

ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, May 1, 2020

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Meeting held via WebEx

Call-In Number: 1-408-418-9388

Access code: 710 399 403

Minutes

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

**Per email sent on 4/24, Nick Caggiano could not attend due to a scheduling conflict.*

Prior to beginning the meeting, a "Checklist to Ensure Meetings are Compliant with the Right-to- Know Law During the State of Emergency" was read aloud so all committee members and any members of the public listening by phone were aware of the steps that had been taken for the meeting, including:

- a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone.
- b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting.
- c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.
- d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.

1. Adoption of the March 6, 2020 meeting minutes (by roll call)

- Moved: Amber Logue
- Seconded: Bob Langis
- Voting members in favor: Unanimous

2. Finalization and Adoption of Animal and Dog Park Committee Mission Statement

Draft Mission Statement:

The mission of the Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee is to promote responsible pet ownership in the community through educational opportunities, thus encouraging current and potential pet owners to develop a more meaningful relationship with their companions and the community at large. We facilitate the establishment of dog parks in order to provide safe and secure environments where owners may exercise and train their dogs off leash, thus providing effective socialization opportunities for people and their dogs as well as enhancing positive interaction between dog owners and the community.

Final Mission Statement:

The mission of the Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee is to promote responsible pet ownership in the community through educational opportunities, thus encouraging current and potential pet owners to develop a more meaningful relationship with their companions and the community at large. We facilitate the establishment of dog parks in order to provide safe and secure environments where owners may exercise and ~~train~~ socialize their dogs off leash, thus providing effective socialization opportunities for people and their dogs as well as enhancing positive interaction between dog owners and the community.

Adoption of Final Mission Statement (by roll call)

- Moved: June Leman
- Seconded: Bob Langis
- Voting members in favor: Unanimous

3. Report of animals at large & other issues

Animal Control Officer Bob Langis reported that calls were down due to the Stay at Home Order.

Becky Longval reported that the Nashua Humane Society Animal Shelter was temporarily closed to the public and not taking in surrenders as they were taking in animals from COVID-19 positive households. The number of staff and volunteers working at the Shelter had been reduced but was starting to ramp back up. Spay and Neuter Clinics were being accommodated by appointment only to keep traffic in the lobby at a minimum. It is recommended that pet owners have a plan of action for the care of their pets in case the owners become ill.

The WHO, CDC and Vets have been providing guidance on preventative steps. Cats and dogs can carry the virus on their fur and cats can become symptomatic. People carrying the virus should sequester from their pets, too, which raises concern that animals will be abandoned. Various strains of coronavirus

have been found in animals for a very long time but it is rare to have coronaviruses that infect animals spread to humans and then spread between people.

4. Updates & Pivot on focus: Summer Fun Series, Education

- The City Clerk's Office sent out notices for dog license renewals
 - There have been some delays in processing
- Not going to attend the Public Works' Summer Fun Kick-Off due to uncertainty of event (has since been cancelled)
- Will reschedule educational events to the fall, after school starts (?)
 - Animal waste disposal
 - Leash Laws
 - Approaching strange dogs
 - Animal Shelter has a strong educational program that we can borrow from
 - Could develop a viral video (i.e., Tik Tok)
 - "Nashua Loves Dogs" Facebook page very popular

5. Potential Dog Park locations update

Millyard (Lot 77-5)

- Lot is a little funky – has cell towers so would need to keep access open
- Right side of lot is relatively flat, easily accessible
- Path is paved to the foot of the hill
- Southern section prone to flooding
- Will require policing on waste clean-up
- Amber spoke with Millyard Associates and adjacent property owners (e.g., Gate City, Bagshaw, One Chestnut) about a year ago and 99% were open to idea of using lot for dog park
- Clocktower not very dog friendly but would support the dog park

Crown Street (Lots 25-1, 23-1)

- Has adequate area and parking
- Serves a completely different neighborhood than the Millyard site
- Downtown adjacent
- Good for handicapped access
- Future use as a train station could be an issue
- Already has some fencing, wooded area for shade (but slope is fairly steep)

6. Next steps

- Committee members should try to visit each site and walk the property
- Need to speak to the following:
 - For support of site:
 - Aldermen Caron (Crown Street) and Lopez (Millyard)
 - School (Crown Street)

- Tim Cummings (Millyard)
 - Millyard Associates
- For Feasibility of Sites:
 - Nick Caggiano/DPW (both sites)
 - Heidi Peek—Kukulka (both sites)
 - Scott McPhie/Conservation Commission (Millyard)