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**Date:** Wed, 20 Nov 2002 13:32:44 -0800 (PST)

**From:** "Gail Merritt" <gailmerritt@yahoo.com>

**Subject:** Dog Park Update & Things to Do

**To:** "Diana Austen" <diana\_austen@hotmail.com>, "Marion Buckley" <marionbuckley@earthlink.net>, "Theresa Corsentino" <theresa.corsentino@piperrudnick.com>, "Laura McGough DiFranco" <ldifranco@earthlink.net>, "Jerri Hatch" <jhatch@dearbornrtower.net>, "Debbie Lauritis" <vytsdeb@rcnchicago.com>, "Nick Massiello" <nicholas\_massiello@idx.com>, "Catherine Mertes" <catherine.mertes@exeloncorp.com>, "Tina Philips" <tinasoffice@att.net>, "Sarah" <windy127@aol.com>, "Kim Soenen" <kimberlysoenen@earthlink.net>, "Kristine Lyons" <kristine.lyons@scudder.com>

**CC:** dogpac@southloopdogs.com

Hello

info in this note (apologies in advance for its length):

- a summary of our meeting last Thursday
  - a description of the usage survey on Yahoo Group
- DogPac\_IL
- PR invitation

#### MEETING SUMMARY

14 Nov 02

Participants: Jerri, Gail, Marion, Sarah, Jackie, Kristine

1) THANK YOU Jerri for making your house available at such a busy time (hope your proposal went OK!)

2) we agreed to pursue two sites in parallel:

a) the Park District site (most southern part, that has long grass now, is partially fenced in, and is accessible by going down slopes on west and southern sides.

b) the Metra site (north of CPD site, not accessible currently, much larger and entirely flat)

3) Marion is drafting a letter to Metra to propose this idea

4) we agreed that we need to aggressively promote responsible dog behavior, but did not plan any specific action...YET!

5) we agreed that we need people to step up and lead efforts for:

- a) membership
- b) community meetings
- c) site usage surveys (more later)
- d) petitions
- e) fundraising
- f) park design (eventually)

6) we agreed to meet next on Thursday, 5 Dec at 5:30 at Sarah's school (Harrington Institute, 430 S. Michigan) she will send along room location info.

7) we agreed to each try to bring to the meeting a friend/neighbor to help get this thing off the ground. (Don't forget!!!)

#### USAGE SURVEY

I figured, no time like Now to get started.

Jeff & Blyth Veltman are the developers/owners of Southloopdogs.com (check it out if you haven't yet) and arranged a Yahoo Group last summer (Aug 01) to support the dog park effort when we were pursuing Oscar D'Angelo Park. (long story there, for another time). They have updated the usage survey for that effort to support our efforts now at Roosevelt & Michigan. If you did not get a message from me

regarding your membership in the DogPark\_IL group, let me know (Kristine, I owe you that one).

The Park District wants to know who is doing what at that location at different times of day, different days of the week, all kinds of weather conditions for an extended period of time to document any possible conflict of interest/use. This online tool makes it really easy to collect the info.

we should probably coordinate this effort so that we get a range of times/days/weather conditions, but until that happens, I wanted to put the survey to use for anyone who might go by that space. You do not need to do anything except observe use (I've never seen anyone down in there), and weather conditions,,,,and then remember to go online and enter the info. I've made a couple of entries. It is very easy.

(from dogpac\_IL site, find database menu option on left sidebar;

when database window opens: click on Usage Survey....

when Usage Survey window opens: click on Add Record tab (on top);

when New Record window opens, add info.

Very easy.

Diana and Kristine: as your neighbors are probably the most regular/frequent visitors to that site, let me know if you can recruit them to participate in the survey, and if so, have them send me their email addresses so they can become members of the group also.

FINALLY, the PR INVITE:

I am going to the GSLA meeting this Saturday to talk about the South Loop Dog Park effort (early, I think 8:30am at the Police Station) Anyone want to join me? Anyone have suggestions for other groups to talk with? I've already been to Dearborn Park Advisory Council, Grant Park Advisory Council and HPRN.

OK

that's it for now. Next note will be agenda ideas for Dec. 5.

Don't forget to recruit a friend/neighbor to come to our Dec 5 meeting. Let's see if we can get some exponential growth going!

woof

Gail

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