



# *Special Committee on the Feasibility of Creating a Dog Park*

July 9, 2015 – 7:09 PM – **Minutes**

Councillor William Saltzman Antechamber – Room 213

**MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FEASIBLE OF CREATING A  
DOG PARK**

**DATE: JULY 09, 2015**

**TIME: 7:09 P.M.**

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

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR NAOMI CARNEY, CHAIRPERSON; COUNCILLOR DEBORA  
COELHO, VICE-CHAIRPERSON; EMMANUEL MACIEL, ANIMAL CONTROL; DR.  
DEBORAH GERGKE, VETERINARIAN; MARY RAPOZA**

**ABSENT: JANICE ROGERS, COALITION FOR ANIAMALS**

\* \* \*

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

\* \* \*

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillor Carney, requesting that the Committee on the Feasibility of Creating a Dog Park meet to discuss preliminary design work of placing a Dog Park in New Bedford, due to the potential Grant that the City might be awarded for the creation of a Dog Park (4/23/15) was received and placed on file by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Manny Maciel. (1)

The Chair recognized Mary Rapoza, Director of Parks, Recreations and Beaches, and she explained that the City was in receipt of \$250,000 to design and erect a Dog Park, from the Standard Foundation of Boston. \$26,000 is to hire a Designer for the Park; the remaining amount will be applicable to the Park. She informed the Committee that the City has met with the designers of the Dog Park in Falmouth, MA, which in her opinion, this is what will be needed and/or has been determined:

Design the Park

Area for smaller or larger dogs

Pea Stone surface, water play areas, gated

Balance beams, trees to play hide and go seek around

The area chosen is the property that abuts Keith Middle School

Area is large enough to accommodate a good sized area for parking

The EPA has been already cleaning the land to accommodate a Dog Park

There will be no issues with the EPA  
The neighbors have been approached and like the idea

The next step would be to RFP for a park design, if the Committee is in agreement.

Councillor Coelho asked questions about the proposal and if the Administration was in favor; she was told they were. She asked why this section of land was chosen and she was told it was chosen due to the size of the space, it is a much bigger parcel.

Manny Maciel explained that access to the park would be by an electronic card pass, which would be purchased at the City Clerk's Office for approximately \$25.00. This way, it would ensure the dogs using the park are properly registered and have correct shots, etc. He believes that once this park is completed and it kicks off, other parks in the city will follow.

Mary Rapoza said that the grant dictated the space needed. This is another reason they have chosen the Keith area site.

Councillor Coelho expressed her concerns about safety issues.

Manny Maciel explained that there will be issues, but steps would be taken to prevent them; however, a lot of the time people do police themselves in Dog Parks. A lot of times toys are prohibited, which will prevent aggression. The card system will also be able to tell who accessed the park and when.

Councillor Coelho suggested if the grant allowed that perhaps the area should have cameras.

Mary Rapoza agreed and said they would be a part of the plan. She also explained that DPI has already run the water and electrical lines to the area.

Dr. Gergke asked if the Falmouth design had water areas and she was told that they did. She also expressed the need for the water to be continuously moving. The water motion should be stream like.

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Emmanuel Maciel, the Committee VOTED: To forward the request for the Recreation Department to issue an RFP for the design of a Dog Park. This motion passed on a voice vote.

\* \* \*

Notice, City Clerk of reference of a Written Motion, Councillors Bousquet, Martins, Morad, Lopes and Winterson, requesting, that the lot across from the High School between Ruggles and Greenwood Streets to be transformed into a Dog Park with the appropriate fencing, key system, play areas, trash barrels, doggie bags, stands and benches, and that this Dog Park be named after "Captain Jack Peterson" long time talk radio announcer, friend, animal advocate, and resident of New Bedford; and further, that the City establish an account for Peterson Park, so that people can make a donation in Jack Peterson's name in order to support the development and construction, as well as the care and maintenance of the Dog Park (Ref'd 8/21/14) was received and placed on file by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Emmanuel Maciel. (2)

Councillor Coelho informed the Committee that she loved the idea.

A discussion took place amongst the Committee as to whether or not the item had to be referred to the City Property Committee for approval of the land. It was decided amongst the body that it was not, especially since the city already owned the property. Councillor Bousquet explained that he is the Chair of the Committee on Memorials and Dedications and the motion as worded already sits in his Committee.

It was decided that it would be best for the Committee to send a Communication that it supports the naming of the park after Jack Peterson to the Committee on Memorials and Dedications.

On motion by Councillor Coelho and seconded by Emmanuel Maciel, the Committee VOTED: To send a Communication to the Committee on Memorials and Dedications in support of naming the Dog Park after Captain Jack Peterson. This motion passed on a voice vote.

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

This meeting adjourned @ 7:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

---

Clerk of Committees