

Off-Leash Dog Area Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

Place Minnow Lake Place
Community Meeting Room
1127 Bancroft Drive, Sudbury
Tuesday September 15, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Present: Pierre Perreault (Chair), Carmen Birtwistle, Peter Seto, Gaston Charest, Danielle Charest, Marsha Giguère, Gilles Giguère, Samantha Hunter, Anne McBain, Shari Harrison, Renée Germain, Kelli Sheppard, Tara Ramnath & Terry Kett

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at: 7:05 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Summer Activities Update
2. Municipal Election Strategy
3. RDOG Activity
4. Funds
5. Fundraising – Ceasar Milan
6. Schedule of Meetings
7. Other

Carried

1. Summer Activities Update

This Committee is a Community Committee but is linked to the Minnow Lake Community Action Network (MLCAN) as the proposed area for the Off Leash Dog Area is in Minnow Lake.

The proposal, survey and presentation that was made to City Council in June 2010 is available for review either on our website (www.dogsoffleash.ca) or hardcopy. As well, a binder of substantial dog park information that was put together by the City is also available for reading if anyone is interested.

Website – the website is being maintained by Lesley-Ann Bardeggia, and more content, activities and the minutes of our meetings have been added. We need to keep her informed so that she can keep the site up to date.

Mailbox – a mailbox has been arranged for our use at this location, which will be needed for our fundraising activities. The key will be obtained shortly.

Sault Ste. Marie Dog Park – they have over 900 citizens that have signed a petition to get a dog park set up. We have provided background and information to them, as well as our report and survey results.

Media CBC Radio – Pierre was contacted for an update on our project and they will follow up again in Oct/Nov. to see how things are progressing.

Financial Pledges – an informal financial pledge campaign was started in July right after the Blueberry Festival. A brief newsletter of our activities and the pledge form was distributed at a MLCAN activity and then to our members. To date we have received a total of \$515.00 in pledges from 9 people – average of \$57.00/pp.

Update from City Staff, Leisure Services – Pierre met in early August with Jamie & Ted to check on where the City was in regards to work needed by various departments with respect to the dog park.

Legal Department has no issues overall and are supportive of the project. They recommend to amend the current dog on leash By-law "with the exception of a dog park", and are working on the wording. They are reviewing to ensure the property is de-listed as a gravel pit and listed as park land. They are looking at liability issues for Council in relation to dog on dog; dog on child; dog on owner; etc, and they are looking at various signage regarding rules and regulations for the use of dog parks.

Parks Department are also supportive of the project, and they will review the property's current layout/topography, and list the required initial cost to make the property safe (ie. no holes, flat). They will have an estimate for the cost of fencing, as well as for the on-going maintenance costs (garbage pick up, parking, mowing?).

Overall/Remaining issues – Leisure Services will reconvene with the various departments for the results of their work. The expected timeline is the end of Sept. early Oct. for the initial draft report (findings). The D.O.G.S. Committee could then meet with them to discuss various issues before the final report to Council/Budget meetings. The presentation to Council will be joint between Leisure Services and the D.O.G.S. Committee.

Our Committee must provide the following; rules/regulations to be posted at the dog park; identify any potential liability issues at other city dog parks; any stats of dog on dog/owner/child incidents.

Successful application to Council: a general discussion ensued about the actual size and use of all vacant property, including vacant cemetery property which is adjacent to the gravel pit, and has a substantial number of trees and shade areas. Leisure Services advised that if we go after the empty/vacant cemetery property, even on a temporary basis, it would kill the project. The City is facing hard times and will be doing major cuts, and it will be hard, but not impossible to get the project supported at budget meetings. This would be facilitated with financial commitments from the D.O.G.S. Committee.

New Roles at the D.O.G.S. Committee – At our last meeting, the Chair had submitted and proposed various new roles and was committed to recruit more individuals. The following volunteers came from our email contact list:

Shari Harrison – Promoter
Tara Ramnath – Membership Coordinator
Kim Benoit – Education Coordinator
Lesley-Anne Bardeggia – Webmaster
Cathy Schroeder – Lead New Member Communication
Anne McBain & Danielle Charest – Lead Individual Donations
Amanda Denis – Lead Community Partners
Vicky-Lynne McCabe – Lead Dog Park/Owner's Association
Samantha Hunter – Lead Dog Park Rules, Regulations & Etiquette

2. Municipal Election Strategy

The Committee discussed the feasibility of sending each of the candidates who are running for the position in Ward 11 a letter with an overview of the D.O.G.S. Committee's work to date and our goal, and asking for their support or their position on our proposal. Pierre will draft a letter and send it to everyone for comments and input as this would need to be done as soon as possible.

3. RDOG Activity

Saturday October 2, 2010, is The Canadian Kennel Club's National Responsible Dog Owners day, and events are hosted as a way of promoting responsible dog ownership. If there is enough interest, we could use this event to promote our project and to obtain more financial pledges for the creation of the Dog Park. A Walkathon could take place from Minnow Lake Place to the proposed future site of our Dog Park. Volunteers would be needed to take the initiative to organize this.

4. Funds

There is a balance of \$1,525.68 remaining from the funds provided by Councillor Janet Gasparini. This could be used to produce brochures or cards for communication or fundraising.

5. Possible Fundraising Event – Ceasar Milan

If someone was very ambitious and interested in taking the lead, we could see if we could get Ceasar Milan to Sudbury as part of his Canadian Tour in Oct./Nov. 2010. We could also start to think about planning a major fundraising event on a yearly basis, as a way of promoting and supporting the Dog Park.

6. Schedule of Meetings

Based on the feedback of the best days for most people, our meetings will be held on a monthly basis, and will alternate between Tuesday & Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

*****Note**: members are strongly encouraged to bring their own copy of the Agenda and other related documents to each and every meeting.***

Recorder