

City of Gahanna
Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)
Minutes -- 10 Apr 2008
5:30PM
Senior Center

Present: Al Adler
Casey Cannon (Chair)
Michele Cutler (Observer)
Cathy Koch
Alan Little (Parks Department Representative)
Terri Montigny (Pooch Playground Representative)
Laurel Naegele (New Parks Board Member)
Lori Sobul
Vinnie Tremante (Parks Board Member)
Lynne Vermillion (Secretary)
Blake Swanson (Eagle Scout Candidate)

Absent: Chief Murphy, Dr Kristy Clay, John Pizzurro, Don Sullivan, Deputy Chief Kenneth A. Ball, Troy Euton, Charlie Henderson

1. New Business:

- a. Bench Pads: Blake Swanson requested approval to build bench pads made from pavers at the dog park as his project for becoming an Eagle Scout. He anticipates building six 5'x 8' pads for the benches and picnic tables. These would be located in the large dog area, the small dog area, and the unfenced east field. If the areas were pre-dug by the Parks Department, the work could be done on three separate Saturday mornings and would probably require the dog park be closed during the installations in the fenced areas. The Parks Department plans to provide the pavers.
 - i. The work would be done in late May or early June.
 - ii. Sobul, Cutler, and Montigny volunteered to survey the park and determine the location and the priority of the bench pads and the color of the pavers.
(OPEN)
 - iii. These pavers could also be engraved and used to raise funds.
 - iv. The DPAC approved this project.
- b. Special Events: Due to a lack of time, the DPAC tabled this item until next month. Vermillion will email send a preliminary list of special events for the committee members to consider prior to that meeting. **(1 ATCH)**

2. Old Business:

- a. Water Feature: Due to scheduling difficulties, Troy Euton, Vinnie Tremante, Lynne Vermillion, and Alan Little were not able to make an on-site visit to Pizzurro Park to discuss creek access. Tremante is concerned that dogs in the creek would "churn" up dirt and silt and have a long term impact on creek flow. Little asked if the wet area at the east end of the park could be used for water access if mitigation steps were taken. Sobul asked for clarification of options for a water feature: using the creek, creating

an area at the east end, a manmade pond, or no water feature. Montigny and Culter reiterated that a water feature was promised by the parks director prior to building the original Pooch Playground at Hannah and was part of the justification for moving the dog park to Pizzurro. This item was tabled until an on-site visit could be completed. **(OPEN)**

- b. Enforcement Issues: As a follow-up to the 5 March meeting, Vermillion provided draft signage and information about who to call for problems, how to report incidents at the dog park, descriptions of aggressive and nuisance behaviors, and how to avoid/break up dog fights. Members are to review these and finalize at the next meeting and determine if this information needs further approval. **(OPEN) (4 ATCH)**

3. Update from the Parks Department:

- a. Work will be done this month to provide better drainage for the wet areas in the large-dog area, the playground, and the east field.
- b. The new playground equipment has arrived and will be installed at Pizzurro. Carl Norris is in charge of this installation, and Little was not certain of the timeline or the location for the new equipment or the status of the fence around the play area.
- c. The Parks Department has repaired and re-anchored the equipment in the agility area. (Closed)
- d. The Parks Department has provided a gravel path in the small-dog area leading to the agility area. They also installed a gravel pad under the bench in the small-dog area. (Closed)
- e. The padlock has been removed from the maintenance gate into the agility area so large dogs can enter the area without going through the small-dog area. (Closed)
- f. Signs have been ordered for the Time Out Station and to indicate the location of the small-dog area.
- g. The Parks Department will smooth down and seed the raised area along the paved path. A regular seeding program will be established at Pizzurro.
- h. The bulletin board has been completed and installed in the large dog area. This is a very professional looking and functional product. Another bulletin board is required for the small-dog area. The original kiosk (from Hannah Park) will be installed outside of the dog park for general city and park information.
- i. The Parks Department will remove the excess fencing material in the east field to prevent pilferage.
- j. The Parks department is still looking for “tunnels” to put in the mounds in the east field.
- k. The Parks Department is investigating a solar-powered water treatment system to provide potable water and restrooms for Pizzurro. New Albany has offered to give this system to Gahanna if we can use it in our parks.
- l. Little asked if flower baskets could be used for toy storage bins at the park. Members thought this would be an improvement.
- m. Landscaping is being planned around the entrance areas of the dog park.
- n. Little and the DPAC members discussed methods for controlling the use and abuse of water bottles and bowls at the park. Dog park users need to bring water for their dogs, but the empty containers blow around the park and are unsightly. Members discussed

alternative water containers that would remain stationary but still be able to be sanitized.

- o. Vermillion asked if a recycle bin could be provided at the park.
 - p. Sobul asked if additional trees would be installed at Pizzurro Park. The trees at Hannah are not the right type to relocate to Pizzurro. Little thought these might be donated to the park through the newly established Parks Foundation. The number, type, and location of trees in the dog park needs to be discussed at a future meeting.
 - q. The Parks Department is investigating methods for bulk storage of plastic bags. Parks users are bringing extra bags and hanging them on the fence where they look unsightly and blow around the park.
 - r. Little will check on the status of the final park design, park rules, a weekend telephone number for volunteers, the second pipe safe, and a bulk bag storage system.
4. Other Business:
- a. Montigny distributed a list of Pooch Playground events scheduled for this summer. **(1 Atch)**
 - b. Laurel Naegele was introduced as a new Parks Board representative. **(New member list attached.)**
5. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 on Thursday, 8 May 2008. The location will be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Vermillion, DPAC Secretary