

Omaha Dog Park Advocates

Wednesday, September 8, 2004 Regular Meeting
Panera Bread – 134th & West Maple Road
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

- I. Inaugural Officers were introduced
 - a. Annell Naccarato – President
 - b. Jocelyn Nickerson – Vice President & Coordinator
 - c. Charlotte Leishman – Treasurer
 - d. Phyllis Ferraresi – Secretary
- II. Attendees were introduced
- III. Nonprofit application status was discussed and Kristin Carnaby (attorney) will review the application and provide legal guidance in the future.
- IV. New website www.omahadogpark.org revealed
 - a. Artist rendition link updated
- V. Discussion of upcoming events
 - a. Paws for Friendship
 - Sunday, September 19, 2004
 - Chalco Hills
 - Phyllis will staff
 - b. Walk for the Animals
 - Sunday, September 26, 2004
 - Elmwood Park
 - Charlotte and Annell will staff
- VI. Financial status was discussed
 - a. Centris Federal Credit Union will provide us with a free nonprofit checking account when our nonprofit status is received.
 - b. Jocelyn will pursue the checking account and finalize by the end of Sept. 04
- VII. Committee formation was discussed for the following issues:
 - Dog Park Clean-up
 - Fundraising and Events
 - Grants
 - a. Many willing to participate in committees
- VIII. Open Forum
 - a. Discussion on how the Omaha Dog Park Advocates were started and how the land at 124th & Fort was obtained.
 - b. The idea of using PayPal was offered and discussed - research on PayPal regarding link to checking account will be pursued.
 - c. The idea of displaying flyers at Petco, PetsMart, vets, dog companies, and on webpage
 - d. Fencing was discussed
 - i. S&W Fencing?
 - ii. 6 ft fence per city codes.
 - iii. We can get materials at cost.
 - iv. Need to confirm whether or not the City of Omaha will install the fence if we provide all of the materials?
 - e. Discussion of media coverage (1) Fox interview, (2) Channel 7's plug, and (3) Channel 3's piece

- f. Discussion of listing donors on website for recognition – may be pursued for donors of \$50.00 and up!
- g. Discussion of tax deductible donations – exempt status for nonprofit could take 4-6 months for processing
- h. Discussion of park liability – the dog park is an Omaha City park and patrons will use the dog park as a city park at their own risk. Rules and regulations will be posted to assist patrons in knowing their responsibilities as a dog owner. Patrons are responsible for the dogs they bring to the park.
- i. Discussion of Possible Sponsors:
 - i. Veterinary clinics
 - ii. Bakers
 - iii. Sergeants
 - iv. Petco
 - v. PetsMart
 - vi. Home improvement stores
 - vii. It is possible to name portions of fence in honor of sponsors
 - viii. It is possible to name stones/bricks in honor of sponsors
- j. Do not wish to compete with the Nebraska Humane Society, we want to complement their efforts
- k. Discussion of company match programs as gifts to the park
- l. Discussion of continuing the group after the dog park is implemented:
 - i. To promote other dog parks
 - ii. To enhance existing parks
 - iii. To solicit community service
- m. Dog Park signs will need to state that “Patrons should be aware that parking will be reduced when events occur at the Kelley Softball Complex.”
- n. Discussion of agility area
 - i. No funds will be allocated to the agility area until all other areas are completed and can be maintained properly.
- o. All dog parks will have signs stating rules, regulations, and park name
- p. Discussion of Advertising
 - i. AKC gazette article is not yet published but will discuss dog parks
 - ii. Possibility of obtaining a "future sight of dog park" sign for the land?
- q. Grants – pursue large donations from various companies: ie Lincoln's nature's variety
 - i. Need a form letter to send to companies for donations, follow-up with phone calls, and complete with face to face appointments.
- r. Gaining publicity from television media and events
- s. Research should be completed on how other cities have implemented dog parks successfully
- t. Discussion of human socialization detracting from the need to watch individual dog behavior. It is up to patrons to make owners aware of their dog's behavior and to make each owner responsible for their own dog. Those patrons not paying attention to the dog they bring to the park will be asked to leave.
- u. Discussion of Lincoln, Nebraska dog parks