



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, February 24, 2012

9:30 a.m., Room 202

Meeting Minutes

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

1. General Discussion

- ✓ The presentation to the P & R Commission for Forte Park and Weeks Park will be on April 23, 2012. Permitted league practice, at these locations, will take precedent over the off-leash activity. Signs would be posted in the area and the sports league permit would have to be on hand.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis & Ms. Schein are looking into having the crosswalk at Braceland Playground installed so the off-leash area can be opened. The Traffic Department stated a study of the area must be completed before a crosswalk is installed. Ms. Schein commented the first part of the master plan is being done this spring which includes a walkway near the tennis courts. Alderman Albright will contact the traffic department for details about what needs to be done to have the crosswalk installed.
- ✓ Mr. Sanders stated he was walking in Edmands Park with a friend and his terrier (off-leash) when an off-leash golden retriever went after the terrier. Mr. Sanders held the retriever by the collar until the owner arrived. The terrier was ok. This is not a meadow, but a wilderness trail, and Mr. Sanders wants to know how to handle these types of situations in this setting. Commissioner DeRubeis commented this is a question Officer Torres should address. Edmands is not an authorized off-leash area; all dogs should be on-leash.
- ✓ Mr. McIntyre commented these types of problems usually improve when an area becomes a legal off-leash area. The users have the moral authority to talk with unruly users.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis will add this issue to the next agenda.

2. Next meeting

- ✓ The next meeting is Friday, March 16, 2012 at **9:30 am, Room 202**, in City Hall
- ✓ There will be no meetings on Friday March 2, 2012 or March 9, 2012.

Respectfully Submitted

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary