



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
City Hall Room 280-A
455 North Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210**

MINUTES

**RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman

Commissioners Absent: Anderson

Staff Present: Zoet, Hunt-Coffey, Angel, Harris, Knebel

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Howard Rosoff.

ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

NEW BUSINESS/STAFF REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Tab 1. Site Visit to Proposed Dog Park Location: Southeast Corner of Alden Drive/Foothill Road, Beverly Hills, California, 90210

The Recreation and Parks Commission and staff met at the proposed dog park location at 9:20 a.m. at the southeast corner of Foothill Road and Alden Drive, for a site visit with the public present. Once the tour was completed, all returned to continue the meeting in Room 280-A.

Tab 2. Proposed items for Discussion and Action Regarding the Dog Park

The meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

The commission listened to comments from the following speakers:

Lou Milkowski
Dr. Carlton Lee
Elyse Salend
Vera Markowitz
Rabbi Mendel Shusterman
Dr. Sharon Ignarro
Michael Baum
Teri Austin
Anna Baum Novak
Bill Crowe

Marcia Hobbs
Cecile Gromis
Marc Saleh
Nefahel Boram
June Brenner
Linda Maman
Paula Peck
Vicki Talbot
Roark Lamberton-Davies

Comments from speakers included socialization aspects of a dog park, not accommodating the park rules and use to any particular group, noise created by the dog park, limiting the number of dogs allowed in the park at one time, financial/budget questions, suggestions for alternate locations for a dog park, how the mitigation of the area would be handled, security concerns, support for an oversight committee, support from the local dog rescue organization located across the street from proposed park, concerns with traffic and parking in the area, resident/non-resident access, general support for the dog park project, restroom locations, design features and exits.

The Commission took a break at 11:26 a.m.
The meeting resumed at 11:35 a.m.

Chair Friedman explained the Commission wants to be thorough and discuss all components in the Staff Report. Attempt will be made to discuss each item and if a conclusion is not reached, further investigation will be made and the matter will be resolved by the October Commission Meeting in order to present their recommendations to City Council.

Mandana Motahari, a Principal with RTK Architects, Inc., provided explanation of the conceptual drawings for the Dog Park.

After Commissioner discussion, the following votes were recorded:

Residency:

MOVED by Bilak, SECONDED by Friedman, that for the purposes of the first dog park in Beverly Hills that we restrict the park to Beverly Hills Residents, those who own a business or work in Beverly Hills, and those who are guests of Beverly Hills hotels or residents, provided that they are able to display a vaccination and health status of the dog and obtain a permit from the City of Beverly Hills and display a tag to denote residency. (3/1)

AYES: Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: Rosoff
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Licensing:

MOVED by Friedman, SECONDED by Gersh, that every dog visiting our dog park is required to be licensed and in good health and spayed or neutered. If they are exempt from being spayed or neutered, they are to provide documentation. (4/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE

ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Allowable number of dogs per person:

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Rosoff, that there be a limit of three dogs per person when visiting the park. (4/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Allowable number of dogs in the park:

MOTION by Rosoff, SECONDED by Gersh, that the dog park be separated for small and large dogs. For purposes of definition, a small dog would be 25 lbs. and under. The maximum number of dogs allowed would be 20 small dogs and 20 large dogs, totaling 40 dogs in the entire park. (4/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Dog Breed Restriction:

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED by Gersh, that there will be no restrictions on the breed of dogs allowed in the dog park; all breeds are welcome. (4/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Patron Age Limits:

MOTION by Bilak, SECONDED by Rosoff, that children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult in the dog park. (4/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

The Commission took a break at 1:00 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 1:30 p.m.

Design Components:

The Commission discussed design concepts for the dog park including the double-entry gate system, shade areas, plantings, benches, other amenities in the park and vehicular access into the park for maintenance. Architect will further refine drawings and present at a future Commission Meeting. No action taken.

Surface Material:

MOTION by Rosoff, SECONDED by Friedman, that the Recreation and Parks Commission rejects the use of dirt, grass or wood chips as a surface for the dog park. Decomposed Granite is the preferred ground cover but the Commission would like to further research the feasibility of artificial turf for use in dog parks. (4/0)

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Restrooms:

MOTION by Rosoff, SECONDED by Gersh, that the Commission recommends one port-a-pottie for each area (small dog/large dog). Specific locations will be determined after further review. (3/1)

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Friedman
NOES: Bilak
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Park Amenities:

The Commission discussed benches and tables, bag holders and bags, water fountains, and security cameras. No action taken.

Park Hours:

MOTION by Gersh, SECONDED by Rosoff, that the dog park hours will be 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., the same as primary park hours.

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Friedman
NOES: Bilak
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Park Rules:

MOTION by Friedman, SECONDED Bilak, by that he rules be accepted with changes and additions proposed by the Commission. Staff and Commissioners can further modify rules after cross referencing with existing Beverly Hills Park Rules.

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: Anderson

ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

The Commission took a break at 3:05 p.m.
The meeting resumed at 3:15 p.m.

Operating Costs and Access Concerns:

MOTION by Rosoff, SECONDED Bilak, by that there will be no annual or other fee to use the dog park. The Commission strongly supports a "Friends of the Dog Park" group. The Commission also recommends further investigation into the possibility/economics of a key coded entry/device for entry.

AYES: Rosoff, Gersh, Bilak, Friedman
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: Anderson
ABSTAIN: NONE
CARRIED

Mitigated Negative Declaration:

No action taken.

Requests/Concerns of Neighboring Synagogues:

The Commission discussed change of original entry point, possible plantings to mitigate concerns of noise traveling, and staffing. No action taken.

The Commission also discussed a "Sunset Clause" proposed by the neighboring synagogues, to close the park if issues arise. It was decided that the Commission would prefer to monitor the park's operations closely throughout the next months and if problems arise they be addressed directly to the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Next step will be to get design features the Commission proposed represented with drawings from RTK Associates. These will be discussed at the next Commission Meeting.

Tab 3. Consideration to Revise September 29, 2015, Recreation and Parks Commission Special Meeting

Commissioners determined that the next Recreation and Parks Commission Special Meeting would remain on the scheduled date of Tuesday, September 29, 2015. Start time will be 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

PASSED, Approved and Adopted on this 13 day of October, 2015.



Simone Friedman, Chairperson