



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

**Off-Leash Area Working Group**  
**Friday, February 14, 2014**  
**City Hall, Room 202**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Commissioner DeRubeis, Amy Koel, Carol Stapleton, Lee McIntyre, Bud Grantham, and Notes by Carol Schein.

The Commissioner opened the meeting.

Bowen School – Thompsonville Playground: Bud attended the Wed. night 2/12/14 Bowen School PTO meeting led by PTO President Jed Sugarman. Their landscape architect, Joanne Hiromura, was in attendance too. Bowen's contiguous school grounds are poorly draining and in very bad condition, the modular classrooms have taken up useable play space and their oldest wood play structure is in bad condition and needs to be replaced. They realize they have an opportunity here to improve the area, including making use of the upper field, P&R's Thompsonville Playground. There was mild negative concern about the proposed off-leash area. This planning project is currently, and will continue to be a collaborative effort between the school and Parks and Recreation. At some point in the future Bowen PTO will need to be brought back in for a discussion.

Cabot: The Commissioner mentioned an email from Kathy Matero to Ald. Johnson re noise. He will double-check the date. Cabot OLA is about to go out to bid. Steve Sallan of the Stanton Foundation called to say they will not fund Cabot, as they don't want to set a precedent of rehabbing off-leash areas as their mission is to fund newly created areas that meet their specified criteria. The Commissioner also stated that, this spring/summer he is going to have the tennis courts repaired, the tennis court fencing repaired and water brought in for use at the bocce courts.

Hunnewell: P&R will have the hole in the fence repaired.

McGrath Park: Susan Tresca, Manager at Warren House, called P&R to say that their parking area was being used by dog owners. It was suggested we mount a sign in the off-leash area telling people to make sure they use the designated parking area for off-leash use.

South High: The Commissioner to check with Susan Albright re the status.

Norumbega: OLAWG to invite Jennifer Steel in to the next meeting to discuss the possibility of improving and using the paved area on Comm. Ave. as an off-leash area.

Spears: No movement on this park or any small dog area.

New Business: OLAWG meeting schedule changed to be held every other week. Next meeting: 2.28.14. Agenda to be: (1) Spears and small OLA discussion; (2) Status of South High OLA; and Norumbega paved area on Comm. Ave. - invite Jennifer Steel to the meeting for preliminary discussion.