

**ANIMAL AND DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, October 14, 2021

8:00 am – 9:00 am

**IN-PERSON LOCATION**

**Room 208 @ City Hall**

**VIRTUAL MEETING LINK**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88325839036?pwd=dWx3M1hCYXdjUTdEMGtsSjl3Ui8wZz09>

**Meeting ID: 883 2583 9036**

**Passcode: 108580**

**APPROVED Minutes**

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>In-Person</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
Tom Lopez, Board of Aldermen		
Patricia Klee, Board of Aldermen Alternate	x	
Kathy Abel, Community Member	x	
June Lemen, Community Member (Vice-Chair)	x	
Amber (Logue) Morgan, Community Member (Chair)	x	
Megan Villacis, Community Member		Mtg @ 9
Bob Langis, Animal Control Officer	x	
Becky Longval, Nashua Humane Society		Medical
<b>Staff</b>	<b>In-Person</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager		
Julie Chizmas, Transportation & Long-Range Planner		@ Conference
Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director		
Jason Puopolo, Parks & Recreation Superintendent		
Noah Telerski, Mayor's Office	x	

The regular meeting of the Animal and Dog Park Advisory Committee was held in Room 208 at City Hall and via Zoom teleconference. The Zoom meeting link was provided on the meeting agenda and on the City's website.

Roll call attendance was taken and committee members participating via Zoom stated their presence, the reason for not attending the meeting in person, and whether there was anyone in the room with them during the meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

**1. Approval of the [September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)**

- Motion: Alderwoman Klee
- Second: Kathy Abel
  - Discussion: None
- Yea: Unanimous
- Nay: None

**2. Animal Regulations: Proposed Revisions to [§93-14](#)**

[O-21-071](#) - *Removing the fine limitation on animal ordinance violations relating to dogs* was given its first reading at the September 28<sup>th</sup> Board of Aldermen meeting and assigned to the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee. That committee was scheduled to meet on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Dog Waste Clean-up Campaign**

Winter is coming and the committee questioned whether DPW would be keeping trash cans out. Typically, most of the cans get removed from the parks and paths during the winter months. There are some locations where they can't fit the trash trucks down street. There is more unbagged waste when there aren't trash cans available. The committee would like to discuss this with public works. There are specific locations that really could use the cans year-round, including on Artillery Road by the entrance to Holman Stadium. Jason was unable to attend the meeting but will be followed-up with to ask about the cans.

The broken waste station at the Salem Street Tot Lot was removed but not replaced. Jason has been in and out of the office due to a broken arm but said he tasked a foreman with handling the issue.

Next Steps:

- Julie to follow up with Jason re: keeping cans in key locations out during the winter and replacement of the Salem St Tot Lot waste station

**4. Millyard Dog Park Feasibility Study Update**

The Feasibility Study Steering Committee held its final meeting with the consultants on October 6<sup>th</sup> and reviewed a draft of the study. Key points about the draft study were discussed:

- ADPAC design preferences discussed at the September meeting were shared with the consultants and incorporated into the draft:
  - Tables excluded from the design, so not to encourage picnicking
  - Automated and highly efficient irrigation system to maintain the micro clover turf
  - Highly efficient and dark sky compliant safety lighting
  - The City's standard rolling trash can for automated trash can emptying
- The consultants were very conservative with their draft estimate because current costs are high and bidding over the last 18 months volatile. That being said, they don't expect costs to continue to increase, based on the last 5 years of cost history.

- Cost estimate includes all elements:
  - Soft costs associated with advancing the design, such as development of final design plans and bid documents, permitting, additional survey work
  - Mobilization, site prep and earthwork
  - Utilities (electricity, lighting, water, stormwater management)
  - Roadway and hardscape elements (pavement, porous pavers, gates, guardrail, sidewalk, etc.)
  - Site improvements and furnishings (fencing, benches, shade structures, drinking water fountain, etc.)
  - Landscaping (trees, plants and turf)
- The costs can be phased but Phase 2 is much smaller and is primarily related to furnishings because there are additional costs associated with larger scale phasing, e.g., mobilization and soft costs.
- Bigger ticket items include redeveloping the parking area, connecting to water service; options to reduce costs include:
  - Install the water line under dog park but connect to it later
  - Public vs Private water main (private easement costs)
  - Reduce parking to just a couple of ADA spots plus a couple non-ADA
- Costs of all goods are coming in are higher, for example, one project came in around 150% higher than expected. Wood and steel are high and there are supply chain issues so even if there were funds available the goods may not be. Some projects have been delayed 90 - 180 days and contractors aren't giving guaranteed maximums. COLA will be around 6% next year. If construction is delayed, it could actually be less expensive if prices go down.
- The Study identified several funding strategies and opportunities for grants, donations and sponsorships. The intent is to build and operate the park without tax dollars, something we want to publicize.
- Even if we were able to obtain funding this year, we couldn't break ground before frost is out. The Legislative process takes time and the best time to put contracts out to bid is Jan/Feb and we will not be ready by then. Realistically, we are unlikely to break ground in 2022.
- We can't start fundraising until certain steps are taken. Having a final design is important. We also need to keep putting forth the message that the park won't be funded with tax dollars. It can take up to 6 months to establish a non-profit. We need to have realistic goals and convey them effectively.
- We should strategize our fundraising:
  - Target dog-loving donators first
  - Sell the rights to things like gates and benches or the naming of dog park
  - Sell advertising along the fence
  - Lots of ideas for in-kind donations
  - Encourage sustainable donations - i.e., monthly or annual giving
- Maintenance costs are estimated at \$24K per year. We need to have a conversation with DPW to see what they are willing to do. The bulk of maintenance is property management.

- The need for insurance was discussed. The city is self-insured and the non-profit would manage the park. "Enter at your own risk" signage would be installed. It was also suggested that signage saying "This is your park" be installed to create a sense of ownership.
- The ramifications of not following rules were discussed. People are challenging rules more and more. Often, by the time the PD arrives, those breaking the rules are gone. The managing body of the non-profit will be the first level of enforcement. Once a lease is in place with the non-profit, it will be their responsibility to make rules and enforce them.

## 5. Animal Shelter and ACO Updates

- ACO:

ACO Langis provided an updated animal call report (summary attached). A drop in calls was attributed to kids being back in school. A new "livestock" category was added in response to incidents involving loose cattle by Yuddicky. September was a pretty quiet month, with a few educational situations. No issues have been observed at the tot lots or soccer fields. It was noted there is a lot of K-9 training at various locations around the City.

ACO Langis was asked if there been reports of something big in the Abbot Street area as there are enormous piles of scat. He said there have been bear sightings but not that close to downtown.

- Humane Society:

Walks for Whiskers will be held on October 23rd in Mine Falls near proposed dog park. October has been a busy month with strays and kittens. In response to being asked, Becky said they do not have an issue with requests for black cats around Halloween. That tends to occur more in larger cities. Typically, black dogs and black cats tend to be adopted last.

Alderwoman Klee asked if we could put a banner up at Walks for Whiskers saying "Future Dog Park"? Since the closing on the property hasn't occurred yet, we should check with Director Cummings and/or Legal about sale and whether it would be OK to have table/banner on the property. People are asking where the park is going to be and this would be a great opportunity to show them. Amber said she could be at event, Julie will print a poster of the concept plan and Megan offered to design the banner. Event set-up is at 9:30 am, registration opens at 10 am and the walk is from 11 am – 2 pm. Becky will send details on the location of registrations, etc. It usually start at Stellos.

Amber said the Wags to Whiskers Event at Mel's was great and really well done. Becky said that's their biggest event and that 21 dogs were adopted. June said the event was talk of Benson's Dog Park and everyone had a really good time. It was all dogs, all day. The disk dogs were awesome. This was the event's 35th year. It used to be at Anheuser-Busch in Merrimack, which is a bigger venue, but they didn't want events this year due to COVID.

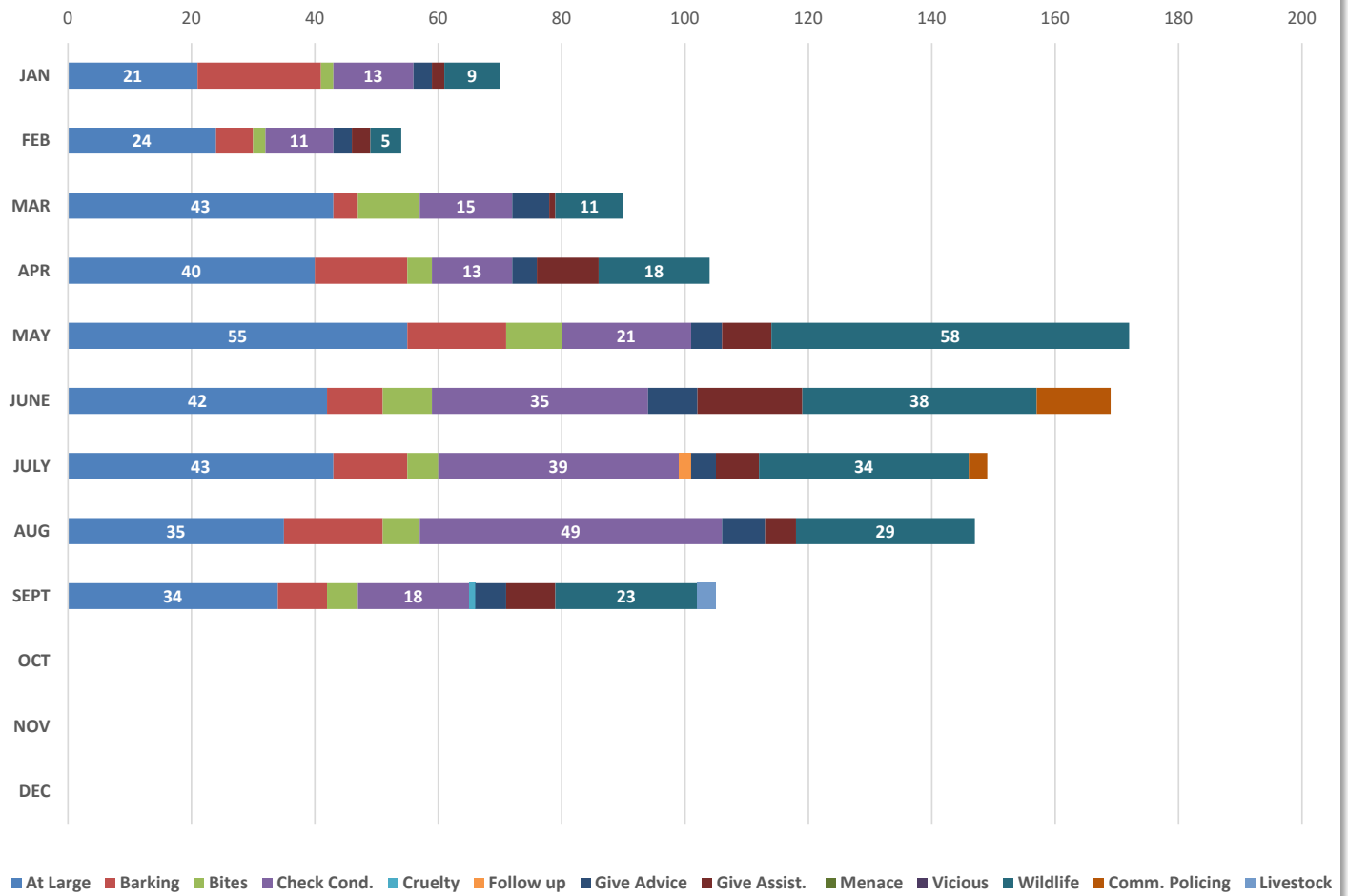
The Humane Society is hosting a Spooky Walk and Costume Contest for kids on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Next Scheduled Meeting: **Rescheduled due to holiday** -Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM – 9 AM

Minutes by: Julie Chizmas

### 2021 Animal Calls



Type/Month	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	YTD
At Large	21	24	43	40	55	42	43	35	34				337
Barking	20	6	4	15	16	9	12	16	8				106
Bites	2	2	10	4	9	8	5	6	5				51
Check Cond.	13	11	15	13	21	35	39	49	18				214
Cruelty	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1				1
Follow up	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0				2
Give Advice	3	3	6	4	5	8	4	7	5				45
Give Assist.	2	3	1	10	8	17	7	5	8				61
Menace	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Vicious	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0
Wildlife	9	5	11	18	58	38	34	29	23				225
Comm. Policing	0	0	0	0	0	12	3	0	0				15
Livestock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3				3
Totals:	70	54	90	104	172	169	149	147	105	0	0	0	1060
Running Sum:	70	124	214	318	490	659	808	955					
2020 Sum:	98	188	294	370	532	693	832	965	1075	1179	1254	1327	