

City of Gahanna
Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)
Minutes – 10 July 2008
5:30PM
Pizzurro Park Pavilion

Present: Al Adler
Casey Cannon (Chair)
Michele Cutler (Pooch Playground Representative)
Cathy Koch
Laurel Naegele
Lori Sobul
Lynne Vermillion (Secretary)

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

1. Old Business:

- a. Water Feature: Sobul has begun researching information about other dog parks which have dog ponds. She has sent inquiries to these parks but has not yet received any responses. Sobul and Culter will continue to research this issue in order to develop three proposals for providing an alternative water feature at the park. (OPEN)
- b. Traffic Flow: At the request of the Dog Park Advisory Committee, the Parks Department has placed a picnic table in the northeast corner of the large dog area. The purpose of this bench is to lure dog park users away from the gate area by providing additional seating in a shaded area. The DPAC will continue to monitor whether the bench helps with traffic flow or causes additional problems by encouraging too many people/dogs to linger in a fixed area. (OPEN)
- c. Update from the Parks Department: No Parks Department representative attended the meeting. The following issues are open awaiting information from the Parks Department available.
 - i. Special Events:
 - ii. Bank Improvement:
 - iii. Potable Water:
 - iv. Final Park Design:
 - v. Bench Pads:

2. New Business:

- a. Chairperson responsibility: Cannon agreed to remain as chairperson with the responsibilities of leading each meeting, sending out reminders prior to each meeting, coordinating special visitors as required, and representing the DPAC as required at any special meetings or events. If the duties significantly increase, Cannon would like someone else to assume responsibility. (CLOSED)
- b. Pint-size pooch playground puppy popularity problems: Pooch Playground, Inc. received an email via its "welovedogs@poochplayground.com" address stating that

- people were bringing puppies to the dog park that were younger than 4 months old and requesting a sign be posted that states: “Dogs must be at least 16 weeks old and MUST have received all shots/wormings.” The DPAC first discussed the reasons why young puppies should not be brought to the park: (1) Puppies less than 16 weeks old will not have had all of the required vaccinations/booster shots to protect them from potentially fatal viruses, and (2) a traumatic incident to a young puppy can have a permanent effect on the puppy’s behavior. The DPAC concluded that the posted rule stating that “Dogs should be at least four months old” was adequate and neither the city, the DPAC, nor the volunteers had any way of enforcing the age requirement. Vermillion will contact the emailer and explain the DPAC’s decision and develop an informational handout explaining why young puppies should not be in the dog park. **(OPEN)**
- c. Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Testing: Karen Romine asked if we were interested in holding a CGC testing event at the dog park. The cost would be \$15.00 and \$5.00 of that would be donated to the dog park. Culter said she supported the idea but didn’t have the time to help organize this. DPAC might try to combine this with a Responsible Ownership Day. Vermillion will talk with Romaine to determine how she would like to conduct this. **(OPEN)**
 - d. Volunteer Education and Planning Meetings: Culter recommended conducting Volunteer Training (Dog Park 101) immediately following Park Cleanup on the last Sunday of July. DPAC members would provide hot dogs and drinks for all volunteers. Culter would also like to do a similar event for a Howl-o-ween Event planning meeting. **(OPEN)**
 - e. Behavior Articles: Vermillion asked if the behavior articles that she included with the prior month’s minutes were useful. DPAC members requested that she continue to include an article each month. **(CLOSED)**
3. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 on Thursday, 14 August 2008. The location is tentatively scheduled for the pavilion at Pizzurro. `

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Vermillion, DPAC Secretary

On 17 July 08, Cannon sent an email to Alan Little requesting an update on several pending issues. The following is Little’s 22 July 08 response:

- 1. Water Feature news- I am unsure what you are talking about. If I am guessing that by water feature you mean a pond, I don’t think there is any news. I thought we were only going to pursue a pond if the creek bank improvement did not happen.
- 2. Bank improvement update- We discussed the project with Oxbow yesterday. They are in the design phase for the creek access. Possible proofs in a few weeks. Construction should only take a few days but not be until Fall?

3. **Parks and Rec report-** The drainage project is nearing completion and so far, looks great. We will be seeding/strawing after the final grading is complete. The Eagle scout project is complete and I have not heard any feedback from park users but I think they look great! Now we just need benches to put on them. We have seeded and put straw around the pads. July and August just is not a time to try to grow grass but we will try to stay on top of it. As stated in my last update we are going to install speed bumps on the entrance drive. As we were preparing to start the project, we decided it would be a better use of taxpayer money to wait until the repaving is done to install the bumps as they will just be torn out in the Fall when they do the repave. The playground should be under construction soon as well. We will do a better clean-up of the parking lot when the drainage and grading are complete.
4. **Special events, info from Alan.** Unsure of what you want here either. I am supposed to set a meeting for Tony Collins, Terri Montigny, Abbey Brooks, and myself to discuss park rental fee structures for special events, reservation procedures, vendors at said events, collection of donations/fees via vendors/pipe safes etc. I have stalled this meeting as Tony is out with a new baby.
5. **Potable water-** We have contacted the water department and they have identified to us a location to do a tap. It is at the intersection of Hamilton and Pizzurro Drive. Even though we are a city department we will be applying for a waiver of tap fee (tap fee is about \$6000-\$7000). We have had two thoughts on running a line back to the park. The first was to run the water line down the middle of the road as it is scheduled to be repaved this Fall. The second was to run a shallow line adjacent to the road. This would allow us to do it without waiting on the blacktop project and the shallow line will help keep us out of the tree roots along the long stretch. We are still in discussion as to our final plan. I am to measure the distance from point "A" to point "B" and come up with a materials list and cost for the project.
6. **Final Park Design-** I have collected the GPS points relating to all of the structures and paths in the park. These points have been transferred to an aerial in a format that POD Design can work with. Troy has sent the information to POD for design. I am unsure, at this point, of their expected timeline.