



**Omaha Dog Park Advocates
March 8, 2017
Swanson Library, 6 p.m.**

Present – Lynne Newlin, Bob Denney, Mickey Merriam, Jim Kee, Mary Gibilisco, Michael McNealy, Sarah Cooper, Bill Novak, Joe Brownfield, Therese Pogge

Hanscom – Michael came representing a group of concerned park users from Hanscom who wanted to know if with the Hanscom Park Renewal if the Hanscom Dog park was going to be expanded. We do not know the progress of the parks renewal, what all they entail nor if the plans have been finalized. We are aware of a walking trail and that the sewer separation will be going into the NE side of the park. Michael asked for more trash cans especially at the entrance of the middle portion. Jim will ask the parks department if that can be done. Michael also asked about having a clean-up day as the entrances are full of leaves and dog feces. Jim will look at the schedule for April, pick a day and Lynne will put out a call for volunteers. Creighton's Service Fraternity had asked about volunteer opportunities so Lynne will reach out to them once a date and time are known. As no one from Hanscom had attended a meeting in a while we are glad that Michael attended and hoped he, or someone from his group, can continue to attend the monthly meetings.

Hefflinger – Sad news – Bo Sikorski, our ambassador, passed March 1. Ed, Bo's dad will no longer be overseeing Hefflinger. Bob Denny, Mary Gibilisco and Mickey Merriam offered to share the responsibility of filling the poop bag dispensers. Bob and Mary will let us know if there are issues we need to be aware of, but we have lost our ambassador at Hefflinger. Mary did report that someone is now bringing a baby carriage (with an actual baby) into the All Dog Side of the park.

Ice Cream Social – Saturday, June 24 from 1 to 3. Mary spoke with Domesti pups about them attending. Lynne will reach out to them and see if they are willing.

Lynne Spoke to Midwest Sound and lighting. Without the generator and without them setting up the equipment, the cost is \$208.00.

St. Patrick's Day Parade – is March 11. We will again participate and meet at That Dog Wash (formerly known as Soggy Paws) at 14th & Jackson.

Omaha Gives - We are registered to participate. This year they are not giving out bonuses, but are offering training classes on how to get more contributions. They are asking people to develop teams like other walking fundraisers do. Unfortunately the majority of the meetings are during working hours.

Meet- Up: There was an off leash dog walk group that Mary was part of that disbanded due to the monthly charge of \$17. Meet Up says it starts at \$9.99 for 50 or less people or \$14.99 a month for unlimited members. Much cheaper than the Google Grant at \$100 a month if we didn't reach the appropriate number of clicks. The group agreed and asked Lynne to go ahead and try for three months. All Meet Up does is let the public know we exist and when our meetings are, but when it was free we got more volunteers

Benson and Loveland are now part of the Peony Park Neighborhood on Next Door so notices of upcoming ODPAs meetings and events will reach those neighborhoods.

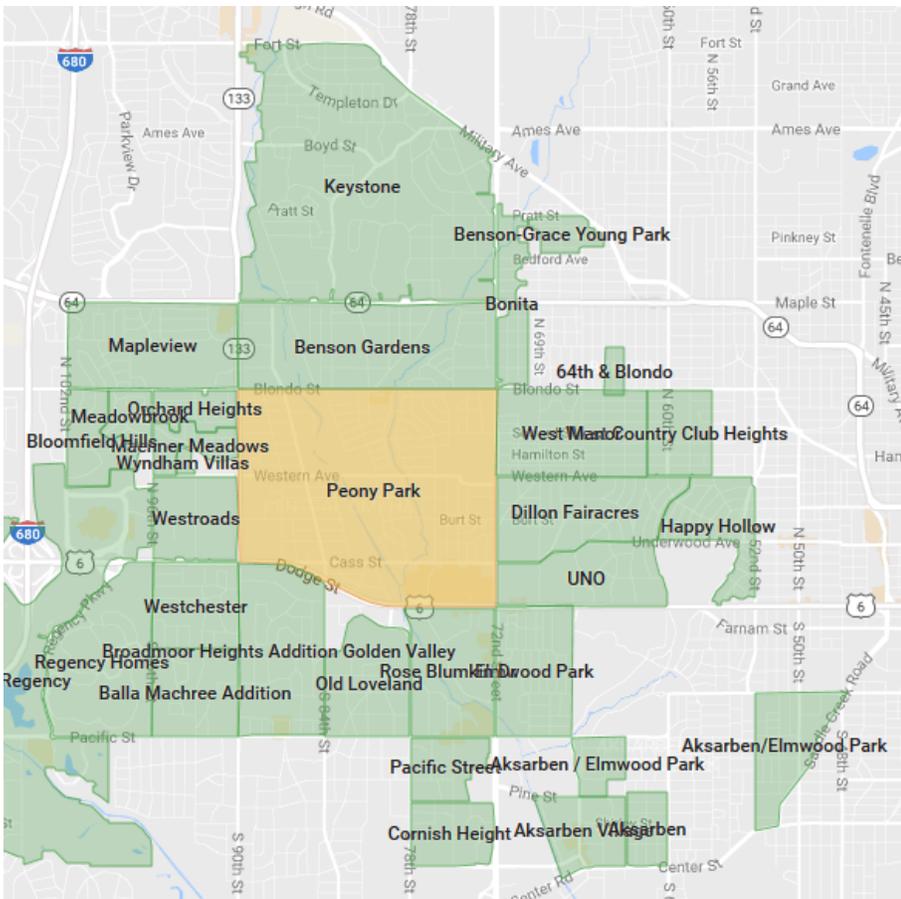
Website – Jim & D’Ann have been working on updating the site. The Target fundraiser link is now on the donation page. Some meeting minutes were lost when moving them into year columns so that needs to be fixed.

Old Business: Jim will reach out to one of the solar people to see about lights for Hefflinger, although we are pretty sure it is cost prohibitive. We also need to get the check book / check card from Jody. Jim will also research the restaurant fundraising that was sent to us by Group Raise. There are over 20 restaurants that will provide a percentage of sales to ODP. We’d need to be there, but it appears some places it is only a certain time we’d have to be in attendance, others all day. It appears only some meals will go towards the donations, others it doesn’t matter what the customer purchases. Some restaurants have a limited time frame for the fund raiser (a few hours) others it is a 8 to 9 hour event.

New Business - River West Park on the Elkhorn River Front is a private campground that provides tubing & tanking down the Elkhorn. This year they wanted to celebrate dogs and on August 20th will have their Dog Daze of Summer. They asked if ODP would like to be the charity cause for this year’s event. In addition, if we secure a participating vendor, we would get a commission. How could we say no? River West is experienced in having festivals and as this is Sarah’s job at River West she can dedicate time to get it right. Sarah will attend future ODP meetings to keep us in the loop and asked our input on activities. Sarah would like everyone to receive a goody bag so ODP’s information would be included. They will have food trucks, acoustic or solo music so not to upset the dogs and Sarah is thinking of providing color coded ribbons so that people will know if a dog is friendly or not. (Green for okay, Red for do not come near) as she wants everyone to feel welcome.

The event is from Noon to 8.

Neighborhoods Covered by Next Door Feb 2017



Neighborhoods Covered by Next Door March 2017 – we are up to 40 – but none past I-680 for this group.

