

Hannah's Bark Park Advisory
Minutes September 19, 2021

Present: Lynn Simons (Lake, MI), Ryan Longoria (Mt. Pleasant), Phil Biscorner (Mt, Pleasant, MI)

Absent: Mark Stuldreher, Amy Barr-Tickle, Sue Gamble, John Dinse

The meeting began at 6:00 pm, and was held virtually via Zoom. Due to conflicts for the scheduled meeting on September 20, the meeting had been moved to September 19, 2021. A quorum was not present.

Public Comment:

No public comment was brought forth. Ryan had received multiple emails or correspondence about a dog named Silas that had been banned from the park due to multiple instances of aggressive behavior.

New Business

Ryan discussed the issue with Silas. At least three sources wrote about incidents of dog aggression precipitated by Silas. Concerned members noted they had tolerated multiple incidents with Silas, in addition to the one each reported. Other issues were Silas' owner permitting a person to use her key fob into the park, who then brought an unregistered dog. This individual had not signed consents to abide by the park rules. Additional concerns were the owner of Silas and the unregistered key fob user both taking Silas into the small dog park side when he was unruly and aggressive, potentially placing small dogs at harm. Efforts to obtain information about the incidents led to defiance from the unregistered person, and statements of unwillingness to abide by the park rules.

The group talked about these concerns and noted Silas' owner had requested a reconsideration. Issues of dog age were noted as Silas is just one and likely to have puppy behaviors that have not settled. It was suggested by Silas' owner that perhaps one event had been a false claim by a person who had targeted her at the park, taking pictures, and verbally accosting her. It was noted that person had not made any complaints about Silas however. The group also discussed that Silas in training by some reputable sources, and they may be able to offer advice on training Silas as he grows out of his puppy stage. Ryan offered to seek input from those sources. The consensus

was to obtain that information and perhaps seek a consensus via quorum by email if some limitations on the park use by Silas. For example, a hypothetical thought was delaying re-admission for six more months of aging and completion of training.

Other new business was a dog park member who has engaged in some intimidating behavior towards other member. It was noted this person has photographed others in an effort to intimidate them, made threats about making complaints about them, and yelled at people. Ryan has received complaints that those targeted feel uncomfortable by this person's intimidation. It was noted this person has not violated park rules while engaging in such behaviors. This will be monitored and feedback given to the intimidating person.

The lock to the entrance continues to have glitches and the City will address this, perhaps with a new mechanism.

And, Ryan is passing the baton to Phil Biscorner, who has taken Chris Bundy's position with the Parks and Recreation Department. Phil will be our contact person and will receive complaints to be addressed by the Advisory Board. Phil was welcomed, and he noted he had past dog park experience and was looking forward to his new role. Many grateful thanks to Ryan for his expertise, capacity to resolve conflicts and for being such a good partner to the Advisory Board, to Friends of the Dog Park, and to Hannah's Bark Park members.

Old Business: Friends of the Dog Park

FDP updated the Advisory Board about the lighting plans. The City has received all of its signed contracts and is awaiting news that Block is "ready to go." Block Electric had noted they planned to start the third week of September, with potential delays from rain and weather.

Meeting Schedule

It was noted the next meeting is December 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

We adjourned at 6:23.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Simons