



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

Present – Lynne Newlin, Bob Denny, Mickey Merriam, Jim Kee; Ben Mills, Eliza Burr, Mary Gibilisco, Sarah Cooper, Dwight Lydio; Carolyn Moore; Nick Saitta

Hanscom – Lynne met with Chad Schneider with Play, Inc about the cost of installing Synlawn on the slopes of the All Dog Sides of Hanscom. This would eliminate the erosion, the need to seed with netting and allow a safer descent and ascent into the parks. It was suggested that we terrace the slope the width of the synlawn pieces which is 14 feet and that there would be a 6 inch step each terrace. Lynne is still waiting for the estimate.

The Parks Department is leaving both sides of the All Dog areas open so it will be beat up because they are going to close one side this Fall for repair. Makes no sense to beat up both sides so one can be closed for two years and have the other side ruined, but we can't do much about it.

Hefflinger - After the Ice Cream Social both sides of the small dog side remained open as Bob didn't have the key to the padlock when he returned early the morning after to lock up the side, but he was able to get them locked on July 2nd. Small dog side has only one trash can. Someone is still leaving plastic bags at the small dog side. It was suggested we resurrect the sign telling people we no longer need the plastic bags and to please take them to a store to recycle.

The small dog side wants to move picnic tables into the open area so when Bob is there if there are people around, they'll move the tables.

The volunteer tree has been removed from behind the water fountain on the small dog side

The Bartos family attended the Ice Cream Social and was very happy with the bench and spent several hours at the park.

Only two cans on the All Dog Side. Jim will send this issue up the chain of command with the Parks Department.

Ben Mills – the budding Eagle Scout presented us with a grid of the layout of the 50 x 30 spot on the West End of the All Dog side where he wants to put the Agility Course. Dennis Byers had not gotten back with Ben so Ben will reach out to him via e-mail so that he can send him the layout of the course Ben will also phone him to schedule a meeting. There will be 11 to 12 feet between each obstacle so the mowers can get through. The current A frame is on the closed side of the park and is lying down. We do not know where the sign asking people to stay off the A-Frame. Ben will create signs for his agility course saying the same thing.

Jim got confirmation that the closed side of the All Dog Side will remain closed until next Fall. The city made improvements and wants to get the grass established before opening that side up and closing the other side.

Ice Cream Social – Saturday, June 24 from 1 to 3 We had 109 family groups and 127 dogs attend with 13 volunteers helping. While not all stayed to learn proper dog park etiquette or how to handle those who don't know proper dog park etiquette, at least we reached some park users. We made \$540.31 – enough to pay for our storage facility for a year. Dharma Dog was very happy with the turnout and is willing to do this again.

Mary met with the raffle prize winners to deliver their prize.

Social Media - Our agreement with the city is that we are not to authorized to allow any advertising. Jim is going to confirm that means we cannot advertise our own events before we post the posters on the Dog Daze of Summer. This came up when Nebraska Vizsla rescue requested permission to advertise Pawchella, a fundraiser for NHS and there group. We also received an e-mail offering help applying for grants. Jim has no clue if this was legit or spam.

Sunset Valley – Carolyn Moore, who lives in Sunset Valley and is part of their neighborhood group, came to offer us the opportunity to put in a dog park on the private golf course up for sale. NP Dodge may be purchasing the Sunset Valley golf course provided the soil samples go thru. If the soil samples come back wrong or the flood plain is finalized and more ground is lost, NP Dodge may not purchase the property. Carolyn stated there is group that will purchase the property and let us have part of it for a dog park. It is shaded and 42 Acres Jim pointed out that the Flood Plain is also an issue with a dog park due to the fencing and suggested they reach out to the NRD to get their insight.

Pub Crawl – Is Tuesday, July 25th from 6 until 8 in Midtown Crossing. Other groups have had a raffle so we will do that; have our flyers, and freebies. If the heat is excessive, it will be rescheduled. Lynne will reach out to Leah to see where our table will be and let people know.

Fundraisers / Save the date – Heather with Cheers Paint & Sip said any Sunday in October will work for the event so we picked October 22nd.

Dog Daze of Summer – We have decided to give River West Park our remaining goodie bags. That will return bins to Mint Design and get them out of storage We have set July 22nd from 9 to 11:30 at the Swanson Library to unstuff the Goodie Bags from 2016 and restuff them with current information. Lynne will print off the updated Petiquette version. We will use the rest of our old business cards and we will have the 1 page “flyer” about the parks reprinted. Lynne has put the word out asking for volunteers. Sarah with River West would like a list of volunteers and their times by the 8/9 meeting.

Provided we get the volunteers, we will have a game area for four hours. Charge for playing the games to be determined. There are only four games we can do that the game itself is the prize. The rest require solicitation of businesses for gifts.

Omaha Gives –\$885.81 is the final number of what we made with the fees removed.

Benson Days is July 29th Jim will be there with the stuff at 7:30 so Jim can park next to the spot to unload. Mickey will arrive shortly thereafter. Bob will be there in the afternoon. Lynne will show up after her vet appointment. We must occupy the booth until 4 p.m.

New Business: – Jon Cady with Vizsla rescue is going to work with the city to see if he can revise the rules surrounding advertising in city parks. Sports venues can generate money with advertising, but the dog parks cannot and he'd like to see that changed. It would allow ODPa to obtain grants and participate in dog park contests.

Bob Denny was voted in as a member at large to replace Ed Sikorski.