

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: June 2, 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 Marcia Clausing, Warren Osik, Ellie Whitney.

2) Approval of Minutes:

No minutes were available for action at the June meeting.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

Special guest Dave Kline, Animal Control Supervisor from the Billings Animal Shelter was at the meeting to speak on behalf of animal control and the shelter. Mr. Kline said he along with a majority of his staff support having dog parks. He said right now they are having problems with irresponsible dog owners taking their dogs to city parks and letting them off leash. He said there was a law passed not to long ago preventing owners from doing that. He expressed having a dog park might help reduce that problem.

Mr. Kline said the shelter may have possible funds available to give towards the dog parks but was unable to state it as a fact as of the time of the meeting.

Mr. Kline expressed that the dog park committee should be looking into getting groups such as the Yellowstone Valley Kennel Club and Greyhound Rescue involved and support with the dog park project.

He said he along with the Parks department and Yellowstone Animal Shelter will have to look further into the possibility of adding an additional costs to the licensing fees. He said on average they sell about forty eight hundred a year.

Mr. Kline also expressed that he felt the city is ready for a dog park.

4) Fundraising/Campaign Planning:

Kay Haire said she spoke with Suttons further regarding t-shirts. They informed her they are about four to six weeks out which gives the committee that long to decide colors and design. She said an order must be at least forty-eight shirts in one run which is one design on whatever color shirt you want to use. She said once we place an order we have thirty days to pay.

Ms. Haire brought up the idea to do a coin drop box similar to the ones schools use at local grocery stores. She thought this would be one great way to receive funding. She also talked about building doghouses to sell and a portion of the sale goes to dog parks.

Committee members discussed having regular vaccine and spay and neuter clinics to educate the community and receive possible maintenance funding from some of the fees.

The Committee continued discussion on bringing in groups and businesses from the community to speak at upcoming dog park meetings. They expressed that having these groups and businesses come to the meetings not only gives the dog park committee information but it also gives the committee a chance to inform them and get their support.

5) Sharptail Park Update:

Mr. Jarvis said PRPL Director is planning a meeting with the Engineering Department and the County Commissioners to discuss Sharptail Park. Mr. Jarvis said engineering is looking into the land for flood control measures. He also said the Parks department would like to work with Engineering to use part of the land if they receive it for the westend dog park location.

6) Riverfront Park Update:

Mr. Jarvis said he currently has received only one response back from a consultant to do the study. He was looking to have at least three by the time of the meeting. He is hoping to have the other two consultants contact him within the week. He said he will review all three bids and then determine based on the lowest bid who will do the study.

7) City Wide Needs Assessment:

Mr. Jarvis brought a draft of the needs assessment study for the committee to review. He said some of the questions pertain to how many animals are in the city and how important dog parks are to the community. He said the study should give the Parks department a clear picture on what percentage of the community is in favor of dog parks. He hopes to use the statistics from this study to help in the dog park campaign. The results from the study should be ready by the end of July.

8) **High Sierra Park MP:**

Mr. Jarvis said once the results from the needs assessment study come in, there are plans to update the master plan and hold a public meeting. Following that, the master plan can be presented to City Council for approval at its first meeting in August.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am