



Feasibility of Creating Dog Park

April 17, 2013 – 7:30 PM - **Minutes**

Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber Room 213, Municipal Building

****View Agenda ****

MEETING: COMMITTEE ON FEASIBILITY OF CREATING A DOG PARK

DATE: APRIL 17, 2013

TIME: 7:41 P.M.

PLACE: COUNCILLOR WILLIAM SALTZMAN ANTECHAMBER, ROOM 213, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR JANE GONSALVES, CHAIRPERSON; COUNCILLOR JOSEPH LOPES (8:03), VICE-CHAIRMAN; EMANUEL MACIEL; ELAINE GERBER; JANICE ROGERS; DR. DEB GERGKE

ABSENT: NO ONE

ALSO PRESENT:

* * *

Councillor Gonsalves called the Dog Park meeting to order and took attendance. Councillor Lopes was late in attendance due to his attending a Neighborhood Meeting.

* * *

Councillor Gonsalves began the discussion by stating she had met with the Mayor several weeks ago. She relayed the fact that he does not agree with the Committee only submitting a report listing criteria and not a suggested location for the dog park. However, she feels strongly that this is the correct approach, due to the fact that the Mayor's office, through the Planning Board, Tax Title, and other City Departments, has the resources necessary to determine the correct site location with the criteria that will be recommended by the Committee and full City Council.

On motion by Emanuel Maciel and seconded by Elaine Gerber, the Committee VOTED: That this Committee develop a report, outlining criteria for a potential Dog Park in the City of New Bedford to the full City Council for their approval.

On the question, Mr. Maciel stated that as a result of the public hearing that was held some time ago, it is apparent that there is a real need for a dog park in the city.

The members discussed and agreed that the following criteria should be included in the report to the Council and Mayor:

- It should be at least one acre in size
- There must be two distinct areas – one for small dogs and a second for larger dogs, separated by fencing
- There should be access to a fresh water faucet to fill up bowls, bottles, etc.
- The surface should be grass and/or other natural/pervious material
- The hours should be dawn to dusk, although there should be solar-powered lights for public safety concerns.
- There should be an adequate number of trees.

- Maintenance of the dog park should come under the responsibility of the Parks & Recreation Department.
- There should be recreational/play equipment for the dogs (i.e. obstacle course, etc.)
- There should be benches and/or other seating for dog owners
- Trash receptacles must be placed inside the dog park
- There must be a methodology for removal of feces, and all owners must be required to clean up after their own dogs.
- A dispenser for shopping bags should be present so that people can bring their “extras” and they be left for others to use when necessary
- There must be adequate and visible signage listing the “rules” for the park
- There should be a brochure handed out to each owner when they receive their “swipe card” that includes the rules, and they should also sign a statement saying that they agree with the rules of the dog park and will abide by them.
- There should be a bulletin-board visible so that notices of events, etc. of interest and concern to dog and pet owners can be displayed for public informational purposes.
- Visible signage with the phone number for Animal Control
- The entrance should have double – gating.
- The outer fence should be 6ft high.
- Visible signage stating that all users of the dog park “use at their own risk”
- That access to the park is via a “Swipe Card” issued by the city. Further, that in order to be eligible for a “Swipe Card”, an annual fee will be paid to the city to make the dog park self-sustaining/revenue neutral and that dogs must be licensed and have all vaccinations up to date. (This was decided by a MOTION made by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Elaine Gerber and voted on unanimously by voice vote).
- That in order to receive access to the park via a Swipe Card, that dogs be “fixed” (This was decided by a MOTION made by Dr. Gergke and seconded by Janice Rogers and unanimously passed by voice vote.)
- That only dogs 4 months or older should be allowed in Dog Park.
- There should preferably be off-street parking available.
- No food should be brought into the park for dogs and their owners.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Janice Rogers, the Committee VOTED: That these criteria be put into a document, which will be reviewed at the next Dog Park Meeting on May 8, 2013.

Manny Maciel made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Lopes.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees