

**ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

City Hall Room 208
Thursday, January 23, 2020
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

APPROVED Minutes

Attendees	
Committee Members:	
Bob Langis, Animal Control Officer	✓
Becky Longval, Nashua Humane Society Representative	✓
June Leman, Community Member	✓
Amber Logue, Community Member	✓
Tom Lopez, Board of Aldermen	
Patricia Klee, Board of Aldermen Alternate Member	✓
Staff:	
Cheryl Lindner, Chief of Staff	✓
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director	
Nick Caggiano, Parks and Recreation Superintendent	✓
Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager	✓
Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long-Range Planner	✓

Agenda/Items Discussed:

1. Introductions

The meeting began with everyone introducing themselves and explaining why they were interested in participating in the Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee (ADPAC).

Alderwoman Klee informed the group that Alderman Lopez could not attend.

Other topics discussed:

- Amber was asked if she would bring her presentation on why Nashua needs a downtown dog park to the ADPAC at the next meeting.
- It was recommended that the Committee visit two dog parks that are considered well done:
 - Chelmsford Dog Park
 - Address: 52 Richardson Road, North Chelmsford, MA 01863
 - FMI: <https://www.chelmsforddogassociation.org/>
 - Pine Banks Dog Park
 - Address: 1087 Main Street Malden, MA 02148
 - FMI: <https://www.pinebanks.org/visit/dog-park/>
 - City has relationship with John Vancor (HSI), who designed park – might be good resource

- Amber has done a lot of research on successful dog parks and will bring info to future meeting
- Could have someone from a successful park come speak to Committee to share lessons learned
- Public Health would like to be involved in the Committee, if not as a member then as an advisor
 - *Follow-up note: I called Heidi Peek, Environmental Health Department Health Manager, and she agreed that having her attend the meetings "as needed" based on the agenda would work best. One of her primary concerns is rabies.*
- Someone from the School Department should be involved as an advisor since many of the fields end up being used by dog owners to let their dogs off leash within a fenced area. Shawn Smith, Director of Plant Operations, was identified as a good person to fill that role.
- Dog waste
 - June has been researching articles on environmentally friendly ways to dispose of dog waste and will share with the Committee.
 - There are lots of problems with the fields at the schools (see bullet above).
 - The Rail Trail is especially bad. Other problem areas include the Salem Tot Lot/Tolles Street, Main Street.
 - Dog waste is the biggest topic that Parks and Rec gets calls about and they do not want to be responsible for keeping dog parks clean.
 - Deb is working with the City Clerk to include educational info in dog license renewal notices that go out in March. "Watershed Warrior" pledge sheet mentioned as possibility for including with notice.
 - Under agreement with EPA, storm drains are supposed to be labeled with "let only rain go down the storm drain" but hasn't been happening on newly paved roads. There are about 12,000 storm drains in Nashua. Boy Scouts/other groups could help with labeling.
- Downtown Dog Park Location
 - Should be within walking distance of downtown neighborhoods
 - At least 500' from residential properties
 - Close to Mine Falls
 - "Unbuildable" land would be ideal
 - Lot 77-5 (Off Spine Road/Pine Street Ext):
 - Less than an acre in size - what should the minimum size for the dog park be?
 - Per [AKC's "Establishing a Dog Park in your Community"](#), the ideal dog park should be "one acre or more of land surrounded by a four- to six-foot high chain-link fence."
 - The [dog park at 1 Groton Road](#) is 2.73 acres
 - Adjacent to the Cove and Nashua River, so waste is a concern
 - Owned by Nashua Millyard Associates (Tim Cummings sits on Board)
 - Lot E-1381 (515 West Hollis St)
 - Just over 8 acres
 - Privately Owned
 - Not within walking distance of downtown
 - Part of site was an old dump/landfill
 - The Board of Public Works is the controlling body for public parks and would have say over basic infrastructure and maintenance
 - Fence around 2 acres would be about \$50K – 60K

- Potential Funding Sources: It is the expectation of Parks and Rec that any new dog park be completely self-sustaining and maintained (not by Parks and Rec)
 - Create a non-profit, similar to the existing dog park on Groton Road
 - Put out donation boxes
- Potential Outreach Opportunities
 - DPW Summer Fun Fest kick off
 - Mine Falls Advisory Committee's Trail Days

2. Recurring Meeting Schedule

The ADPAC agreed to meet on the first Friday of the month from 8 am – 9 am in Room 208 at City Hall. A recurring meeting invite was sent out. In case the Outlook calendar invite doesn't work for you, here are the meeting dates for 2020:

3/6/2020	8/7/2020
4/3/2020	9/4/2020
5/1/2020	10/2/2020
6/5/2020	11/6/2020
7/3/2020	12/4/2020

3. Committee Goals and Objectives

The following roles were established:

- Chair: Amber Logue
 - Nominated by Alderwoman Klee, seconded by Deb Chisholm, all were in favor
- Vice-Chair: June Leman
 - Nominated by Alderwoman Klee, seconded by Amber Logue, all were in favor

The following goals/objectives were identified:

- Find one or two sites for a downtown dog park
- Develop a snow melt plan for dog waste
- Set up an association/group to govern the dog park and establish bylaws
- Educate public about waste management and leash laws
- Fundraise and apply for grants
 - Doug Barry, Humane Society President and CEO, could be the fiscal agent
- Identify groups that we could work with, e.g., Boy Scouts
- Set up a Facebook page for ADPAC (check with IT)

Action Items for next meeting (March 6th @ 8 am):

- Committee Chair will draft Mission Statement
- Animal Control Officer will provide report on "dog at large" calls

Meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm

Next Meeting: Friday, March 6th at 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM

Minutes by: Julie Chizmas

Background Info:

Ordinance establishing Committee: [O-19-047](#)

§12-35. Purpose.

There shall be an Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the City regarding animal issues and regarding the establishment of a downtown and other dog parks.

§ 12-36. Membership.

- A. The Committee shall consist of the following seven members: (1) The Animal Control Officer; (2) A representative from the Nashua Humane Society; (3) An alderman, appointed by the President of the Board of the Aldermen; and (4) Four community members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen.
- B. Members of the Committee appointed and confirmed under subsection A(4) will serve for three-year terms. The initial terms may be staggered so that the terms of the community members do not all end at the same time."

Minutes from Board of Alderman Meeting where Committee was discussed (see page 2):

<https://www.nashuanh.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Minutes/07092019-4552>

Nashua Telegraph article: <https://www.nashuatelegraph.com/news/local-news/2019/07/12/nashua-may-get-downtown-dog-park/>