

# DogPAC Board of Directors Meeting

## March 18, 2010

### MINUTES

801 S. Plymouth #512

Present: Doug Freymann, Deborah Perry, Stephanie Daugherty, Wendy Ito (by phone), Lynda Young

Absent: Barbara Perez

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm

#### Minutes

- Minutes for February, 2010 approved by 4:0

#### Administrative/Executive

- Treasurer's report tabled. No treasurer present.
- Deborah noted that she has an outstanding \$44.54 reimbursement that needs to be paid.
- DMF reported that PayPal funds transfer now worked properly.
- Discussion of need for board member recruitment. A key is to identify skills or attributes that are needed – for example, Financial/Treasurer, Organizers (e.g. park maintenance, outreach programs), Web/IT support, Frequent Park Users, and so on – important to emphasize that even if someone doesn't want to be a board 'member', we still need the skills as a volunteer.
- How to recruit members? Fetch! blurb to be sent out. Bring up at the Annual meeting. DMF will draft a list to be distributed to the board members for comment and finalizing.
- Insurance quote provided by Tom Wiedemann was discussed and the decision made to finalize approval of the renewal after followup of some questions raised. DMF to contact Wiedemann.
- Membership meeting planning discussed. Board in agreement on proposed structure and agenda. Flyers to be prepared with notice on front, abbreviated agenda on back.
- Membership meeting timetable: March 31 – Flyer prepared (Lynda, DMF to add agenda)
  - April 3 – Flyers printed
  - April 12 – Flyers distributed to members by snail mail; stacks provided to local businesses. (Wendy, Stephanie)
  - April 17 – Flyers posted (bulletin boards, 'on the street') (All)
  - April xx – prep materials for meeting (signup sheets, brick order sheets, printout materials, business member logos, etc)
  - April 22 – Membership meeting
- Membership meeting issues: To Do – Contact business members re participating
  - Finalize meeting agenda
  - Mail flyers
  - Invite Chicago Journal, Gazette to attend
  - Get posted as 'Community Event' in Journal, Gazette
- Decision to distribute flyers to parks notifying likely early April water turn-on date.

#### Resources/Membership

- Membership has ~doubled since start of membership drive.
- Membership Task force report attached to Minutes.

#### Maintenance/Facilities:

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- Currently planning Spring Cleanup
- Sand supply - needs to be reconsidered for next Winter. Restocked 3x over the winter.
- Maintenance Committee report attached to Minutes
- SLDogPAC event materials have been moved from Gail's storage locker to a storage unit at 16<sup>th</sup> x Federal. DMF will be contacting area storage facilities re price breaks for non-profits.

#### Programs/Outreach:

- Bark in the Park. Support for proposal to spend \$275 to participate with a table at the event on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Suggestion to involve other DFA Committees to share the cost approved. To be followed up by DMF.
- Bark in the Park ToDo: Contact other DFA Committees
  - Submit Commitment Form & Payment
  - Get payment from other participating Committees
  - Coordinate with Committees re people who will be participating and timetable
  - Assemble materials for display and distribution
  - Assemble materials to be sold (tshirts, brick forms, memberships, etc)
- Approval of costs of \$50 to get 8x10 glossys printed for display at events. Passed 5:0.
- Fetch! items discussed briefly. Suggestion to add reminder about brick orders, links to free dog-related books available from Ian Dunbar and Steve Schwartz, and to 'thank' park users for spreading sand, snow maintenance, and picking up poo. To be distributed before the end of March.

#### Misc. Reports:

- Furnetic – Deborah reported about her meeting with Furnetic; proposal to request whether we can post their presentation about dog park issues; it was noted that Furnetic wants to be involved; Deborah will coordinate a meeting sometime in the future.
- South Poop – DMF reported that the South Poop site was fairly popular.
- Greener South Loop Alliance – The question of how the SLDogPAC could contribute to the 'greening' of the South Loop was raised for future discussion. Direct possibilities include 'green bags' and 'composting'.
- Brick Orders – we have two brick orders in the queue. Wendy has the details, and will notify people to temper expectations about turnaround time.

#### Next Meeting:

- Next meeting will be the Membership Meeting, to be held April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 pm, at the 18<sup>th</sup> x State CPD Station public meeting room.
- dmf, acting Secretary, 3.25.10

**Present:** Wendy, Doug, Lynda, Deborah, at Lynda's house (Pam Focia not able to attend)

**Updates:**

- Past:
  - ~ Decals have been distributed to all members. The system seems to be working well.

- Current:

- ~ South Loop DogPAC Membership Totals by Category

	prior to drive	2/18/10	3/18/10
Business	2	4	5
Lifetime	9	9	9
Supporting	13	14	14
Full	11	19	25
Basic	0	3	4
<i>Total</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>57</i>

New members 14 8

*Total new members* 22

- ~ All board members are continuing to contact individual/businesses who are up for renewal and/or who have indicated they might be willing to become members.
  - Deborah: Tina, Brooke, Pat Miller, UPS Store
  - Lynda: Bonnie McGrath, Kriser's
  - Wendy: Beth Schipke, Urban Outfitters
  - Doug: Bob Fioretti, Sky55 – they have also requested flyers
  - Stephanie: LeeAnn Trotter, Eve Kronin, Sharon Evans, Karla Shell, Judy Parker, Mary Wheeler.
- ~ Condo buildings
  - Doug is still working this. He is contacting the condo associations to (a) identify the appropriate contact person, and (b) determine the number of condo units in the south loop.
- ~ Fencers
  - Deborah has been unsuccessful at completing this task. Lynda has generously agreed to take over. Deborah will email her draft text, and also a list of organizations and contact information. Lynda will revise the text, and will contact the appropriate businesses/individuals.
- ~ Pub Crawl
  - Pam Focia is organizing a fundraising membership event to take place before the end of April. Adam (Che) is the owner of a bar in River North, and he has offered to host the event as long as it is on a week night. His bar, *Clark Street Ale House*, even allows dogs. We agreed that this location will be fine, even though it's not located in the South Loop, but we'd like to make sure that Adam is a member, or business member.
  - Pam needs someone to help her organize this event, as Kerry is not able to. Wendy will ask Bud to check with a person he knows (a physical therapist in a local chiropractic office).
  - We are still on schedule to have the Pub Crawl take place before the end of April.

- Future:

- ~ Member Appreciation Night: We agreed that we need to start thinking about and planning for a Member Appreciation Night. Our plan is to have this in August or September, after we are closer to our goal of 210 members, but while the weather is still nice.
- ~ Additional ideas to increase membership. We agreed that we should pursue the One-Trick-Class and the Dog Wash in particular. Finding someone to organize and oversee these two events is our next step.
  - A SLDogPAC Dog Walk. Deborah will continue discussions with Carolyn Kay about this.
  - Pick-Up-The-Poop Day. We will continue thinking about this.
  - Make Friends. We agreed to try to get to know some of the dog-cliques and small groups of regulars sprinkled around the south loop, and encourage them to become members and/or become active as appropriate.
  - SLDogPAC Trick Class. This was suggested by Steve during a Maintenance Meeting. This would be a one-time event (although if it went well, we might have multiple ones of them) where folks would pay an amount, e.g. buy a membership, and would get to teach their dog one or two tricks. We'd have to have a professional trainer volunteer their time, perhaps Daniel (mentioned by Steve) or Wendy DeCarlo (mentioned by Deborah).
  - Vet Class. This would be similar to the above, but might teach a skill like how to trim your dog's nails. It could be in conjunction with Furnetics.
  - Dog Wash. Free to members. This would be a spin off from the traditional dog wash event that has been held annually. The difference is that it would be free to members. We'd schedule this sometime in June probably.

**Posting Logos in Kiosks:**

- We agreed to hold off on doing much with this until the Maintenance Committee figures out how to purchase/move/install adequate kiosks in the two parks.

**Got-A-Dog and Thanks for Joining Flyers:**

- Lynda printed up a mess of Got-A-Dog's and will send 20-30 to Joanna Johnson at 701 South Wells. She will also drop some off at Dr. B's and at Kriser's.
- Lynda will also print up Thanks-For-Joining flyers and put them in Wendy's mailbox.

**Business Members:**

- We currently have five business members. They all have received their decals.
  - Furnetics
  - Soggy Paws
  - South Loop Veterinary Hospital
  - Dr. B's
  - MJM Dog Walkers
- We agreed we need to develop a relationship with Dogone Fun.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, April 14, 6pm, 801 South Plymouth Court, Apt. 521.

**South Loop DogPAC  
Maintenance Committee Meeting  
February 25, 2010  
Summary**

**Present:** Pam, Steve, Stephanie, Deborah

**Spring Clean Ups:**

- We agreed that Pam Focia will head this up.
- Dates for clean ups. These have tentatively been set for May 1 and May 8. May 1 conflicts with Bark in the Park so we agreed that we may want to schedule it for a different day.
- Steve had many suggestions for keeping the parks cleaner including integrating some type of dog/owner program as part of the cleanup, and better policing of dogs with tags to reduce health issues.

**Snow and Ice:**

- Deborah and Greg re-stocked the sand at both parks.
- Deborah put a sign on the lid at GBP. Hopefully this will discourage folks from putting poo in. There was one bag of poo in the sand container at Coliseum, but the lid had snow on it so you couldn't read the sign.
- Sand is a cheap solution, but (a) requires a strong person, (b) needs to be re-stocked frequently, and (c) we're not sure it's particularly effective.
- We agreed to continue exploring other alternatives for next year.

**Restocking Poo Bags at DFAs:**

- Stephanie and Doug are the two people doing this.

**Keys:**

- We now have a current inventory of sets of keys. We agreed that Deborah will maintain this inventory. Let her know if you want a set.

**Kiosks:**

- We need "new" kiosks at the two parks. Actually, at GBP we need kiosks that are more visible, and in Coliseum, we need kiosks that are larger and sturdier. Deborah spoke with someone from another dog park and got a recommendation of a sturdy outdoor kiosk from an online company in Milwaukee called Direct Advantage, product number UV 405, cost \$316.93, 60x36".
- It turns out that the GBP kiosks can be moved. We need to figure out how to repaint/cover the exposed surface. We also need to come up with a plan for mounting them on the fence (could be a bracket or something), and where to hang them. And also who will do it and when.
- Coliseum kiosk needs replacing, but the fence isn't strong enough.

**General Maintenance Items:**

- Deborah WD-40d kiosk and bag dispenser locks, and the latches on the two gates.
- We agreed that Deborah will send photos of needed maintenance at CPD to Pam Focia so she will be able to email Janice at CPD about getting it taken care of: (1) A broken hanging light, and also one that is burned out; (2) the horizontal cross bar on the back (south) fence has come down; and (3) the lock on the gate on the east fence is loose and doesn't fully close.

**Next meeting:** April 1 2010, at 6pm at 801 South Plymouth Court, Apt. 521.