



Robert J. DeRubeis  
Commissioner

## Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, April 12, 2013

9:30 a.m., Room 202

### Meeting Minutes

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

#### 1. Cabot Park

##### a. Surfacing update - Brendan Cronin, Forever Lawn Representative

- The artificial grass has been designed for dog. The material is antimicrobial and has a woven, mesh backing. The difference between the K9 grass and athletic turf is there is no rubber material and the backing allows liquid to flow through.
- Questions from the OLAWG members:
  - Are there any reports the material is harmful to people or dogs? Mr. Cronin responded no.
  - How is solid waste cleaned up? Mr. Cronin commented the solid waste can be picked up the same way you would on natural grass. And the K9 grass can be hosed down for additional cleaning.
  - A groom broom is used on athletic turf, can that same broom be used on the K9 grass, and the answer is yes.
  - How is the K9 Grass secured? The edges are stapled.
  - Is the material slippery? The grip on K9 Grass is better than on natural grass.
  - Is digging by dogs an issue? There are many facilities with 100's of dogs using the facilities every day and there have been no issues.
  - Is there a warranty? There is a standard 8 year limited warranty and a 1 year installation warranty.
  - Is the material fire resistant? The material is fire retardant.
  - Can spray paint/graffiti be cleaned easily? K9 grass will not absorb spray paint.
  - Will the material be affected from being under snow and ice for several months? No the snow and ice will not hurt the product.
  - What is involved with the prep work? 1/2" crushed stone with stone dust mixed together and spread.
  - What is the price of the product and install? It depends on square feet and how much the company does for the install.
  - How long to install? Two-three weeks.
  - What about installing trees and benches in the area? They should be installed before the K9 grass.
  - Does K9 grass work together with a second product? It works well with other products.

##### b. Area design options- Ms. Schein distributed 7 design options for the Cabot Park off-leash area.

##### c. Hours – there has been many requests for extended hours

##### d. April 22, P & R Commission meeting- group will review presentation at the next meeting

#### 2. Jason Roberts, Off-Leash Recreation Specialist reported his observations for the week.

#### 3. Next meeting

- The next meeting is Friday, April 19, 2013 at 9:30am in Room 202