

SOUTH LOOP DOG PAC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 14TH, 2011

Present: Lynda Young, Stephanie Daugherty, Doug Freymann, Pamela Focia, Juli Valdez;
Absent: Wendy Ito; *Chicago Park District:* Lauren Polinsky, Jackie Guthrie

A) ADMINISTRATIVE

- February Minutes approved 5:0

B) DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

- Welcome to Jackie Guthrie, Park Supervisor, Daley Bicentennial Plaza (Grant Bark Park), and Lauren Polinsky, Park Supervisor, Park 550 (Coliseum Park).
- Various issues discussed:
 - Trash: The phone number listed near the trash cans doesn't result in action. We will ask users to text SLDogPAC and we will forward the request to Jackie or Lauren for action
 - Bulletin Board: We will keep Jackie in the loop about the installation this spring.
 - General Maintenance: OK to contact Jackie or Lauren about maintenance issues (e.g. broken latches, repair needs, etc).
 - Gravel: Jackie and Claudine Malik of the CPD are working together to coordinate with Verizon for removal of fencing to allow gravel delivery.
 - Landscape Cloth: Jackie will talk to people about the installation of landscape cloth along the west fence to prevent gravel loss. We need to be sure that maintenance/landscaping knows about the installation.
 - Hiring Contractors: Jackie will look into the process for obtaining workers to spread the gravel once delivered. *[Update: Jackie suggests that CPD workers are already committed to other projects, so better to hire outside contractors to redistribute gravel. Pam proposes 'gravel distribution parties' with volunteers.]*
 - GBP Asphalt Deterioration: Stephanie raised the question of whether there was a warranty on the asphalt. Gail Merritt had brought this up previously, but had obtained no information. Jackie will look into this issue.
 - Art on the Fence: In order to proceed, we need to submit a letter to the beautification committee explaining what would be installed, the value, the planned maintenance, and acknowledgment that the CPD would retain ownership of the installed artwork.
 - Verizon: No real explanation for the lack of communication prior to the takeover.
 - Bag Dispensers in Other Parks: To proceed with this, we will need to write a letter 'offering to provide and maintain dog bag dispensers as an in kind donation' of ~\$1K/year including volunteer hours required for maintenance,

and accompanied by letters of support from the park advisory committees (Roosevelt, Cottontail, others). Lynda will get the contact information for the various park advisory committees.

- Poo Free Parks: The proposal from Poo Free Parks that we support is to install dispensers on street corners throughout the South Loop, rather than installing them in the parks. If pursuing the latter, however, the issue (advertising supported dispensers) would have to go through the CPD Legal Department.
- 16th & Wabash DFA: No update was available. It was noted that the proposed 'stage' in the park may have a role in revenue generation. The question of whether TIF funds could also be used to support improvements (e.g. asphalt replacement) at Grant Bark Park was raised, but with no resolution. *[Update: Leslie Recht will be surveying area parks with Jackie in the near future.]*
- Coliseum Park Alley: The alley behind the DFA is generally dirty. It is 'cleaned' by the City (not the CPD).
- Park Cleanup: Generally cleanup at the parks is done by the Landscaping division. However, it was not known what the policy is regarding the DFAs. Jackie will check into this (as well as the policy for frequency of trash pickup). *[Update: CPD Landscaping policy is to not enter the DFAs, so cleanup is entirely the responsibility of the support committee. Trash is picked up weekly, more frequently in the summer.]*
- Clean & Green: There will be a South Loop Clean & Green event held on April 16th. Leslie Recht can be contacted about coordinating a DFA cleanup during this event. Juli will coordinate.
- Dog 'Issues': It was noted that the CPD representatives do not receive untoward complaints about dogs, other than the 'usual'.
- Charging for DFA Access: Brief discussion of the feasibility of requiring a gate pass for access in order to insure both that funds are available for maintenance of the park and that users and their dogs 'follow the rules'. This is not current CPD policy, but some facilities (e.g. water parks) do charge for access. Other parks, e.g. Skokie, and Evanston, do charge for access. This could be brought up with the Planning & Development divisions, noting that the idea arises from the fact that we have a lot of experience with maintenance issues at the park (which they do not have).
- Proposed Fixes: Jackie and Lauren requested that we not go 'wildcat' on fixes, but that we send pictures and proposed fixes to them before we do anything so that they are in the loop. We specifically identified the depressions around the drains at Coliseum Park DFA as an issue we need to address. *[Update: Lauren has submitted a work order to level the drains.]*
- Prioritization: It was suggested that we assemble a list of proposed fixes and improvements, and assign priorities for future discussion and action. Items include: i) Fence repair, ii) Repositioning the south CPDR gate, iii) Barriers around the CPDR gravel areas, among other proposals.

- We will follow up again later in the spring once we have an idea what projects we'd like to pursue. Both representatives welcomed the opportunity for another meeting.
- It was noted and agreed that the SLDogPAC is providing a community service for the City.
- SLDogPAC should submit an FOIA request for the original GBP construction documents (design, costs, allocations, contractors) in order to have complete information about the park.

C) POO-FREE PARKS

- Alderman Fioretti has been contacted about the Poo Free Parks proposal. The other Aldermen who represent areas of the South Loop will be contacted in the near future.

D) MAINTENANCE

Grant Bark Park: Pam is coordinating the gravel replacement project.

Coliseum Park: We still need to setup a meeting with Coliseum Park DFA users in the spring to gauge support for some of the proposed improvements, and for the idea of contracting Poop911 to carry out periodic cleanups.

E) MEMBERSHIP

- Fetch!, Facebook and website outreach for the 2011 Membership Drive will go out this week. *[Update: Membership renewal letters sent 4.1.11; Facebook notice posted 4.2.11; Fetch! sent 4.7.11; followups will be continued through April]*
- Lynda has sent out 'Thank You' letters to SLDogPAC business members and others who have donated services and materials in the last year.

G) OUTREACH

- We will begin a monthly park table program at GBP in the spring. Lynda is willing to volunteer for this in May.
- Juli has contacted Donna's Café, but there have been no discussions yet.
- Juli suggested that we could reach out to Condo Associations in the South Loop to ask for donations and/or membership support. Doug will provide Juli with the 'Condo Map'. Lynda will contact a 'realtor friend' to provide a contact list for area condominium buildings.

H) PARK BANNER & SIGNAGE

- Lynda is working on designs.

I) NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting will be held in April.

PENDING ITEMS (JANUARY & FEBRUARY MEETINGS):

1. Installation of bulletin board at GBP.

2. Coordinate meeting of Coliseum Park Users; determine support for Poop911 cleanup; support for 'gravel pockets' reconfiguration.
3. Sign posted at CPDR raising issue of cleanup and gravel areas.
4. Website survey for park users (CPDR specifics as above; also regarding membership and involvement).
5. Continue raising issue of Poo Free Parks with Alderman of Wards 2, 3, & 25; publicity for the proposal.
6. Local media re SLDogPAC membership drive.
7. Print more GotADog flyers.
8. Contact Café Society re holding an outdoor dog-friendly membership party.
9. Contact local condo boards about providing funding or membership support.
10. Contact Donna's Place to coordinate about Survey, membership, events.
11. Recruit dog-walkers as a business members - long term we'll have a 'Dog Walkers support' page on our website
12. Arrange to get a new shed for Grant Bark Park
13. Contact Katie Pape, a dogwalker on the north side who wants to coordinate with SLDogPAC.

draft – 4.11.11

dmf