



**Omaha Dog Park Advocates  
June 14, 2017  
Swanson Library, 6 p.m.**

**Present** – Lynne Newlin, Bob Denny, Mickey Merriam, Jim Kee; Mary Gibilisco, Serina Rieckman, Sarah Cooper, Therese Pogge, Ben Mills and his support team, Penny Sorensen, Linda Nordhues, Dwight Lydio

**Hanscom** – As of the first part of June, the city opened all sides and didn't notify us so we didn't have enough poop bags.

**Hefflinger – Clean Up June 4<sup>th</sup>** – one volunteer, Diane, and a friend came at 8 a.m. and cleaned up the All Dog Side so when the 10 of us arrived at 1 there was little to do! Thank you Diane! Jim locked the gate on the small dog side that had been opened, moved some trash cans around and will again ask Bill, but this time cc Brook (his boss) about the missing trash cans. If ODPAs needs to purchase some and label them we will. There is also a large hole right off the walkway into a small dog park. Grass and volunteer tree have never been cut from around the one working water fountain on the small dog side. The city was going to spray the fence lines the week of June 5<sup>th</sup> so maybe they killed the growth around the fountain. Luckily the broken fountain has been turned off. Jim will see if the city plumbers can make shut off valves for each watering spot so we can have the fountain on and turn off the broken spigot. As of June 14<sup>th</sup> they have not added more cans.

Linda Nordhues is concerned about the mud hole on the all dog side and wanted to see if we could consult with an engineer to fix the issues.

We explained to her that because Hefflinger sits on a capped landfill drainage will always be an issue. Once a mud hole is filled another will reappear.

Michael Shonka with Nebraskans for Solar reached out, but Jim has still not heard from either of the gentlemen to meet.

Ben Mills, an Eagle Scout, gave the group a presentation to make agility equipment for Hefflinger as his Eagle Scout project. He would want the equipment at the bottom of the All Dog Side. We need to get permission from the city. He looks to have it completed by October. Jim will provide Denise Byers and Ben each other's contact information as Ben will need to get permission from the Parks Dept. Mickey will be Ben's liaison with ODPAs.

**Ice Cream Social – Saturday, June 24 from 1 to 3** Seven volunteers from local high schools took the donated raffle prizes we had in storage and made 13 raffle baskets. Two will be used for the Ice Cream Social.

Dharma Dogs will need to use the alley way of the open small dog park for their presentation. We will post a notice of this so people will be forewarned that for those two hours they will need to use the other side which has no water due to the broken fountain.

**Social Media** – Serina found dog Park Etiquette on You Tube which she will forward the link to Jim to get on Facebook.

Frequently Asked Questions have been added as a static spot on the Omaha Dog Parks Menu. We need to add information on trees, shelter, the divided parks, lights and advertising.

**Pub Crawl** – Will be July 25<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8. Black Oak Grill, Crave and Cantina Laredo are the participating restaurants. Dogs ARE allowed.

**Fundraisers / Save the date** – Kathy with Village Canvas & Cabernet has closed up shop. Lynne reached out to the other paint and drink businesses and found two that you had to use THEIR pictures and two that you can paint your own pet. The group definitely wanted to be able to paint their own pet.

Heather with Cheers Paint and Sip is down the street from the Hanscom Dog Park, is very eager to help us, but has little parking – although suggested having the event on a Sunday and using Lo Sole Mio’s parking.

Corky Canvas                      Melissa                      Everyone paints the same picture  
 402.637.4066                      \$12 goes to non-profit  
 Midtown  
 Crossing                      Space for 46 painters so if it is full we get \$552

Cost	Min People	Max People	Times	Drink Included?	Gift Bag?	ODPA Makes	Your Own Pet?	Parking
\$35	15	46	M or T Only	No	No	\$12	No	Free

Pinot's Palette                      Sonja                      Can help us get goodies for gift bags  
 LaVista - 7302 Giles Rd

Cost	Min People	Max People	Times	Drink Included?	Gift Bag?	ODPA Makes	Your Own Pet?	Parking
\$55		48		No	See Note	\$10	Yes	Free
\$60				Yes	See Note	\$10	yes	Free

**Cheers Paint & Sip**                      Heather                      Individual instruction so no one is up front teaching  
 402.991.5151                      Willing to get goodie bags  
 3052 S 32nd Ave                      \*Can do either door hanger or canvas picture, but needs them 14 days in advance

Cost	Min People	Max People	Times	Drink Included?	Gift Bag?	ODPA Makes	Your Own Pet?	Parking@
\$50.00		50		Yes	Yes	\$10	Yes*	

@Street unless we have the event on Sunday then we can use Lo Sole Mio's parking

The group has decided to go with Cheers Paint & Sip.

**Dog Park Help / Internship** – Leah with Omaha.dog knows someone who can help us find student help in several areas. Using the park for educational purposes allows us to qualify for more grants, stay current with technology and keeps our sites fresh. Here is what was provided to Leah.

The **Omaha Dog Park Advocates** is a non-profit, 501c3 organization. Our goal is to establish and enhance off-leash dog parks in the Omaha Metro.

We are seeking help in the following areas:

### **Website Maintenance / Social Media Maintenance.**

*We would like the website to be accurate, up to date and fluid. This requires someone with knowledge of Word Press*

*We have a Twitter account that was never fully utilized and it currently not in use.*

*Facebook needs to be accurate, up to date and responsive.*

*We have no other social media presence so if current technology needs to be used, i.e. Snapchat, Instagram we need someone fluent in those platforms.*

### **Videos**

*We'd like someone to be able to create videos for our website / Facebook / You Tube & / or other platforms that shows the proper use of a dog park.*

*Film the educational fund raisers such as the upcoming ice cream social where Kelley McAtee will be discussing the proper usage of the dog park(s).*

### **Marketing**

*If a class would like to take on a project such as assisting us in our fundraising events such as designing flyers, promotional tools, i.e. flyers and posters, Radio Spots, TV Commercials, that would be a big help.*

*Or a grant class – finding and / or applying for grants for dog parks. <http://www.petsafe.net/> is an annual contest which requires working with the Omaha Parks & Rec department so there is a chance for working with government, non-profit and for profit entities.*

*The Pet Safe fund grant could also be a class project / Eagle Scout project / Girl Scout Gold project.*

**Dog Daze of Summer** – They will go to print with the poster, but we still have the need for 2 title sponsors.

**Omaha Gives** – 40 different people donated \$910.00. We don't have the final number that has the fees removed and the additional money added.

**Benson Days** is July 29<sup>th</sup> - Cost is \$60. We are registered.

**New Business:** – Lynne sent out a description and requirements for the open positions to those new people who have been attending meetings.

- Jim got the Dog Park's Costco membership switched to bill ODPa instead of one of the officers.
- Lynne learned the Costco rebate check can be used towards membership.
- Penny wants to know how to get a dog park in Elkhorn in Briarwood park. We told her to get neighbor association involved and your city councilman. We'd be happy to fundraise.
- Lynne will reach out to Synlawn to get a cost estimate of putting synthetic lawn on the slopes of the Hanscom Dog Park. Jim doesn't think the city would be opposed to it, they'd just expect ODPa to pay for it!