

Omaha Dog Park Advocates
August 8, 2012 Meeting
Swanson Library
90th & Dodge 6 p.m.

Present – Jody Blakely VP, Lynne Newlin, Secretary, Jeff Lonowski, Ed Sirkoski & Mary Gibilisco Members at Large, Jim Kee.

Park Maintenance: Pet Waste bag Dispensers will not be moved, but all have been installed.

Hanscom – City will put a drop rod in the gate at Hanscom to prevent dogs from escaping through the gates.

Hefflinger – In less than a week after Bridget, Jody & John met with the city, the Water fountain on All Dog Side was fixed and additional rock was placed around the water fountains and at the entrance. The blocks that held the rock in place have either been removed or buried completely at the entrance, mostly at the water fountain on the all dog side. The amount of rock laid was significant so it is hoped the missing holding blocks won't cause an issue. The grass has grown where seeded on the Small dog side. At the July 16th meeting with the city it was learned they did not seed the other side of the All dog Side. The city will seed the side this fall. There is now access to the water fountain on the small dog side and the gate is also unlocked on the all dog side, but only the gate at the top. **Shelters** – There is a type of shelter that can put up & take down as needed that the city is looking into for Hefflinger. The cost would be the responsibility of ODP

Water Fountains - The city is now telling us they will not put in the water fountains on the sides w/o them due to the shifting nature of the landfill.

SIGNS - The city is getting up "pick up your poop" signs that contain the ordinance number on them.

The city has yet to replace the porta potty at Hefflinger with theirs.

Trees - Ed has tried to water, but he has no keys for the large entrance gates installed this past Spring by the city and the city refused to give him one. Ed has watered what he can, but can only do 2 trees at a time due to the dryness. It was asked that the public dump any left over water they may have onto the trees. We lost 1 maple tree on the All Dog side. Re-Tree Nebraska is an option for tree replacements in addition to OPPD.

Petiquette Signs - The City did confirm that would pay for the Pettique signs, but the confirmation of the codes was not done at the July 16 meeting so we have no idea when the new signs will be produced and installed. We've gotten a request for a large sign at Hanscom from concerned dog owners who frequent the park.

Locations of other parks – Walnut Grove is okay. For the Benson Alliance the Fontenelle park is the one that they would prefer. Millers Landing is a definite no, the city will look at other areas downtown, but chances are it will have to be a private deal.

Spring Bark in the Park Paula Presents: The contract was signed and we are assuming Trish sent the money as Paula is already obtaining vendors for Spring Bark in the Park. Paula wants the dates either April 27 or May 4th. April 27 is dining with dogs at NHS and May 4th is Berkshire Hathaway. Jeff can't help in May and with graduation time looming we prefer 4/27. People can do both events. Paula suggests the hours be 9 to 4, but we prefer to 10 to 4. We are concerned Paula does not understand the volunteer requirements. Jody gave Paula access to Google Docs and provided her with the vendor forms and raffle forms. It is unknown when we will meet as a group.

Appreciation Days - Appreciation days for Hefflinger will be August 10 – 12th.

Friday 4 to 8, Mary & Jody

Saturday – 8 to Noon, Mary, Lynne and Mickey will be there at 10.

Sunday – 8 Jeff will be there.

Appreciation Days for Hanscom will be in November hoping to combine with a neighborhood association get together so John will let us know a date.

Lemonade Stand – Jim actually knew the gal asking about the lemonade stand so he was going to call and talk to her. The consensus was that since the mayor said it was ok and they did not need a permit, we couldn't really say no. We felt like if she was there during appreciation days it would send the message that not just anyone could sell things at the park anytime they wanted, but Ed made a good point that we really don't want to be affiliated with it so that others aren't asking to do it all the time? The other side is that it was actually last year that the mayor had said that. Lynne looked on line and there was no date scheduled for Lemonade Days in 2012. But Jim did know that it was Big Sisters thing which we are ok with. We just left it as whatever Jim tells her is fine.

Metro Guide – Every August a guide to everything you ever want to know about Omaha is put in the Sunday Omaha World Herald. Mary Giblisco discovered that neither dog parks were listed. We will contact Shelley Larson to see how we can be included next year.