

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: August 4, 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 Ellie Whitney. Special guest present was Dave Pauli.

2) Approval of Minutes:

Susanne Bressler made a motion to approve the May and June minutes. Marcia Clausing seconded. All were in favor and motion passed.

July minutes were not recorded due to a lack of a quorum at the meeting.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

Special guest Dave Pauli expressed his support of the developing a dog park. He spoke on when he was Director of the Animal Shelter back several years ago that there was talk then about having dog parks. Mr. Pauli also gave several ideas and comments regarding fundraising during the meeting.

4) Fundraising/Campaign Planning:

Committee member Kay Haire said she was able to speak with Joe Dryer, member of the Teamsters Hall. He expressed his support and willingness to participate in getting the word out on dog parks for this area. Ms. Kay said he was able to give her several names of individuals and groups who may be willing to support or offer funding. Several suggestions were the Better Billings Foundation, Senator Jon Tester, the Rehberg family, Mayor Tussing, service groups, chamber groups, rotary, Billings Gazette, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Senior Citizen Services and possibly

church groups. Mr. Dryer also made a suggestion to set up a website with all the dog park information and include the ability to donate online.

Mr. Pauli made a comment to check into the annual springtime wildlife grant with the Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks. He said the grant offers up to \$5,000.

Mr. Jarvis said a man by the name of Kevin Nicholson who works with the Montana Correctional Services has contacted him and is offering to have MCS do t-shirts. Mr. Jarvis expressed that it was a good idea since Suttons, who originally was doing the campaign/fundraising t-shirts has gone out of business. He said Mr. Nicholson would be contacting him or Kay soon with further information.

5) Sharptail Park Update:

Mr. Jarvis said as of right now any final decision regarding Sharptail Park may take awhile. He said the cities Engineering Department is continuing to express to the County their interest in using it for flood mitigation plains. Mr. Jarvis commented that we might have the opportunity to work with Engineering in using part of the land for a dog park if the land is given over to them. He said PRPL Director Mike Whitaker is continuing discussions with the County Commissioners and the Engineering Department.

6) Riverfront Park Update:

Mr. Jarvis said the results from the wetland survey for Riverfront Park have come back good. He said out of the potential 8 ½ acres used for a dog park only a small section is considered wetland. He expressed that small amount would not effect development of a dog park there. Mr. Jarvis said he will present the survey to the Core of Engineers. He plans to inform them that we are not filling in the area but clearing brush, putting up a fence and putting in a parking area. He said once he gets their approval and any permits the department can move forward on the development.

7) City Wide Needs Assessment Results Update:

PRPC Board member Rachel Cox reported that the needs assessment survey results were in and showed a overall good response back. She said survey was sent out to approximately 6,000 residents and about 900 came back.

Mr. Jarvis said one of the questions on the survey was asking residents if they feel dog parks are important. He said 59% believe they were.

8) Additional Information:

- Mr. Jarvis talked about doing a interview with one of the local TV stations in October to discuss dog parks.
- Committee member Ed Jordan offered to have his dad do an article on dog parks in the Billings Gazette.
- The committee continued discussing further the initial fundraising meeting in which they would like to invite key people and groups for support. The starter list included Yellowstone Audubon, Petsmart, Yellowstone Kennel

Club, city dog license holders, Yellowstone County Hotel/Motel Association, veterinarians and the animal shelter.

The committee discussed finalizing the fundraising list and meeting details at next month's meeting.

- Mr. Pauli suggested having a fundraiser in which you can invite your pets.

9) **High Sierra Park MP:**

Mr. Jarvis said he hopes to have a public meeting August 25th to inform residents of an update to the High Sierra Master Plan and the possible development of dog park. He said he will be sending out the information on the meeting to the committee as soon as he has a set date and location.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00 am/