



DATE: May 20, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 3a

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Trevor Marsden, Management Analyst Fellow
SUBJECT: Dog Park Workshop Results

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive informational report from City staff

BACKGROUND

At its regular meeting of January 8, 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) scheduled two Dog Park Public Workshops on Wednesday, February 12, 2020, at the Garden House in Shoup Park from 7 to 9 pm and on Saturday, February 29, 2020, from 10am to 12 pm. The PARC recommended soliciting input to determine the preferred location for one fenced-in dog park from two options at South Lincoln Park and McKenzie Park. In addition, solicit input on up to two locations for pilot off-leash hours from two options at Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park.

Each workshop was split into two one-hour sessions, with an informational presentation at the beginning of each hour. Residents completed pre-numbered ballots including name, address, email, dog owner status, fenced-in dog park options and pilot off-leash hours program options. City staff and commissioners guided participants to place completed ballots in respective ballot boxes. The numbered ballots correlated with resident information to ensure that everyone submitted only one ballot for each dog park type.

The City heavily promoted the workshops:

- Press Release
- Paid Ad
- City and Department social media (website, Instagram, Constant Contact, Facebook, Nextdoor, etc.)
- City Email Lists:
 - City Manager's Weekly Update
 - City News & Announcements
- Direct mailing to:
 - 1,000-foot notice to residents living around the four park locations
 - Previous dog obedience students



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- Previous PARC dog park speakers
- Vets and pet businesses
- Distribution of flyers
- Signs (25) in eleven (11) parks throughout the City

DISCUSSION

The combined total of participants, from both workshops was 296, including 289 residents and 7 non-residents; 188 dog owners; 96 non-dog owners. The first workshop had 171 participants including 166 residents and 5 non-residents. The second workshop had 114 participants including 112 residents and 2 non-residents. In addition, there were 11 resident walk-ins. Non-resident input has not been included in the statistical graphics.

Fenced-in Dog Park Results

The fenced-in dog park ballot instructed participants to only select “one” option from the following choices:

- McKenzie Park
- South Lincoln Park
- Both locations
- No to fenced-in dog parks
- Not at these locations

The results are as follows:

Location Choices	Total # of Responses	Percentage of Total	First Workshop	Second Workshop	Walk-ins
McKenzie Park	29	10.1%	12	17	0
South Lincoln Park	19	06.6%	12	7	0
Both locations	64	22.2%	32	31	1
No to fenced-in options	152	52.8%	97	45	10
Not at these locations	24	08.3%	12	12	0

Summary: 152 residents do not support a fenced-in dog park; 112 residents support a fenced-in option at one or both locations; and 24 residents support a fenced-in dog park but not at either of the two suggested locations.



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Pilot Off-leash Hours Results

The pilot off-leash hours ballot instructed participants to only select “one” option from the following choices:

- Hillview Baseball Field
- Heritage Oaks Park
- Both locations
- No to off-leash hours
- Not at these locations

The results are as follows:

Location Choices	Total # of Responses	Percentage of Total	First Workshop	Second Workshop	Walk-ins
Hillview Baseball Field	33	11.6%	21	12	0
Heritage Oaks Park	21	07.4%	6	15	0
Both locations	125	44.0%	72	46	7
No to off-leash hours	78	27.5%	49	25	4
Not at these locations	27	09.5%	15	12	0

Summary: 179 residents supported the pilot off-leash hours program at one or both locations; 78 did not support off-leash hours; and 27 support an off-leash hours program but not at the two suggested locations.

Participant Location versus Dog Park Locations

Fenced-in Dog Park: Mapping showed a strong clustering of resident participation near South Lincoln and McKenzie Parks. Participants living in these clusters were strongly opposed to fenced-in dog parks. Participants that lived further away from these parks had mixed opinions on fenced-in dog parks.

Pilot Off-leash Hours Program: All participants had mixed opinions about the pilot off-leash hours, regardless of where the participants lived including those participants that live near the proposed locations at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park.

Non-Resident Results

There was a total of seven non-residents.

Pilot Off-leash Hours:

- Both locations 5
- Not at these locations 2



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Fenced-in Dog Park:

Both locations	4
South Lincoln Park	1
No to a Fenced-in Dog Park	1

Comment Cards

In addition to submitting a ballot for specific park types and options, residents had an option to complete a separate “Comment Card.” There was no limit to the number of cards that were completed, per person or household. From the 256 comment cards received, the following themes surfaced:

- Green space (losing it, wanting to maintain it/keep it, etc) 26
- Dog parks are ugly 9
- Dog parks are dirty/unclean/unsanitary 9
- Worry about dog park attacks 8
- Want new park space, overall 8
- Worries about parking/traffic 7
- Dog parks are costly (to build/maintain) 4

The remaining 185 comments were mixed.

Conclusions

Fenced-in Dog Park Conclusion

152 workshop participants (52.8%) are against fenced-in dog parks. Results show that participants living near South Lincoln and McKenzie Parks are more likely to be against a fenced-in dog park than participants living further away (Attachment A – page 10).

Pilot Off-leash Hours Conclusion

158 workshop participants (55.6%) are supportive of a pilot off-leash hours program at the Hillview Baseball Field. 146 participants were supportive of a pilot off-leash hours program at Heritage Oaks Park (51.3%). There is not a consensus by nearby residents.

Attachment:

- A. Dog Park Workshop Results Power Point