

Dog Park Advisory Board Meeting Notes January 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

This meeting was held remotely via Zoom due to the ongoing COVID-19 virus.

Attending: Kathy Brown, Deb McComas, Donna Cawthorne, Andrew Miller, Warren Grant, Kristin McCoach, Karen Sweeney, Caroline Brinker, Nancy Santacecilia

Guests: N/A

Election of Officers: Karen Sweeney conducted the election of officers. The Board voted unanimously to appoint the following officers for 2021:

President: Kathy Brown

Vice President: Deb McComas

Secretary: Donna Cawthorne

Nancy Santacecilia will serve as Board of Supervisors Liaison to the DPAB for 2021.

Karen Sweeney turned the remainder of the meeting over to Kathy Brown.

Meeting Notes of November 2, 2020 were accepted and approved on a motion by Warren, seconded by Andrew and passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: N/A

Member Inquiries: N/A

Incident Reports: N/A

Projects / Events: Kathy opened a discussion about possible projects or events for 2021. The Board discussed holding Dog Rescue Events by inviting one dog rescue organization per month to hold meet and greet events at the dog park. Food, toy and cash donations could be collected at the events as well. The event would follow COVID protocol. A sub-committee consisting of Kathy, Kristin and Donna was formed to look into the idea and report back to the Board.

Business Items:

Video Sub-Committee - Website / Orientation: Kathy will send the Orientation PowerPoint presentation to Board members for comment.

Survey: Kaitlynn sent the survey to members on November 5, 2020, with Katelynn to receive the responses. Kristin will contact Katelynn to report on responses. Kathy suggested re-releasing the survey to encourage a greater response.

Weather Conditions (closures): Kathy reported that dog park conditions remain soggy and muddy. On January 6th, Kathy, Chris and the township crew, plus Denise Romero and her husband moved benches and dog bowls to dry areas to encourage people to avoid muddy areas. Kathy suggested that Board members who observe members in muddy areas should ask

them to stay in dry areas. Chris is working to keep the dog park open but it will be closed again if necessary. Periodic closures are mentioned in the dog park manual, and it was suggested it would be wise to add a statement to the sign-off page in the Dog Park Handbook/Application for members to acknowledge that there will be dog park closures if necessary due to maintenance or weather issues.

Dog Park Conditions & Maintenance: The decision to close the dog park due to muddy conditions is balanced against those who would use it despite the mud. Karen commented that closures are a part of regular maintenance, and that if you don't close it when muddy, it takes longer to restore and grow new grass. Kathy added that Chris suggested getting through the winter and deciding what projects to focus on in the spring. Nancy asked if last year's drainage project was successful. Kathy replied that it was, but the dog park is on ground with clay soil and poor drainage. Large amounts of rain or snow produce water that has no place to go, and complete drainage remediation would be prohibitively expensive. Nancy also asked if we can evaluate membership levels and provide the information to the Board of Supervisors. Karen said she can compile data on how many join, leave, rejoin, etc. Nancy suggested that many residents don't know about the dog park and that it should be promoted more highly.

Orientations:

Saturday, January 16, at 9:15 a.m.: Karen reported that the township building is currently closed due to COVID-19. She will ask the administration if it could be made available for the January 16 orientation, and if so, Kathy and Andrew agreed to attend. The Board discussed holding virtual orientations if the building is unavailable now or in the future in order to support new membership interest. Karen will look into setting up for virtual orientations. The material would be prepared so that Kathy would be the presenter and Kristin would be the moderator.

Saturday, March 6 at 9:15 a.m.: The Board hopes to hold an in-person orientation but will postpone the orientation if the building is closed at the time.

Adjournment: On a motion by Andrew, seconded by Deb and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.