

SOUTH LOOP DOG PAC MEMBERSHIP & BOARD MEETING

6:00 PM, JULY 25TH, 2011 GRANT BARK PARK

MINUTES

Present: Doug Freymann, Pamela Focia, Wendy Ito, Stephanie Daugherty; *Absent:* Juli Valdez, Lynda Young; *Also Present:* Kate Currin, Kate Harms

A) ADMINISTRATIVE & MISCELLANEOUS

- o June Minutes *approved 4:0*
- o Pam to attend the Ward 02 South Loop Townhall Meeting, 7.28.11

B) MEMBERSHIP & FINANCIALS

- o Currently 59 paid SLDogPAC memberships.
- o Outreach: Fetch! Mailing list: 195 active addresses; Facebook Page: 189 Likes; Twitter: 141 Followers; Website: 3337 visits (2781 visitors) since Jan 1st.
- o Financials: Operating Account: \$ 3277.85; Reserve Account: \$6129.26

C) 2010-11 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ISSUES

- o The bag dispenser program at both parks is working well.
- o Fence gravel barriers were put up at Coliseum Park Dog Run.
- o Gravel replenishment at Grant Bark Park (and fence barrier planning).
 - > *Approval of \$450 for landscape cloth to be purchased and installed at GBP later this year – passed 4:0*
- o We have begun outreach to other Chicago DFA committees to try to develop a forum for dog park support and advocacy groups across the city to begin to work together (e.g. on the PooFreeParks proposal, or support for dog parks).
- o We have created a new page on our website (southloopdogpac.org) that provides information about and contact information for **all** of the Chicago DFA's.
 - > *Kate will try to identify who supports the Lake Shore East park.*
- o Monitoring and feedback for dog park proposal at 16th & Wabash. Our FOIA request reveals very limited public comment on the park design, most of it generally supportive. Pam reported that TIF funding approval was still pending. Park design is on hold; additional comment has been invited by the Alderman's representative. SLDogPAC has criticized park design, but is otherwise not involved in advocacy for, or support of, the proposed dog run.

Some of the ongoing issues and concerns include:

- o SLDogPAC Board development remains a huge issue.
- o No continued development of SLDogPAC programs/events.
- o Weekly park presence and membership recruitment remains spotty, to say the

least.

- Slow development of GBP and CPDR user involvement in SLDogPAC / dogpark support activities.
- Stephanie coordinated a request to Friends of the Parks for water fountain at CPDR; the proposal was not approved.
 - > *We will re-submit in January 2012.*
- Proposals to develop condo support for dog park activity have stalled.
- Limited further involvement in new dog park advocacy in the South Loop (e.g. signups 4.2010).
- The PooFreeParks proposal has stalled (CPD resistance).

D) GRANT BARK PARK

- A locked storage shed for poo bags and equipment is needed at GBP
 - > *Decision to get a storage shed similar to that at Coliseum Park Dog Run for tools, brooms & etc. Once purchased, we will lock the lockbox, converting it for secure storage of bags, a power-washer, etc. Pam will identify a source and costs.*
- Possibility of requiring a gate pass for entrance to Grant Bark Park
 - > *Implementing a gate pass system for park access might provide a means to maintain financial support for park maintenance and to ensure access is limited to responsible dog owners. Gate pass (or access pass) systems are widely used at dog parks (e.g. Evanston, Skokie, Cook County, and elsewhere). The board will explore the possibility of implementing a gate pass system for Grant Bark, and plans to discuss the issue with other DFA committees (e.g. Mondog) and with CPD representatives.*
 - > *We will setup an online user survey on this issue for park users in the coming months.*
- Kiddie Pools
 - > *Online survey indicates strong support for pools at the park (the question was not asked to invite consideration of sanitation concerns, however).*
 - > *The pools were filthy at the time of the Board meeting, and dogs were seen peeing in the pool (which was then emptied). On the other hand, discussion with other park users suggested that many people were responsible – emptying the pools when dirty, cleaning and re-filling, and storing emptied overnight. Users were observed taking care of the pools properly.*
 - > *Users were not aware of the ‘Pool Rules’ posted on the lock box. Therefore, these rules have to be posted more prominently at the gates and on the bulletin board. Doug will revise and re-post.*
- Long term gravel and surface replacement.
 - > *Complete gravel replacement at GBP would cost too much (at least \$6000). We can't do it (given current community support).*
- Clean-up planning.

*> The focus of the early Fall GBP cleanup will be powerwashing the existing gravel area using a dilute bleach solution in order to make some headway towards sanitizing the area. Note that this will have to take place **after** the landscape cloth is installed along the west fence. A second focus will be removal of weeds growing up in the brick area.*

> The cleanup will be scheduled at the next board meeting.

F) COMMUNITY ISSUES

- PooFreeParks/Poo Bag Dispensers in area parks.

> The board will try to contact new Chicago Park District management personnel about this issue.

> Decision was also made to cut off and remove the old 'round' bag dispensers installed for the previous neighborhood bag program (this may require contacting Streets & Sanitation, Electrical Dept.).

G) BOARD DEVELOPMENTS

- Election of Kate Currin to the South Loop Dog PAC board.

> Approved by a vote of 4:0

- Resignations: After nine years involvement with the SLDogPAC, this was Stephanie Daugherty's last meeting as a member of the board. It was also the last meeting for Wendy Ito, who has been a board member for seven years.

Both have made remarkable contributions to the development of Grant Bark Park; the dog community in the South Loop owes both a debt of gratitude for their work over the years.

I) NEXT MEETING

- *The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 22nd, location to be announced.*