



**Omaha Dog Park Advocates
April 12, 2017
Swanson Library, 6 p.m.**

Present – Lynne Newlin, Bob Denny, Therese Pogge, Mike McNealy; Kristina Mott, Mickey Merriam, Mary Gibilisco, Jon Cady; Joe Brownfield, Bryan Boulton, Leah Thrasher, Jeannie North, Serina Rieckman, Sarah Cooper, Bill Novak

Hanscom - Trees need trimmed because people are walking into the branches, gate latches are bent and of course the entrances need the leaves and feces cleaned up. Serina would like to do a poop clean up the first Sunday of every month, alternating between parks as a way to advertise her business. We told her she was more than welcome to do that, but that she'd have to greet the people and tell them about her dog walking business as per city ordinance we cannot advertise businesses on the property. The first event will be at 1 p.m., May 7th at Hanscom. We let Mike know that anyone can clean up the park at any time so feel free to clean up the entrances before that time. Lynne will let the Creighton Service Fraternity know of the event and will see that it gets on Facebook and on the website.

Hefflinger – A dog park user with Methodist Health Systems wanted to know how she could about donating trees to Hefflinger. Jim told her to reach out to the city parks department. We explained to the group the numerous times trees had been planted and the main issue was the ability to water them. While we now have a hose hook up on the fountains, the challenge becomes having someone water the trees. Should ODPA try trees again, we'd need to budget for professional watering.

Bryan Boulton suspects the reason the Small Dog Side was mysteriously closed was because there is now a bench on a concrete pad next to the water fountain. We will have Jim find out if that is the bench that Jennifer Bartos wanted to have installed in memory of her daughter

The Gate between the small dog sides is constantly broken. Bryan believes it is vandals who enjoy kicking in the gate.

Another dog park user registered a complaint with the city about the Petiquette rules being broken and for the abuse done to the dogs by their owners. She suggested the city hire someone to police the parks to ensure the rules are not broken and for the safety of the animals. As Jim was not present at the meeting we do not know if he responded to her complaint.

A dog park goer pointed out on a Fido website that glass was found "on the hill". Not sure which side of the park or what hill she is speaking. Therese stressed that this is NOT from the landfill and several park users agreed as the glass was clean. Broken glass is often found on the entrance walk way and broken glass is always in the parking lot so park goers should always be aware of this to keep their dog's paws safe.

Ice Cream Social – Saturday, June 24 from 1 to 3 Domesti-Pups has agreed to be at the Ice Cream Social along with RiverWest Park and Long Dog Fat Cat. We can promote the Aug 20 event. Jim found wireless mike and speakers for under \$100 from Honeyman Rental and United Rental, but Jeannie and Leah offered the use of their PA system free of charge and we can't beat that! They will bring it the day of the event. Lynne did reach out to David Codr with Dog Gone Problems about speaking at a Fall event and he is just too busy.

St. Patrick's Day Parade – Melissa Loetscher and Zoey, her car driving pug joined Demi, Giz, Buddy, Bo, Bess and Chani marching in the parade. Due to the weather a lot of participants dropped out so it was a quick wait and quick march. Melissa won an award with her “float”.

Meet- Up: Lynne signed up the ODPa, but the fees were not as published. Meet Up says it starts at \$9.99 for 50 or less people when it is actually \$14.99 and for unlimited members, they state the fee is \$14.99 a month, but it is really \$19.99. They gave us a break and charged us \$14.99 for 6 months so Lynne signed us up for that. It will get us through fundraising season. We can post the Omaha Gives, The Ice Cream Social and the Dog Daze of Summer along with our meetings. The site allows people to contribute to the cost of the site so we may be able to use that to collect the fee for the Ice Cream Social.

Social Media – Jim & D’Ann have been working on updating the website site. Reading dog language that we obtained from Fix back in July has been added along with the notice of our monthly meetings and the meeting minutes have been cleaned up and all missing minutes added.

The passing of Bo was posted on Facebook.

Old Business: Fundinco which provided a donation to our group should someone purchase from Target Online shut down April 1. Instead it revamped itself into an ebay for non-profits so if someone sold something on the site the non-profit would get some of the proceeds. In their words: **“GiveBack Market** (www.givebackmarket.com). *It’s simple...your supporters buy and sell items and services with the proceeds benefitting the non-profit of the seller’s choice! Think of it as an online garage sale where you get the proceeds without needing to ever have an actual, physical garage sale.”*
ODPA has not joined that venture.

Lynne got the checkbook and check card from Jody and gave them to Therese to pass along to Jim. Jody also received a rebate check from Costco and she asked what to do with it. She said that the Costco membership is charged to her Visa and wanted to know if we were going to renew. Evidently the renewal is May 1st. We have not made a decision on this nor on what to do with former board members who wish to remain on the account. They have been paying us \$50. The website says membership for our executive is \$110 a year, but Jody said it was \$168.00. We also received a reward gift certificate which can only be used at Costco.

Dog Daze of Summer – ODPa will receive the following commission IF they provide the vendors for:

Presenting Sponsor - \$500

Title sponsor - \$100 (four remain)

Event Sponsor - \$50.

There will be no commission paid to ODPa for any other vendors we provide as the vendor fees will just cover River West’s costs.

We will, however, receive \$1.00 for every ticket sold. It will cost \$10 per dog to enter the event and they are expecting 2,000 dogs based on conversations with Lee Legenhausen who puts on Pick a Pooch and runs the Pets in Omaha website.

River West already has Chicago Dawgs lined up as a food vendor and is looking for one more. River West wants the vendors to make money so they only want two food vendors.

Lagunitas Brewing Company is already on board.

Bill wanted our opinion on having two off leash play areas. We weren’t too keen on that. Too much liability if the event is going to be as big as they suspect. See how this year goes. ODPa would like one fenced off area so we can set up a games. After all, this is take your people to dog event and just having vendors and people food

is more geared towards people. If ODPa could get enough volunteers, we could treat it like the carnival area at local fairs and charge admission and provide several games for the dogs.

River West is looking for ODPa to also mill around the event, speaking to vendors and participants about our organization. They are hoping for at least four people in four hour shifts so if we want to do the dog games we need volunteers.

River West is even toying with the idea of throwing up a dog movie at the events end as they have the capability of showing movies outside.

Omaha Gives – Was not discussed.

New Business – Omaha.dog is having a pub crawl the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month starting in May. Every event has one Non-Profit host and they wanted to know if ODPa wanted to be a host. It is only two hours (6 to 8 p.m.) and are at Crave, Black Oak Grill and Cantina Laredo in the Mid Town crossing area as they are dog friendly. The only dates left are 7/25, 8/22; 9/12; and 9/26. ODPa would get a portion of the proceeds. This is similar to the restaurant events Group Raise notified us about only with less commitment. Lynne will let Jim know as no one at the meeting had an opinion on this. Of course, we'd need to promote it.

Bob & Mickey will reach out to the Creighton groups Service in Justice & Res life at Creighton to see if they would like to help in dog park clean up and if they'd be interested in helping out at our other events. Therese mentioned in the Fall there is a National Day of Service for which they may be willing to help. Kristina will ask her daughter if she knows the contact for the Service Learning Coordinator at Westside as Sarah Schau's e-mail bounced back.

Benson Days is July 29th - Do we want to participate? Cost is \$60. We must provide our own tent, chairs, table and man the booth from 10 a.m. to 4p.m.

May's meeting will be held in the large conference room across from the one we usually meet in.