



**Omaha Dog Park Advocates  
May 9, 2018  
Swanson Library, 6 p.m.**

**Present** – Lynne Newlin, Mary Gibilisco, Jim Kee, Mickey Merriam, Michael McNealy, Nicole Retman, Bob Denny, Adam Podraza.

**Hanscom** – Dog Park Clean up took place on 4/22 due to the rain on 4/15. About 5-6 volunteers focused on the dog parks while others focused on the rest of the park. The entryway was cleaned up as well as the fence line. A lot of dog waste and tennis balls were collected and disposed of.

In an attempt to solve the overflowing trash can problem, the city has decided to remove them and asked all dog park patrons to place the dog waste into dumpsters. At Hanscom the dumpster is in the parking lot near the greenhouse, it was noted that not all patrons park in that lot. In addition, it can be difficult to see the dumpster, better directional signs could help. There are patrons who are not happy and contacted local media stations. Additionally, some park patrons are throwing the bagged waste on the ground, in the park. We will request that the Parks Department provide additional outreach and education to the nearby neighborhood associations and see if they are willing to help get the word out to the park patrons. Jim will see if he can setup a meeting with the Parks Department so that Michael and others can discuss an alternate solution.

Michael suggested we provide a piece of equipment to the Parks Department that would assist in picking up the trash cans so we can go back to the trash cans at Hanscom. We can apply for a grant for the equipment once we have the equipment. Michael will get information on the needed equipment.

**Hefflinger** – In an attempt to solve the overflowing trash can problem, the city has decided to remove them and asked all dog park patrons to place the dog waste into a dumpster placed near the entrance of the park. As the dumpster is near the entrance to Hefflinger there seems to be less of an issue at Hefflinger compared Hanscom.

Water to the fountains has been turned on.

A Frame has gone missing. We hope that the parks department has it.

**Old Business** – “Talking Dog” Summer Series will be a monthly educational event put on by Dog Gone Problems, the Omaha Dog Park Advocates agreed to partner with their effort and will be one of several non-profits attending. The events will be held on May 26, June 16, July 21, Aug 18 Sept 22 & Oct 20<sup>th</sup>. The events are at on the Lewis and Clark Landing Boardwalk (345 Riverfront Dr, Omaha, NE 68102). Event starts at 11 and shouldn't last longer than 12:30. Various rescues will be featured. Each date. They ask that we be set up by 10:30 a.m.

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** is the Hefflinger Clean Up – not July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Time is at noon. Adam suggested we go through the United Way to get volunteers for people who need to do community service, in addition to our other volunteers.

**Agility Equipment** – Ben was not at the meeting to provide any updates. Before we began an online fundraising campaign for his project he was to find out what methods could be used to fund raise and how we can help him fundraise.

**Omaha Gives** – May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are registered. People can start donating May 1<sup>st</sup>. We have challenged via Facebook, people to create cheer pages for ODPa with a prize going to whomever raises the most money. The prize will be an ODPa Goodie bag and a free entrance to Dog Daze of Summer. Jim created a cheer page to make sure it worked. We will continue to promote the challenge through social media and our website.

**Leashes At Lauritzen** – The first event was Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. There was a good crowd, Mary and Bob attended and were able to promote the dog parks and Omaha Gives. A lot of people had never heard of the dog parks in Omaha. We received \$3 in donations. Lauritzen added a 2nd Monday so we have additional opportunities to reach out to the community, May 14, June 4 & 11, July 2 & Aug 6, 13, Sept 3, 10, Oct 1, 8. If no one can make it to the event, Patty with Lauritzen is willing to set out our materials if we can get them to her prior to the event. We are in the atrium which is indoors and climate controlled so weather should not be a factor in what we display.

**Benson Days** is July 28, we are signed up and will have a booth we can promote Dog Daze and watch the parade.

**Dog Daze of Summer** August 26, Sarah will provide us fliers so we can give them out at Lauritzen Garden.

**Midtown Crossing Patio Pub Crawl** – Eliza is going to contact Omaha.dog to see if they are doing this again.

Library has been reserved through July for ODPa meetings.