

**South Loop Dog PAC
Board Meeting Minutes
Nov 17, 2011**

Board Members: Doug Freymann, Pamela Focia, Gordon Stewart, Juli Valdez; Absent: Lynda Young, Kate Currin.

- October Minutes approved 4:0
- Nov 19th Rovernight Meetup: Doug will be there prior to the event to setup; Lynda will bring T-shirts; Pam plans to show up ~10:30a.
- Financials Review: Reviewed income/expenses for 2011 (to date) – an income (memberships and donations) of \$1419 against expenses of \$3347 for the year is clearly not sustainable. Maintenance costs totaling \$1817, are, rightfully, the major expense – so that's good – however the cost of liability insurance (\$1000) also has significant impact.

Given our reserves (savings) at the current rate we can operate for three more years – it is essential that we come up with strategies to improve the financial support for SLDogPAC.

- Do other DFA support groups have liability insurance? We understand that we need it in order to hold/participate in public fundraising events.
- 2012 Budget will be discussed at the December meeting.
- Membership Planning: 'Basic' membership level is not making a significant contribution, and we'd like to get T-shirts out there. So, motion that there be three levels of membership for 2012, all to include a T-shirt:
 - Full (\$40)
 - Supporting (\$85)
 - Business (\$150)

Approved 4:0. These changes will require updating the membership form and online form to include T-shirt size. Changes will be in place by Jan 1, 2012 (Doug will take care of this).

The issue/problem of prorating memberships was discussed, but not resolved. Memberships will continue to renew for the year on April 1st, with the allowance that memberships paid between January 1st and Mar 31st of a given year will continue for the subsequent year.

- Our goal has to be to have 100 paying members in 2012
- Agreement to also sell T-shirts on our website for \$20. Pam will coordinate shipping. There will be some issues with inventory management and payment to be worked out.
- Election of Treasurer: Motion to appoint Gordon Stewart to the position of Treasurer approved 4:0 (effective January 1st since he will be out of town for much of December).

Doug will coordinate transfer of Quickbooks files, Dropbox configuration, and contact with Roy at CCB to make arrangements.

- January Event: Gordon mentioned a Car Wash venue that could host a dog-friendly event, and will look into it further. Pam to approach Paradise4Paws about the possibility of holding an event there.
 - We will emphasize community events in 2012.
 - General agreement with the proposal to wear black SLDogPAC t-shirts at any future public meetings about dogpark issues (and to encourage 'black t-shirts' by the dog friendly public that does not yet own an SLDogPAC t-shirt).
- Required Submissions: Kate will be submitting our Annual Report to the Secretary of State (by the end of November), along with a Change in Registered Agent form (since she is now Secretary).
- Remaining GBP Fixes: We need to figure out how to hang gravel mesh at the north and south ends of the park. Best idea so far is to drill into the supports to allow insertion of screws that can support the mesh. Doug and Gordon will investigate and implement whatever plan makes sense.
 - Note that if there is mesh left over, it can be installed at Coliseum Park Dog Run.
 - Note that the CPD has done nothing about requests submitted in March to level the drain and repair broken fence supports. "I have placed a work order for the drain to get leveled." - Lauren Polinsky, Chicago Park District, 4/27/11
- 16th Wabash Update: Pam and Juli provided an update about trying to schedule a meeting with the Chicago Park District about the proposed park design. No progress yet.
- CPD DFA Guidelines: Janis Taylor was contacted for insight into the origin and rationale for the "DFA Guidelines" that the CPD makes available. There is no formal process, nor is there apparently any attempt to rationalize guidelines with respect to national 'good practices' or 'dog park theory'. "Planning staff surveyed the existing parks and found there was a pattern developing. There were conversations, not meetings and therefore no minutes were taken." – Janis Taylor, CPD, 10/26/11. Janis also notes - "When a community requests a dog friendly area, we involve the community entirely in the planning of the park."
- Greener South Loop Event: Doug will attend the event to be held on December 6th at Columbia College. The board noted that we do not have sufficient funds to make a monetary contribution.

Next meeting: Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7:00pm