



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, February 03, 2012

9:30 a.m., Room 222

Meeting Minutes

Attending: Commissioner DeRubeis, Officer Torres, Lee McIntyre, Amy Koel, Carol Stapleton, Carol Schein

1. Presentation to the Parks & Recreation Commission on January 23rd

- ✓ Weekes Field and Forte Park were presented to the Commission. The Commission members were pleased with the dog licensing numbers and how they have increased since 2008.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Commission was told the Public Hearing will be in March. The group agreed the Public Hearing should take place in March due to the number of items on the February Commission Agenda.

2. Other Business

- ✓ Officer Torres requested "Keep Your Dogs on a Leash" signs be posted at Edmands Park. There have been quite a few issues in Edmands Park with off-leash dogs.
- ✓ Mike Verdun, Needham, asked Officer Torres how many dog-on-dog bites are reported in the parks. Officer Torres stated there has only been one reported incident. Ms. Koel commented there are most likely several unreported incidents.
- ✓ Harry Sanders asked if the City is liable in the off-leash areas because there is a fee charged for use of the off-leash areas. Commissioner DeRubeis stated this is an issue not just in the off-leash areas but in many areas. The Recreational Use Statute is in flux right now, it is currently before the Supreme Court.
- ✓ Mr. McIntyre asked the timeline of the license/off-leash permit renewal process. Commissioner DeRubeis requested the secretary invite Mr. Olson, the City Clerk to the next meeting for more information.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis commented the Cabot Park off-leash area will be reseeded in the spring. The area was used as a snow dump last winter and as a construction staging area last spring and needs to be repaired. Mr. McIntyre will need one week notice to notify the off-leash area users.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis commented he is working with DPW regarding the crosswalk at Braceland Playground.

3. Next meeting

- ✓ The next meeting is Friday, February 10, 2012 at **9:30 am, Room 202**, in City Hall

Respectfully Submitted

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary