

ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, July 10, 2020

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Meeting held via Webex

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

Access code: 129 529 2900

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	
Cecilia Ulibarri, Mayor's Liaison	✓
Guest:	
Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director	✓

**Per email sent on 7/9, Alderwoman Klee could not attend due to an unanticipated 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 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.

1. Adoption of the [June 5, 2020 meeting minutes](#)

Motion: June Leman

Second: Amber Logue

Voting Members in Favor: All

2. Animal Shelter and ACO updates

Bob shared the attached report on ACO calls. At-large calls were down significantly from the previous month; Becky noted that was likely due to having more people at home due to the pandemic and no school. Bob also noted the large increase in Wildlife calls, due primarily to woodchucks.

3. Continued Discussions on Dog Park Locations with guest Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Millyard @ Pine Street Extension (Lot 77-5)

Deb reviewed FEMA's draft flood map (not publically available, yet):

- Nearly the entire lot is in a special flood hazard area with a 1% annual chance of flooding.
- The area at the east side of the lot near the hill to the upper parking lot has a 0.2% annual chance of flooding.
- The flood area designation is unlikely to be a problem for a dog park with fencing but permanent structures such as buildings are not recommended.

Economic Development Director Tim Cummings shared information and ideas about the lot:

- The City owns the parking lot on lot 77-3, so parking in that area is available.
- Millyard Associates, who own lot 77-5, do not necessarily concur that it is undevelopable and have discussed potentially building a parking lot.
- City administration has briefly spoken with Millyard Associates about a dog park but have not fully engaged in a formal discussion. Initial thoughts were that the Millyard was optimistic and open to the idea, consistent with discussions Amber has had with the various members of Millyard Associates.
- Eversource is in negotiations with Millyard Associates for a 20' wide easement along the east and south sides of the property. There may be an opportunity to request power to the site as part of the negotiations.
 - Cutting trees along the easement is not planned.
- Tim will review the lease for the cell/radio tower to see if there are any requirements for clearance around the tower.
- The NIMCO building has a water line that the dog park may be able to tap into.

Crown Street Park & Ride (Lots 25-1, 23-1)

Amber spoke with Alderwoman Caron and she would be supportive of a dog park in this location provided the residents are included in discussions and are supportive.

Tim stated no future development is planned for this location in the near horizon. There is plenty of parking and the land isn't really developable. The location has limited accessibility for the downtown community but would serve the immediate neighborhood. The Millyard site would be preferred over the Crown Street site. Becky would like a dog park at both sites.

Funding for Dog Park

Tim said CDFA tax credits may be available for infrastructure. The application opens in January and awards are announced in May. Non-profits fare well. FMI: <https://nhcdfa.org/investing-in-nh-communities/tax-credit-program/>

Tim also said if the Committee is looking to buy the lot, then escrow funds should be requested through Economic Development to pay for an appraisal. He suggested we speak initially with Jay Leonard, Secretary of the Millyard Associates.

June mentioned the "Bark for your Park" grant historically offered by PetSafe but was cancelled this year due to COVID. (Note: the [website](#) says: "Due to the global impact of COVID-19, we have decided to cancel our grant program for 2020. We will open applications for our next grant program in May 2021.")

4. Public Education and Information Plan

Topic for July: Pets left in Hot Cars

- Becky will email info for posting on [Facebook](#)

Social Media:

- Megan to help with social media management and will secure Instagram site
- Becky learned through social media training that posts typically get 30 seconds of interest. Recommends pictures and highlight important info in quick, short messages.

Potential Events:

- Tree Streets Block Party - August
- Nashua Back to School - August

5. Vacant Position on Committee

The Mayor would like the remaining vacancy filled by a "non-dog" person. The Committee will advertise the position on Facebook. Also discussed was setting up a "Friends of the Nashua Dog Park" subcommittee to help with promotion and fundraising for a new park.

Motion made to adjourn (Amber Logue) and seconded (Becky Longval). All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 8:58 am.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Friday, August 7th at 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM via Webex

Minutes by: Julie Chizmas