

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: February 26, 2008

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 and PRC Board Representative James Strecker

2) Approval of Minutes:

Rachel Cox made a motion to accept the January 24th, 2008 minutes. Kay Haire seconded. All were in favor.

3) Additions to the Agenda:

No additions were made to the agenda.

4) Site Selection:

Mark opened for discussion possible locations. Committee members suggested starting out with 2-3 sites; one in the heights, one on the westend and one centrally. Mark passed out a document showing a matrix of potential park sites for a dog park with a ranking identifying the sites with greatest potential for development. (A copy of the document is on file for future reference.) The top three on the list were, Riverfront Park, High Sierra Park, and Coulson Park.

In addition to the document list, members made suggestions to look at other sites such as:

- 1) Zoo Montana: Mark commented he would look into it. He along with other committee members considered it a perfect location.

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- 2) North of Shepherd or Lockwood: Mark commented he would like to start locally and then look into land further out.
- 3) BLM Land and commercial land: Rachel Cox expressed she would be willing to speak to a landowner she acquainted with for their support either financially or selling/donating land.
- 4) Airport Land: Mark commented that PRPL has looked into airport land as a possibility because of its large open space and location. He will continue to do more research and speak with airport officials.
- 5) Cottonwood Park: Mark commented that it is not feasible due to amount of housing surrounding the park and also because of a school located on a portion of the property.
- 6) County Parks: Except for Riverfront being on county property but city owned, the majority of county owned parks are too small. They run about 2-3 acres.

There was also discussion on finding a park located on the westend part of Billings. Mark shared that the majority of the parks located on the westend are considered neighborhood or sub-division parks; meaning they have residents surrounding them and are smaller in size. Due to these reasons the majority were not considered for the project. One westend park considered as a possibility is Phipps Park located off 64th Street West and Molt Road.

5) Park Theme:

Do to time constraint; discussion on *Park Theme* was postponed until another meeting.

6) Fundraising Ideas:

Do to time constraint; discussion on *Fundraising Ideas* was postponed until another meeting.

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

A question was asked on what the recommended plan for a feasible dog park was. Mark commented that it is variable. After attending several seminars on creating dog parks through the National Parks and Recreation Association, presenters have been doing about 2-3 acres parks. Colorado has 2 ½ - 3 ½ parks and more primitive parks are about 6-7 acres. Mark expressed that based on his research; smaller parks pose problems of overcrowding. He feels due to that fact our dog park should be at least 5 acres.

Mark showed a rough draft sketch outlining how our dog park will be broken up in various sections. He would like to start with an area to take your dog off its leash then enter into the main portion. The main area can be broken up into two sections;

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looking from a maintenance standpoint, one area can be used for either a rest area or smaller dogs and the other for larger dogs. Mark will discuss further the design concept at upcoming meetings once a location has been determined.

Mark mentioned there will be upcoming public meetings in which we can get additional feedback from city residents regarding locations and other ideas and suggestions.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 am