

Johnson County DogPAC Meeting
April 10, 2003

JC DogPAC met in the Iowa City Animal Care and Adoption Center's new Education and Training Room at the Old Water Treatment Plant.

1. The main focus of the conversation was the proposal (with appendices) that will be presented to the Iowa City City Council, hopefully within the month. The group went through the proposal section by section, and made several suggestions for additions and revisions.
 - The first discussion was regarding what to call our "park"—"Dog Park," "Off-Leash Area" and "Off-Leash Recreation Area" were all considered. In the end, the group agreed that "Off-Leash Recreation Area (OLRA)" was best, as it was the most inclusive—signifying that this will be an area that is not *just* for dogs, but rather that the entire community will be able to use and enjoy.
 - Beth Fisher will add appropriate photos to the proposal, and will make an appendix of photos to help council members visualize some of the items that we are requesting (e.g., the fencing, gates, dual dog/human fountain, etc.).
 - Fred Boehmke will write a section discussing "Common Concerns" of many people opposed to or unfamiliar with an OLRA. This will be added to the proposal immediately following the "Benefits of an OLRA" section.
 - Ryan O'Leary will get the names of persons who might be willing to reformat our Expenses table so that it is more in keeping with the proposals that the Council is used to receiving. At present, it is difficult to follow, and all agreed that a more "standard" accounting format would be preferable.
 - Beth Shields will revise the "Benefits of an OLRA" section based on group discussion and suggestions.
 - Beth Fisher will revise the section titled "Site" to include specific features that we wanted in a park, and how this site specifically meets those requirements.

The goal of the group is to finalize the revisions by Friday, April 18, 2003, so that we can be put on the Council's agenda to present our proposal.

2. The group had a brief discussion about fundraising and PR.
 - We have received several volunteers to help with the concession stand fund-raiser, but we need more. Beth Shields is the contact person for this right now, but would love someone else with "concession experience" to jump in!
 - We also briefly discussed bumper stickers, window decals and other items to publicize the group and the OLRA. These items can be sold at stands downtown, at the Farmer's Market, and other public events in Iowa City and surrounding communities. We need to have a few people to head up these projects, and a lot of volunteers to help!
 - Finally, as we are getting very close to submitting our proposal to Council, now is an especially good time to ask friends, colleagues, and neighbors who have not already done so to write to the City Council to voice their support for the OLRA. The Council's e-mail address is: council@iowa-city.org.

Our next meeting will be our ANNUAL MEETING (as stated in our Bylaws), on Thursday, May 1, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to attend!