

**South Loop Dog Park Action Cooperative meeting minutes from
1/13/05 6:30 pm – 9:40 pm**

Attendees: Mary Gawenda, Kristine Lyons, Beth Schipke, Mike Schipke, Gail Merritt, Wayne Fron, Wendy Ito, Stephanie Shapiro

A motion was made by Beth Schipke to approve the minutes from our meeting of 12/28/04. This was seconded by Wayne Fron and everyone voted to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report – Wayne Fron

Wayne provided an updated accounting of the funds we have raised and the funds available for use. Currently available (unrestricted) \$53,254.46. Once SLN approves our separation we will break our financial bond with them. Wayne provided SLN with all financial statements that were requested.

CPD Grant Bark Park Update – Gail Merritt

Gail met with the CPD dog park design team. The park has been expanded slightly to include the tree lined area. There will be two double gated entrances. The park will also include a doggie drinking fountain. Other enhancements would be additional expenses and something we could do in the future.

The cost of Grant Bark Park is expected to exceed \$150,000 – the good news is the CPD will only ask us to contribute \$75,000. They will cover the rest. Park construction cannot begin until asphalt season starts (May) and will take 6-8 weeks.

The skate park is still scheduled to be built next to the park where the far tennis court is now located. Mayor Daley has asked for the skate park and the space is non-negotiable.

On 2/7/05 the CPD will present the design plans to Bob O'Neil. We are then able to make this information public and plan to host a community meeting at the Police Station to announce the good news. Lara Khoury (CPD) will attend the meeting. Proposed date – Saturday, February 26. We need to try and attract media coverage for this event.

The CPD legal team has reviewed the bricks. About two-thirds of the bricks were "ok" – we will need to have some of the wording on the others changed. The CPD also wants to produce the bricks for us.

SLN Emancipation

The next SLN board meeting is 1/16/05 and this issue will be discussed and hopefully resolved).

Ebay

We have several auction items for sale. Please make sure a donor form is completed on each item. We discussed the pros/cons of listing the item with or without a reserve price. Beth will use her good judgment and make the choice based on each individual item. Ads will begin to run in the Journal.

2005 South Loop Dog Park Action Cooperative Event Calendar

- Grant Bark Park Grand Opening – July
- Dog Wash – (July/August)
- K-9 9-K – Saturday in September (so we don't have to contend with a Bear's game)
- The board agreed not to take place in the Printer's Row Book Fair.

Website

Beth recommended we have our own website. This will allow us to update and manage the site much easier. The service would include a minimal set up fee and cost \$9.00/month. We might be able to sell advertisements on the site to help cover the monthly fee.

To do: Gail will speak with Jeff (who currently owns the South Loop Dogs site) to gauge his feelings.

Fundraising

We discussed hosting an event at **Catalyst Ranch**. Some ideas:

- Not targeted to dog owners
- April/May
- Live music
- Wine tasting – can this be donated?
- Chicago Culinary Competition – utilizing the local culinary schools. Another GREAT idea from Mike!! (Art Institute, Roosevelt, Kendall College, Robert Morris)
- \$50 - \$75 ticket price
- Catalyst Ranch would donate the space but we would need to pay the servers (\$600).
- Cost of food

To do: Wendy I. and Mike will gather more information on culinary schools.

The Butchers Dog – Dr. B. has mentioned this bar/restaurant would like to host an event with us. Perhaps a St. Patrick's Day benefit? We will hold our next meeting at The Butcher's Dog. This will allow us to check out the atmosphere and the space for a possible event.

Dog of the South Loop Calendar – We discussed creating a calendar featuring the dogs of the South Loop. Owners could enter their dog's picture for \$25.00 in order to have a chance of becoming one of the calendar dogs. Perhaps we could also auction (to the highest bidder) the front and back covers. The pictures would be posted on the website and members would vote on their favorites. The winners would appear in the calendar. We could create an eighteen month or 2006 calendar. **To do:** Kristine will gather more information.

Membership Renewal

Several items discussed. We will have an annual renewal process– if someone purchased less than 1 year ago we can pro-rate their membership fee. We will offer individual, joint (family) senior and corporate memberships. The timeframes of the memberships will range from 1 yr, 3 yrs, 5 yrs and lifetime. Please refer to Wayne's Proposed Membership Fee Schedule. **To do:** Wendy I. and Kristine will work on this process. Wendy will also ask her brother-in-law if he can update our membership brochure.

Insurance

It was agreed we should look into getting coverage to indemnify the Directors.

To do: check language in by-laws regarding this issue.

Operating Principles

Our mission is to make the South Loop the most dog friendly area in Chicago. We need to feel comfortable speaking out on any issues and expressing our ideas and concerns. We can do this in a professional manner. No one should take anything personally. Everything we are doing is for the dog park.

Mike motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm and Wayne seconded the motion.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at The Butcher's Dog, 649 S. Clark St., on 1/27/05 at 6:30 pm.