

## DOG PARK SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: March 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Location: Birch Room, City Hall

Members Present: Ed Giallombardo, Tom Neal (c), Lauren Henkelman, Jamie Polley, Jamie Rice-Heckendorf

Excused: David Nutting, Michelle Dins, Eric Heuser

Others Present: Susan Schmidt, Adam Sikora, Maria Sikora, News Media

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. It was noted that there was a quorum present and the meeting was called to order by Chairman Neal at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Henkelman, second by Giallombardo to approve the January 3, 2019 draft minutes with the change to the sentence that “Polley” would check on what turf the Kronenwetter dog park is using instead of “Rice-Heckendorf”. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.

Election of Vice-Chair – tabled

Discussion and Possible Action on Project Prioritization – Neal thought that the irrigation system was such an expensive part of the project he wondered if hoses and sprinklers could be used to water the area instead. He felt that volunteers could possibly take care of this. Polley said if an irrigation system isn’t going to be used, then they have to start with a hardy seed. Polley will check to see if city wood chips can be used for a path. If so, a path could be put in the first phase and the path layout and material could be changed in the future. The parking area could initially be gravel. Neal questioned if the park could open this year. Polley said if they wanted a different type of turf seed down that would take establishment and the park couldn’t open until 2020. If they are okay with what is there right now it would just need fencing. Members discussed some other options besides plain chain link fencing. After discussion regarding the phases it was determined that phase one should include fencing, parking, and signage. Other options that could be included are a water fountain, dog waste station and benches. A wood chip path would be moved to the second phase unless they could use the city wood chips immediately. If the turf out there now is not sufficient then the turf would be moved to phase one. Phase three would include an irrigation system if necessary, agility equipment and a shade shelter. Polley will redo the project phase listing.

Discussion and Possible Action on Fundraising Campaign - Neal said he and Heuser will work on a cover letter to go along with the project list to reach potential donors with. Two upcoming events that would be good places to inform people and get some exposure regarding the dog park are the fundraising walk for the Humane Society and the Paws on the Pavement event. Neal mentioned that the East Town Neighborhood Group had some interest in holding a dog walk along the river as a fundraiser for the dog park. Neal thought there could be levels of sponsorship including naming rights for the park. Other fundraising ideas included putting names on pavers and benches, checking if area restaurants would donate a percentage of purchases made or having donation jars. Neal said a fund for the dog park will be set up by the City Finance Director and he will check on some details with the City attorney. Polley mentioned that before any fencing is approved they send the fencing specifications to the DNR.

Polley mentioned that the DOT had responded to her questions regarding the old Menard property. There were no negatives that this couldn’t happen, they just had a couple of stipulations such as needing access to an electrical panel and for bridge repairs. The City would be responsible for fence updates and the current trail could not be altered. The only downside is when the highway is plowed in the winter time. Members expressed interest in keeping the property as an idea for a second dog park. Committee members seemed to feel the dog parks should be free.

Next meeting Date – to be determined.

Adjourn - **Motion** by Rice-Heckendorf, second by Giallombardo to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote. Vote reflected as 4-0.