



Robert J. DeRubeis
Commissioner

Off-Leash Area Working Group

Friday, April 20, 2012

9:30 a.m., Room 202

Meeting Minutes

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

- **May 21st P & R Commission Presentation**

- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis stated the Sports Leagues and Ward Alderman will be notified of the Public Hearing next week after the April 23rd Commission meeting. Signs will be posted at each site notifying the park users of the public hearing and notification will be sent out to abutters.
- ✓ Mr. Harry Sanders asked what the priority will be in the off-leash areas.
- ✓ Commissioner DeRubeis commented permitted activity would take priority.

- **Old Business**

- ✓ Ms. Koel is proposing a dog training class to be held at an off-leash area sponsored by the Parks & Recreation Department. Ms. Koel is volunteering her time to the program. The pilot program would be offered to medallion holders and then expanded to other residents. Ms. McLaughlin forwarded the proposal to the Law Department for review, the Law Department asked that an indemnification form be signed by all participants, the same as the other P & R programs and a CORI check be done on all volunteers.
- ✓ The group decided to move forward with the program.
- ✓ Ms. Stapleton inquired about the opening date of the off-leash area in Braceland Playground, for the Highlands Neighborhood council. Commissioner DeRubeis commented a study is required to add a crosswalk and the study will be done after the construction is done at the tennis courts. The construction is scheduled to be done this summer. Mr. McIntyre is concerned about the delay in opening the off-leash area. Director Havens commented there may be other options. Commissioner DeRubeis will speak with DPW Commissioner Turocy.
- ✓ Alderman Albright suggested revisiting:
 - Hiring a park ranger
 - Spears Park and Walker Park (near Oakley Spa)
 - Norumbega Park- possibly creating a report of off-leash areas on Conservation Land

- **Next meeting**

- ✓ The next meeting is Friday, April 27, 2012 at 9:30 am, Room 202, in City Hall.

Respectfully Submitted

Robin McLaughlin, Secretary