

Minutes, JCdogPAC meeting, Dec. 10, 2009

Diana started the meeting with 10 minutes for visitor's comments.

Jean Walker complimented her on all she had accomplished over the years. Kelly Nepl gave her flowers and complimented her also.

Barb Meredith stated there would not be a dog park unless Parks & Rec had not been such a good supporter.

Ryan O'Leary mentioned that Misha Goodman (Animal Shelter director) had great expertise, upon which they had depended. Also stated that being on the board of Parks & Rec, he had heard the master planner state that dog parks were important throughout the country. Predicts the creation of 6 dog parks in the next 20 years.

Financial report was given. Expenses: The PO box rental was paid, the domain name jcdogpac.org was renewed for 5 years, a new website host was paid for a year plus a years subscription for a high security forms processor was paid. These expenses amounted to just over \$225. Additional expenses not covered in the report included: \$768 for the Rita's Ranch sign and \$2700 for digging and resodding of a swale for drainage in the Thornberry Small Dog yard. After those additions the rounded-off total for the month 11/13-12/9/09 was \$3690. The income for that period was \$9.70 for interest on bank account. The remaining balance in round figures is \$28,360.

Diana gave a summation of all that had been done during 2009. This included:

- More trees planted
- The JCdogPAC received the Iowa Park

& Recreation 2009 Lay Organization Award at the state-wide annual meeting.

- Board negotiated getting park tag money back to the dog park in the 90/10 split as in the previous contract instead of 100% going into the city's general fund. This contract comes up for renewal in a year.
- 2-3 year park tags were instituted if people wanted them. Park tag renewals can now be tied to rabies vaccination renewls for up to 3 years.
- The path around the Lucky Pawz yard was paved with asphalt. And in the Linder Small Dog yard a new paved path from the gate to the shelter was constructed.
- Iowa City's second dog park, dubbed "Rita's Ranch" opened on Scott Blvd. in July.
- The 7th annual Dog Paddle took place.
- Karla moved the website to a different server and put a form on there for volunteers and for self nomination to the board.

In additional remarks Diana said that people need to remember that Parks & Rec are ultimately responsible for the park. She added that some people felt that their suggestions for changes had not been taken into consideration, but they should know that all suggestions were considered, even if they weren't acted upon.

The meeting was turned over to Karla, who asked that board members and former board members identify themselves. This included Diana Harris, Ann Bartels, Pete Brokaw, Ann Burnside, Barb Meredith, Jean Walker, Kelly Nepl, and Ann Dudler.

Karla stated that many signs had been put up at the parks announcing the elections and asked if anyone had seen them. Also wanted to know if people that go to Rita's Ranch had talked to anyone who was interested in running. (No)

Pete said the JCdogPAC also needs volunteers, who would be interested in showing up once a month to pick up poop. Also wanted people to spread the word that there is a volunteer form on the website. Also felt it was necessary to make the pond safer.

One of the nominees, Lydia Fine, asked if anyone had talked to North Liberty or Coralville to set up a dog park. A former board member stated that they had been approached 3 or 4 years ago but neither city was interested. Lydia asked if they would be interested now, since Thornberry is so successful. A board member responded by saying that it would be hard to get them to spend money because of the economy and the cut back in government funds.

Lydia was voted onto the board that night, but decided to withdraw the next day because realizing how much work would be involved, she felt that she wanted expend her energy working with North Liberty Parks & Rec to get a dog park there.

Ryan stated that while the park inventory (# of city parks) has been increased, there is nothing left for additional dog parks. He said that the construction of a bridge from Rocky Shore to the Peninsula was now under consideration which would make the Thornberry park more accessible.

The other nominees stood up and spoke to the group. This included Diane Downing, Kim Kirchner, Teresa Ruggle, Andy Dudler and Maura Channon. They all talked about why they were running and what experience they'd had elsewhere that would be good for working on the board. Ann Dudler suggested a simple show of hands vote for the entire slate since there were fewer candidates than open positions. The vote was unanimous in favor with no objections or abstentions.

Karla then spoke about the former board members. She stated that Diane had done well, and that even though Karla had peppered her with questions she was diligently answering them. Ann had worked well and Peter had kept good records. She noted that the board members present had put in many additional hours on monthly cleanup and maintenance of the yards.

Since everything had been covered, Karla suggested having the former board members telling us more about the stories of the history of the JCdogPAC.

After some discussion in which people learned many interesting things about the park history and former board involvement. Diane then suggested it might be a good time for the new board members to organize themselves and talk about future topics they want to work on. The meeting adjourned and the new board members met to schedule a special work session and a time to elect officers.

-- Notes by Betsy Kreder