

Meeting held @ 61 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St., #901 7:00 pm

*Present:* Juli Valdez, Doug Freymann, Stephanie Daugherty, Wendy Ito (Skype). *Absent:* Lynda Young. Also *present:* member Pamela Focia, park user Sabrina Harkrader.

#### 1. ADMINISTRATIVE & MISCELLANEOUS

- Approval of the August 26th meeting minutes distributed on 8.29.10 – passed 3:0:1
- Doug reported that he has not yet ordered the new bulletin board for GBP, nor the water-free hand cleanser dispenser. Stephanie has contacted Columbia College about student interns to help with decorating the ‘gravel screen’ (see below). Wendy suggested talking to Ace Hardware about possibly contributing a new broom and a brush for GBP. Stephanie will take care of this.
- Approval to reimburse Pamela Focia \$30 for purchase of a plastic ‘standing table’ used at the Kriser’s event 9/12/10, and to be used at GBP – passed 4:0. Pamela will be reimbursed from cash box funds.
- Juli will coordinate with Sarah about hosting a table at GBP in October. It’s unlikely that anyone will have time to host a membership table there in September.

#### 2. BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

- The history and purpose of the SLDogPAC, and the obligations and time commitment required of effective board members were briefly outlined for Sabrina Harkrader, who has indicated an interest in joining the board. Subsequently Sabrina and Chris Crevier (not present at this meeting), were emailed further information and a copy of the board member commitment form.
- Pam reported conversations she had had with members of other DFA committees, particularly Mondog (Montrose Dog Beach), that indicated that problems with commitment, motivation and support are widespread and have the potential to lead to disaffection among board members and volunteers.
- Stephanie suggested, and it was agreed by the board, that it would be good to try to get media coverage of some of the ‘issues’ that DFA committees are facing these days. For example, that park users do not understand that the committees, not the City, are responsible and must pay for maintenance and improvements. Such an effort could be coordinated with other DFA groups. It was agreed to make this a future focus (perhaps over the winter?).

#### 3. BRICKS

- Stephanie will contact Midwest Engraving to get current pricing, ordering & shipping info. Midwest Engraving made the first batch of bricks at GBP.

- Wendy will coordinate with Stephanie to assemble the information for the current brick orders.
- We will order bricks to be installed before Winter. A 'last call for bricks' will be posted to Facebook & Fetch! to allow members to order bricks for this year.
- As soon as we have the order in, Wendy will notify people that their bricks are on order.
- There is question about the quality of the bricks installed last year – these need to be reviewed at GBP, and we need to decide whether or not to re-order some of those bricks.

#### 4. FORMS REVISIONS

- A revision of the SLDogPAC business cards submitted to the board by Lynda Young was discussed at the meeting. A number of details still need to be ironed out (the slogan, the font, the email address, inclusion of Twitter & Facebook icons, & etc.); Doug will coordinate.
- Approval of \$25 to get a 100+ test printing of the 'Where are the parks' flyers in postcard format from Vistaprint – passed 4:0
- It was suggested that the 'Where are the parks' flyer be uploaded to the southloopdogpac.org website as a downloadable PDF file.

#### 5. PARK BANNERS & SIGNAGE / COLUMBIA COLLEGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- Stephanie suggested that a good approach to redesigning the park banner would be to avail ourselves of the student internship program at Columbia College. *This is a great idea* – particularly if we can coordinate with the College to request assistance on the several design projects that we have in mind - to the benefit of both the SLDogPAC and the student interns: (a) a park banner for GBP that explains to park users who's responsible for what, how memberships support the park, and that we need to work as a community; (b) drawings or paintings to be incorporated into the gravel screening to be installed along the west edge of GBP; (c) 'rules cartoons' highlighting the key behaviors that we expect park users to be aware of (e.g. pick up poo, responsible for dog, need to have permit, caution with interactions at the park gates, etc), to be posted at the gates and around the park; (d) (Wendy's suggestion) design and construction of 'metal sculptures' to be attached to the fencing to help give character and place to the GBP site.
- Stephanie will complete the application process and sign SLDogPAC up to participate in the program at Columbia College. Stephanie and Doug will coordinate to draft specifications for first 'jobs' to be submitted (expecting to present at the October board meeting).
- It's possible that some of these ideas may require CPD 'approval' – Doug will follow up with Janis Taylor in October.

6. 16<sup>TH</sup> & WABASH DFA

- Discussion of what role the SLDogPAC can/should play in gauging public support and/or advocating for construction of the proposed dog park at Wabash south of 16<sup>th</sup> St. A couple of key points include: (a) that there is strong support for such a park in the community; (b) that there is also opposition to such a park; (c) that supporters of the park have proposed organizing a petition to be presented to the Alderman and the CPD to demonstrate that there is strong neighborhood support for and an acknowledged need for a new dog park in the south South Loop; (d) that some members of the board are opposed to ‘taking a position’ on this issue; (e) that other members of the board believe that support for construction of dog parks in the South Loop is part of the mission of the South Loop Dog PAC in advocating for and supporting the development of responsible dog ownership in the community.
- Concern was raised that the ‘politics’ of the park are not fully understood, nor is the depth of the commitment of the Alderman’s office to a particular vision of a large (~1 acre) well-designed park. For example, the SLDogPAC has little interest in providing support for a 1/10<sup>th</sup> acre park (as recently opened in the West Loop), because such a park would likely have little impact on current dog/owner behavior in the community (e.g. not ‘providing an alternative place for dogs to play’).
- However, it was agreed that the SLDogPAC can, minimally, act as a conduit to gauge community support for the construction of the 16<sup>th</sup> & Wabash park, and that it should help promote discussion of the issues raised by the park among the disparate elements of the community.
- Juli agreed to contact Leslie Recht, Alderman Fioretti’s liaison, to arrange a meeting with us. Doug and Juli will also follow up with member Jeanette Johnson (also of the GSLA board) about how to coordinate efforts with other advocates in the community.

## 7. FALL CLEANUP

- The Coliseum Park Dog Run cleanup is scheduled for Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>. The cleanup will be announced in the mid-September Fetch! and signs posted at the park before the end of the month. Pamela Focia will arrange for a leaf blower and a power washer. Pamela will also contact Soggy Paws about supplying coffee and (good) donuts. We will make last-minute decisions about supplies (bleach, etc) at the October board meeting.
- Among items that need to be planned for CPDR are: (a) installing screen fencing along the complete west side fence (along the alley) to prevent trash entering, and gravel leaving; (b) a plan to fix the gaps in the gates and the fencing that allow small dogs to escape the park; (c) installation of low rubber barriers to (for the time being) help prevent gravel leaving the patches in the interior of the park – Pam will get information about this material. Wendy

noted that we might be able to recruit a landscaping company to donate labor and ideas for reconfiguring the gravel areas – perhaps as a longer term project for the Spring.

- The Grant Bark Park cleanup is scheduled for Sunday November 7<sup>th</sup>. Planning for this cleanup will begin at the October board meeting, and it will be announced in the October Fetch!

8. MEMBERSHIP PARTY

- Pamela Focia reported that she has confirmed the November 4<sup>th</sup> date for the Supporting and Business membership party with Kroll's South Loop. Planning and announcement of the party will follow the October board meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

- The October meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 7<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM, Location to be determined.

Doug Freymann, Secretary

9.17.10 draft