



**Omaha Dog Park Advocates
January 10, 2018
Swanson Library, 6 p.m.**

Present – Lynne Newlin Mickey Merriam, Eliza Burr, Mary Gibilisco, Bob Denney, Natalie Keener, Sarah Cooper, John Kumoz

Hanscom – No news about this park.

Hefflinger – The All dog side - the holes are growing again and people are not picking up their dog's poop.

Spring Bark in the Park – No response from Lee. No word if Jim spoke to D'Ann with Mint Design about doing this again. It is a bit late to get started.

Old Business – Ben, the Eagle Scout working on agility equipment for Hefflinger, is still on the project. YEAH!

New Business: -

Meet up is tied to the ODPA G-mail account which is not monitored. Lynne will work to move ODPA's e-mail list from her e-mail account to ODPA's account so meeting notices can be sent by anyone and will come from ODPA.

Michelle with the Roller Girls offered to have us use our stuff for give aways at their events. It is a way to promote our group and to get rid of our items.

Inventory Count – has been done.

Website Domain renewed for 5 years.

Meeting was announced on Evensi.

John with www.khicha.us attending the meeting. His family owned business sells Yak Milk chews wholesale. His company is willing to provide these for our event bags. John is also willing to be a volunteer for ODPA.

The parks department reached out to us to get our opinion of opening a dog park in Dewey Park, which is near Mid-Town Crossing at 550 Turner Blvd – or 33rd & Harney. Behind Marcus Theaters and Spielbound Board Game Café.



Bob & Mary were able to attend the meeting held by the city. Brook Bench, the director of Parks & Rec, was there and had visited dog parks around the country including those in Dallas & OKC. The department is very enthusiastic about this project. The impression was given that this was something that was to be completed in the next year and is a test for future dog parks.

The city is looking at two fenced areas with a water feature in both, along with a space for dog parties to be held, Food Trucks to park and for it to be handicapped accessible with concrete and artificial turf. They mentioned the building in the park that ODPa could use for our meetings at no cost and for fundraisers. They are not asking ODPa to help fundraise, but want our input. Good thing too, because the one thing Bob & Mary were able to bring to their attention is the need for LIGHTS.

The city is planning on staffing the park, although the time was not mentioned at this focus meeting.

The city is still deciding whether to charge to use the park or to have it open to the public at no cost.

The city estimates the cost between \$250,000 to \$400,000 and has most, if not all of the funding.

This was just a focus meeting and they are still getting input from others.

Dog Daze of Summer – will be Sunday, August 19th from noon to 6. Sarah is looking for more rescue groups to be involved and has set aside Noon to 3 for adoptable dogs to be onsite. They will have the music and the speakers share one stage so the music doesn't overwhelm the speakers. They want our help obtaining volunteers and running the dog games.

The Ice Cream Social – was mentioned and Bob suggested it be tied in with the Dewey Dog Park opening. If that doesn't happen quickly, Natalie offered to work with Sarah to organize as Natalie, being a teacher, has the summers off.