

Johnson County DogPAC Meeting  
December 12, 2002  
Greetings.

Here is a brief summary of our meeting tonight. I am certain I will forget to include all the topics covered and essential points made, but, nonetheless, here is my effort:

1. We discussed all the group names which had been suggested (I think all or nearly all of them had been listed in the mailings preceding the meeting) and pretty quickly agreed the group will go by DogPac (Dog Park Action Committee). Several slogans had also been suggested and we decided to accept all of them and use them as needed for future causes like fund raisers (T-shirts), etc. The slogans are: A zone of Their Own; Let's Let the Dogs Out; See Spot Run...and Run...and Run...; Raise the Woof. Thanks to Jim Jacobson for collecting names and thanks to all who offered suggestions.
2. In a closely related matter, Fred Boehmke reported on the progress of creating a website. He had most of the preliminary work done and was waiting for a name for the site. Now he has it, and will load up information. David Wood will work with Fred to create a url, turning the website into an efficient site to post and receive updates, etc. Many thanks to Fred for his efforts and many, many thanks to Avalon Network for providing a space for DogPac. The Gods:Dogs will smile upon you.
3. Sarah England reported on her research about possible sources of grant monies. She distributed a handout summarizing sponsors and descriptions of possible grants. This will be a potentially large, labor-intensive and long-term project. Steve Long offered to work with Sarah, and it will be good if others with expertise in this type of work will contact Sarah and Steve to lend a hand. Misha Goodman and others suggested that DogPac can affiliate with the animal shelter's non-profit organization for grant purposes. DogPac should plan on obtaining its own 501(c)(3) status, too.
4. Misha Goodman is working on finding allies for DogPac. She has started trying to contact Coralville government staff and will continue to work on creating links to conservation groups, veterinarians, pet stores, etc. I am certain Misha could use a hand with this and I seem to recall that at least one person offered to help. Whoever you are, please contact Misha directly. Misha-Goodman@iowa-city.org.
5. We will need people to work on public relations matters. So far, Irene Friend and Beth Shields have taken care of getting fliers out with meeting information. David Wood agreed to help them, and to develop this area.
6. Before we can settle on a site for the park, we need a better understanding of an optimal design for the park. Beth Fisher has been collecting information regarding parks around the country. She will continue to collect the information and Bryan Boulanger will work with her on park design.
7. Andrea Kilhenny agreed to head up a group to consider possible membership structures for use of the park. Contact her at pitbullgirl2@mchsi.com to work on this issue.
8. We will need to formulate a mission statement. Beth Fisher collected several samples. I will take a stab at writing a statement. Did someone offer to work with me? Please? Contact me at ron618@avalon.net.

9. We will need to draft a letter of proposal to the City Council, outlining our goals and our requests for City assistance. I will work on it; Irene Friend offered her help and she said Jim Jacobson would help, too, when he finishes his exams. Jim, did she mention this to you?

10. Last but far from least, we talked about possible sites. Barb Meredith, on staff with the City public works dept., brought a map showing all the city parks, plus the two 40-acre parcels just west of the landfill. We spent quite a bit of time talking about the pros and cons of various sites; what we need for a park. In order to focus our attention and collect information, two field trips were organized to look at some of the most likely prospects. One trip will leave from the Animal Shelter on Friday, Dec. 13th at 9:00 a.m. A second trip will leave from the Animal Shelter on Sunday, Dec. 15th at 2:30 p.m. In addition to collecting this information, Barb Meredith will check to find out whether there are Johnson County restrictions on road use which would apply to siting a park on Kansas Avenue. I will talk with Terry Trueblood about the possibility of siting the park on the peninsula, including just how many acres might be available, and what restrictions would apply, such as federal prohibitions on fencing. Barb and or I will try to get more information about the possibility of siting the park on the South Gilbert tract called Sandhill Estates.

OK. That is the summary. Except the important point that we will next meet on Thursday, January 9th; 7:30 p.m. at Mercer Park. Before that time, I think the website will go up and your updates/messages will originate there, instead of here. Whew. I think things are moving along at a Cracking pace. Keep it up.

Anne