

Board Meeting Summary 1/16/2010

In attendance – Andy Dudler, Karla Tonella, Teresa Ruggle, Kim Kirchner, Diane Downing, Maura Channon. Minutes from last meeting were read and approved.

President Dudler's Report: Still gathering materials from past board members but is still trying to find some early ones. Andy was invited, along with the K9 group from Cedar Rapids, to speak to a group in Palo who have land, money and fencing to start a new dog park. The town chose a dog park as their 2nd highest choice for what they wanted for the town. Andy has made three attempts to talk with Parks & Rec people but they are engaged in budget matters and leadership changes and have not had time to meet yet. Andy, wearing his Co-Treasurer's hat, delivered very detailed budget documents that brought everyone up to date.

VP Tonella's Report: Handed over documents for taking over Poop Bag Dispenser sponsorships. The Board will handle solicitations and give proceeds to city to purchase and distribute bags. Report of new website host, purchasing a jcdogpac.com domain name, and in the process of setting up online forms to handle donations, and Emma's Run reservations. Once PayPal account is reopened fee payments and donations can be made online.

Financial reports were discussed. Concerns about the spend to income ratio for donations. Perhaps changing to centrally-located plaques to recognize contributors instead of small plaques scattered throughout the park.

Park Maintenance: Planning now for the inevitable spring marsh conditions. The asphalt paths will help mitigate high traffic through soft grass areas. Lucky Pawz dogs can be diverted to far west end of Lucky Pawz with temporary fencing and/or diverted to Emma's Run. Still some benches to place - need cement platforms to keep dogs from digging under benches. Patio brick might do the job without the need to call on city workers. Benches should be placed to distribute park traffic better. Rita's Ranch will probably have to be closed when spring thaw is at its worst. The large 4x10 ft sign for Rita's Ranch can be placed to provide afternoon shade into park. Subject of a sight barrier between the entrance to Lucky Pawz & middle of the park came up again. Needed to prevent dogs running up to incoming dogs until they have a chance to fully enter. A dirt berm had been suggested but it may cause drainage problems. A suggestion for a water absorbing hedge might serve as both a sight barrier and help absorb some of the surplus water in that area.

Work is proceeding on placing dog park brochure, day pass envelop and map as a single package at pet-friendly h/motels.

Need a plan for checking out agility equipment. Reservation form can be online. Key checkout system or special agility days when board members can be present. Possibly charging a fee for use of equipment. Possibly contacting an agility trainer to hold sessions in Emma's Run for a percentage of fees.

Tag Sales: Diane Downing met with Misha Goodman who is viewing board tag sales favorably but needed to check with city. One possibility she proposed would be selling a certain number to the board who would then resell tags. We would need simple training for checking proof of rabies vaccination. Misha has suggested a training film for the city TV to help people understand dog behavior and communication at the dog park. YouTube might get a bigger audience. Misha said that the survey board members did last spring to check for tags drove sales way up for a time and recommended more awareness raising efforts.

Park clean up days will be moved to the 2nd Sundays of each month so that the combination of board meeting and park cleanup won't take up an entire weekend. Moved, seconded and approved. Suggested reusable signs posted around the park to make people aware of cleanup day to get more than just board members involved. General agreement.

Dog Paddle: Last year's paddle was not a financial success, partly as a result of the huge surplus of towels purchased but not resold. The 2009 date prevents them from being sold this year. A general agreement that dates should not be printed in the future.

Merchandise: Boxes of towels left over from 2009 dog paddle with the date on them so they cannot be reused. Unanimous vote to donate to the Animal Shelter.