

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2019 COMMUNITY MEETING ON A DOG PARK
GLENCOE PARK DISTRICT
999 GREEN BAY ROAD, GLENCOE, ILLINOIS 60022

The community meeting on a Dog Park began at 7:00pm.

Staff present:

Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary
Chris Leiner, Director of Parks/Maintenance
Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation/Facilities
Erin Classen, Supt. of Marketing/Comm.
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant
Shannon Stevens, Recreation Intern

Members of the public in attendance who signed in or spoke: Christine Adams, Michael Aitken, Stacey Birnderf, Thomas Bittman, David Burk, Lisa Cardonick, Mathew Cashman, Michael Chance, Wendy Chance, Cholena Dabroy, Bill Cline, Blair Cline, Sandy Culver, Jay Dembsky, Cindy Dinham, Dan Dorfman, Eddy Eisenberg, Lisa Eisenberg, Richard Espe, Erica Feinberg, Frank Ferraro, Kooki Finkelman, Cheryl Fulop, Amy Garber, Ken Goldstein, Laurie Gross, Spencer Hellmuth, Heather Jagher, Robert Jaman, Peter Karabatsos, John Kastl, Liz Katz, Dan Kniaz, Ryan Kole, Costa Kutulas, Angela Lane, Michael LaPorte, Idelle Melamed, Richard Nathan, Hershy Pappadis, Michael Polydoris, Alicia Resnicoff, Gary Ruben, Lisa Salzman, Steve Salzman, Abby Schonhoft, Delta Schonhoft, Brad Schulman, Frank Serrino, Michelle Soble, Bob Stern, Jeff Stone, Alan Sussman, Kathy Sussman, Greg Turner, Jennifer Varela, Barry Wallach, Terri Wallach, James Wigoda, Bob Young

Presentation: Barbara Heller, of Heller and Heller Consulting, gave a presentation on dog parks.

Comments against a dog park:

Verbal comments:

- Location concern based on parking and the look of the dog chain fencing.
- There are two dog parks within five minutes. Why not get a cooperative agreement?
- Does not need to be a huge dog park, can be the size of the community hall
- Small community: sound, proximity to homes, thoroughfare of bikes and people

Post-It comments:

- To make it successful, perhaps consider restricting access by professional walkers with multiple dogs, so there is supervision (in favor of a dog park)
- Locating a park near any residence is unfair to the neighborhood. If we need a dog park it must be away from homes!

- Must a dog park be permanent? Why not have seasonal locations – e.g. golf course in winter months
- People who break dog park rules must be punished – including big fines and banishment
- Dogs are nice (usually). No problem with a park for them if local residents are not adversely affected.
- Concerned that placement near homes will negatively impact the homes and safety of the residents. In favor of dog park if there is space away from residential area.
- This is a flawed process – I saw people removing red dots and replacing them with green dots!
- I am in favor however, consistent barking and noise is disturbing. This park should be large enough and far away enough from homes.

Comments for a dog park:

Post-It comments:

- Dog parks allow us not to be law breakers
- Prevents dogs from off leash/ being in unwanted areas because there is a dedicated space
- We need beach all year around
- Engages neighbors, especially older residents, many of whom might be isolated
- Keep fence at 6 ft to keep from dog dumping
- Makes Glencoe appealing to potential homeowners who see that all neighboring burbs have dog parks
- Absolutely no membership fees! You don't charge neighborhood children to play at local parks, don't charge residents fees for a dog park
- Won't have to pay triple fees at neighboring parks
- Much needed community amenity
- Keeps the parkways along the streets clean
- People with dogs who play together stay together in our community
- Keeps dog healthier
- For dog owners it is a time and money saver
- Most dog owners pay money into other communities instead of their own for dog parks
- Glencoe residents only keeps from dog dumping for dog
- Develops friendships and a sense of community
- Encourages outdoor activity and provides a destination for dog owners that is safe
- A space with no coyotes
- Builds relationship and community awareness as dog owners talk to each other
- Gets adults to mingle

- Dog parks are critical for dog/puppies to socialize so they are not aggressive to other dogs
- A separate place for small dogs, water, agility toys/props, dog exercise equipment, keep deer out/no deer poop, ensure dogs do not pass germs/illnesses

General Comments:

- Landscaping/berms between houses and the park
- Hours, sunrise/sunset, key fob system to control hours
- Is Takiff an option?
- Dog runs for small dogs the size of community hall, even a small dog park is a community builder
- There is no open space where the Village public works is located
- Next steps: compile comments, Special Project meeting in the next couple months
- Cook County Forest Preserve has communicated that there are three dog parks throughout the county and they are not interested in doing any dog parks. Dogs are welcome on leash.
- There was a discussion in 2000. Eighteen years ago, dog parks were not a big thing.
- Hands raised of people who have used a dog park
- A town in Massachusetts has 13 of their 40 parks designated as off leash from 8:00am-1:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary