

City of Gahanna  
**Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)**  
Minutes – 14 May 2009  
5:30PM  
Pizzurro Park

Present: Al Alder (Acting Chair)  
Casey Cannon (Chair)  
Alan Little (Parks Dept Rep)  
Terri Montigny (PPI)  
Laurel Naegele (Parks Board Rep)  
Lori Sobul  
Lynne Vermillion (Secretary)

Absent: Chief Murphy, Michele Cutler, Cathy Koch, Don Sullivan, Dr Kristy Clay, John Pizzurro, Vinnie Tremante, Deputy Chief Kenneth A. Ball, Troy Euton, Charlie Henderson

**1. Parks and Recreation Update:**

- a. Leash Ordinance: No change. (**OPEN**)
- b. Bank Improvement/Creek Access: Oxbow has not been responsive in providing necessary data for providing creek access. The DPAC will send a letter to Troy Euton asking him to attend the next DPAC meeting and explain the city's plan to provide creek access. (**OPEN**)
- c. Special Events: Vermillion will work with the Parks Department to establish a Field Use agreement for the dog park. (**OPEN**)
- d. Potable Water: The cost for tapping the 12" water line will be \$3200. Little has the other funds required for running the lines from Hamilton Rd into the dog park area. Current plans are to install one spigot and the drinking fountain. Work has begun to extend the lines from Hamilton Rd. (**OPEN**)
- e. Phase II fencing: The fence around the east field is complete, but the field is not yet ready for use. Little wants to improve the drainage in certain areas, install dog waste stations, benches, and trash cans before making this field available for use. Little also wants to add an outside door into the storage shelter for easier access from the parking lot. (**OPEN**)
- f. Road resurfacing/speed bump: The Parks Department has restriped the parking lot and added markings for handicap spaces. Still no word on whether a stop sign can be added at the entrance to the parking lot. (**OPEN**)
- g. Recycling container: No change. Park staff are doing a good job of removing water jugs, but the DPAC would also like recycling containers for cans and small water bottles. (**OPEN**)
- h. New Playground: No change. (**OPEN**)

- 2. Water Feature Update:** Sobul has done extensive research about the requirements for a water feature and has spoken with representatives from other dog parks that currently have a dog pond. She considered the park's climate and "dog population" in her study. She provided photos of some successful water features. Sobul will provide a more detailed

summary in a separate document at a later date. Briefly, a sustainable water feature requires:  
**(OPEN)**

- a. Liner to keep water from draining out: This can be made from clay, rubber with stones or dirt on top, or concrete. (Little stated that clay is commonly used for liners in our area.)
- b. Replenishing Water Supply: One dog park in a similar climate pumps out all the water each year and refills it to cut down algae. (Our water would probably be from Big Walnut Creek.)
- c. Means to keep water circulating: This could be a fountain, waterfall or some type of aeration system. (The fountain and aeration systems require electricity which is not currently available in Pizzurro.)
- d. The bigger the pond the better. The water feature must be more than 4' deep to prevent algae growth.
- e. Something to keep water clean. Most parks use some type of chemicals or algae-cide. These require periodic testing and temporarily closing the water feature.
- f. One entrance/exit point to keep down erosion along the bank.

3. **Signage:**

- a. **Monthly Education Signs:** The Parks Department has installed a sign holder for recurring notices immediately inside the large dog area. **(CLOSED)**
- b. **Kids on Agility Equipment:** Still need a sign advising children not to climb on agility equipment. **(OPEN)**
- c. **Hamilton Rd Sign:** Tony Collins has decided that there will not be a sign on Hamilton Rd identifying the location of the Pooch Playground within Pizzurro Park **(CLOSED)**

4. **DPAC meeting schedule:** The DPAC meeting frequency will change to bimonthly and will begin at 6:00 pm instead of 5:30 pm. The meeting will still be on the second Thursday of the scheduled month.

5. **DPAC Role:** The role of the DPAC vis a vis the Parks Board and the Parks Department needs to be redefined since the dog park is now established and operating successfully. This will be discussed at a future meeting when both Parks Board members are available.  
**(OPEN)**

6. **New Business:**

- a. Vermillion asked if a “lost and found” box and a “suggestion box” could be placed at the dog park. Little stated that many found items are turned into the Parks Department and dog park users should be instructed to look for items there. He also stated that a suggestion box would just add an additional item for Parks Staff to have to check each day and suggested that park users be given his email address for suggestions. Signs have been added to the bulletin boards telling people how to submit suggestions and where to look for lost items. **(CLOSED)**

- b.** Vermillion provided Little a copy of dog park brochure that the PPI had developed for the park at Hannah and suggested that the city might want to develop something similar to make available at City Hall, the Gahanna Visitors Center, and dog-friendly hotels. **(CLOSED)**
  - c.** The Olde Gahanna Community Partnership plans to sponsor a “Pups on the Plaza” event the first Thursday of the month at Creekside Plaza. Signs have been posted at the dog park announcing this event. **(CLOSED)**
- 7.** The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. **The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6:00 on Thursday, 9 July 2009. If the weather permits, the location may be a Pizzurro Park.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Vermillion, DPAC Secretary