

ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, May 7, 2021

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Meeting held via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84355790611?pwd=Ukd6MjVEdHI1ZWtXOG91NFlnanRsZz09>

Meeting ID: 843 5579 0611

Passcode: 955378

DRAFT Minutes

Attendees	
Committee Members	
Tom Lopez, Board of Aldermen	x
Patricia Klee, Board of Aldermen Alternate	x
Kathy Abel, Community Member	x
June Lemen, Community Member (Vice-Chair)	x
Amber Logue, Community Member (Chair)	x
Megan Villacis, Community Member	x
Bob Langis, Animal Control Officer	
Becky Longval, Nashua Humane Society	
Staff	
Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager	x
Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long-Range Planner	x
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director	
Mike Harris, Parks & Recreation Operations Manager	x
Jason Puopolo, Parks & Recreation Superintendent	x
Cecilia Ulibarri, Mayor's Office	x

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 participating virtually via Zoom or by phone were aware of the steps that had been taken for the virtual 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.

Before beginning with the first agenda topic, a minute was taken to welcome the new Parks and Recreation Department Superintendent, Jason Puopolo, to the Committee. Jason introduced himself and is looking forward to working with the Committee. Mike has enjoyed being on the committee and will continue to participate.

1. Approval of the [April 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

- Motion: June Lemen
- Second: Amber Logue
 - Discussion: None
- Yea: Unanimous by roll call vote
- Nay: None
- Abstained: None

2. Dog Waste Clean-up Campaign

Julie informed the committee that an AARP Community Challenge Grant was submitted last month. The request for \$12,199.90 and would pay for ten dog waste stations, bags for a year (based on DPW's use at Mine Falls) and marketing/education.

Julie also said Director Marchant, Community Development, is working with Director Fauteux, DPW, to find agreeable locations for waste dispensers on Main Street. Additionally, Director Marchant asked for a list of the top 3 – 5 sites that are particularly problematic so she could evaluate enforcement options. Julie said she sent six locations that have been discussed by this committee and mentioned in the survey responses:

1. Lock Street/Salem Street/Tolles Street area – especially the Tot Lot and Community Gardens
2. Shattuck Street Tot Lot
3. 124 West Pearl St/Consolidated lot
4. Main Dunstable Soccer Fields
5. Sargent's Park/along Edgewood Cemetery
6. Any school with a field – specifically, Charlotte Ave and Dr. Crisp have been mentioned

Alderwoman Klee noted that in addition to the field, grassy areas along the perimeter of schools are also really bad. She mentioned Pennichuck and Charlotte Ave schools in particular but said all schools have dog waste issues. Amber noted that it should be easier to deal with such a high visibility problem. We need to make a big a deal of our volunteer clean-up days to raise awareness.

Alderwoman Klee said the Tolles Street Mission wants to clean up Whitney St on May 22nd. Didn't know what we were doing. Set up like a street fair with hot dogs and beverages. Working with DPW.

3. Millyard Dog Park Feasibility Study Kick-off with Ironwood/HTA

The Millyard Dog Park Feasibility Study was kicked off with introductions from both the committee and the consulting team, which included Jen Martel and Jeff Hyland from Ironwood Design Group and Marisa Diabiaso and Kimberly Peace from Hoyle, Tanner & Associates (HTA).

Jen went over the schedule for the project. The existing conditions analysis has begun with a GIS data review. A private utility locator, GPRS, Inc., is scheduled to complete an underground survey to locate the radio tower infrastructure using a scanning GPR antenna, electromagnetic pipe locator, traceable rodder and GPS. It is anticipated this will take 8 – 12 hours and is scheduled for May 18th and May 19th. Director Cummings, Economic Development, contacted the Millyard Associates representatives asking if there were any concerns with the access; there's been no response yet.

The consulting team suggests that we start seeking public input as soon as possible, noting people are back outside so it's good time to get them excited about a dog park. Once they have base information from the existing conditions analysis and input from an online survey (discussed later), they will meet with us to discuss findings and a conceptual design. The design process takes about two months and then they will ask for and incorporate feedback from the Committee. They will then move on to the recommendations for dog park maintenance and operations. They will deliver the report in mid to late September. Their schedule is flexible because this is a feasibility study and as it proceeds, there may be a need to change direction. Project team meeting were proposed to coincide with ADPAC meetings but since those agendas are quite full already, Julie asked to have them a couple of days before the ADPAC meets and then an update will be provided at the meeting.

Julie provided answers that Ironwood/HTA has asked via email before the meeting:

- What/if any restrictions are proposed in the easement? None - just a basic utility easement.
- What are Eversource's plans? All above-ground utilities.
- Will there be any excavation on Lot 77-5? None is planned.

Regarding the underground survey, Marissa said GPRS, Inc. is very familiar with communication towers and had a good price for the survey. They've identified 2.5 acres of usable area to investigate. All of their work will be done above ground and they believe they can locate the depth of the grounding wires. It should take about a day and they plan on starting at 8 am on May 18th. They will focus on the most useable area first and if they need to go back to finish up, they will do it the next day. Drawings and GPS location of all the utilities and tower infrastructure will be provided following the survey.

Jen spoke about the public outreach effort and stressed that they really need committee's help reaching people. The strategy during COVID is to have an online survey of residents, targeted at dog owners. No paper surveys will be distributed. Jen asked the committee to send feedback on the outreach plan, flyer and survey to Julie. They plan on leaving the survey up for a month or so. The flyer should be distributed via social media and email and one with a white background will be provided for printing and posting, preferably where people walk their dogs.

Jen said she set up the survey in Survey Monkey, which works on all devices. She went over the survey with the committee, noting it's not live yet. The survey is set up such that if you say "no" to the first question about dog ownership. It skips other dog-related questions and takes you right to end where it asks questions about being supportive of a dog park. "Yes" takes you to detailed questions targeted at dog owners. The question asking about time of day is important for lighting. The one asking how they will get to the park is important for parking and ADA access - we should consider having handicapped spots at entrance. The survey takes about 4 minutes to complete, which is manageable.

Alderman Lopez asked if the flyer was bilingual and commented that in his experience working with non-profits, you don't need to reproduce all the content in multiple languages - just the title and key terms that will lead people to the to the electronic site. Both the QR code and website address on the flyer will take people to the survey. He also suggested the flyer be double sided so places like barber shops and salons can put them in their windows and both sides will be visible.

Amber commented on the survey question asking about dogs using wet areas like the river - should that be on there? Deb thought we wouldn't want to support paths getting worn or water fowl getting scared, but there may be a few spots on Spine Road that could be used. Julie asked if that's something to get out in front to control access to the water. Both Alderman Lopez and Alderwoman Klee had concerns with dogs using the river and getting sick from drinking the water. They do not want to encourage access and don't think the question should be on the survey.

Julie shared comments that Bob had sent via email (he hopes to be back to work this month). He asked if an additional question could be added asking: Would a minimal user fee (\$10/year) keep you from using the dog park? He feels that people who have a financial interest in a project, even as small as \$10 per year, are more likely to use it and look after it responsibly. Julie replied that it has been the intent that the downtown park will be free and Bob noted the mayor is also in favor of a free park. We need money for the upkeep and security of a dog park.

Bob also said there needs to be a way to control who uses the park. How will unvaccinated animals be prevented from getting in? Problem dogs? Problem owners? Hours of operation and maximum numbers of users at any given time needs to be discussed. The ribbon cutting could bring 50 or 100 dog owners with their pets - all of them want to be among the first to use the new dog park.

Alderwoman Klee said we've been advertising as free so we really can't ask for a user fee. She noted Bob's concerns are good so if there are rules we need to come up with them quickly. Amber added that a free dog park was idea all along. The City is encouraging downtown tourism and it would be a disadvantage to exclude dogs from other towns.

Amber asked when the outreach would start. Jen asked the Committee to send comments or revisions to Julie by next Friday, the 14th. They will launch the survey on Monday the 17th and leave up for a month.

The kick-off meeting concluded and the Ironwood/HTA team logged off.

4. Animal Shelter and ACO Updates

No updates.

5. Other

Amber mentioned that Julie set up a new map-based version of the "Where do you walk your dog" survey to be posted on the City's ADPAC website. Julie said she did, along with a map that shows the responses, but didn't want to post it until after the Dog Park survey was completed.

Alderman Lopes suggested the Committee have a presence at the June 26th Tree Streets Block Party – maybe set up a booth by the Rail Trail. June said we could hand out goody bags with poop bags, dog treats, and educational flyer.

Motion made to adjourn (June Lemen) and seconded (Amber Logue). Meeting adjourned at 9:02 am.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, June 4th at 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM via Zoom

Minutes by: Julie Chizmas



Date: May 7, 2021, 8:15am via Zoom

Project Kick-Off

Millyard Dog Park Feasibility Study

Attendees:

Jen Martel, PLA, Ironwood

Jeff Hyland, PLA, Ironwood

Marisa DiBiaso, PE, Hoyle, Tanner

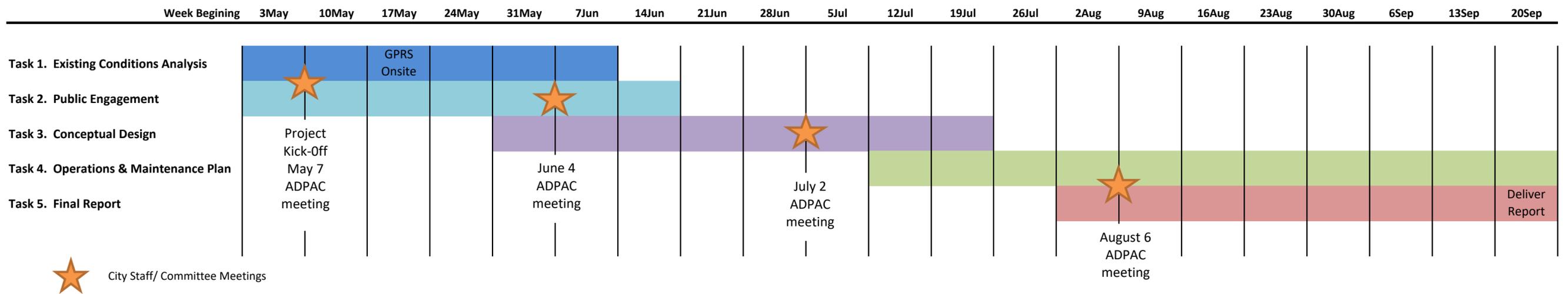
Julie Chizmas, City of Nashua

Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee (ADPAC)

1. Introductions
2. Project Schedule
3. Underground survey – May 18-19 by GPRS Inc. – site access?
4. Public outreach draft survey & distribution
5. Questions?

Project Schedule

Nashua Millyard Dog Park



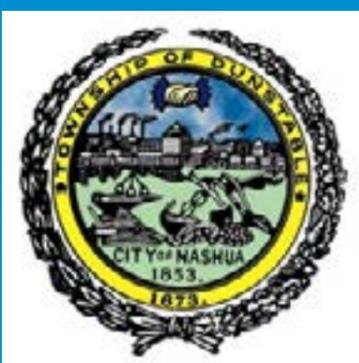
YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

NASHUA MILLYARD DOG PARK PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY



Dog parks provide safe and secure environments where owners may exercise and socialize their dogs off-leash. By providing effective socialization opportunities for people and their dogs, they also enhance positive interaction between dog owners and the community. In 2019, the City of Nashua established the Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee (ADPAC) and charged it with advising the City regarding the establishment of a downtown dog park.

Please tell us what you think by completing a 3-minute public opinion survey!



SCAN THIS CODE TO BEGIN

or go to

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/MillyardDogPark>