

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

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

Attending: Kathy Brown, Donna Cawthorne, Warren Grant, Katelynn Steck, Kristin McCoach, David Cochran, Karen Sweeney, Caroline Baker, Nancy Santacecilia

Guests: N/A

Meeting Notes of March 1, 2021 were accepted and approved on a motion by Kristin, seconded by David and passed by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: N/A

Member Inquiries: N/A

Incident Reports: The Board discussed an incident that occurred on March 27, 2021. Karen reported that several phone calls were received about an member who left his dog unattended in the large dog section while he exited the dog park, returned, exited again and returned, during which time the dog was involved an incident with another dog. His daughter, also a member, was in attendance with a dog in the small dog section. No dogs were injured in the incident. The problem was completely owner error. The member's entry fob has been deactivated and he has been informed by the township that he must re-attend an Orientation session before his entry fob will be re-activated.

Projects / Events: None currently

Business Items:

Bark Bytes & Newsletter: The Board was very pleased with the first edition of Bark Bytes, which was released to members on March 26, 2021. The Board decided to issue Bark Bytes monthly during the dog park's busy season, and decided on topics for the remainder of 2021. Each one will include quick tips or reminders about issues raised in the November 2020 survey as well as information on upcoming events. Kathy will tell new members about Bark Bytes during Orientations.

The Board decided that as an alternative to a newsletter, it will release information periodically as needed in the township's newsletter. Katelynn volunteered to provide an article for the township's upcoming newsletter.

Survey: Kathy led a discussion about points raised in the November 2020 survey:

- **Parking:** The Board will address parking issues in the next edition of Bark Bytes. Board member parking spots were intended to recognize the efforts of the Dog Park Advisory Board, but they are seen as an unnecessary special privilege by some dog park members. After discussion, on a motion by David, seconded by Donna, the Board voted unanimously to remove the Board member parking spots. The Board will also inform members that parking adjacent to the dog park is for cars with handicapped licenses or placards only, and that the gravel road is a maintenance road, not a legal road, and therefore not for use by the general membership.

- **Water:** Karen stated, per her conversation with Chris Mason, that water will be turned on for the season within the next two weeks, depending on frost. The large pump in the pavilion will be removed. Faucets will be installed on each water fountain. The plan is to adapt the fountains to enable members to attach a hose to fill a pool. The pools must be emptied daily by members or they will kill the grass under them. If abused, they will be removed.
- **Lights/Seating/Shade:** Members will be urged in upcoming communications to stay with their dogs rather than sitting for long periods while at the dog park. Therefore, the current amount of benches is adequate. The Board decided that lighting is not needed because it does not intend to change the operating hours of dawn to dusk.
- **Toys/Structures/ Pools:** In discussion of whether the township should purchase toys periodically for the dog park, Warren commented that it seemed an unnecessary expense because there is enough for dogs to do at the dog park. Karen commented that toys are occasionally donated by members and local pet supply stores. Regarding play structures, Karen stated that she cannot recommend agility structures because of the danger to dogs of using the equipment incorrectly. She suggested allowing local companies to set up periodic demonstrations of lure coursing and agility courses as an alternative to having permanent agility equipment in the dog park. Kathy suggested making a pool spot in each section of the dog park by installing crushed gravel to create a permanent base to place pools, instead of placing them directly on the grass, to prevent killing the grass. Pool spots would need to be near enough to the faucets on the water fountains for hoses to reach the pools. She will look into the costs involved and report at the next meeting.
- **Medium Dog Area:** Kathy stated that there would be a very large cost involved in adding another section to the dog park for dogs between 30 to 45 pounds. The subject is tabled for a future agenda.
- **Bulletin Board:** The subject of updating the bulletin board at the dog park will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Board concluded the discussion about the survey by considering releasing the survey on an annual basis to seek more frequent input from the membership.

Special Events: Kristin reported that she has not had a response from three dog rescue organizations to her email seeking their interest in holding Meet and Greet events at the dog park. She will reach out to them again and report at the next meeting.

Orientations, Doylestown Township Community Room:

Thursday, May 6 at 6:45 p.m.: In-person orientation: Kathy and Kristin will attend.

Thursday, June 10 at 6:45 p.m.: In-person orientation: Kathy and David will attend.

Adjournment: On a motion by David, seconded by Kristin and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.