

City of Gahanna
Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)
Minutes -- 24 Jan 2008
5:30PM
City Hall

Present: Al Adler
Casey Cannon (Chair)
Michele Cutler (Pooch Playground Representative)
Cathy Koch
Alan Little (Parks Department Representative)
John Pizzurro
Lynne Vermillion (Secretary)

Absent: Chief Murphy, Charlie Henderson, Dr Kristy Clay, Dot Micacchion, Terri Montigny,
Lori Sobul, Don Sullivan

1. Update from Parks Department:
 - a. New latches have been put on gates. May need some minor adjustments.
 - b. The service gate in the large dog area has been chained shut. People were using it to go into the unfenced area and leaving it open for dogs to escape.
 - c. The two large benches have been repaired and repainted and placed in the east field. The small broken bench will be saved for parts.
 - d. The Parks Department will do more drainage work near the basketball court and plans to redo the areas beside the paved pathway to eliminate/minimize the mud.
 - e. The road leading into Pizzurro will be resurfaced by the Service Department. The Parks Department is responsible for the parking area. The handicap spots will be relocated when the parking lot is redone.
 - f. The fence at Hannah has been removed. Instead of using this fence to enlarge the dog park, the Parks Department will reuse it elsewhere and install new fencing at Pizzurro to ensure that both areas of the fence match.
 - g. Large stones have been placed over the drainage grates in and beside the small dog area. These seem to be adequate to prevent dogs from injuring themselves while still allowing water to drain.
 - h. A larger playground area has been staked out adjacent to the existing one. The playground equipment may be upgraded but won't be a "deluxe" model since most people going to Pizzurro Park will be using the dog park instead of the playground. Cannon asked if a small fence could be placed around the playground to separate children and off-leash dogs.
 - i. The bushes around the entrance have been trimmed back to improve visibility into the dog park area. A stop sign or bars may be added later to slow traffic entering the dog area.
 - j. The entrance sign to Pizzurro has been relocated.
 - k. The Parks Department has finished rebuilding the agility equipment and is waiting siting information from the Pooch Playground Inc.

- l. The Parks Department is in the process of building new bulletin boards for inside the dog park.
 - m. The second “pipe safe” is being repaired and will be installed near the small dog area.
 - n. Little said he had received two written “complaints” about the mud at the park but hadn’t yet been able to get in touch with the people lodging the complaints.
 - o. Cutler asked if the “little benches” could be modified to prevent the legs from sinking into the ground.
2. Member comments:
- a. Vermillion asked if there was an update about the revised rules for the dog park. Little will check this. (Little is still not satisfied with the location of the rules sign.)
 - b. Vermillion asked if the sign from Hannah instructing people to call either the Parks Department or the Gahanna Police for problems could be reinstalled at Pizzurro Park. Little will check this.
 - c. Several members thought that any benches near entrance areas be designated for handicap use.
3. New Business:
- a. Vermillion asked committee members to formally review the purpose, roles, and responsibilities of the Dog Park Advisory Committee and set up operating procedures. Although further discussion will be required to coordinate the actions of other agencies, the members agreed upon the following:
 - i. Roles and Responsibility:
 1. Monitor and provide oversight for broad issues affecting the dog park.
 2. Make recommendations for overall policies and procedures for events and actions at the dog park.
 3. Coordinate dog park activities with the city, the Parks Department, user groups, and the non-profit organization (Pooch Playground, Inc.)
 4. Coordinate and make recommendations for changes or additions to the dog park, operating procedures, policies, and park rules.
 5. Provide an institutionalized process to document the status of the dog park and the planned actions of the various stakeholders of the dog park.
 6. The DPAC is not the appropriate agency to deal with day-to-day or one-time issues at the park. (Little requested that he be emailed immediately of any maintenance issues at the park.)
 - ii. Procedures:
 1. The meetings should be limited to 90 minutes
 2. The meetings should have an established agenda. The chairman will send this out prior to the meeting.
 3. The agenda should always include a Parks Department update, a review of old business, and new business.

4. For now, the meetings will continue on a monthly basis but, based on the agenda, not all members will be required at every meeting.
 5. Based on the agenda, the chairman will contact DPAC members to ensure the appropriate decision makers are in attendance for specific meetings.
 6. Members may be asked to provide information to the chairman outside of the scheduled meeting.
 7. Because this is a public meeting, the DPAC may have to develop a method to advertise scheduled meetings to the public.
- b. Members agreed that a future meeting should address the policies and procedures for using the dog park for special events such as fund-raising events, rescue groups, training, private parties, etc.
 - c. Members wanted the next meeting to address enforcement issues at the dog park. For example, if there are problem owners/dogs, who should this be reported to? When should the police be called? What is required to “ban” a dog or owner from the park? What should be done about people who just “don’t follow the rules?” In order for this to be a productive meeting, it was felt that a senior police officer and Parks Department representative should be present. Cannon will coordinate this.
 - i. **Members must send Cannon a list of enforcement questions and issues prior to the next meeting.**
 - d. Koch said it would be useful to have a list of the “appropriate” agencies to call for problem at the park and asked when it would be appropriate to call the Animal Control officer.
4. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. Cannon will contact individual members and determine the date for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Vermillion, DPAC Secretary

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2008

Casey Cannon, Chair