Resolution 2011-215

Resolution Accepting the Sixth Park District Dog Park Citizen Advisory Committee's (CAC's) Recommendations Approving the Location and Design for an Off-leash Recreational Area at site 32 at Lyndale Farmstead Park in the Southside Operations Center (Parking Lot) and Directing staff to engage the community in development of a system-wide off-leash recreation area master plan in 2013 or 2014. Therefore site 1 is not recommended.

Whereas, The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) is a steward of the Minneapolis parks;

Whereas, The Board approved the formation of an appointed citizen advisory committee with the charge to recommend a preferred location and design for an off-leash recreation area on the eastern side of the Sixth Park District (*Attachment A-Map of Search Area);*

Whereas, A community engagement process that included twelve public meetings, a public site nomination process, com Board direct staff to engage the community in development of a system-wide off-leash recreation area master plan in 2012 or 2013; and munity survey, social media, and digital communications was used to fulfill the CAC charge;

Whereas, The nomination process invited site nominations from the Search Area as well as the Field, Regina, Bryant and Central Neighborhoods;

Whereas, CAC members developed criteria to review sites and considered nominations for 32 different sites;

Whereas, CAC members considered community input and available environmental, parking, historic, existing use, and cost data to develop recommendations for a preferred location and design;

Whereas, At its September 12, 2011 meeting, the CAC recommended Site 32 - Lyndale Farmstead Park/Southside Operations Center (Parking Lot) as the primary location and, if the Park Board did not select Site 32, Site 1- Lyndale Farmstead Park/South of the Operations Center wall along Kings Highway (West of the Theodore Wirth Home and Administration Building) as the secondary location for the off-leash recreation area;

Whereas, The CAC recommended that Site 32 should be designed and budgeted to the scale equal to or better than what was presented to the CAC on September 12, 2011; and

Whereas, The CAC also recommended that the Park Board establish a community body to develop a system-wide off-leash recreation area master plan;

RESOLVED, That the Board accept the recommendations of the Sixth Park District Dog Park CAC and approve the location and design for an off-leash recreation area at Site 32 - Lyndale Farmstead Park/Southside Operations Center (Parking Lot);

RESOLVED, That the Board direct staff to engage the community in development of a system-wide off-leash recreation area master plan in 2012 or 2013; and

RESOLVED, That the President of the Board and Secretary to the Board are authorized to take all necessary administrative actions to implement this resolution.

Adopted by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board
In formal meeting assembled on December 7, 2011

_____
John Erwin, President

_____
Karen Robinson, Secretary

Approved:

_____
R.T. Rybak, Mayor

TO: Planning Committee

FROM: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning Services

DATE: November 22, 2011

SUBJECT: Resolution Accepting the Sixth Park District Dog Park Citizen Advisory Committee's (CAC's) Recommendations Approving the Location and Design for an Off-leash Recreational Area at site 32 at Lyndale Farmstead Park in the Southside Operations Center (Parking Lot) and Directing staff to engage the community in development of a system-wide off-leash recreation area master plan in 2013 or 2014. Therefore site 1 is not recommended.

**BACKGROUND**

Over the past 10 years, off-leash recreation areas have become a popular, positive recreational offering within the Minneapolis Park System. The off-leash areas provide social opportunities for dog owners, have a positive impact on pets and help build strong communities. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's (MPRB's) off-leash recreation areas are a fee-based service. Currently, the income generated from off-leash permits exceeds the projected maintenance and administrative costs of operating the MPRB's dog parks. Each park district, except the sixth park district, has at least one off-leash recreation area.

On February 2, 2011, in response to community requests from the Kingfield Neighborhood area and analysis of licensed dogs in relation to off-leash recreation area permit holders, the MPRB established the Sixth Park District Dog Park Citizen Advisory Committee to identify a preferred location and design for an off-leash recreation areas within a specific service area of the sixth park district (*Attachment A – Map of Search Area*).

On September 12, 2011, after considering community input, staff input, environmental impacts, historic designations, costs, and potential designs, the CAC provided the following recommendations:

1. Move forward Site 32 as a primary recommendation and, if for some reason the MPRB does not select Site 32, recommend Site 1.
2. At a minimum, Site 32 should be designed and budgeted to the scale equal to or better than what was presented to the CAC (*Attachment B – Concept Design, Attachment C – Preliminary Budget*).

3. That the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board develop a community body to develop a system-wide off-leash recreation area master plan.

Developing the off-leash recreation area at the Southside Operations Center will require the relocation of some equipment and materials currently stored at that location. Staff will begin developing a relocation plan upon Board approval of the location and design. Additional funding will need to be allocated to the project, as preliminary budget estimates indicate the base project cost to be $96,210 and the current funding allocation is $32,500.

*CAC Charge, Composition and Process*
The charge of the committee, as amended on April 6, 2011 and on May 18, 2011, was as follows:

> That the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board establish a Citizen Advisory Committee to recommend a preferred location and design for an off-leash recreational area on the eastern side of the Sixth District (*Attachment A – Map of Search Area*) to be opened in 2011 from among the three possible site areas identified by the Park Board.
>
> The CAC has the authority to evaluate additional sites; in addition to the Rock/Peace Garden, Lyndale Park Parking Lot Area, and the Southside Operations Center sites previously identified by the Board, if desired, within the identified service area.
>
> The CAC may provide a supplemental report for a site within the area of the Field, Regina, Central, and Bryant neighborhoods after providing a recommendation for a preferred site within the designated Sixth Park District search area. Prior to Board approval of a site within this additional area, a representative community involvement process would need to be completed.
>
> Dr. Martin Luther King Park is not to be considered as a location for an off-leash recreational area by this CAC.
>
> The Committee shall be facilitated by an outside independent facilitator with the assistance of MPRB staff.
>
> Further, the CAC is empowered and encouraged to identify and incorporate other stakeholders in the public participation process. The CAC is encouraged to look for underrepresented neighborhoods, cultural, and socioeconomic groups who may not feel engaged in this process.
>
> The Committee shall provide a report back to the Park Board within 45 days of its' first meeting.

The composition, with amendments made by the CAC, was as follows:

| ***Appointing entity or person:*** | ***No. of People*** |
|---|---|
| Board President (Appoints Chair) | 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Sixth District Commissioner | 1 |
| Other At-Large Commissioners (1 each) | 2 |
| Kingfield Dogpark Taskforce | 1 |
| Citizens in Action for Martin Luther King | 1 |
| Kingfield Neighborhood Association | 2 |
| E. Harriet Neighborhood Association | 2 |
| Tangletown Neighborhood Association | 2 |
| Lynnhurst Neighborhood Association | 2 |
| Lakewood Cemetery | 1 |
| Robert's Bird Sanctuary | 1 |
| Peace/Perennial Garden | 1 |
| Latino Community (appointing authority unidentified) | 1 |
| Committee member from the 2000 Sixth District Off-leash area study | 1 |
| Regina, Field, Central, Bryant Neighborhoods | 2 |
| African American Community | 1 |
| Linden Hills Neighborhood | 2 |
| Trial Garden | 1 |
| East African Community | 1 |
| Hmong Community | 1 |
| Total | 27 |

In total, 24 of the possible positions were filled with one committee member representing the African American Community and the Regina, Field, Central and Bryant neighborhoods.

The committee met 12 times between March 21 and September 12. Each meeting included an opportunity for public comment and the entire July 25 meeting was devoted to community input. In addition to public meetings, the CAC monitored an on-line comment form, conducted a nomination process for off-leash recreation area locations, and administered and online and paper survey to engage the community in developing recommendations for the Board of Commissioners. The following timeline summarizes the CAC's process and decisions:

March 21 – CAC developed norms, reviewed its charge, and identified additional groups to be represented on the committee.

March 28 – CAC completed norms and began developing criteria for reviewing proposed off-leash recreation area sites.

April 11 – CAC was notified that its charge had been amended to allow it to look at additional sites within the service area. The CAC worked on criteria for site review and recommendations.

April 25 – CAC finalized the criteria and removed the two sites near Roberts Bird Sanctuary and the Peace Gardens from consideration.

May 2 – CAC developed a process for residents to nominate sites for an off-leash recreation area, including inviting requests for the Field, Regina, Central, and Bryant Neighborhoods. The decision to invite requests from the Field, Regina, Central, and

Bryant Neighborhoods was based on input from CAC members and the public that the south central area of the city is not well served by dog parks.

May 4 – Per the direction of the CAC's charge, Chair Tom Nordyke provided the Board with an update on the progress of the CAC.

May 16 – Staff presented the 31 sites that had been nominated (*Attachment D- List of Sites*). These sites were in addition to the Southside Operations Center which was the remaining site from the original CAC charge. This site became Site 32. CAC members removed the sites that were outside of the proposed search areas or that had known concerns. The following sites moved forward for additional consideration by the CAC:

Within the Sixth Park District search area:
• Sites 1, 7, 9, 10, 12 and 32

Within Field, Regina, Central and Bryant
• Sites 16, 17, and 18

The CAC decided to request that its charge be amended to include Field, Regina, Central, and Bryant neighborhoods.

June 6 – CAC was notified that its charge had been amended to allow it to provide a recommendation for sites outside of the Sixth District, specifically the areas of Regina, Field, Central, and Bryant, after making a recommendation for a site in the Sixth Park District search area. The CAC evaluated remaining sites based on its criteria.

June 20 – CAC determined its process for gathering public comment on potential sites and decided to move Site 1 forward for public comment.

June 27 – CAC reviewed remaining sites and moved Site 7 and Site 32 forward for public comment. Site 10 was also forwarded for public comment if concerns about ownership, zoning and/or soil conditions could be satisfactorily addressed.

July 25 – Public Comment Meeting on Sites 1, 7, and 32. They were defined as follows:

**Site 1 – Lyndale Farmstead Park - South of the Operations Center wall along Kings Highway**
This proposed site is located in Lyndale Farmstead Park. Its northern boundary would be the operations center wall and it would be within the turf and tree area along Kings Highway. This site would be west of the path that runs diagonally from the athletic fields to the southwest corner of the park behind the Theodore Wirth Home and Administration Building.

**Site 7 – Minnehaha Creek – Along the South Side of Minnehaha Creek east of Pleasant Avenue S**
This proposed site is on the south side of Minnehaha Creek. It extends from Pleasant Avenue east to the base of the hill where Minnehaha Parkways splits.

The trail within this area would be realigned as part of the project to allow for continuous trail use outside of the proposed site.

**Site 32 – Lyndale Farmstead Park – Southside Operations Center Parking Lot**
The proposed site is within the Southside Operations Center parking lot within Lyndale Farmstead Park. The stormwater pond within the site would not be accessible to dogs or people.

August 15 – CAC revised designs and preliminary cost estimates for three remaining sites.

September 12 – After considering community input, staff input, environmental impacts, historic designations, costs, and potential designs for the three potential sites, the CAC provided the following recommendations:

1. Move forward Site 32 as a primary recommendation and, if for some reason the MPRB does not select Site 32, recommend Site 1.
2. At a minimum, Site 32 should be designed and budgeted to the scale equal to or better than what was presented to the CAC (*Attachment B – Concept Design, Attachment C – Preliminary Budget*).
3. That the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board develop a community body to develop a system-wide off-leash recreation area master plan.

Prior to making its final recommendations, the CAC had chosen not to move Site 1 or Site 7 forward to the Board of Commissioners. Site 1 was included in the final recommendation to provide an alternative if Site 32 was not selected.

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board accept the Sixth Park District Dog Park Citizen's Advisory Committee's (CAC's) recommendations approving the location and design for an off-leash recreational area at Lyndale Farmstead Park in the Southside Operations Center (parking lot) and that the Board direct staff to develop a system-wide off-leash recreation area plan as part of the 2012 or 2013 Planning Division work plan.

## ATTACHMENTS

*Attachment A - Map of Search Area*
*Attachment B – Concept Design*
*Attachment C – Preliminary Budget*
*Attachment D – Nominated sites*

## PREVIOUS BOARD ACTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| May 18, 2011 | Amendment to the charge for the Sixth Park District Dog Park Dog Park Citizen Advisory Committee |
| April 6, 2011 | Amendment to the charge for the Sixth Park District Dog Park Dog Park Citizen Advisory Committee |
| February 2, 2011 | Board approves composition and charge for Sixth Park District Dog Park Citizen Advisory Committee |

Prepared by Jennifer Ringold, Manager of Public Engagement and Citywide Planning

Reviewed by: Bruce Chamberlain, Assistant Superintendent for Planning Services

Approved by: Jayne Miller, Superintendent

Attachment A – Map of Search Area