

P 2015

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
November 2, 2015

Members Present: Alberta Alleva, Bill Zickler, Nichole Caravella, Rudy Steinthal, Rob Jones, Bruce Vitcavich, Simon Hardie, Larry Scienski, Tom Andrea.
Also Present: Denise Furfaro, Katie Frey, Barb Meloy, and Dave Kohle.
Absent: Terri Horgan, Steve Hill

Tom Andrea opened the meeting and the advisory board members introduced themselves to the public. Dave Kohle made an opening statement that the "Dogs not allowed in the parks" ordinance is not new and has been in existence for well over 20 years. We have a new Park Ranger and he has begun to enforce the ordinance. The Council is trying to expand the existing ordinance to possibly allow dogs in certain parks or areas. Dave Kohle introduced Loretta Terraneo and stated that she will be representing the Bark Park.

The meeting was opened to the public.

Joe Jorgensen asked if there has been any summons issued recently for dogs in the parks or if there have been any reports of dog bites in the parks. Tom Andrea said that some residents have a problem with dogs being in Greenview Park. Joe Jorgensen said that the ordinance was put in place in the early 80's. He walks his dogs around Woodland Lake. Dave Hollberg has mentioned that this was the first year in a while that the bacteria levels at PV Park have been clean and feels that allowing people to walk their dogs around Woodland Lake could create a problem if they don't pick up after their dogs. Joe Jorgensen said that most people that walk their dogs around the lake clean up after them. Having dogs present at Woodland Lake will keep the geese away. He suggests opening the parks to dogs on a leash.

Denise spoke and stated that there are two components to the issue at hand: 1) Dogs being allowed in the parks and 2) Dogs being allowed at large public venues.

Rob Jones said that he saw dogs at the Street Fair this year when the pavement was new and extremely hot. His grandchildren are extremely afraid of dogs and not everyone is comfortable with dogs being in public parks.

Jackie Stivala stated that she keeps her dogs away from people when she walks them.

Maryann Erdley said she received a ticket approximately 10 years ago for walking her dog around Woodland Lake. She said that she sees horses walking the trail at Woodland Lake along with their droppings.

Joe Wells said that the trail around Woodland Lake was created for walking.

Rob Cascone brought up the subject of dogs being allowed in our parks at a council meeting. He was asked to leave the Hoedown and bring his dog home. He stated that dogs could get into a scuffle anywhere, whether it be a park or along the road.

Rob Jones said that he does have a problem with allowing dogs at the Street Fair, ball fields and playgrounds.

Rob Cascone said that the ordinance has not been enforced in the past and this was the first year he was asked to leave.

Katie Frey said that the ordinance is in place for a reason. It is there for protection and safety of the people that frequent the park.

Barb Meloy said that Dave Hollberg has asked that the ranger get out in the parks and inform people that the ordinance will be enforced in the spring and to educate people now.

Loretta Terraneo stated putting the Hoedown and Street Fair aside, there wouldn't be a big difference in her life. There is a lot of open space in this town to walk dogs and people don't have to have their dogs at the ball fields. She said that Greenview Park has rough edges to walk dogs.

Carol Hanson said that she has been walking her dogs at Greenview Park for thirty years. There is more of a problem there with the geese droppings than dog feces.

Heather Cascone stated that we should look and analyze the data pertaining to the number of incidents occurring from dog bites in the parks. She said that the data should be an important factor in making a decision on allowing dogs in our parks.

Rob Jones asked if incidents haven't occurred because we have a strict ordinance.

Dave Kohle stated that the council would like to see the amount of parks expanded to allow dogs in.

Jackie Stivala said that if dog owners do not pick up after their pet than we should set strict enforcement and make them pay a fine.

Linda Wells passed around ordinances from Wayne Township, Lincoln Park and Riverdale, all pertaining to allowing dogs in public areas.

Dave Kohle asked if we allow dogs in certain parks or all parks, how do we regulate and make sure pet owners have the proper license and vaccines. The Park Ranger is part-time and what if we find a tremendous amount of dog poop in the parks.

Rob Cascone suggested we allow dogs in the park with a 6' leash.

Tom Andrea said that dogs should not be allowed near playgrounds or sports fields. Donna Reznowitz said her son was hired by the town to canvas and make sure people registered their dogs and cats with the municipality. She said this was very hard to do and really takes more than a summer employee to enforce.

Penny Perkowski said that she walks her dog at Greenview Park. She has noticed that there is more poop along the street than the park.

Joe Wells stated that he lives about fifty feet from Washington Park. There are many undeveloped parks in town to walk dogs such as the Riverwalk, Cherry Street Park and it just takes a little common sense. He suggested that when people get their dog license they are given information on the ordinance and let them know it will be enforced.

Linda Heffren said she did notice a small sign at Woodland Lake about a \$200 fine if caught walking your dog there.

Rob Jones said that dogs are not allowed in Central Park.

Joe Jorgensen asked to hear what the Advisory Board members wanted.

Heather Cascone suggested handing out pamphlets or fliers to people when getting their license renewed.

Sue Latta expressed that since the ranger has been enforcing the ordinance the pet owners feel like it's a new law.

Tom Andrea closed the meeting to the public. He then asked how long the leash should be. It was determined a 6' leash is standard. Joe Jorgensen said dogs should heel when approaching other dogs. Tom said that Denise Furfaro does not want dogs permitted at large public events.

Tom asked if dogs should be banned from playgrounds and it was decided that they should not be allowed at the playground but a specific distance from the equipment should be determined.

Bruce Vitcavitch asked if anyone in the room had been part of an incident with their dog. Nobody had been involved with any issue regarding their pet.

Bill Zickler said that he was surprised that not a single person in the room was there to object to having dogs in the parks.

Simon Hardie asked if a large event was really a good place for a dog to be.

Albert Alleva agreed with the dog owners that they have the right to walk their dogs on a leash through the parks. She asked about the people who don't clean up after their dog. She said that we need to spell out specifically where dogs are not permitted in parks. She said that the ranger handled himself professionally at the Hoedown while asking people to remove their dogs.

The advisory board will recommend to the council the following:

Dogs will be permitted in all parks as long as they are on a 6' leash. Council should define the distance allowed away from a playground. The following areas are the exception to the rule: PV Park, township buildings, playgrounds and sports fields along with large public events.

A vote was taken:

Tom Andrea	Yes
Bruce Vitcavich	Yes
Bill Zickler	No
Alberta Alleva	Yes
Rudy Steinthal	Yes
Nichole Caravella	Yes
Simon Hardie	Yes
Rob Jones	Yes

The minutes from the October 5, 2015 meeting were approved. A motion was made by Alberta Alleva and seconded by Bill Zickler. All were in favor.

Open Space-No report

Council-No report

Skateboard Park-An ADHOC will be appointed at the November 10, 2015 council meeting.

Tom Andrea said that the Trick or Trunk event was fantastic and everyone had a great time.

The Holiday Festival is scheduled for December 12 at Greenview Park.

Board Ideas and Input-None

Denise Furfaro informed the board that she will be retiring on August 31, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50pm.