



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, June 21, 2013

City Hall, Room 202

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Alderman Susan Albright, Lee McIntyre, Amy Koel, Bud Grantham, Jason Roberts

1. Update

- **P & R Commission presentation**

- Commissioner DeRubeis stated the presentation was made at the Commission meeting. There were no comments from the Commission. Over the summer OLAWG can invite the interest groups of each area to the meetings for discussion. Overhead maps with detailed layout of the off-leash areas in each park to be defined. Commissioner DeRubeis commented the Conservation Commission and Public Schools will need to be contacted for the area at NSHS.
- Ms. Koel stated she visited the site at Forte Park; this area is not a good area for dogs.

- **Jason Roberts, Off-leash Specialist Report**

- McGrath park off-leash area had one complaint of one person not picking up after their dog. A neighborhood group is forming at the McGrath Park off-leash area.
- Cold Spring Park (CSP); the group that frequents CSP during the day has improved. The evening and weekend crowd needs some work.
- Ms. Koel stated there are issues at Hunnewell Park with some Professional Dog Walkers she will pass along the information to Mr. Roberts after the meeting.

- **Cabot Park**

- **Surface Design**

- Ms. Schein provided a surface design for Cabot Park off-leash area created by the City's Design Engineer. Mr. Grantham asked if the rice stone will bother the dog's paws. Mr. Rich Young, resident is also a volunteer at the Dedham Animal Rescue League (ARL). The play area at the ARL consists of rice stone and the stone does not bother the dogs at all, does not hold heat and does not track out of the area. Mr. Sanders asked about adding agility apparatus to the area. Commissioner DeRubeis stated the area should be resurfaced and then there can be discussion on apparatus if it is appropriate for the area.

- **Hours**

- Mr. Grantham commented the hours in the off-leash area should be dawn to dusk, 7 days. That is how it is and it cannot be enforced and these hours would spread out the usage. The issue is a behavior issue with the people not the dogs. Mr. Grantham is not bothered by the barking anymore. Mr. McIntyre stated there is no good way to control barking but Mr. Roberts is a resource to help with the issue.
- The group came to a consensus to change the hours as follows:
Summer Hours 7am-7pm Weekdays and Weekends

2. New Business

- Alderman Albright would like to create a "roadmap" for the summer meetings, with the interested groups of each area, completed at the July 12th meeting.
- Commissioner DeRubeis stated at the July 12th meeting the group will also discuss Thompsonville Playground. An overhead map will be brought to the meeting and the interest groups will be invited.

3. Next meeting

- **The next meeting is [Friday, July 12, 2013 at 9:30am in Room 202 in City Hall](#)**