



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, March 22, 2013

9:30 a.m., Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Amy Koel, Ted Kuklinski, Carol Schein, Carol Stapleton

1. Conservation Commission

- Three members of the Conservation Commission were invited to today's meeting. They were not able to attend. Director Havens provided additional dates and times the Conservation Commission members may be available. An invitation will be sent for either March 28th at 6:30pm or April 8th at 6:30pm.

2. Update

- Ana Gonzalez, Director of Community Engagement was in attendance and was introduced to the group.
- Cabot Park plantings and surfacing options were discussed. Joe Kenyon, Friend of Cabot Off-leash area provided a sample of rice stone and went to the Arlington Dog Park where they use the rice stone in the off-leash area. Mr. Kenyon's dog played fetch in the area for an hour and her paws were ok. The ball did not bounce very well on the surface. The Arlington dog park is irrigated and there is not much overflow of the rice stone outside the off-leash area.
- Commissioner DeRubeis asked if the specifications for the Arlington dog park could be requested. Liz Hedstrom, Friends of Cabot Off-Leash Park commented she will request the specifications, she knows a person involved with the project.
- Harry Sanders, Friends of Edmands Park asked if the rotation of the dog park around Cabot Park was still an option. Commissioner DeRubeis commented there is no available space in Cabot Park to move the off-leash area and he would like to address the current issues before looking at alternate sites.
- Commissioner DeRubeis suggested the group discuss limiting the number of dogs in the off-leash area.
- Alderman Albright commented the current noise ordinance may not apply in this situation. The ordinance may need to be amended.

3. Enforcement Update

- Jason Roberts has been hired as the Off-Leash Recreation Specialist. His first day will be next Tuesday and he will attend the OLAWG meeting next Friday.
- Review tasks for data collection in the parks – to be discussed at the next meeting

4. New Business

- Mr. Kuklinski asked if new areas will be brought forward to the P & R Commission before the summer break. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group should discuss this at the next meeting.
- Mr. Kuklinski provided an update on the Waban Hill Reservoir Advisory Group (WHRAG) meeting. The WHRAG discussed the use of the area as an off-leash area but an off-leash area did not seem a compatible idea to WHRAG members. The next meeting is Wednesday March 27 at 7pm.

5. Next meeting

- The next meeting is Friday March 29, 2013 at 9:30am in Room 202