

Johnson County DogPAC Meeting  
May 1st, 2003  
Annual Meeting

Greetings--

DogPAC met last night for a combined regular monthly meeting plus the annual meeting of the corporation.

The first agenda topic was fundraising. Beth Shields reported on the fly-ball tournament which will occur the weekend of May 16-18 at the Amanas. DogPAC has been offered the opportunity to operate the food and drink concession for the weekend--a daunting task. Beth is talking with representatives from New Pioneer Coop, which may provide much of the food. DogPAC needs to provide volunteers to staff the sales table. Beth is planning for 2 or 3 hour shifts of workers. We need to cover supper on Friday, May 16th and breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday, May 17th and 18th. This is a wonderful fundraising opportunity for DogPAC and a chance to increase our connection and visibility in the community. Besides, it will be fun to watch the dogs. Beth described fly-ball to us and it sounds like a wonderful spectacle. Try to attend, even if you can't volunteer to work at the DogPAC booth!

A second fundraising/PR topic discussed is bumper stickers. Old Capital Printers has agreed to print them at a very reasonable cost: the company owner is very interested in DogPAC and wants to be a supporter. The stickers will say "Bark for a Park" and the website address, plus a dog logo. Beth Shields showed us a mock-up, and it looks great. We plan to sell them and hope you and all your dog-friendly friends will sport one soon.

Sarah England has been doing considerable research on possible grant funding sites and has identified some which merit further investigation. One of the first things needed to make such an application is the park site, itself. This makes it more important than ever that we obtain the City Council's designation of a park site.

Another fundraising point of information: Kathleen Rash, owner and operator of The Art Mission, has offered to donate a percentage of sales from the June 6, 2003 Gallery Walk to DogPAC. She will donate 15% of her framing sales from the evening. The featured artist has agreed to donate 5% of her sales to DogPAC. {My dog, Rita, can attest that Kathy is a true friend of the dog and cat kingdoms. This gift to DogPAC just serves as additional evidence!} Put June 6th, 5 to 8 p.m. on your calendar and be sure to visit The Art Mission; say hello and thanks to Kathy. Take time to check out the art and furniture she offers in her shop. Better yet, take

that print you have been meaning to get framed down to Kathy: get a beautiful frame and make a donation to DogPAC.

DogPAC is working on some more fundraising ideas, and we will report on them as they develop.

Why so much focus on fundraising??? You may have heard about the recently adopted Iowa legislation which will significantly reduce funding to cities, at a time when cities have already certified their budget for the year. Translated into impact in Iowa City, currently city administrators estimate the city will have to find \$1.8 million to pare from the budget in the next two years. We certainly still intend to ask the City Council to designate our park site and make a financial commitment toward capital improvements, like fencing, etc. But, DogPAC needs to be committed to raising \$\$ to keep this wonderful project moving ahead.

The proposal for creation and design of the park is ready and we will seek Council agenda time within the next few weeks. I think it is or will soon be available on the website. Beth Fisher, Barb Meredith and Beth Shields spent more hours than I care to count working on this document and it is really wonderful. I hope you will take time to look at it. As soon as we have a Council date and time, we will ask that you and all your dog-loving friends speak up in support of the establishment and creation of the park.

A final piece of business: the corporate by-laws state that a Board of Directors will be elected at each annual meeting. The group voted last night to re-elect the current Board members: Misha Goodman, Beth Fisher, Barb Meredith, Beth Shields, Fred Boehmke, David Bright and Anne Burnside. These Board members then met to elect officers. Misha Goodman was elected Chair of the Board; Beth Shields was elected Vice-Chair; Anne Burnside was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Our next meeting will be the second Thursday of June: June 12th; 7:30 p.m. at the Old Waste Water Treatment Plant, 1100 South Clinton Street. But, in the meantime, try to make it to at least a part of the fly-ball tournament and be sure to visit the Art Mission at 114 S. Linn Street, Iowa City during Gallery Walk.

A.