

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Commissioners Lawter and Levin

DATE: August 21, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution to provide recommendations and feedback on the possibility of additional off-leash dog facilities in the City of Ann Arbor Parks System

Attached for your review and action is a resolution requesting Ann Arbor park staff to assist the PAC sub-committee in investigating off-leash dog opportunities within the city core. The sub-committee was formed several years ago to review issues related to dogs in the parks and presented a case for additional off-leash options at the August 16, 2011 monthly PAC meeting.

The conclusions of that presentation were:

- The dog population in Ann Arbor is increasing.
- Incidents involving off-leash dogs are on the rise.
- The off-leash laws are difficult to enforce especially if off-leash options are limited.
- The two existing dog parks in Ann Arbor are popular but on opposite ends of the city.
- There is a need for off-leash options closer to the city core neighborhoods.

The recommendations included:

- Incorporate planning for a central city dog park into parks planning by
 - Including this in the PROS plan *which has been done*.
 - Add this to the considerations with looking at land acquisitions *which is also being done*.
 - Direct park planners to continue to actively look for potential sites *which will officially begin with this resolution*.

Parks staff will be asked to review all possible options, including unfenced off-leash hours in city parks, and present their findings alongside the sub-committee at the September monthly PAC meeting.

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FEEDBACK ON THE
POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL OFF-LEASH DOG FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF ANN
ARBOR PARKS SYSTEM

Whereas, the city of Ann Arbor has two traditional dog parks located at the north and south ends of the city;

Whereas, while these two parks are popular, there continues to be issues with off leash dogs in other parks within the city;

Whereas, a PAC subcommittee was formed to review this issue;

Whereas, this subcommittee has identified a need for additional off-leash opportunities closer to the city core;

Whereas, the PROS plan makes numerous references to the potential need for additional off-leash dog opportunities;

RESOLVED, that the dog park sub-committee seek assistance from City staff in developing their recommendation;

RESOLVED, that the dog park sub-committee, in conjunction with staff, provide a recommendation and feedback on the possibility of additional off-leash dog facilities to PAC at their September 18, 2012 meeting;