



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes: Nadia Byrnes

Committee Members Present:

- 🐾 Tom Gillispie, Chair
- 🐾 Clare Siska
- 🐾 Nadia Byrnes

Other Attendees:

- 🐾 Cathy Fochtman
- 🐾 Jeff Bergart

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:18 PM.

Construction Kickoff Meeting Recap

- Recent kickoff meeting held with key project partners: Chinru, representative from Woodall (possibly Joe), Mike from WDA, Tom G, and Thom B
- Construction start delayed due to long lead times for pump station parts — earliest projected start is late summer.
- Woodall prefers serialized construction to avoid overlap with Onyx; Chinru to coordinate excavation timing with Onyx.
- Some unexpected additional clearing and a dirt mound were discovered on site.

2. Vendor and Materials Updates

- Fencing subcontracted to Reliable.
- Engineered wood fiber vendor contacted — experienced with installation.
- Water hookup completed; line for fountains confirmed feasible.
- Additional funds requested by WDA for oversight — covered via Recreation Department budget.

3. FBO (Furnishings, Fixtures & Equipment) Items

- Benches: 7 benches planned — 6 with backs, 1 without. Committee discussed better placement and possible additions in the small dog area.
- Poop Stations: Originally requested 8 through CPC, only 4 planned. Consensus to increase to 6 stations.
- Water Fountains: CPC proposal requested 3; current plan includes 2. No objections.
- Solar Lighting: Discussed options; \$70 each model preferred with dusk-to-motion mode. Likely reduce from 24 to 6-8 strategically placed lights. Discussion about fence vs. ground mounting; suggestion to consider bollard-style fixtures.
- Shed & Pavilion: Pavilion/shade structure and maintenance shed not covered under CPC funding. Suggested as fundraising targets.
- Seat Wall: Confirmed inclusion as a seat wall in the plans.

4. Fundraising and Strategic Planning

- Need to raise ~\$30,000–\$40,000 to cover project funding gap.
- T-Mobile Grant: Discussion about applying for up to \$50,000. Trail and pavilion considered strong candidates for donor-backed funding.
- Strategy to use large items (shed, pavilion, trail) to attract major donors.
- Potential in-kind donations (e.g., for the shed) discussed.
- Encouragement to apply for grant(s) soon to align with construction and fundraising timelines.

5. Communications

- Clare raised the need for constituent communication regarding delayed construction timeline.
- Consensus to begin outreach with update: “construction now expected in late summer/fall.”

6. Next Meeting: March 26, 2025

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Nadia Byrnes
Member, Acton Dog Park Committee