

City of Gahanna
Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)
Minutes – 8 January 2009
5:30PM
City Hall

Present: Casey Cannon (Chair)
Al Alder
Alan Little (Parks Dept Rep)
Terri Montigny
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: Since the off-leash waiver at Pizzurro has expired, new signs must be developed stating that dogs must be on a leash except within the fenced areas and in the creek area. The committee recommended the sign state: “Dogs must be on leash except in designated areas.” Additionally, signs would then be placed at the creek entrance area and on the dog park gates stating: “Designated off-leash area.” Naegele will relay the committee’s recommendation to the Parks Board. **(OPEN)**
- b. Bank Improvement/Creek Access: *Oxbow* has not responded to a request to provide the plan for creek access. The Parks Department may need to request input from another company or perform the work in-house. Naegele suggested that the Natural Resources Council have the opportunity to provide a review of any final plans. The Parks Department still hopes to have this completed in the summer of 2009. The DPAC recommends that the work be performed in house because the Parks Department has the best understanding of the requirements.**(OPEN)**
- c. Special Events: **(OPEN)**
 - i. The meeting with Collins still has not taken place. Little and Montigny have discussed developing a “Field Use Agreement” between PPI and the Parks Department similar to that used by Sports Leagues. The Committee discussed the need to make stronger use of the **Gateway** to promote the existence and activities of the dog park. (Kate Manning is the new Public Relations person for the Parks & Recreation Department.) Montigny discussed three events which are tentatively scheduled for 2009.
 1. Easter Egg Hunt: April 18, 2009
 2. Responsible Dog Ownership Day: Possibly September 09
 3. Howl-or-Whine: October 09
 - ii. The DPAC also discussed the type and price of potential “facility rentals” for private dog-related events at Pizzurro Park. After the east field is fenced, individuals or groups should be able to rent one section of the Large Dog Area if the other section is open for public use. Notices should be posted prior to

these events advising dog park users that specific areas will be closed. The DPAC's recommendations to the Parks Board for half-day rentals are:

1. Pavilion Rental: \$20 (\$30 for non residents; \$10 for non-profit organizations)
 2. Pavilion plus Agility area: \$30 (\$40 for non residents; \$20 for non-profit organizations)
 3. Pavilion plus one section of the Large Dog area. \$50 (\$60 for non residents; \$40 non-profit organizations). This option does not include the agility area.
- d. Potable Water: The estimated completion date to trench and install the water line is April 2009. Little stressed that proper drainage must be installed for the fountains and spigots. Vermillion requested that the Parks Dept use a different type of handle on any spigots than the type used at Hannah Park. **(OPEN)**
 - e. Road resurfacing/speed bump: The DPAC still recommends that a Stop sign be installed at the entrance to the parking lot. Although many people will not come to a complete stop, it is the fastest and cheapest measure to reduce the speed of vehicles through the parking lot. **(OPEN)**
 - f. Recycling container: No change. **(OPEN)**
 - g. New Playground: The Parks Department is considering installing a split rail fence between the playground and the road. Additionally, they may plant Pampus grass along the dog park fence. **(OPEN)**
 - h. Mowing Schedule: Still waiting for the PPI to make a sign asking dog park users to pick up toys on Tuesday evening or Monday morning so that mowing can occur on Wednesdays. **(OPEN)**
 - i. Layout of Phase Two: The concept plan has still not been sent to the Planning Commission for approval. The estimated cost for fencing the east field is approximately \$26,000 which is twice as much as expected. Little isn't sure whether he can obtain the additional funds for the fence. **(OPEN)**
2. Water Feature Update: No change. The development of a sustainable water feature (dog pond) requires electricity which will not be available until 2010 at the earliest. This will be discussed in detail at the next meeting. **(OPEN)**
 3. Signage:
 - a. Monthly Education Signs: Cutler was not available to discuss the monthly education signs. The Parks Department has located a stand that could be used for monthly tips. **(OPEN)**
 - b. Kids on Agility Equipment: Still need a sign advising children not to climb on agility equipment. **(OPEN)**
 4. New Benches and Chairs: The Parks Department is assembling the four new benches purchased for the dog park by Pooch Playground, Inc. As the new benches are installed, the green plastic chairs must be removed. Little said there are additional scouts who may be interested in projects at Pizzurro Park. If additional bench pads are built, the DPAC recommends they be made larger to minimize the terrain wear in front of the benches. **(OPEN)**

5. New Business:

Incident Report: On 29 Nov 08, the Gahanna Police were called to Pizzurro Park because a woman became very abusive when asked to remove her large dog from the small dog area. The complainant addressed City Council in December 08 asking that the Dog Park Rules at Pizzurro be codified in Gahanna statutes so the Police would have more enforcement authority. After considerable discussion, the DPAC does not believe that the Dog Park rules needed to be codified because there are existing laws (nuisance dogs and abusive language) which could have been used to resolve the incident. However, the existing rules should be amended to address the small dog area. Additionally, the DPAC recommends that a sign be placed between the agility area and the small dog area stating that the small dog area is only for dogs 25 pounds or less. The incident may be discussed further by City Council. **(OPEN)**

6. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. **The next meeting is scheduled for 5:30 on Thursday, 12 February 2009. The location will be in City Hall. The topics for this meeting will be the water feature and any results about the dog park from the Planning Commission.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Vermillion, DPAC Secretary