

Omaha Dog Park Advocates
Wednesday, November 8, 2006 Public Meeting
NP Dodge, 12915 Dodge Street
6:00 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

I. Snow Removal

- Snow removal to the parking lot is provided during the winter, but only after the main streets are completed.

II. Park Ammentities

- Lighting - OPPD had quoted approximately \$20k per season for lighting at Hefflinger Park. There are currently no parking lot lights and no lights on at the park after dusk. Discussed the possibility of utilizing the lights on from 5:30pm to 7:30pm during Fall/Winter (4 month period). Discusses the use of a light time for auto start and auto off. Lights take approximately 15 minutes to startup.
- Water Fountains - View pictures of the water fountains http://www.omahadogpark.org/Doggie_Drinking_Fountains.pdf from the website. Eyman plumbing has offered to install the water fountains. Due to the current liability law suits occurring in Omaha, we cannot discuss obtaining the plans until January, 2007. We will purchase one fountain for each of side of the park..
- Trees – Various grants are available for planting trees. OPPD offers such grants, which will be pursued in 2007. Only trees that are non-toxic will be planted.
- Tables - Home Depot and Lowe’s have offered to provide picnic tables. However, public parks are prohibited from advertising for their donations.
- Grass – Discussed the possibility of reseeded. However, it is difficult to grow and maintain due to the high traffic. Additional funding will be necessary to pursue this.
- Bag Dispensers - A bag dispenser prototype made of PVC pipe is being developed by ODPAs new president, Becky Deitenbeck. Local Boy Scout troops may be able to build these as a community project. These dispensers will be hung along the fence line to encourage patrons to clean up after their dogs.
- Shelter Area/Pavilion – Shelter areas are again being discussed. Alegant Health bus stop shelters, currently vacant, were offered as a suggestion. The donation of these bus shelters will be pursued. This idea will be discussed with the city.

III. Park Clean Up

- Doggie Droppings – The problem of patrons not cleaning up after their dogs was discussed. It is reiterated that ALL patrons must pick up after their dog(s) when visiting the park.
- Signage - It appears that patrons are not reading the signage in front of the park entrance. In an effort to make these important rules more visible, we will create additional, smaller signs to be posted throughout the park to remind patrons of the rules. The following rules will be included on the new signs:
 - i. Pick up after your dog(s)!
 - ii. No toys!
 - iii. No food!
 - iv. No strollers!
 - v. No kids under 14 years old unaccompanied by an adult!
 - vi. No bikes!
 - vii. No water bowls left behind - this can spread disease!
- Park clean-up day - Local Boy Scout troops may be able to use this as a community project.
- Regular park patrons and ODPAs members are encouraged to purchase one of our bright green t-shirts to make themselves noticeable and available for answering questions regarding rules.

IV. Fundraiser Ideas

- Holiday Pet Cards - Jeff w/Pixels Photography (14520 Grover Street / 330.3111) is advertising holiday cards for pets. \$25 of every sitting will go to the Omaha Dog Park. Flyers were distributed. Free 8x10 with any greeting card order. Could be available to do an onsite photography session at the park. December 1 -3 only, 8am to 6pm.

- Petco @ Christmas - 132nd & Maple is good to work with, but we would need to make reservations now.
- Annual Fundraiser Suggestions:
 - i. Silent auction
 - ii. Dog fashion show
 - iii. Partnerships with local pet supply stores and/or rescue groups, etc.
 - iv. Corkscrew in Rockbrook Village would like to partner with us - possible cheese and wine tasting.
- Suggestions for additional fundraising and publicity events should be sent to admin@omahadogpark.org.

V. Grant Writers

- We will be pursuing various grants. Suggestions for agencies offering funds for dog park projects should be sent to admin@omahadogpark.org.

VI. Health and Information Awareness

- Water dishes – Any water dishes left at the park by patrons will be emptied and removed. Standing water in such dishes can and has spread diseases to park patrons. If you see these bowls lying around, please dispose of them immediately as if your dog drinks from a diseased bowl - it will kill them!
- State Vet - The state provides us with a health awareness veterinary. We use this state vet to communicate about the dog park health issues. We discussed the option of including a link on the Omaha Dog Park web site to State Veterinary resources. We are seeking ways to better inform and educate park patrons of health issues and warnings. Discussed working with the Omaha World Herald to disseminate such information
- American Red Cross – A Red Cross representative would like to provide onsite Pet CPR / First Aid. A date a time for this event will be available soon.

VII. Again, congratulations to the 2007 Omaha Dog Park Advocates Officers!

- President: Becky Deitenbeck
- Vice President: Lara Adkins
- Secretary: Angi Green
- Treasurer: Trisha Clary
- Webmaster: Jamie Krussel
- Members at Large:
 - i. Bridget Jansen
 - ii. Amy Riehle
 - iii. Sara Hulac
 - iv. Cecy Losee