

City of Gahanna
Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)
Minutes -- 10 Oct 2007
6PM
Pizzurro Park

Present: Al Adler
Casey Cannon (Chair)
Dr Kristy Clay (Veterinarian)
Michele Cutler (Observer)
Troy Euton (Parks Department Representative)
Cathy Koch
Dot Micacchion (Parks Board Representative)
John Pizzurro
Lori Sobul
Don Sullivan
Lynne Vermillion (Secretary)

Absent: Chief Murphy, Charlie Henderson, Terri Montigny

Micacchion opened the meeting with 4 agenda items and reported that the Park Board had voted to allow non-Gahanna residents to represent Pooch Playground, Inc at DPAC meetings. Also, City Council voted to authorize \$65,000 for initial dog park relocation.

1. Selection of Chairman: Casey Cannon
2. Selection of Secretary: Lynne Vermillion
3. Review of Rules – Postponed until all members have had the opportunity to review current rules.
4. Discussion of Park Layout – Troy Euton
 - a. Closure of Hannah delayed until at least 30 November 2007; construction of west field at Pizzurro no longer urgent.
 - b. Grass infields (minus the agility area) will be seeded mid October.
 - c. 12 backdrop fences in ball fields will be replaced with 6' fence.
 - d. Preliminary layout for fences indicated two separate “big-dog” areas divided by a corridor leading from the woods to the road. Euton stated this was to allow access from future pathways into the park and also to allow either big-dog area to be closed for maintenance. Several members expressed dissatisfaction with this layout and stressed the importance of having one continuous big-dog area versus two smaller, separate areas. Smaller areas lead to more wear on grass and more dog fights. Members proposed that the small-dog area be reconfigured to allow big-dog access between the east and west fields and still provide a method of closing either portion for maintenance.
 - e. Euton said the final layout for the park could not be completed until after the environmental studies were done and *Pod Design* had submitted a proposed design. Additionally, the Planning Commission must approve the layout before it is considered final.
 - f. **Children’s playground:** After discussing the possibility of relocating children’s playground to a corner of the park, it was decided that the current, central location would allow large dog owners in either the east or west fields to observe their children on the

playground. Some members questioned whether there might be an issue with off-leash dogs entering the playground area. There was a discussion about the possibility of fencing in the playground at some later date. Euton said there was the possibility of enlarging the playground at a later date.

- g. **Agility area surface:** The area around the agility equipment must be durable, safe for dogs, easy to maintain, and capable of withstanding occasional flooding. The following surfaces and their pros and cons were discussed:
 - i. wood chips – wash away during floods; some dogs like to eat
 - ii. grass – difficult to maintain and mow around equipment
 - iii. rubber matting – difficult to maintain?
 - iv. rubber mulch - dirty
 - v. dirt.- muddy, may wash away during floods
 - vi. **pea gravel – selected as best surface of available options; may be somewhat slippery for dogs**
 - vii. decomposed granite – not enough info known about it
 - h. There should be single gates into the agility area from both the big and small dog areas. Dog owners would pass through the agility area in order to travel from the big to the small dog areas.
 - i. **Time out area** – The time out area will be added to the southwest corner of the west big-dog area. Euton said this might consist of a gate in the corner area.
 - j. **Restrooms:** Euton said the permanent restroom would have to be located on the north side of the park because of the flood plain. Permanent restroom will not be available until water and electrical lines extended into the park.
 - k. **Walkways:** Euton stated that paved entry paths and a walking loop in the west area would be provided but initial funding may not be sufficient to provide paved areas for tables.
5. Other Issues:
- a. Vermillion said she would provide members copies of “New Dog Park Requirements” letter and a list of potential areas for DPAC discussion.
 - b. Members briefly discussed whether or not the park would be allowed to remain an “Off-leash area” after the bike path and other park amenities were installed.
 - c. Members briefly discussed some of the health and safety issues involved at the dog park. These included the requirement to have a license and rabies shots; optional vaccinations; water safety; spraying of area for fleas and ticks; and heat and cold concerns.
6. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. The Chairman will establish the date and location for the next meeting of the DPAC.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Vermillion, DPAC Secretary

Approved this 15 day of November, 2007

Casey Cannon, Chair