

Johnson County DogPAC Meeting
February 13, 2003

Greetings.

I am sorry for the delay in posting a report about last Thursday's DogPAC meeting. I was out of town for several days.

1. There have been discussions about the name of our group. You may recall, we settled on Iowa City DogPAC. (Actually, I think we settled initially on DogPAC, but learned that a group in California already has that name.) During park design and incorporation discussions, people have suggested the name would more properly be Johnson County DogPAC. It is more accurate and inclusive, for starters. If you have an opinion on this topic, please speak up.

2. Park design. A committee (Beth Fisher, Beth Shields, Barb Meredith, Misha Goodman and Anne Burnside) has been working to create a park design and Beth Fisher presented the draft proposal to the group. The design is or will soon be posted on the website. www.DogPAC.org. Briefly: the park includes separate areas for small dogs, for training, and a large area for running around. There is a parking area. There is a plan for an accessible path. There is an area where dogs can play in the creek. This is separate from the general park area, for folks who don't feel like bathing their dog(s) after every visit to the park. Beth sketched out access points and gates and fences. Two members of Cedar Rapids' K9COLA came to the meeting to talk about their park development history and experiences, and to comment on ours.

Some of the comments at the meeting about the draft design included: the accessible path should have loops to encourage walking out and around and back. There should be a dog-washing area. The entrance area should be larger. Karen Fashimpaur from K9COLA said she felt Cedar Rapids actually opened their park too soon. As soon as it opened, interest and energy in fundraising, etc. dropped off. After all, the park was "done". She would have preferred to keep the planning/fundraising stage going longer.

Please visit the website and look at the proposed design. Send your comments/questions back to the committee via email or in person at the next meeting.

2. articles of incorporation and bylaws. The first step to becoming a tax exempt (i.e. non-profit) corporation is for the group to adopt articles of incorporation and bylaws. A draft of proposed documents is posted on the website. We discussed the topic at the meeting, but the group wanted more time to look at the language, and some direction about which paragraphs are actually open to discussion. We will post a new copy of the drafts, with significant language highlighted. Please take a look at this most recent posting. We agreed at the meeting that people could and should vote whether to adopt the documents. You can vote by email, or you can vote in person at a special meeting for that purpose. The meeting will be Monday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m., ICPL, meeting room A.

We must name an initial board of directors of the corporation. The proposed slate so far is David Bright, Anne Burnside, Beth Fisher, Misha Goodman, Barb Meredith, and Beth Shields. There is room for one more person on a 7-person board. If you would like to have the seat, or want to nominate someone, please do. Note that this is an "initial board", meaning these members will sit for only a 1-year term.

3. other dates of interest.

* Dottie Ray has invited DogPAC to be her guest on Thursday, February 20th at 11:30 a.m. Misha Goodman and Anne Burnside will attend.

* Renee Paine will host a DogPAC call-in show on PATV. This program will air Monday, March 10th at 7:30 p.m. on PATV. Tune in and call in.

4. also on the website. In case you haven't looked at the website, the logo has been or is being posted. Check it out.

5. membership. The final topic of discussion at the Thursday meeting was membership. Some suggestions on the topic have been posted on the website. The proposed incorporation documents specifically permit DogPAC to have one or more classes of membership. The discussion centered around what may be called levels of membership. For example, are you a DogPAC member is you only attend meetings? If you only take your dog to the park? Should there be special requirements for dogs to visit the park, such as proof of vaccination (and if so, which vaccines?); payment of fees (and if so, to whom?). And so forth. Please start or continue giving these questions some thought.

6. next meeting. The March meeting of DogPAC will be Thursday, March 13th at 7:30 p.m. at Mercer Park. We are back at Mercer for March because construction at the ICPL limits availability of that site.

Many thanks to all of you who are giving your time and energy in support of creating this park. As always, all errors of omission and commission in this report are entirely my fault.