

Dog Park GENERAL Meeting

Saturday, June 9, 2007 @ 10am

Held: at the Dog Park

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Attendance.** 20 members (+ the Board) were in attendance.
2. **Recent Complaints** – off leash dogs, courteous ball throwing, children, etc. We discussed some recent complaints about off-leash dogs and being courteous to fellow members re: ball throwing etc. It should go without saying that on the way to the park, all dogs should be on a leash. Similarly, if you are throwing balls, sticks, toys, etc. in the dog park, be courteous to your fellow park members and their dogs. Also, some had concerns about bringing small children into the park, especially if kids have food that the dogs may want.
3. **Minimum Age of Dogs.** We reminded the group that the minimum age for dogs is 4 months – this is mostly to ensure the puppies safety before they are fully vaccinated.
4. **Small Dog Area.** Every so often, some one brings up the issue of whether the park should dedicate an area to small dogs. We talked about using the corner log or a section of the outer area adjoining Orianna Street, or about building in an area in the main park. There was not a lot of interest in pursuing this.
5. **Tree Removal.** We informed everyone that we planned to have a couple trees removed on the north side of the park near the boundary of the building adjoining us on Orianna Street.
6. **Member Feedback.** We solicited open feedback from members:
 - a. One member asked that if an event (e.g. a clean up day) is moved, that all members be notified by email and something posted on our website. We said that email notifications should go out (that is Kelly's responsibility); we rely on a non-Board volunteer (Neil Kohl) for our web updates, and while he is very responsive, we may not be able to contact him with last minute changes. However, Neil is changes the website format to soon allow the Board to make our own updates to the homepage.
7. **Silica/3rd Street Construction Proposal.** The majority of the meeting was dedicated to discussing the proposal by Silica Builders & Construction Management to use for 55 weeks a 14 ft. x 105 ft. portion of the Park's property for staging construction projects (scaffolding) at 926 N. 3rd Street, which is adjacent to the northeastern border of the Dog Park (this is the back, left corner across the street from Liberty Lands). They propose to build a temporary fence to secure the border between our properties. We have been discussing/ negotiating with them about the possible terms of such a deal, and what we might get in return.
 - a. A number of concerns were raised: (1) 14 ft. x 100 ft. is a lot (approx. 10%) of our land, (2) 55 weeks is a long time, (3) They could overstay or abandon the contract, (4) they will not pay us promptly or at all once on

our land, (5) they could breach the contract in one of a million ways, and we do not have the finances to hire a lawyer to litigate, (5) safety – temporary fence they build will be insufficiently sturdy/dogs will escape; contractors will cause debris/tools etc. to fall over the fence, causing an unsafe condition for users of the park.

- b. Possible “payments”: we have been negotiating to get the entire 3rd street gate replaced in exchange for use of the land, which would include a retaining wall to prevent woodchip bleed. Also, they will remove and replace some trees, and we want them to pay our attorneys fees, and completely indemnify us. A number of members thought a fee/rental payment would be better than fence replacement, so we could do it the way we want. Members also thought we should get a large sum of \$ placed in escrow/bond that we could access if problems arise.
- c. Straw Poll: took a straw poll and the majority (19 out of 27) thought if the terms were right, we should consider the proposal – e.g. we should at least proceed with negotiations.
- d. Sub-committee: we set up a sub-committee: 5 members signed up to work on this problem, including specifically to find legal counsel (a real estate lawyer) and to price out a fence along 3rd street.