

City of Gahanna  
**Dog Park Advisory Committee (DPAC)**  
Minutes – 9 July 2009  
6:00PM  
Pizzurro Park

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

Absent: Chief Murphy, Casey Cannon, Michele Cutler, 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: No Change. **(OPEN)**
- c. Special Events: No Change. **(OPEN)**
- d. Potable Water: The water lines have been run from Hamilton road into the park area and drainage lines placed around the termination points. Water spigots will initially be placed near the pavilion and outside the west large dog area. Existing water pressure is insufficient for the water fountains. Eventually the water lines may be relocated. Park users will still use plastic jugs to transfer water into the park but hopefully there will be fewer water jugs during the summer months. **(OPEN)**
- e. Phase II fencing: The east field is now open for use! Dog waste stations have been installed along the walkway. Although Little still plans to make additional improvements to this area (gate hardware, bench pads, outfield drainage, second door into shed), this item is considered complete. **(CLOSED)**
- f. Road resurfacing/speed bump: The Parks Department has restriped the parking lot and added markings for handicap spaces. **(CLOSED)**
- g. Recycling container: No change. The park staff is 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: A Girl Scout has volunteered to construct a visual barrier between the playground and the east large dog area. Split rail fence is still planned between the playground and the road. **(OPEN)**
- i. 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)**
- j. Kids on Agility Equipment: Still need a sign advising children not to climb on agility equipment. **(OPEN)**
- k. Little provided the dog park brochure to Kate Moening. **(CLOSED)**

2. **Water Feature Update:** Sobul provided committee members a written summary of her water feature research. (Copy attached to the end of the minutes). Nothing can be done until electricity is available (maybe by 2012); however, the interim time can be used for planning and fundraising.
  - a. Before any further planning can be done, the size of the pond must be established. This will affect the depth, location, and ultimate cost of the pond. (The pond at BarkPark is ½ acre and 10' deep.) **In order to get a better feel for the required size, the next meeting will be held at the Golf Course to look at the size of water holes. Prior to the next meeting, committee members are asked to visit the water feature on Rice Road which has a water pump and aerators.**
  - b. The initial plan is to use a clay liner for the base, pump water from Big Walnut Creek into the dog pond, provide an easy access shelf around the edge of the pond, treat the pond with copper sulfate as required, and provide aerators in the pond. Fish and other aquatic animals would inhabit the pond.
3. **Other Issues:**
  - a. Letter to Deputy Parks Director. The letter inviting Troy Euton to attend the next meeting has not yet been sent. Vermillion will resend the draft to Cannon and Sobul for action. **(OPEN)**
4. **New Business:**
  - a. Montigny introduced Christy Evans from the Olde Gahanna Community Partnership who discussed the **Paws in the Plaza** initiative held at Creekside on the first Thursday of each month. Dog-related vendors and several dog businesses set up tables on the plaza and many pet friendly shops remain open during this event. Signs have been placed at the dog park publicizing this event. Montigny suggested we should hold our Howl-o-whine fundraiser at Creekside instead of the dog park to draw more people to Creekside and increase awareness of the dog park. (The PPI is trying to raise money for at least one more water fountain – retail cost for a fountain is \$4,722.) The Pooch Playground, Inc. will also provide information about the dog park at these monthly events. Any events should be coordinated with Kate Moening. **(Ongoing)**
  - b. Little said that two stray dogs had been left in the small dog area of the dog park.
  - c. Cannon was not able to attend this meeting but sent word that he would like to step down as DPAC chairman. The committee will need to select a new chairman. **(OPEN)**
  - d. An email request was sent to the Parks Department requesting that the small dog area be enlarged because so many more people are using this area now. Now that the east field is complete, it might be possible to enlarge the small dog area but users would need to raise the funds for this change. We will discuss this further if more requests come in. **(OPEN)**
5. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm. **The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 on Thursday, 10 Sep 2009 at the Gahanna Golf Course.** Members should drive by the Rice Ave pond before the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Vermillion, DPAC Secretary

## Gahanna Dog Park Advisory Committee Water Feature Update

In researching other dog parks with water features, I have identified several areas need to be addressed for a pond to be constructed and maintained.

1. There must be electricity and water. Electricity does not currently exist at Pizzurro. [We need to know if and when this will occur.](#) There is water via the creek but no way to pump it to a pond. We either need a way to pump it (once again requiring electricity) or another water source such as a main water line. [What is the plan and timetable for getting running water into the park?](#) Running water would also give a place to rinse dogs off after being in the pond and to provide clean drinking water.
2. The pond needs to be wide enough and deep enough to accommodate a large number of dogs and to help keep it clean. The larger and deeper the better. It needs to be at least 4 feet deep to prevent algae growth. Some ponds are as deep as 10 feet. We also would need to slope the sides and have a shelf for safety. [The size and depth may depend on engineering issues related to building the shelf and slope.](#)
3. The pond will need to be excavated. [Can this be done by parks and rec or would we need to contract this out?](#) That can make a difference in cost. A rough estimate to have it contracted out is \$10,000 to \$12,000.
4. The pond will need a liner. The liner can be compacted clay, pea gravel, concrete or a black plastic liner. The least expensive and durable option would be clay and according to Alan Little, that would be an appropriate option given the clay types soil we have.
5. We would need a replenishing water supply. Due to water splashing out and evaporation, we would need to keep the water level up. Some of this will be provided by rainfall but we also need a way to regularly pump creek water in or fill the pond with water from a water line. According to Barkpark, we could lose ½ to 1 foot of water per week.
6. We need to keep the water clean. This can be accomplished by circulating the water through use of a fountain, waterfall, or aeration system. 2 mechanisms such as a waterfall and aeration system are best. A fountain has the potential to harm the dogs if they get too close and to be damaged by the dogs. There are different types of aeration options, including a wetland, but I would need to obtain more information about that. Wetlands do absorb heavy metals and other toxic wastes and can take up excess nutrients that add to algae blooms. Chemical have been used by the parks but the type and frequency of use varies by location. The pond needs to be well-balanced and having fish and frogs can help. It also needs some type of chemical to control blue-green algae. [These are areas where Alan and Vinnie would be helpful based on previous use at other ponds and what is most cost effective.](#)
7. Getting in and out of the pond can be accomplished in many ways. It appears that the best option is to have only one large in and out location. There should be fencing around the other ¾. This cuts down on muddy banks and erosion. The entrance should have a ramp or zero entrance. Pea gravel, river rock, sand, concrete or wood can be used. Rock or sand would need to be replaced yearly. This should be discussed at the dog park meeting.
8. Depending on construction and use, the pond may need to be reamed out every few years.

9. The pond should be fenced off totally in the winter or when there is any potential for freezing. This requires fencing to be handy to be brought to the site and erected or a fence system that can be opened and closed as needed.
10. Chemicals that are used in and around the park can run off into the pond and be dangerous for the dogs (or fish or frogs). [Will that be a problem?](#)
11. [The area outside the pond will need to be considered. Do we put pea gravel all around or use plants, concrete, large stones or compacted soil?](#)
12. I have talked to people who love the Gahanna Dog Park. They travel to the different parks and rave about the size and comfort at Gahanna. The main complaint is that there is no water for the dogs to drink and since most people don't realize this, they come unprepared. The other amenity that we don't have is a water feature such as a pond. Many dogs love to swim and it gives them good exercise and another way to tire out a dog and make them better pets. It also gives them a place to cool off when it is so hot. The start up will take planning and finances but depending on the systems put in place to keep it clean, a pond will offer years of enjoyment with routine maintenance.

Prepared by Lori Sobul