

DOG PARK BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, September 16th, 2009
Minutes

Present

- | | |
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| • Anne | • Irene |
| • Jack | • Walt |
| • Kelly | • Zoe |
| • Dan | • Rob |

Not Present

- Sayde

Meeting Begin: 7:00pm; Meeting Adjourn: 9:45pm

1. Approve July minutes (no meeting in August)
 - a. Walt moved; Jack 2nd; unanimous in favor (8-0)
2. Date for Hound-o-ween (save detail discussion for Oct.)
3. Ratify online vote to spend \$1500 for tree trimming. Jack motion. Seconded. Unanimous in favor (8-0).
4. Lengthy Discussion of Park overcrowding/rules/aggressive dogs/complaints from members and possible ways to address.
 - a. Signs. We discussed the need for new and improved signage, both replacing the old FOOHP sign on Orianna, and signs re: rules, tags, etc. Needs to be more professional.
 - i. Formed a Committee –Zoe, Jack and ? will come up with sign placement and language ideas and will present to Board.
 - b. Furniture Placement. A member recommended getting rid of furniture or moving it around, feeling that when members sit, they don't pay attention to their dogs. The Board agreed that dispersing furniture might help with preventing concentrations of dogs, but felt that removing it completely is not necessary or desired. There is an issue of the chained together benches – not sure where the keys are.
 - c. Membership application/orientation process.
 - i. Membership Application: Kelly suggested that we make our membership process much more in depth – we ask for significantly more information – where you got dog, how long have it, training, dogs owned before. Perhaps using dog adoption questionnaires as a model. Anne has been asking some of these questions informally by email in the last couple weeks over email to new members. We discussed that some personal connection with incoming would be a good way to stress that the park is a “community” that everyone needs to own. Moreover, the application would be more akin to a contract to adhere to before getting a tag, and if you break it, it is grounds to be asked to leave the Park's membership.
 - ii. Orientation Sessions. We discussed that maybe as part of this orientation process, we have orientation process. Rob discussed creating a short orientation video. Would we “re-orient” old/renewing members?
 - iii. Sub-committee: Irene (draft contract), Kelly, Zoe (questions to add to membership app)
 - d. Legal Issues/Requirements for Membership: Kelly reported on preliminary research into the legality of restricting use of the dog park to dues-paying members. Kelly will

follow-up with Sayde after the meeting to ask her to review and research any issues with respect to the RDA's conveyance/contract of the Park land to FOOHP.

- e. Tag Checking Program. Zoe suggested that we might consider setting up a schedule to check tags.
 - i. Sub-committee (a "membership committee") to set this up. We should ask members who emailed about this to serve. Anne will be chair, Zoe will help, and will ask certain other general members.
- f. Limiting 20-30 dogs at a time in the park. Discussed and rejected.
- g. Limiting membership to just 19123 people. Of approximately 300 current/tagged members in 2009, approximately 100 are from out of the 19123 zipcode. Discussed and rejected.
- h. Breed ban. The Board was unanimously against a breed ban at this point (pit bulls); problem is bad owners not bad dogs.
- i. Neutering. Numerous Board members and general members have reported problems with intact dogs at the Park. We discussed the issue of whether allowing unneutered dogs in the Park has led to some of the incidents of aggression in the Park. Zoe mentioned that even if the unneutered dog doesn't himself get aggressive, it can incite a certain bad energy in other dogs. Discussed issue of what to do with current members whose dogs are unneutered. We decided that if we institute a ban on unneutered dogs, we should implement it as of Jan. 1, 2010, at which time all members need to get new tag anyway, and this way, any currently unneutered dogs are given notice as well.
 - i. Motion by Kelly to ban unneutered dogs over 8 mo. old as of Jan 1, 2010. Jack seconded. Unanimous in favor (8-0).
- j. Children in the Park. Current rule (stated in our membership brochure) is: "Children under eighteen must be accompanied by an adult. Allowing toddlers to wander in the Park is strongly discouraged." There was discussion about whether that rule should be changed/strengthened/no kids allowed. We discussed making safe kid/dog interaction part of the education/orientation process.
- k. Prong/pinch collars. Zoe motion to ban pinch/prong collars in the Park (if using for walking, must remove before entering the Park). Dan 2nd. Unanimous in favor (8-0).

5. **General meeting:**

- a. We discussed the need to have a meeting with the general membership to discuss these issues and ideas sometime in October.
- b. Discussed when to have. Anne will check NLNA calendar, as we decided to hold it in the NLNA Community Center. (**Meeting subsequently set for Wed. Oct. 28th, 2009 in the NLNA Community Center**).

Meeting Adjourned: 9:45pm.