



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, February 22, 2013

9:30 a.m., Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Officer Ralph Torres, Lee McIntyre, Amy Koel, Ted Kuklinski, Carol Schein, Carol Stapleton

1. Cold Spring Park – Buffer

- Ms. Schein created a barrier planting concept plan for the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area (see attached) for the group to review and comment.
- Mr. McIntyre requested the plan include blocking access to the water. The water attracts the dogs.
- The group agreed to move forward with the plan. The next step will be to identify the plants and dimensions. Ms. Schein commented a temporary fence will be required to surround the planting to protect them for at least the first year.
- Mr. McIntyre suggested putting some benches in the area, away from the entrance to draw the dog owners and dogs away from the entrance.
- Alderman Albright commented the group needs to be mindful of the needs of the other off-leash areas.

2. Area Updates

- **ENFORCEMENT:** Commissioner DeRubeis commented they are very close to hiring for the off-leash specialist position. Details such as uniform, equipment, and a vehicle need to be worked out.
- Mr. Sanders asked if the off-leash area specialist would be going to conservation areas. Commissioner DeRubeis stated no, only park land. Mr. Sanders asked if the off-leash area specialist would go to park land that is not an off-leash area. Commissioner DeRubeis stated yes. Mr. Sanders stated if the off-leash area specialist goes to non-off-leash areas this will cause people to go to conservation land. Officer Torres stated he is responsible for those other areas.
- The group revisited the following areas to be reviewed for presentation to the P & R Commission:
 - Thompsonville Playground- group must contact the principal of the school and youth leagues regarding use of the field.
 - Edmands Park- Alderman Albright suggested having an intern perform a survey of the users of Edmands Park to collect usage information and opinions of shared use.
 - Forte Park- this would be a fenced area, possibly for small dogs. Officer Torres commented there are complaints from neighbors about barking coming from the doggie day care in the neighborhood. Commissioner DeRubeis suggested early morning restrictions.
 - NSHS – area by the tennis courts- narrow area, week-end hours only
 - Alderman Albright commented Spears Park should be revisited. Commissioner DeRubeis commented there was a plan to make improvements to the park, including ornamental fencing. Ms. Schein created a concept drawing. Alderman Albright requested the drawing be brought to the next meeting.

3. New Business

- Ms. Beth Lewinger requested the following sentence from the 02-15-13 minutes be corrected, “Mr. McIntyre commented Ms. Lewinger is arguing an issue that has already been litigated”. The issue did not go to court, an opinion was given. The sentence will be corrected as follows: “Ms. Lewinger is arguing an issue that has already rendered an opinion from the U.S. Department of the Interior and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs”.

4. Next meeting

- The next meeting is Friday March 1, 2013 at 9:30am in Room 202

