

MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Wednesday, November 3, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
****Dog Park****

Members Present: Brad Bark, Sarah Hoeg, Pete Degabriele, Jennifer DeFosse, Gina Othmer, Dana LaRue and Rick Bierman

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Rich Klimes and Jeff Limburg

Guests Present: Peggy Gordon and Barb Young

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes of the October 6, 2021 regular meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.

Discussion – Dog Park

- a. Current guidelines – Gordon discussed Dog Park guidelines for each section, usage fees and how to obtain a permit.
- b. Mixed size play recommendations – Gordon distributed power point detailing 3 options to address the current mixed size play concerns.
 - Option 1 – Change small dog area to multipurpose, change shy/timid/quiet to small and shy/timid/quiet, leave large dog area the same
 - Option 2 – Move small dog area to shy/timid/quiet, move shy/timid/quiet to small dog area and combine with multipurpose, leave large dog area the same
 - Option 3 – Fence an additional area off for multipurpose use

Commission and Barb Young were not in favor of losing the small dog area. Gordon asked if staff could look into creating another entrance and sectioning off a portion of the large dog area instead.

- c. Size definition for small dog – Gordon said the committee would like to change the small dog height limit from 15 inches to 20 inches. Commission had no issues with the suggestion.
- d. General concerns – Gordon discussed general concerns at the dog park (i.e. civility concerns were raised, users bringing toys causing aggression, users not paying attention to their dogs and cleaning up after them, users smoking, kids/toddlers in the park, no

drinking fountain in shy/timid/quiet area, standing water in shy/timid/quiet area, fencing around trees)

- e. Future possibilities – Gordon provided a list of future possibilities at the dog park (i.e. lighting, purchasing city pet license and dog park tag in same area, paw washing station, more shade and trees, provide grass seed for divots, add play structures, web cam for users)

Update – South End Improvement Fund Projects

Staff informed commission that all concept plans for the South End Improvement Fund Projects were approved by City Council. Staff hopes to have all projects completed by mid-July of 2022.

Other Business

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting will take place at the golf course.

The 2nd annual Trunk or Treat took place on Saturday, October 30th with around 1,400 in attendance.

The Candy Cane Hunt and Holiday Stroll will take place Friday, December 3rd. The Festival of Lights will also kick off the evening of December 3rd and run through December 26th. There will be multiple light displays on each night from 5:30-7:30 pm. Anyone who wants to be involved will have an opportunity to contribute.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Rexroth
Office Coordinator