



Feasibility of Creating Dog Park

May 8, 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: MAY 8, 2013

TIME: 7:45 P.M.

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

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR JANE GONSALVES, CHAIRPERSON; COUNCILLOR JOSEPH LOPES, VICE-CHAIRMAN; ELAINE GERBER; JANICE ROGERS

ABSENT: EMANUEL MACIEL, ANIMAL CONTROL; DR. DEB GERGKE

ALSO PRESENT:

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Councillor Gonsalves called the Dog Park Meeting to order and took attendance.

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On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Elaine Gerber, the Committee VOTED: To receive and place on file the Rules from the Falmouth Dog Park, provided by Councillor Gonsalves. This motion passed on a voice vote.

The Committee Members reviewed the list of rules and Janice Rogers mentioned that the idea of placing age restrictions for unsupervised children in the park was never brought up in prior meetings.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Janice Rogers, the Committee VOTED: To adopt language as a rule for Dog Park use that states, "A child under the age of 16 may not accompany the dog as an owner or handler unless supervised by an adult." This motion passed on a voice vote.

Councillor Lopes stated that he feels strongly that an "un-fixed" dog should not be barred from the park. He feels it is not right that owners who breed their dogs would not be permitted to use the park. Elaine Gerber expressed concerns about that point of view, but admitted she could see both points of view, even though she has very strong feelings about controlling the pet population. Councillor Lopes stated that he is in favor of not allowing female dogs that are in heat into the park.

There was discussion about the pros and cons of restricting dogs that are not "fixed."

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Janice Rogers, the Committee VOTED: To change the "fixed" requirement to "Female dogs in heat shall not use the park." This motion passed on a voice vote.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Elaine Gerber, the Committee VOTED: To add rules 1, 2, 6 & 8 from the Falmouth rules to the rules for this potential park, which are (1) Dogs must be kept on leash until inside the fenced enclosure; (2) All dogs must wear a collar/tag with contact information for the owner; (6)

Dogs exhibiting aggressive, intimidating or dangerous behavior must be removed from the park immediately;
(8) Dogs barking excessively shall be removed from the park. This motion passed on a voice vote.

There was also discussion about the “Win a Dog Park for Your City”.

On motion by Councillor Lopes and seconded by Janice Rogers the Committee VOTED: To Forward the criteria for a potential dog park in the City of New Bedford to the full City Council for approval and affirmative recommendation to the Mayor for an executive decision and action. This motion passed on a voice vote.

Elaine Gerber made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Janice Rogers.

This meeting adjourned @ 8:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

Clerk of Committees