



DATE: May 20, 2020

AGENDA ITEM # 3b

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Donna Legge, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: Community-driven Dog Park Input

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive report from City staff

BACKGROUND

At its regular Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting of August 14, 2019, Vice Chair Stuart Eckmann and Commissioner Scott Spielman volunteered and were appointed to serve on the Off-Leash Areas and Fenced-in Dog Park Subcommittee (Subcommittee). Commissioner Teresa Morris was appointed to the Subcommittee on February 3, 2020. The Subcommittee has worked closely with staff to evaluate options and gather information for the reports that have been prepared since October 2019.

At its special meeting of October 16, 2019, the PARC discussed establishing a pilot program for off-leash hours at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park, as suggested by staff and supported by the 2018 City Dog Park survey that showed Heritage Oaks Park as the third preferred location (26.5%) and Hillview as the fourth preferred location (25.7%) shown in Attachment A – pages 4 and 5. While available hours are limited, staff and PARC recommended pilot hours for a consistent schedule and appropriate signage for the public.

While staff and the PARC determined that McKenzie Park is a feasible option to consider for a fenced-in dog park, the PARC recommended that South Lincoln Park be considered as a second alternative, at the regular meeting of November 13, 2019. Lincoln Park was the top location choice (33.3%) for a fenced-in dog park according to the 2018 City Dog Park survey (Attachment A – page 9).

DISCUSSION

At its regular meeting of February 13, 2019, City Council directed the PARC to engage the community to determine a desired dog park type and location. As the commission fulfills City Council's direction, community interest and participation grew. Throughout the PARC process, separate community efforts took place. In addition, each ensuing Commission meeting attracted interest and public comment.



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Staff received 23 dog park emails from August 2019 to February 2020. Staff and the Subcommittee cross-referenced the residential addresses associated to the emails with the residential addresses of the workshop participants. From the 23 emails, 19 of the resident authors completed a Dog Park Workshop ballot; 4 did not fill out ballots of which 2 are opposed to a dog park in South Lincoln Park; 1 suggests Rosita Park; 1 suggests signs to enforce leash laws and a fenced-in dog park; 8 residents were against off-leash hours at Heritage Oaks Park.

The following is a summary of *independent dog park input* that has been received since the Dog Park Workshops held in February 2020. The input is in the form of one survey, two petitions and a questionnaire. It is not assumed that all participants involved in these independent efforts understood that the community-driven input was separate from the City efforts. Based on available information, staff and the Subcommittee cross-referenced the addresses of the community-driven participants to the addresses of the workshop participants to understand the patterns of participation, more thoroughly.

Community-driven Input (not sponsored by the City)

Lincoln Park Neighborhood Survey – Opposition of a Fenced-in Dog Park

The City received a survey from the Lincoln Park neighborhood that randomly sampled households adjacent to Lincoln Park, covering W. Edith Avenue to El Monte Avenue, mostly between January 20 to 23, 2020. In addition, a Google Survey was posted to the Lincoln Park neighborhood through Nextdoor on January 20, 2020. Additional surveys were distributed by email and home delivery of a hard copy.

84 households (111 residents) out of the 330 South Lincoln households participated in the survey. This represents 25% of the neighborhood households.

100% Adult, 95% Homeowner, 52% Dog Owner

<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Want</u>	<u>Don't Want</u>
Fenced-In Dog Park in Los Altos:	24%	58%
Fenced-In Dog Park in S. Lincoln Park:	18%	79%
Off-leash Anywhere in Los Altos: (Sunrise to 9am, 4 to 6 pm)	26%	47%
Off- leash Hours at S. Lincoln Park: (Sunrise to 9am, 4 to 6 pm)	20%	69%

15% Want Los Altos land used for dog park; 74% Want it preserved as open space



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Top Priority:

S. Lincoln Park - Based Off-leash or Dog Park	24%
Off-leash or Dog Park elsewhere in Los Altos	27%
No Dog Park/Off-leash	49%

Staff and Subcommittee Duplication Analysis

56 of the 111 participants also completed a ballot; 55 did not complete a ballot. Therefore, there was a duplication of opinions by 56 residents.

Community Petition - Support of a Fenced-in Dog Park at South Lincoln Park

The City received a petition in support of developing a fenced-in dog park in South Lincoln Park. Between 2016 and 2020, 559 signatures were collected including 223 Los Altos residents and 143 non-residents. While in support, 193 individuals either did not include a signature or an address – just a printed name. In January 2020, it was reported to the Police Department that a number of additional signatures were stolen.

Staff and Subcommittee Duplication Analysis

Cross-referencing for duplications was not completed due to illegible signatures and a lack of residential information.

McKenzie Park Neighborhood Petition – Opposition of a Fenced-in Dog Park

The City received a petition from the McKenzie Park area with 49 signatures, expressing opposition to a fenced-in dog park at McKenzie Park. One person signed their name twice (work and home address); four were non-residents that worked in one of the adjacent medical offices, and two were illegible.

Staff and Subcommittee Duplication Analysis

Out of the 48 signatures, seven (7) residents completed a Dog Park Workshop ballot and 32 residents did not.

Community Questionnaire - Support for Off-Leash Hours Program in Various Parks

The City received 84 questionnaires prepared to receive feedback regarding off-leash hours at the Hillview Baseball Field and Heritage Oaks Park: 2 of the feedback questionnaires are incomplete.

Support fast-tracking (90 day) pilot program 82



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Hours Recommended:

- Sunrise to 10 am 13
- Late afternoon to sunset: 04
- Both sunrise to 10 am and 4 pm to sunset 61
- No Time chosen 04

Additional Off-leash Park Choices

Grant Park	54	Montclair Park	4
Hillview Field	17	McKenzie Park	4
Marymead Park	16	Shoup Park	3
Rosita Park	13	Montclair Elementary	2
Heritage Oaks Park	6	Woodland Library	1
Los Altos High School	4	Miramonte Park	1
Lincoln Park	4	Covington School	1

Staff and Subcommittee Duplication Analysis

In cross-referencing the feedback questionnaires with the Dog Park Workshop participant addresses: 28 were duplications and 4 people provided feedback twice.

Attachment:

- A. Summary of 2018 City Dog Park Survey