

Johnson County DogPAC Meeting
January 9th, 2003

Good morning.

This is a report on the DogPAC meeting last night. We had a good crowd. I didn't count, but the group seemed just as large as in previous meetings, and there were some new people, too.

I will go through the agenda backwards because the biggest topic was the last one:

1. park site. Many people at the meeting had been out to Kansas Ave. to see the two large tracts of land which Iowa City owns and may make available to DogPAC. There was a lengthy and spirited discussion on the pros and cons of using one of those, out of town sites, and trying to create a park in town. The group reached consensus that the opportunity to create a park on the large, southernmost parcel on Kansas Avenue was just too good to pass up. Of the two sites on Kansas Ave., the southern site has more interesting topography and features. If it turns out that for some reason, we cannot use that site for the park, DogPAC's second choice would be the northern site on Kansas Avenue. It is just as large--40 acres--and has great potential, but a few more drawbacks and fewer interesting topographical features. DogPAC has certainly not given up the long term goal of creating a park in town, which would be more easily accessible, if smaller. The decision was to delay acting on this goal until the larger park has been created and DogPAC has established the benefits to the whole community of having a safe, open place for people to play with their dogs and friends.

2. Website. Now that a site has been selected, DogPAC we have a site map which can be put on the website. The site is not up yet, but some pages are ready and Fred Boehmke is hoping to hear soon from Avalon about access to space. In the meantime, we will continue to use the Yahoo list site. David Wood, who set up the site for us, will not be able to continue as mediator of the site. We really need someone who can step in on this task until the website is up. For example, we need to add the people who attended the meeting last night for the first time to the site. IN the meantime, I will put those new names on my group email list, but if any of you can step in to help on the Yahoo task, please, please speak up.

3. Mission Statement. The committee to draft a mission statement came up with a proposal and DogPAC decided to put all the drafts online so all members could participate in drafting the final version. I will send out the formulations I have. As I recall the decision last night, anyone who has a suggestion for the mission statement should send their draft to the committee and the committee will pick one and make the final decision. Please let me know if I have misstated this. I am not sure about the best way to get the suggestions to the committee without inundating members with drafts. Perhaps Beth Fisher, Beth Shields and Misha could come up with a method? I hope everyone will buzz in on this one--both the method of selecting the statement and the statement itself. My only suggestion would be to keep in mind that a mission statement needs to be brief, concise and general. Specific goals and parameters for DogPAC and a park will come later.

4. Fundraising. Now that we have a site, we can perhaps begin to look at possible sources of grant money. More importantly, in the short term, we can begin to design a park and actually calculate potential costs. So, it is time to start raising money. DogPAC made several decisions in this vein. First we

will begin actively asking for donations. Money can be sent to the IC/C'ville Animal Shelter, for now. We will ask local vets and some businesses to let DogPAC put out donation boxes. We will open a bank account to hold the funds. \$97 was donated last night by people at the meeting and I will take that to the bank today. The account will be under the name DogPAC. We need a volunteer to coordinate these fundraising efforts. If you have interest/experience in this area, please speak up.

5. Logo. Beth Shields sent several designs to the meeting for review and discussion. Beth, did you put these on the yahoo site yet? If not, we should make them available for everyone to see. And, if any of you have a suggestion on a design, please post it on the site as well. We will need a logo for the webpage and for fundraising brochures, etc.

6. Incorporation. DogPAC decided to get started on the process of filing articles of incorporation with the state, as a first step to obtaining tax-exempt status with the IRS. Jim Jacobson and Ryan O'Leary have offered to work on this task and David Bright has offered to assist. We will set to work on this and report on it at the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting. We will meet Thurs., February 13th at 7:30 in the Iowa City Recreation Center. Note the change. At the Rec Center, not Mercer. We will reserve a room and post the room name before the meeting. DogPAC decided to invite K9COLA, the Cedar Rapids dog park group, to attend the February meeting and spend 15 or 20 minutes talking with us about their process; helping us plan.

I always worry I have forgotten to note an important note from a meeting, but, as always, the forgoing is my best recollection of the meeting.