



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, June 14, 2013

City Hall, Room 209

Meeting Minutes

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

1. Update

- Susan Lunin, Conservation Commission member was invited to the meeting today to discuss off-leash areas and Conservation Land. Ms. Lunin could not attend the meeting.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated the group will discuss the summer meeting schedule at the June 21st meeting. There will be no meetings on June 28 & July 5.
- Commissioner DeRubeis will present the four areas recently discussed; Forte Park, NSHS, Thompsonville Playground and Edmands Park at the June 17th P & R Commission meeting. This will be an informational meeting only; there will not be a vote. Over the summer OLAWG will meet with the stakeholders of each area before the public hearing.
- Cabot Park- the neighbor abutting the park is happy with the new fence and has requested flowering plants along the fence instead of the arborvitae. Ms. Koel requested no azaleas or rhododendron be planted, they are poisonous to dogs. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there will be arborvitae and a few flowering plants. Ms. Schein has forwarded the Cabot Park surfacing design to Greg Swan the City's Design Engineer.
- Mr. McIntyre was approached by a professional dog walker who brings dogs to the Norcross Company's fenced in lot to run off-leash. She has an agreement with the owner. The owner is interested in partnering with the City to use the open space for the off-leash program, in return for compensation. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there could be a lot of legal issues with this arrangement but the group can continue to discuss at a future meeting.
- Mr. McIntyre requested the group discuss the fees for the professional dog walkers. Commissioner DeRubeis commented Jason Roberts the off-leash specialist has been approached by the dog walkers on this issue. Commissioner DeRubeis is willing to discuss the fees for Newton businesses, but out of town business fees will remain as they are.
- Ms. Koel would like to schedule training classes in one of the fenced off-leash areas. And is requesting permission to allow dog owners who do not have an off-leash permit to attend the class. The group agreed to allow non-off-leash permitted dog owners to attend the class and allow the class in a fenced off-leash area. Commissioner DeRubeis suggested Mr. Roberts be present during the classes.
- Mr. Joe Kenyon requested the group revisit the weekend hours at Cabot off-leash area. The group agreed to discuss at the next meeting. Mr. McIntyre suggested the group review the data Mr. Roberts has been collecting over the past couple of months at the off-leash areas.
- Mr. Kuklinski asked if there is any additional information on the Stanton Grant for off-leash areas. Ms. Schein has reached out to them with no response; she will reach out to them again.

2. Next meeting

- **The next meeting is Friday, June 21, 2013 at 9:30am in Room 202 in City Hall**