

Minutes of Dog Park Ad-Hoc Committee meeting of March 4, 2008

The meeting was held at the Milton Public Library and started at 6:35 PM

This first meeting of the committee was held to propose the criteria, funding, development and maintenance of an off leash dog exercise area in the town of Milton.

In attendance were four committee members and three interested citizens of Milton.

Bill Stoedter,	Chair
Claus Hagelman,	Committee member
Denise Suthard,	Committee member
Joy Lester,	Committee member
Diane Cicala,	Committee member (Absent)

Agenda Item 1: Introduction of committee members.

Each committee member introduced themselves and gave a brief overview of their experiences and interest in a dog park for Milton residents.

Agenda Item 2: General discussion on the proposal of creating a dog park in Milton.

Mr. Stoedter made clear to the committee that the park is not intended for the dogs of Milton, but for the dog owners to exercise, socialize and provide their dogs with an opportunity to exercise and socialize off leash with other dogs.

Ms Suthard added that dogs that are socialized with other dogs and are exercised on a regular basis are less likely to be aggressive.

Mr. Hagelman stated that in other towns where he has lived, an off-leash dog exercise area adds another quality of life element such as a museum or theatre that makes a town more attractive.

Agenda Item 3: Generate a list of issues and tasks that must be addressed.

Survey:

It was agreed that a survey should be made to assess the level of interest existing in an off leash dog exercise park. The survey form will include: Name, address, a request for permission to contact the respondent, phone and e-mail contact information, would they be interested in using the park for a small annual fee, would they be interested in volunteering to help clean and patrol the park, and a comments section.

Site:

An area near the Memorial Park water tower has been suggested. It was agreed that the committee should also seek to see if other possible sites are available.

Data on other Dog Parks:

Informational data will be compiled about how other cities, towns and counties operate dog parks.

Zoning:

The committee will determine if any possible restrictions or zoning issues may arise in relation to the dog park.

Cost estimates must be collected for:

Fencing, benches, trash cans, water supply (optional?), insurance, bag dispenser for dog waste, sign posting park rules, bite gloves and snare.

It was stated by some committee members that some of the above items could be donated by local businesses.

Park surface:

The committee will determine what will be the best surface for running dogs, bluestone, pea gravel, other?

Cleaning the park:

While all dog owners shall be responsible for cleaning up after their pets, a group of volunteers will be responsible for daily cleaning and monitoring of the park. The committee is also looking into a "Green" method of decomposing dog waste.

Name of the park:

A name for the park that reflects the town history and culture will be chosen by the committee. A contest may be used to help find a name.

Should specific breeds of dogs be excluded from the park:

There is some information that allowing some specific breeds of dogs into the park may greatly increase the cost of insurance. This will be investigated by the committee.

Agenda Item 4: Create a proposal to be presented to the Town Council.

The items above, as well as others, will be addressed and eventually presented to the Milton Town Council when complete.

Agenda Item 5: Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Minutes approved with one change on April 1, 2008