

Meeting held @ 1255 S. Michigan Ave #1305 7:00 pm

Present: Doug Freymann, Lynda Young, Chloe Keidaish & Juli Valdez. *Also present* - Member Pamela Focia. *Absent:* Deborah Perry, Stephanie Daugherty, Wendy Ito

1. Approval of the June meeting minutes distributed 7.7.10 – passed 4:0
2. Pamela Focia discussed preparation for the membership event to be held at Krolls South Loop on July 15th from 6-9pm. These included:
 - a. finalizing flyer design & distribution – Chloe will distribute 4 ups to Doggone Fun and GBP over the weekend; Pam will laminate 8.5x11's for posting at area parks (Juli & Pam).
 - b. Krolls is donating \$250 in support of the event, an in-kind donation which earns them business membership in the SLDogPAC. The menu of veggie & dips & mini sandwiches will be finalized by Pam.
 - c. A motion to permit 'beer costs' of up to \$250 during the event was passed 4:0 (the full amount won't be needed unless the crowd warrants it).
 - d. Lynda will get cash for change; Doug will retrieve the cash box (as well as display pictures) from the storage unit to give to Lynda before the event.
 - e. All board members present indicated that they will be at the event, to arrive beforehand to help setup (5:30pm).
 - f. Display items *still needed*: benefits of membership; why join the SLDogPAC; membership forms, decals brought to the event.
3. Chloe & Juli are coordinating a membership table to be setup at GBP on Saturday July 24th. It was suggested that if this goes well, we should keep it going as an ongoing monthly program. It would be helpful to have a 'packet' of items that could be carried along each time a membership table was setup.

Generalizing this idea, we will begin a program monitoring events in the area in order to provide an SLDogPAC presence. Upcoming events include Dog Day on the Green (August 29th, Montrose Harbor), and Bash on Wabash (September 4th, 5th, on Wabash). Juli will head the committee identifying and coordinating event participation.

4. A location for an August DogWash has not been determined yet. It was suggested that the 'Old St. Mary's' parking lot might be a feasible site. Lynda agreed to look into this possibility.

5. Doug reported a review of financial information obtained from the Treasurer - all accounts have been reconciled and are current, and there has been some progress towards setting up budget tracking in the software. This should be completed by next month.
6. Doug and Juli reported on their meeting with representatives of the Alderman's office and the Chicago Park District on June 29th. Briefly, Elizabeth Tomlins, project manager at the CPD, is full of good ideas, and it appears that the project has substantial financial support from the Alderman's office. This will be the first park in the city that is entirely a 'dog park', and it will encompass ~1 acre in the vacant area on the east side of Wabash just south of 16th St. The project is at the 'idea stage' currently, and will move towards the 'design stage' over the next couple of months. We discussed a long list of amenities that we would like to see incorporated in the park. Some highlights include:
 - a. Beth indicated that she was considering installation of a water feature (i.e. a fountain, continuous flowing water area) – an idea that was strongly supported by SLDogPAC representatives.
 - b. We proposed that there be at least two double gated entrances. Ideally one would be on the east side of the park (against the alley), but it was noted that city policy is not to encourage traffic through alleyways.
 - c. Beth indicated that she was aware of the value of a pavilion, and was likely to incorporate one into the design. Juli suggested installation of heat lamps in the park, perhaps as part of the pavilion, so that there would be a warm place in the winter – this is a great idea!
 - d. Designing the park for maintenance (e.g. of the gravel areas) and pre-fitting for required elements, such as bulletin boards at the entrance, and dog poo bag dispensers within the park.
 - e. The role of asphalt or hard surface in the park was discussed. It was noted that asphalt is a 'poo-free area' - this means that the fact that it can be easily sanitized is largely irrelevant, and that it is critically important that proper attention be given to the maintenance, drainage, and cleaning of the 'pea-gravel' areas.
 - f. Alternate surfaces were discussed briefly, with some attention given to artificial grass, particularly if the design incorporates a 'Fetch Area'. Beth has already begun considering this possibility, and we will help research supporting information (e.g. usage at other parks).
 - g. The park will be large enough to include a 'small dog area', and to define different areas of the park by using level changes, construction, and vegetation. An (abstracted) agility area is also being considered.
 - h. Beth proposed the notion of designating some of the available space as a 'café area' outside of the park fencing, with the vision that a concession could be setup

adjacent to the park to allow people to enjoy a coffee or a snack while watching the dogs play. It was agreed that this is an awesome idea.

- i. The idea of sponsoring or facilitating 'training events' at the dog park was discussed – this would require specific approvals be made to/by the CPD, but it was thought that this could be a nice vehicle for promoting dog education and should be pursued.
7. The issue of 'showing the community what their money from membership is going towards' was discussed, and will be returned to at the next meeting. Although we have made an effort to try to define 'benefits of membership' (on the website), these do not necessarily address the question – what do membership fees pay for – and they do not make a compelling, nor widely distributed, argument for becoming a member. For example, as was noted at the community meeting in April, our park notices call for pitching in, but they do not spell out 'your membership supports a budget of XYZ, and we need XYZ members in order to maintain the park'.

As a first step, it was agreed that the 'slogan' should be more direct than the current one – by a vote of 4:0 the board agreed to adopt the phrase 'Support your local dog parks' to be placed below the name of the organization any time it appears on printed (or online) materials.

8. Chloe will continue work on developing a 'where is the park' handout, and on revising the park banner (pending access to the original 2009 banner photoshop file through DropBox). We will return to revisions of the GotADog and Membership flyers at the next meeting.
9. Chloe will continue updating the Facebook page with pictures and other elements. Doug will review the website for improvements in content and structure.
10. Park maintenance issues. The dog poo bag dispenser program currently has four people supporting it – Stephanie, Doug, Chloe, and Coliseum Park user Janet Rooney. Each has keys, bags, and (in principle) are included in the Google Voice text notification system. There are two remaining boxes of bags (4000) in the storage unit. Doug will buy a broom, a scooper for the drains, and a longer hose for GBP this month. Lynda will look into ideas for a lockable storage shed to be added at GBP – it was noted that the shed should 'look nice'.

Planning for cleaning and/or replacement of the gravel area at GBP (and the gravel areas at CPDR) should be beginning now. However, there are a number of issues that need to be addressed first, and it may make more sense to put this off for the time being. These include: cost (!), how to remove the gravel and then replace it (Lynda reported that the access path to the GBP will not support a truck, so that all materials need to be moved in and out by hand), how to

prevent gravel loss 'next time' (e.g. the need to install screening along the west fence of GBP; although the screening installation at CPDR works well, it is showing signs of wear after just three months and we'll need to revise the installation in light of this), and, finally, whether it might be more cost effective and dog-friendly over the long term to consider whether there might be a replacement, such as artificial grass, that would be easier to maintain.

11. It was noted that the Board continues to need to recruit new members, particularly to support its financial and secretarial missions as it continues to evolve. We need to remind the membership of this periodically (through Fetch?) and also to reach out to dog-friendly colleagues who might be interested in joining.

12. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 5th at 7pm, at 1255 S. Michigan, #1305.

Doug Freymann, Secretary
7.13.10 – draft