

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Advisory Commission

FROM: Colin Smith, Parks & Recreation Services Manager

DATE: December 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Resolution to recommend designating a fenced off-leash dog play area in West Park

Attached for your review and recommendation is a resolution to approve designating an off leash fenced dog play area in West Park. The City Charter, Chapter 107, Section 9:45 states that a dog play area must be ‘...as designated by the Community Services Area Administrator or designee and upon approval by City Council’.

The City currently has two off leash dog areas; one at Swift Run, in the southeast part of the City, and a second at Olson Park, in the northeast part of the City. A desire for a centrally located dog park is identified in the System Infrastructure Needs Assessment section of the Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan.

In order to prioritize and locate areas appropriate for off leash dog play areas, staff and members of the Park Advisory Commission developed a set of criteria to systematically evaluate options. These criteria included geographic location within the City, sufficient buffer from existing residents, that the proposed area would not displace existing park activities, easy access to water and sufficient parking. The sites evaluated included South Maple Park, Ward Park, Bandemer Park and West Park. West Park ranked highest given the criteria mentioned above.

A public meeting was held on November 7, 2012 to discuss the proposal for a fenced off leash dog play area within West Park and the response was overwhelmingly positive. This location is close to downtown, has an existing parking lot, and easy access to water. Additionally, this amenity will further activate West Park, which was a goal of the recent park improvements. The site is approximately ¼ acre and is not currently programmed for any other uses. Although the site is small, it was the only location within the park that staff felt would not disrupt current uses, be visible, and provide an amenity that would benefit dogs and their owners.

Subsequent to the public meeting, staff and a PAC member met with members of the New Hope Baptist Church, located at 218 Chapin Street, across the street from the proposed dog park location. The Church members in attendance were not in favor of the proposed dog park location.

Prepared by: Amy Kuras, Landscape Architect IV

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND DESIGNATING A FENCED OFF-LEASH DOG PLAY  
AREA IN WEST PARK

Whereas, Creation of additional dog parks within the City, and especially near the downtown area is a high priority of the Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan;

Whereas, the City Charter, Chapter 107, Section 9:45 requires that a dog play area be ‘...as designated by the Community Services Area Administrator, and upon approval by City Council’, and;

Whereas, West Park on Chapin Street was chosen as a location that would best meet desired criteria for establishment of an off leash fenced dog play area,

RESOLVED, That the Park Advisory Commission recommend designating a fenced off leash dog play area in West Park as identified by the Community Services Area Administrator.



West Park Dog Park Proposal