



DATE: February 3, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 3

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Donna Legge, Recreation & Community Services Director
SUBJECT: Dog Park Workshop Planning Update

RECOMMENDATION

Receive update from City staff and Dog Park Subcommittee and provide recommendations regarding February Dog Park Public Workshops

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting on January 8, 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) confirmed its interest in moving forward with the previously scheduled February 12 and 29, 2020 Dog Park Public Workshops. The PARC further defined the workshop format:

1. On the hour, an oral presentation will be made that includes the history, the process, the criteria, pros and cons, intent of the meeting and the entire journey.
2. Display posters with the same information
3. Each participant will receive four colored dots to vote yes or no for each proposed dog park location and the following two topics:
 - a. "I like the idea of a fenced-in dog park, but not at this location, and
 - b. "I like the idea of an off-leash hours program, but not at this location
4. Provide a fishbowl for additional written anonymous comments.
5. Have available, copies of the full staff report.

DISCUSSION

Since the January 8, 2020 PARC meeting, staff has initiated the following outreach efforts:

<u>Outreach Activity</u>	<u>Status</u>
Press Release, paid ad	Submitted for publishing
Social media	Initiated
City Manager's Weekly Update	Scheduled
City News & Announcements	Scheduled
1,000-foot Notice to four locations	90% Completed
Previous dog obedience students	Completed
Previous PARC dog park speakers	Completed
Vets and pet businesses	Completed by Teresa
Distribution of Flyers	Completed
Park Signs	Being Ordered

The following is a list of tasks or topics that require a discussion, action or recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Review proposed Dot-voting Exercise
2. Pros & Cons have been provided for Fenced-in Dog Parks (South Lincoln and McKenzie Parks). It is recommended that the pros & cons be provided for the Off-leash hours program parks (Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Parks).
3. Criteria has been established for Fenced-in Dog Parks (South Lincoln and McKenzie Parks). Should criteria be established for the selection of the Off-leash hours program parks (Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Parks).
4. Revisit the size and scope of the South Lincoln Park location
5. Recommend proposed Off-leash Hours at each program location. See programming schedules at Heritage Oaks Park (Attachment A) and Hillview Baseball Field (Attachment B). See staff recommendation for hours as a starting point for discussion.

Note: The Park Maintenance Division was able to reduce the annual maintenance time from 12 weeks to 10 weeks.

Hillview Park Baseball Field: February to Mid-November (9.5 months)		
<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Friday	6 to 9 am	7 pm to sunset
Saturday and Sunday	6 to 9 am	4 pm to sunset

Heritage Oaks Park: September to Mid-November, February to May (6.5 months)		
<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Sunday	6 to 9 am	
Saturday and Sunday		4 pm to sunset
Monday through Friday		5:30 pm to sunset
Heritage Oaks Park: June to August (3 months)		
<u>Days</u>	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Afternoon/Evening</u>
Monday to Sunday	6 to 9 am	4 pm to sunset

6. Explore caterpillar threat at McKenzie Park
7. Requested by Commissioner Morris regarding ADA requirement.

The City of Los Altos is required to meet the standards for accessibility in public facility design in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

According to the City's Special Projects Manager, all the locations will require ADA access to the dog area, including an adequate path of travel with the required grade, transfer points and adequately marked parking spaces. Should a double gate be included in a fenced-in dog park, the pounds per pressure must be not exceed 6 lbs per pressure. Upon approval by City Council, a full assessment will be completed, including cost estimates. The building code requires ADA compliance and is included in the services provided by a certified landscape architect or engineer.

8. Consider expanding the Dog Park Subcommittee with one additional PARC member
9. Staff and Subcommittee – Finalize Dog Park Memo/Staff Report
10. Add Arborist Comments for McKenzie Park consideration:

The effect of a dog park near the trees is likely to be minimal. Dog parks usually consist of a chain link fence that requires minimal excavation, but any excavation with-in the dripline of the tree would need to be reviewed by an arborist. Wood chips are commonly used for dog parks and would be beneficial to the trees as well. Canine urine for the most part is composed of urea which is high in nitrogen, a macronutrient that plants use. Too much nitrogen results in burning of plant tissue, like you see when grass dies after being peed on. Essentially the dogs regularly peeing on a tree could cause damage, but can be mitigated by occasionally flushing the area with heavy watering. Any supplemental watering of the area would need to be done in the cooler months if native Oak trees are present to discourage root decay pathogens. If the park is approved and moves forward, it is recommended that the plans be reviewed to ensure that minimal impact to the trees is made.

11. Staff and Subcommittee – Finalize Power Point
12. Other

Attachments:

- A. Heritage Park Schedule
- B. Hillview Park Schedule