



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, May 10, 2013

P & R Office, 124 Vernon St

Meeting Minutes

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

1. Jason Roberts, Off-Leash Recreation Specialist reported his observations for the week.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis commented Mr. Roberts is doing a great job. The Law Department is working on revising the ordinance to allow Mr. Roberts to issue citations. Ms. Koel asked what the timeline is for the ordinance revision. Commissioner DeRubeis does not have a timeline. The Law Department received a letter from the Police Union about the off-leash specialist position but they are moving forward with the revision.
 - Mr. Roberts asked if dogs are allowed in tennis courts. There were three dogs off-leash in the Braceland Playground tennis courts. Commissioner DeRubeis commented it is not an appropriate use to have dogs on the tennis courts; the Braceland Playground tennis courts were recently renovated. Signs should be posted. Harry Sanders commented there is nothing in the ordinance that prohibits dog's on-leash in the tennis courts. Alderman Albright stated the City Departments can have their own regulations.
2. Cabot Park Design & Budget
 - Ms. Schein distributed pictures of Bark Park off-leash area in South Boston. The area surface consists of concrete sidewalk and pebble stones. Ms. Schein stated in her professional opinion grass will not grow in the Cabot off-leash area and planting the grass seed would require the area being closed for a couple of months.
 - After reviewing several designs for surfacing at Cabot Park off-leash area, a design preferred by the group would be rice stone or stone dust with an accessible pathway around the perimeter.
3. Cold Spring Park- fencing option for the entrance
 - Ms. Schein distributed a drawing for a partial fence at the Old Cold Spring Park off-leash area previously submitted. The fence is curved to block easy access to the driveway that leads to Dunklee Rd. The fence is meant to delineate where the off-leash area begins and prevent dogs from running up the hill to the trail.
 - Mr. McIntyre stated the area is a pristine area and the users do not like to be fenced in. Mr. McIntyre understands but is opposed to the entire area being fenced.
 - Alderman Albright commented the goal is to keep dogs away from people. There have been many complaints waiting for a solution. Mr. McIntyre commented there are 100's of dog owners against the fence.
 - Mr. Grantham asked why Mr. McIntyre is against the fence. Mr. McIntyre commented some areas work without a fence and the complaints have been coming from outside the off-leash area.
 - Ms. Koel stated the group has to install the fence, but does not see fencing the entire area. It also has to be understood the fence will not stop the issues in the trail.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis commented Mr. Roberts is now monitoring the parks and will have a report of the activity at each area.
 - Commissioner DeRubeis asked if a gate should be included in the fence. Mr. Kuklinski suggested the fence be designed to accommodate a gate at a later date if required. Director Havens agreed a phased approach is acceptable.
 - The group came to a consensus to install the 4' black fence as presented, the gate to be determined as needed.
4. Additional Sites – To be discussed at next meeting
5. New Business – No new business
6. Next meeting
 - **The next meeting is Friday, May 17, 2013 at 9:30am in Room 202 in City Hall**