

City of Gahanna
Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)
Minutes -- 6 Dec 2007
5:30PM
City Hall

Present: Al Adler (Acting Chair)
Michele Cutler (Observer)
Alan Little (Parks Department Representative)
Terri Montigny (Pooch Playground Representative)
Don Sullivan
Lynne Vermillion (Secretary)

Absent: Casey Cannon, Chief Murphy, Charlie Henderson, Dr Kristy Clay, Cathy Koch, Dot Micacchion, John Pizzurro, Lori Sobul, Don Sullivan

Adler agreed to serve as acting chairman and opened the meeting at 5:30.

1. Update from Parks Department:

- a. The fencing is complete. A maintenance gate was added to the small dog area. The entire fence has a bottom rail to keep dogs from escaping.
- b. One bench from Hannah is broken. Parks Department will determine whether it can be repaired. The rest of the benches, pickup stations, and fire hydrants have been placed in Pizzurro.
- c. Parks department is looking at various methods to contain the gravel within the agility area. The agility equipment from Hannah will be taken to the shop and repaired and painted. (Yellow paint recommended for visibility). [The Pooch Playground, Inc. (PPI) will provide a recommended layout for the agility equipment at Pizzurro.]
- d. The repair and maintenance of Pizzurro Parkway is the responsibility of the Service Department and will be scheduled for repaving and repainting of parking lines. Crosswalks will be added. The handicap spots will be relocated. The Parks staff will also work with the Service Department on methods to slow traffic entering the dog park area. The road into the park will be plowed and salted as required.
- e. Better drainage is required on the east field near the basketball court. The Parks staff will continue to look at methods to modify the drain grates to prevent dogs from injuring themselves. A temporary cover has been placed over the drain in the small dog area.
- f. The Parks Department will continue to work with 'Oxbow' to design the creek entry. It is possible that work may be done this winter; summer at the latest.
- g. Little reemphasized that hunting was not authorized at Pizzurro Park although hunters may park their vehicles within park property as they hunt in the adjoining properties. Call Police if hunters are in Pizzurro Park.
- h. Park staff has installed a temporary sign at Hannah telling park users the new location of the dog park.
- i. The signage at Pizzurro will be changed to present a consistent, coordinated, and professional appearance. Main colors will be hunter green and tan. "Kate" from the Parks Department is responsible for developing a "Signage Package."
- j. Little requested the combination for the lock on the storage building and asked what the Pooch Playground Inc. wanted to do with the Rubbermaid building at Hannah. [PPI requested it be moved to Pizzurro and made available to store common use items such as extra plastic bags and shovels.]

- k. A temporary fence will be added around the seeded area on the west field and the Parks Department will finish backfilling along the path. Additionally, the Parks Department will repair and install the second pipe safe.

2. Member comments:

- a. The fenced area is looking very nice.
- b. Bulletin Boards are required in the dog park. PPI requested two specially made bulletin boards for inside the fenced area: one in the small-dog area and one near the maintenance gate in the large dog area. PPI will provide design information. Any bulletin board outside the fenced area would be for general park information not related to the dog park.
- c. People don't realize that there is a separate small-dog area. We need a sign directing people to this second area. Montigny has access to a graphic design artist who could develop a "crossroad sign".
- d. Vermillion asked if there were any further plans to add a Pooch Playground sign at the entrance to Pizzurro Park on Hamilton Rd.
- e. Vermillion requested that benches be used inside the fenced areas instead of tables. Any benches near the gates should be designated for Handicap to discourage people from congregating around the gates. In addition to benches, boulders or large stones could be used for seating within the park.
- f. Sullivan and Adler said the self-closing latches are not working properly and need some adjustment.
- g. Members requested information on the amount spent to develop the dog park at Pizzurro. So far, approximately \$19,800 for the fence and about \$20,000 for the paving.

3. Other issues:

- a. Little asked if it was possible to get people to remove their toys and water bottles when they left the park to improve the appearance of the park. The committee discussed this and concluded that it would be nice but not realistic to expect all dog park users to do so. The dog toy bins installed at Hannah were a compromise to encourage people to pick up toys. So far, park users seem to be placing water bowls at the paved entrance area rather than throughout the park.
- b. Members discussed the location of the dog waste stations. Currently, all of the trash cans and bag holders are located along the paved path. This makes it easy to access and mow around but it leaves some areas without bags or trashcans. The commercial dog waste stations look very nice but they don't hold very many bags and the trash containers are small. Rolls of pickup bags would be better for the commercial waste stations if we could find an inexpensive source of supply. Montigny asked whether we could get allow commercial bag sponsors to "advertise" their support.
- c. Members made a final review of the revised rules and recommended they be forwarded to the Parks Department for final approval.

4. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. No date was set for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Vermillion, DPAC Secretary

Approved this _____ day of _____, 2007

Casey Cannon, Chair