

**Omaha Dog Park Advocates
May 9, 2012 Meeting
Swanson Library
90th & Dodge 6 p.m.**

Present – Bridget Jansen, President, Jody Blakely VP, Lynne Newlin, Secretary, Ed Sirkoski, Mary Giblisco member at Large, Jim Kee & Therese Pogge

Park Maintenance: Hanscom – Gates to all sides of the park are unlocked. Water is off.

Hefflinger – Water fountain on All Dog Side is still broken for the dogs. For the people the water is turned on. Padlocks have been installed to prevent usage of the 2nd section. “Scoop your poop” sign needs a new zip tie. The water fountain on the Small Dog Side is not reachable as the City has locked us out of that side.

Bridget has not met with the city yet, but will bring these issues to their attention.

Lynne will resend the Petiquette for review so we can get the new signs made.

Ed will post the list of SBP Sponsors in the message board at Hefflinger.

Bridget will readdress the shelter issue for Hefflinger with the city so we can get the Roller Girls donation of shelters built. Jim stated he provided Jeff with the name of the local Carpenter’s Union which would build the shelter(s) for us at no cost. Bridget will see if Jeff can provide her with this name.

Spring Bark in the Park

Vendors fees and expenses are still coming in, but it appears we made around \$8,000. We hope to have the actual results at June’s meeting.

Bridget will get us the count for the number of dogs.

We had 49 volunteers and could have used more. Dist. 66 is now verifying actual arrival time and departure times of their volunteers, so we need to have the students check in & out with the volunteer coordinator so that that person will be able to confirm with the Dist 66 coordinators.

Lynne has a contact for another group of volunteers besides of Dist. 66 which she’ll contact next year.

It was suggested by Therese that we add “traffic control” as we had vehicles almost running over kids & dogs. This year the lot was full and people stayed longer.

It was also suggested that the double gate that allows access to the other side of the park be accented with balloons, signs, something so that people will know they can get to the other side that way too. Vendors on the far side of the fence felt they did not have the traffic the vendors on the “front” side did.

The girls who ran the raffle table would love to do it again next year and have ways to make it better.

New Business –Lynne contacted Paula Steenson of Paula Presents about organizing Spring Bark in the Park Next year. Paula Presents would charge us \$1,000 plus 10% “of any new booths/sponsors that she brings in”. We need confirmation of what she means by “new”. Bridget asked that Paula set up a presentation perhaps on May 18th after 1 p.m. where we can meet and discuss. Paula would handle advertising, marketing, PR, Show coordinator such as sponsor/vendor sales, set up & tear down.

Wag 'n Wine - It was decided to no longer hold this fundraiser. We will instead attempt a pool party at Hanscom around the same time with vendors.

Costco has asked that we get a membership from them. Discussion was postponed due to absence of the treasurer.

Mary would like to purchase the [Empress Royal Paulownia Tree | World's Fastest Growing Tree](#) for the Hefflinger dog park which would provide shade this season. We have to get city permission to plant this type of tree. Bridget will discuss when she meets with the city.

Mary discovered the info below. She contacted Rockbrook to see if someone would create a video, but as it is May 9th and nominations go from May 1 – June 15 we probably don't have time to do this. Although if we get a video together, perhaps we will be prepared for future contests.

For the second year in a row, PetSafe will be awarding one U.S. community \$100,000 to build a PetSafe dog park. But, this year it's even bigger and better!

We will also be giving \$25,000 to the first runner-up community and the Bark From Your Heart community winner. The Bark From Your Heart winner will be community with the highest percentage of popular votes in relation to the community's population.

Check out our kick-off video below to hear all this year's contest!

May 1: Nominations begin

Once your city has been nominated, work to confirm the land allocation and civic leaders' support. You will also be able vote twice each day on www.petsafe.net and www.facebook.com/petsafebrand to help your city move forward in the contest. To be considered for a finalist, a city should excel in all three of these categories.

June 15: Finalists announced

PetSafe will select 15 Finalists to produce a video and continue barking for their park.

August 3: PetSafe reveals the Top Dogs

Winners of the \$100,000 grand prize and two \$25,000 prizes are announced.

Forward this email to a friend to get the word out!

Update from John Williams - My apologies for missing the meeting in May. Complete failure on my part.

Things are going well at HBP. I just sent an email to Jim and Therese regarding the status of our Zero-Waste bags. I have been filling the dispensers once a month on/around the 15th. I will monitor more closely in the summer for higher usage. I have requested more bags.

A picnic table showed up at the entrance of HPB. I'm not sure where it came from or where it may end up. I don't think it was a gift from the Parks and Rec elves.

I am cutting down any grocery bags that I find tied to the fence to drive people to use the Zero-Waste bags. I do not see the grocery bags as frequently as I saw them earlier this year.

The city held it's Mayor's Neighborhood Grant Award Presentation event at Hanscom Bark Park on May 3rd. I was asked by one of the city grant processors to come and say a few words. Unfortunately, they did not get around to my speech (oh well – it was a nice day and I got leave work early!). But, Mayor Suttle remarked how he thought HBP was a "flagship" project of the Mayor's Neighborhood Grant Program. HBP exemplified the real purpose of the grants.

Dennis Bryers, our original landscape architect for HBP, was there and we had a nice chat about trying to find a locale for a dog park in the downtown area. I also met Joe Gudenrath, who is the person that Ms. McAtee spoke with about a downtown dog park. Everyone seems to agree a dog park would be great downtown, it is just difficult to find a location for it.

Other than that, I do not have any other updates.