

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 15, 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
Chris Claxton, P&R Director
Brian Anderson, Parks Superintendent
Deb Harper, City Clerk
Patty Bennett, City Attorney
David Ley, City Engineer
Pam Gregory, Assistant City Clerk

Others Present: Lorrie Hamilton, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Teri Schaefer, Kansas City Star

**Continued 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

City staff revised the estimate for the proposed Dog Park. In meeting with the City’s risk management insurance company, they advised modifications be done to the trail on both sides of the bridge to access the Dog Park and meet ADA requirements.

Parks Superintendent Brian Anderson stated if the trail is modified up to the bridge, they will need to install landing zones because of the elevation changes. ADA guidelines require handrails for ramps. This is the sole access to the Dog Park.

Ms. Claxton indicated some of the other dog parks in Johnson County are ADA accessible. The insurance advisor recommended that no human food be allowed inside the park to prevent dogs from taking it. The insurance advisor did not have any issues with tables and proposed that one of the tables be ADA accessible. Mayor Dunn noted this will all go through the planning process for review.

Mayor Dunn received consensus for the Dog Park to be undivided and open for all dogs at this time and review as needed in the future.

Councilmember Rasmussen preferred that the park be divided for small and large dogs and that it be a minimum of 4 acres. He suggested they consider the terrain along the ditch on the west side and install fencing along that property so there is no dispute with the State of who is responsible for maintaining.

Ms. Claxton stated there was consensus at the last work session to install a 4-foot flat panel fence with woven wire for confinement around the Dog Park, with a 6-foot fence along the east side and a section of the north side. Councilmember Rasmussen preferred 6-foot fencing around the entire perimeter.

City Attorney Patty Bennett stated the insurance advisor informed them the City has no liability in keeping dogs contained. Signage will be placed in the park regarding dog owner responsibilities.

Ms. Claxton stated water connection inside the Dog Park would cost approximately \$40,000. Installation of a pet bowl fountain and drinking fountain will cost \$6,000, which would be located next to the basketball courts just outside the park entrance. Councilmember Rasmussen preferred water be installed inside the park.

Mayor Dunn received consensus to *not* connect water inside the Dog Park at this time.

Mr. Lambers noted if there is the possibility for water extension inside the park, they could stub-out the line for future installation. To consider as an alternate, he suggested they bid-out extending the water line from the fountain to the bridge.

Councilmember Rasmussen recommended they construct a basic shelter for weather conditions and reiterated his desire to install an asphalt or pervious concrete trail around the perimeter for those who walk their dogs with access to the benches and tables. Ms. Claxton indicated pervious concrete would be more expensive than a concrete sidewalk.

Councilmembers Filla and Cain noted the consensus at the last work session was to keep the Dog Park as natural as possible and review it as needed.

Councilmember Bussing recommended they install portable tables for mowing and less maintenance. Mayor Dunn suggested they leave this decision up to City staff.

Mr. Anderson stated plans are to install 3-4 pet waste containers. Councilmember Cain suggested one be installed near the basketball courts. Councilmember Rasmussen suggested they consider galvanized pet waste containers as a less expensive alternative and recommended they include pet scoops.

Councilmember Rezac suggested they consider a temporary barrier-type fence that could be moved to maintain the grass in certain areas. Mr. Anderson replied they could look into installing sleeves with caps for portable fence sections.

Mayor Dunn received consensus to *not* construct a shelter at the Dog Park at this time.

Mr. Lambers noted if the City Council decides to design amenities now, such as the dividing fence, it would not need to go back through the planning process.

Mayor Dunn preferred they leave as many trees as possible in the Dog Park. Mr. Anderson replied their intention is to prune only the dead limbs and trees as needed.

Ms. Claxton confirmed there is \$150,000 funded for 2014 and 2015. If all of the funding is moved into one year, the timeframe for the Dog Park could be fall of 2014, and may be completed in one year.

Ms. Bennett clarified the City has not yet accepted the land donation; however, there is an agreement to accept it and is promised to the City shortly. The leash law will be in effect until patrons enter the park.

Mr. Lambers stated this would be placed on the May 6th agenda to authorize staff to proceed with spending.

There being no further business, the work session was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Pam Gregory, Recording Assistant City Clerk