

**Omaha Dog Park Advocates
January 11, 2012 Meeting Minutes
Swanson Library, 6 p.m.**

Present – Bridget Jansen, President, Jody Blakely, VP, Lynne Newlin Secretary, Ed Sirkorski & Mary Giblisco Members at Large, John Williams, Jeff Lonowski, Therese Pogge & Jim Kee

2012 Events ODDPA would like to participate in

St. Patrick's Day parade, Saturday March 17th. Linda Greene will get us registered. We dress our dogs & ourselves up and march with a lot of other groups at no cost. This allows us to pass out flyers promoting our Spring Bark in the Park fundraiser.

Spring Bark in the Park – Saturday, April 21st
OPDA's largest fund raiser to raise funds for park maintenance, amenities and of course future parks.

Yunker's Community Day Spring event - April 27th & 28th
At no cost to OPDA we can sell coupon books in advance or at the store one of these days and all funds raised by our group. Jody will pick up the coupon books on 2/16.

Midtown Farmer's Market/Pooch Fest – Bridget is waiting a response as to whether this event will again happen and if we can be a part of it.

3 Dog Bakery & Soggy Paws have events and if there is one prior to SBP we'd like to participate.

Wag 'n Wine – August – Bridget will check with a friend to see if she will head this up. If not, we need someone to take on this event. Brix was suggested as a location.

Hanscom Fall Festival - Combine this with the closing of Hanscom pool in early August. Can John head up?

Dog Park Appreciation Days – August/Sept.

Walk for the Animals - NHS – Sept. Can we get a Dog Pack together this year?

NKC/Council Bluff Kennel Show – November 15 – 17 at the Century Link. Do we want to participate? It requires a lot of volunteers.

2012 GOALS

\$1500 raised for general expenses
Message Board Installed at Hanscom
Benches for Hanscom

Shelters at both parks. We still have the \$500.00 from the roller girls that is designated for a shelter at Hefflinger.

Updated and new Pettique signs.

The City has suggested that we close the parks during inclement weather for the safety of park goers and to preserve the grounds. Due to the amount of protests we will get we will not do this.

Park Repairs

Bridget will schedule a meeting between herself, Jim Kee, Therese Pogge Brook, Bill (the Parks & Rec person over Hefflinger) & Mike, (the parks & rec person over Hanscom) to discuss placement of the trash cans and new poop bag dispensers. They were installed incorrectly. Bridge will also get keys to the dispensers for Ed, Jody & John.

Bridget has gotten no response about the dividing fences and the space that allows dogs to go under them.

Bridget will send Jody the Pettique stuff to clean up and complete so we can get the new signs ordered. The Pettique sign at the small dog park at Hefflinger fell down and both of the signs at Hefflinger are so faded you cannot read them.

P/R

Nick was going to put the maps of the dog parks on Facebook. (the locations). Jody will see if she can figure out how to do this.

Jeff is working on the new website and hopes to have it functional by March 1, 2012.

Ed suggested we sell ball caps. Jeff will look into this.

The tri-fold pamphlet about the dog park needs to be updated and Hanscom added.

SAVE THE DATE fliers – do we want them? We have no dates for Walk with the , Wag ‘n Wine and the pool party as of this time.

Winter Newsletter? Suggest doing a Spring one and not a Winter one.

Location of Future Parks

While we get requests for a park “out west” we’ve not been contacted by any “out west” group willing to assist in fundraising for such a park. The city mentions Walnut Grove. We will get the name of a contact for Walnut Grove from the City of Omaha website we can gage their response to that.

The other option is Manden park in South Omaha as that park is in need of traffic to cut down on vandalism.

Spring Bark in the Park

We will have an organizational meeting at Old Chicago at 144th & Center at 11 a.m. Saturday, January 14th.

Jody will contact Sarah Bonella to see if she wants to help with rescues.

Misc.

Trish will have the P/L statement for us next meeting.

Tennis balls as toys is again being questioned. ODPa realizes that their use cannot be policed except by those currently in the dog park at the time, but they are still toys and dogs can get possessive over them and fights can occur. ODPa stands by their ban.

Spring Bark in the Park Organizational meeting Old Chicago, 144th & Center, Jan 14, 2012

We will go with hand stamping instead of wrist bands for entrants. We won't be able to get a count of people, but we can get a count of families via the tickets for the goody bags. The stamp will be of the ODPa logo.

Cherine will chair the raffle with help from Mary

Lynne will handle the volunteers

Jody will handle the rescues with perhaps help from Sarah. (Jody had not had a response from Sarah yet).

Jeff will handle the PR/Media/Website

Bridget will take the big businesses/sponsors.

Bridget will have the sponsor letters complete by 2/8 so we can start soliciting sponsors.

Lynne will contact Jared Zegelis at Benson High re: photography at the event.