

Here is the collection of email responses that the Dogs Off-Leash in Greater Sudbury Committee has received as of Sunday, October 24, 2010 from the various City of Greater Sudbury Municipal Candidates.

MUNICIPAL CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR:

Hi, you and I briefly met and talked about matter of off-leash dog park. If elected Mayor, I would have no problem supporting it, based on written model you presented previously.Tks,

Ted Callaghan

Thank you for your letter. I was also able to catch your event on the CTV news last night. Cheers

Derek Young

Pierre, apologies for not responding earlier. I'll be honest in saying I thought my presence at the walk a few Saturdays ago spoke volumes about my support. But, I understand many people weren't there. If you could, please email this to your group. I hope for your endorsement.

As you know, I am a proud dog owner and dog lover. I know the Minnow Lake Dog Park plan is progressing through council and I actually commend you for getting this going. I believe we need something like this to be taken seriously as a major Canadian city. Heck, Elliot Lake has one! In fact, I believe we need more than one in this city which is so spread out. How can people in the Valley enjoy a park in Minnow Lake? The size of our city justifies more than one. Not only is this good for dog owners -- it's good for people who maybe don't like dogs who are nervous around them in our regular parks. This will get more dog lovers out of regular parks and into the dog park.

Now, with that being said, we need a plan for this and maybe we need to start with Minnow Lake and show residents how good it can be with the proper city support and monitoring. To do this properly, we need a sound financial plan at the city level. We need more revenue. Period. Right now, city taxes and spending are at all time highs. Fact. That means we need to attract more business to this city and right now our city is not business-friendly. A recent CFIB survey showed only 6% satisfaction with City Hall by business in this city. The Chamber of Commerce recently released its red-tape report saying City Hall treated business with disdain. This is not what I would call business-friendly.

My plan is to build the foundation and that means attracting business and increasing our revenue. With this revenue, we will be able to build on improving things like dog parks. Will it happen overnight? No. I can't sit here and make you outrageous promises like others make. The reality is we need to increase our revenues and this will take a few years. But, it will happen. Beware of those who promise you everything without a plan to pay for it. Again, to recap, I support what you are doing and continue as Mayor. In fact, I believe I am the most dog-friendly candidate running for Mayor. I hope this helps.

Thanks,

Marianne Matichuk

No response from the following candidates as of October 24, 2010

John Rodriguez

Zack Gauthier

Dennis Gorman (no email)

WARD 1:
Joe Cimino (no email)

WARD 2:

Last spring, a new home buyer from out of town stopped me to ask for directions to the nearest off-leash park. I was happy to inform them that plans to create one were under way. My apologies, but I did not realize that there had not been any follow through since that time. I support the idea in principal, but I haven't looked into what you've been planning in any detail, so I can't comment on any specifics, but let me share another story with you.

This summer, I was playing with my two sons at the Copper Cliff park off Creighton Road. You should take a drive out there for a look, because this giant park already has several large fully fenced in enclosures. With a little landscaping to make it visually interesting and comfortable for pets and owners alike, it might be suitable with VERY little expense. If this location works out, and is well used by the community, I think you'd have an easier time getting support for another in Ward 11, if in fact it's been support that's held things up thus far.

Peter Albers

Jacques Barbeau (no email)

WARD 3:

It is a good idea and maybe we should look at expanding all over the city. Of course, it will have to be look at budget time and see where we will be in 2011. The alternative is there always where the CIP fund could be use for that purpose of course depending how your ward councillor will feel about it.

Claude Berthiaume

No response from the following candidates as of October 24, 2010:

Andrew Fahey
Richey Goudreau

WARD 4:

I am in favor of this proposal, and am also in favor of the proposed park in Azilda. Keep up the good work, I am sure this will be approved and move forward.

Richard Paquette

Evelyn Dutrisac (no email)

WARD 5:

Ron Dupuis (no email)

WARD 6:

As a dog owner myself, I think this is a great idea. You are right when it comes to not having a place to bring your dog and let them free. Not everyone has a great big yard to do so and now a days, the yards are getting smaller and smaller. Therefore, I think a place to bring your dog and let them run, play and interact with other dogs is a great idea.

Pete Chenier

I think it's a great idea and long overdue project for us here in Sudbury. It will definitely benefit not only the ward, but most citizens in the City that have dogs...which is quite alot.

Christine Guillot-Proulx

Dogs Off-Leash in Greater Sudbury Committee,
www.dogsoffleash.ca
October 24, 2010

No response from the following candidate as of October 24, 2010:

Andre Rivest

WARD 7:

Greetings from Ward 7, I am amazed at how many households have more than one dog. I have been walking, door to door, in my ward, and not until now have I realized the huge dog population that exists here. There is room for your park, maybe more than one, perhaps in each ward. I would like some detailed information about funding requirements, user involvement and maintenance. It is unfortunate that because many of these pets belong to working families, are pent up in houses most of the day. They need to have some free range experience. My priorities involve children and the elderly, so would like to see some connection that would benefit everyone related to a leash-off park. How do you plan to address the situation of dogs attacking each other? An operation that involves minimal user fees, and user maintenance, through a non-profit fundraising organization would be ideal, considering the high maintenance costs already existing in our city. Thanks for your concern for our animal population.

Gordon Drysdale

Thanks for the info. Have been keeping current with your progress. Capreol CAN has also shown interest in this type of park as part of our community. Good luck.

Dave Kilgour

Dave Della Vedova (no email)

WARD 8:

I support the establishment of dog parks. Not only do they make better canine citizens but also contribute to the health of the owner through exercise. Go for it!

Ron Laplante

Thank you very much for the information. If elected to council I would support your efforts to create this type of park in our community. I have experienced the Off-Leash Park that is located in the Beaches area of Toronto and believe it is great opportunity for those with dogs and dogs themselves to interact in a relax atmosphere and provides the community a social aspect that is need in our area.

Lorenzo Tripodi

Be advised that I will be elected in Ward 8, and I am in favor of this leash free dog park .
So lets go gun ho on it. Thanks you

Leo Bisson

If nothing else during the campaign, there are a good number of dogs in the city; request for an off leash park has been mentioned more than once. All the best.

Al Sizer

Please be advised that I support this 100%., no matter which ward it is located in.

Ian McCracken

As a dog owner myself I agree and support the initiative about this project. It is good to have one in Greater Sudbury City (Ward 11)

Alex Martinez

No response from the following candidates as of October 24, 2010:

Fabio Belli

Louis Delongchamp

Harry Will (no email)

WARD 9:

I definitely support your project. This might be a pilot project that can be utilized in other Wards.

Jim Sartor

No response from the following candidates as of October 24, 2010:

Paul Stopciati

Doug Craig (no email)

WARD 10:

Thank you for sending this information to me. I absolutely feel that this project is worthy of serious consideration. Best of luck to you with it. Thank you also for getting involved in the community and taking an active interest.

Fern Cormier

I think it would be wrong for council to disregard this idea. This property is a mess, so firstly, it would beautify this long time eyesore, secondly it would benefit the community as a whole because many dog owners would use this park. It also goes without saying that there are several locations around Greater Sudbury that would benefit from the improvements and usage that would come from turning them into dog parks, as well as beautify our city. Our pets are people too!

Steve Ripley

I remember your presentation at one of our meetings. I support the off leash dog park as long as we can manage it within our budget. It does not seem to me that it should be very expensive. I understand we would need fencing but if we can find the money and the neighbourhood is in agreement then I will support it. Best regards,

Fran Caldarelli

No response from the following candidate as of October 24, 2010:

Mark Signoretti

WARD 11:

I am in full support of this project. As I have been going around this ward knocking on doors, I usually get met with a dog at the door. I told my wife the other day that I was surprised by the number of dogs that we have around this ward. I truly think that these are the kind of projects that will make Sudbury a more attractive place to visit and live. I would love to partner with you when you approach businesses in the area for their support, like Lowes/Home Depot/Home Hardware, as I think these companies could donate large parts of the building materials that would cut down costs. As I said in the beginning, I would love to see this project come to fruition. Thanks for taking the time to email me,

Tom Fenske

My concern has always been with safety of children who may accompany their parents to parks such as this. I will not lie to you, but I have not seen the report. I spend time in Ottawa visiting my wife's sister and have seen these parks. My last visit, I spend roughly 2 hours in one of these parks and I was amazed at how much interaction there was not only with dogs, but with adults and children also. The dogs ran free and it was beautiful to see. I am a lover of dogs but haven't owned another since my German Sheppard (Dakota) died 8 years ago. After seeing this park and how it was controlled and how safe it was I would like to say, you have my support on this project. I will help in any way I can to make sure this happens. Thanks for your time and I hope I can count on your vote to help make this park a reality.

Joe Vairo

We must have a dog park in this city and the first one must be located in Minnow Lake at the site of the former gravel pit on 2nd Ave. The site has excellent potential!! I fully expect that other wards will want to copy the work of the D.O.G.S committee-excellent, well researched work. Regards,

Terry Kett

No response from the following candidates as of October 24, 2010:

Gerry Paquette

Mike Petryna (no email)

WARD 12:

I greatly apologize for the delay in getting back to you. I fully support the work your group has put forward. In fact I would love to work with your group following the election. Not only would I like to see this park come to fruition, I would like to see it become an example to the city of citizen engagement. I have followed your group since the initial Facebook invite years ago and wholeheartedly support you now. Thanks

Jeff MacIntyre

No response from the following candidates as of October 24, 2010:

Joscelyne Landry-Altmann