

City of Gahanna
Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)
Minutes -- 8 May 2008
5:30PM
City Hall

Present: Casey Cannon (Chair)
Michele Cutler (Observer)
Cathy Koch
Alan Little (Parks Department Representative)
Terri Montigny (Pooch Playground Representative)
Lori Sobul
Don Sullivan
Lynne Vermillion (Secretary)

Absent: Chief Murphy, Dr Kristy Clay, Laurel Naegele, John Pizzurro, Vinnie Tremante,
Deputy Chief Kenneth A. Ball, Troy Euton, Charlie Henderson

1. New Business:

- a. Sullivan stated that he had recently seen more unfixed, aggressive male dogs brought into the park. Owners seem to sit on the bench and ignore their dogs. There is a very dominant, unfixed Akita who frequents the park. (Was he exiled from another park?). Although the Akita gives off good warning signals, he is very intolerant of rude puppy behavior and has bitten Brutus and Max. Koch said other owners become very tense when the Akita is present. This will be discussed at next month's meeting.
(Open)
- b. Traffic Flow: There are a lot of people who linger by the gate area, in part because of the water and the bench. At the next meeting, the Committee will discuss traffic flow ideas to encourage people to move away from this area. (Open)

2. Old Business:

- a. Special Events:
 - i. Cutler led the discussion about policies and procedures for special events at the dog park. Specifically, she wanted to know:
 1. What is the official policy on vendors in the park? In the past, vendors have supported events and donated supplies to the park. Are they allowed to sell items or should they ask for "donations?" Do they need vendor permits?
 2. Can the Pooch Playground, Inc. charge vendors for setting up booths at events and then use the money to support the Pooch Playground?
 3. Can vendors advertise at the park in return for providing services?
 4. Can the Pooch Playground sell food at events or should this be done by asking for donations?
 5. Can rescue organizations sell products during their Rescue Romps?
 6. What will be the relationship between the Parks Foundation and the dog park?

7. Can individuals rent the pavilion (\$20R/\$30NR) and the agility area (proposed \$10 fee) for private “dog parties?” Can this be scheduled through the Parks Department front office as is done for normal pavilion rental? If the agility area were rented by a user, it would be off-limits to other dog owners for the duration of the event.
 - ii. Little said he would check with the Parks Department about these issues. (Open)
 - b. Water Feature: The issue of creek access is still under debate because of the report from the Natural Resources Committee. It will be discussed at the next Parks Board meeting scheduled for 7:00pm on 4 June 2008. Sobul suggested the committee send a letter to the Parks Board outlining the Dog Park Advisory Committee’s position. (Open)
 - c. Enforcement Issues: Members made a final review of the handouts for reporting problems at the park, aggressive and nuisance dog behaviors. These were approved for posting on the bulletin board. The incident report needed minor revisions before posting. (Closed)
 - d. Bench Pads: The Ad-hoc group developed a plan for the new bench pads. Blake Swanson will install these on 3 consecutive Saturdays. The Parks Department will excavate the areas a day or two prior to each installation. The planned layout is attached to these minutes. (1 ATCH)
 - e. Potable Water: The options are a water buffalo which would have to be refilled weekly and kept in a shaded area or a water line which would have to be extended from Hamilton Road. During an 8 May meeting between Euton, Little, and Vermillion, Euton said he will contact the Service Dept to discuss whether a water line could be brought into Pizzurro at the same time the road is resurfaced. (Open)
 - f. Final Park Design: Little has contacted the GIS Department for assistance in determining static locations for the east fence design. These points are required in order for “Pod Design” to develop a design plan. (Open)
3. Update from the Parks Department:
- a. The snow fence has been removed from the infield. The areas around the pathway and the “mud holes” have been tilled, seeded and covered with straw. The entire park was broadcast seeded.
 - b. 250 Middle School East students helped clean up the park area outside of the fence and did some minor cleanup inside the fence.
 - c. The Parks Dept will add wood chips to the shaded section in the small-dog area. There is still a lot of “trash” buried in the dirt under the trees.
 - d. The Parks Dept will put a picnic table in the small-dog area for additional seating (Closed).
 - e. The Parks Dept installed a bulk holder and sign for extra plastic bags. Hopefully, this will discourage people from hanging empty bags on the fence. (Closed).
 - f. The sign pointing to the small-dog area is complete, but Little is still waiting for the “Time Out Box” sign. (Open)
 - g. Alan provided the telephone number for weekend park support (452-2946). This number will be provided only to dog park volunteers if needed for emergency weekend maintenance.

