds for that study.

7) City Wide Needs Assessment:

Mr. Jarvis said the Parks department is doing a city wide needs assessment study to determine what the community thinks about parks and recreation and to get understanding of the services we have, to what level people use them and want them, and what things to look towards in the future. Mr. Jarvis said this study is important to the dog park committee because the survey will have questions regarding dog parks and what people's thoughts are regarding them. He said the survey will be going out the first or second week in June to 6,000 residents. An update report will be given at the next meeting.

8) Additional Information Discussed:

- The committee discussed having local representatives of various businesses and groups come to future meetings to inform and get support. Businesses and groups mentioned were Billings Animal Shelter, Humane Society, Pet Smart, and local veterinarians.
- A question was asked on how it was going regarding High Sierra Park. Mr. Jarvis said they still have to do an update on the Master Plan and hold a public meeting before anything further can be done.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 am