

DOG PARK SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: September 9, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. Location: Birch Room, City Hall, 407 Grant St., Wausau, WI 54403
Members Present: Ed Giallombardo, Lauren Henkelman, Jamie Rice-Heckendorf (c), Tom Neal, Susan Schmidt
Excused: Michelle Dins, David Nutting
Others Present: Mayor Mielke, Jamie Polley

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisc. Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Daily Herald in the proper manner. A quorum was present. Rice-Heckendorf called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. It was noted that Eric Heuser resigned from the Committee.

Physical Park Updates – Temporary Signage, Turf, Fence

Polley explained that the temporary signage is up at the park. She is getting decals of the City and park logos for the banner that will be used at their table for events. The dog park will be re-seeded soon and the fence will be coming at the end of October. Polley showed everyone what the decorative fence that will go along the front of the park would look like.

Approval of Minutes – **Motion** by Neal, second by Giallombardo to approve the August 19, 2019 minutes. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Committee Members Update – With Heuser’s resignation Neal had asked Schmidt if she would be interested in becoming a voting member. **Motion** by Neal, second by Giallombardo to nominate Susan Schmidt as a member of the Dog Park Special Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Promotional Video

Giallombardo had gotten some drone footage of the dog park. He would like to add informational slides about the park before it is released to the public. He mentioned that Kwickgraphics will host a website for the dog park. Discussion occurred about various media type websites and linking information.

Events and Volunteers

a. Businesses Interested in Holding Events – Rice-Heckendorf said “Timekeeper” is interested in holding a fundraising event for the dog park possibly at the end of September or early October. She noted their patio is pet friendly. Giallombardo said the Sunday Funday event is set to happen at Malarky’s on November 17th for raising awareness of the park.

b. East Towne Block Party – September 14 – Neal said the event location is on Jefferson Street and it starts at 11:00am. Members could probably hand out some information at the party.

c. Farmers Market – Saturdays – An internal calendar of events was attached. Giallombardo would like to have a google calendar that people could add their names to including volunteers outside the Committee. Rice-Heckendorf said she could put a google spreadsheet together. Members discussed the different events and the dates/times that would work for them to staff the table.

Mayor Mielke left the meeting at 6:40pm

Rice-Heckendorf had revised the letter to include donor levels. She will fit the letter and other information on one page to create a pamphlet they can hand out. Giallombardo will set up another Facebook page so that people have another way to donate besides just writing checks to the City. Rice-Heckendorf can include a link to that page on the pamphlet.

d. Dog Walk and Costume Contest – Rice-Heckendorf thought they could have this event rolled in with the “Timekeeper” event. Giallombardo mentioned he should ask the band “Feed the Dog” if they want to do something with the group.

e. Dog Snow Stomp – December – tabled

f. Other Events – Exhibitour-Sept. 28, Harvest Fest-Oct. 5, Scary Skate –Oct. 30, IronBull-Oct. 5 and 19, Etc.
- Rice-Heckendorf thought it would be good to have information available at Harvest Fest. Exhibitour has a staging area at the 400 Block and Neal will contact the organizer to see if the group can have a table there. Polley said park staff will be available to set something up in the lobby of the Marathon Park ice arena at the Scary Skate event. Maybe they could have a contest for the person wearing the best dog costume. Rice-Heckendorf would like to check to see if they could have something at the Bull Falls Brewery Octoberfest event on September 21st.

Fundraising Updates – Foundations, Businesses, Online Avenues/Media, Other

Neal has done applications for four foundations and asked for \$15,000 from each of them. He will be requesting \$15,000 from one additional foundation. He would like to look into anything that Bark Academy could do in conjunction with their group. Members discussed some of the initial contacts they had made with their foundations. Giallombardo brought up the idea of having a thermometer at the park displaying the amount of funds raised. Discussion occurred about naming rights. Polley felt if the park was going to be named in perpetuity, the donation should be a higher amount. If a large amount comes forward with a request for naming rights it should be brought back to Committee for a vote on what recognition they would want to do. Rice-Heckendorf noted that one of the donor levels is “Best of Show” at \$25,000+.

Rule Signage – Polley had looked into the City ordinances regarding vaccination, license, and feces pickup. There are specific ordinances about those in Chapter 8.08 of Wausau’s Municipal Code under animal care. There is also a section on dangerous dogs. Section 9.20 is a park chapter which has other information as well. Heckendorf thought the rule signage covered everything that had been noted. Committee was interested in revisiting the rules at the end of the year.

Next Meeting – Monday, October 7th, 2019 at 6:00pm and October 21st at 5:30 pm.

Adjourn – **Motion** by Schmidt, second by Neal to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.