

Minutes

The City Council of the City of Leawood, Kansas, met for a Special Call Meeting at City Hall, 4800 Town Center Drive, at 6:00 P.M., on Monday, April 1, 2013. Mayor Peggy Dunn presided.

Councilmembers present: Debra Filla, Gary Bussing, Lou Rasmussen, Carrie Rezac, Jim Rawlings, Julie Cain, Andrew Osman and James Azeltine

Councilmembers absent: None

Staff present: Scott Lambers, City Administrator
P&R Director Chris Claxton
Parks Superintendent Brian Anderson
Cultural Arts Coordinator April Bishop
City Attorney Patty Bennett
Public Works Director Joe Johnson
City Clerk Deb Harper

Others Present: Lorrie Hamilton, P&R Advisory Board
Doug Stevens, P&R Advisory Board

Discussion of Dog Park, to be located at 10601 Lee Boulevard

Mayor Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M. Introductions were made by those present.

Presentation – Parks and Recreation Director Chris Claxton

The proposed site for a Dog Park consists of 8.00 acres; the City owns 2.2 acres and 5.8 acres have been donated by Hallbrook Farms.

Proposed Construction and Amenities

1. Size of the Park
 - Cost considerations – fencing and maintenance
2. Type of Turf – tall fescue (non-irrigated) or fescue blend (irrigated)
 - Cost considerations – maintenance
3. Irrigation
 - Cost considerations – installation and maintenance; monthly cost (tap), pump
 - Other Considerations – water source, State permission (creek), maintenance
4. Fence
 - Cost considerations – type, height, lineal feet, long-term maintenance
5. Water
 - Cost Considerations - location to connect, monthly utility cost
6. Electricity
 - Cost considerations – location and power to site

7. Access for Maintenance
 - Cost considerations – gate
 - Other considerations – possible need for ingress/egress easement
8. Seating
 - Cost considerations – benches included in initial estimate; picnic tables with shade umbrellas are not
9. Wooded Area
 - Cost considerations – \$5,000 for rental equipment to clear dead trees
10. Pond
 - 1/3 acre pond donated by Hallbrook Farms (will require State permit if filled/improved, etc.)
11. Dog Play Amenities
 - \$25,000 included in preliminary budget for prefabricated play equipment
12. Miscellaneous
 - free access to residents and non-residents
 - maintenance labor and annual renovation costs
 - disposal of pet waste

Councilmember Rasmussen suggested a 4-acre area for the dog park in order for dog owners to maintain sight and oral control of their dogs and sanitation control.

Parks Superintendent Brian Anderson presented the following fencing options and pricing per lineal foot:

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|-----------------------------------|---------|
| • Flat Panel Board (4 panel) | \$19.50 |
| • Cedar Split-rail (2 rail) | \$20.00 |
| • Cedar Split-rail (3 rail) | \$21.50 |
| • Black Vinyl Chain Link (6 foot) | \$25.00 |
| • Black Vinyl Chain Link (4 foot) | \$23.50 |
| • Wrought Iron (4 inch) | \$40.00 |

Woven wire would be placed behind the fencing for confinement. Once dogs are out of the park, they are required to be leashed. Certain types of fencing may require maintenance.

Councilmember Cain preferred that the pond and woods be accessible and that the dog park be larger than 4 acres to have plenty of area to walk with their dogs. She was in favor of a split-rail fence with the woven wire.

Councilmember Rasmussen preferred a 6-foot fence for better confinement and suggested a concrete pad be installed around the perimeter for walking.

Councilmember Osman asked about the City's liability. City Attorney Patty Bennett replied signage would be placed in the park regarding dog owner responsibilities; however, this does not exempt the City from the risk of getting sued.

Ms. Claxton stated if the pond remains as an amenity it will require a lot of work to maintain. She reiterated a State permit is required to make any changes.

Ms. Claxton thought the parking by the basketball courts would be sufficient for the dog park.

Councilmember Filla felt they should keep the dog park, including the pond, as natural as possible with no irrigation and minimal amenities. She was in favor of any of the fencing options, with exception to wrought iron. Councilmember Rawlings concurred.

Councilmember Cain agreed they should keep the park as natural as possible and suggested drinking fountains be installed near the basketball courts if water is connected. She felt they should initially try utilizing the pond and wanted to include some type of obstacle/play course. Mayor Dunn suggested they get a financial estimate prior to incorporating the pond. Mr. Anderson estimated a cost of \$8,000 for the drinking fountains.

Councilmember Rasmussen suggested that benches and picnic tables be placed throughout the dog park and that an obstacle course be their least priority. He was not in favor of irrigation.

Ms. Claxton suggested that the dead trees and understory to the trail be cleared out, keeping the wooded area for the dogs to enjoy. Based upon 5 acres, maintenance costs are estimated at \$4,000-\$5,000 and labor costs \$15,000-\$20,000. The open areas will require the most maintenance.

Mayor Dunn received the following consensus for the dog park at this time:

- Keep the dog park as natural as possible with basic maintenance
- No irrigation
- 3 or 4 Foot flat panel fencing on or around the perimeter
- Leave pond as is
- Drinking fountains installed next to basketball courts
- No lighting/electricity
- Maintenance access
- No obstacle/play course
- Clear out dead portions of wooded area
- Free access to residents and non-residents
- Include pet waste stations
- Timeframe 2014/2015

Councilmember Azeltine suggested they initially approach this with minimal amenities as a trial and act accordingly.

Ms. Claxton noted staff would review trail options.

City Attorney Patty Bennett stated when this goes through the Planning Department it will be reviewed for ADA compliance.

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Pam Gregory, Recording Assistant City Clerk