

Meeting Minutes

Broadway Dog Park Public Meeting

Date: 2-23-16, 6:30 p.m. City Council Chambers

15 people attended the meeting

Amy Kuras, Park Planner gave an overview of the project and reviewed the survey input.

Question and comments:

- Add bike rack to Broadway
 - o It was noted that most people do not ride bikes while walking their dogs, however it would be a nice added feature
- Have fence end at the river shoreline so that dogs have open access to the river to allow for water access like the dog park in Saline
 - o Concerns
 - Dogs can escape without a fence completely surrounding the area
 - Dogs can interfere with canoe/kayak/rafts on the river
- 721 N. Main, grant money usage question – FEMA grant was awarded to demolish structures, not to develop the site. The FEMA grant prohibits fencing in the floodplain. The rest of the site has too steep grades.
- Concern of the amount of goosepoop/parasites in the park and how it is unhealthy for dogs
 - o It was suggested that fencing would keep geese from entering the area where dogs would be, eliminating the problem
- Concern about the canoe artwork in the park
 - o Artwork representative was present at the meeting and held no objections, mentioning that currently Broadway is an underutilized park, and creating more usage would encourage more people to enjoy the artwork
- Concern and comments about park size
 - o Several people were concerned about the park size, and felt that it needed to be increased
 - Two comments were made that their large dog breeds don't have enough room to run, and proposed that Bird Hills might be considered, or the consideration of off leash dog hours in several parks
 - Suggestion to use land on the other side of the bridge which has more space (DTE property which is not owned by the City)
 - Comment of support for the park size - that each park can be utilized for different purposes: Swift Run is large enough for running, Olson Park for socialization, and Broadway for accessibility and socializing.

- Questions about parking
 - o Use of Gandy Dancer/Amtrak lots was discussed, however it was suggested that they not be considered as ample/reliant parking and that the park is meant as a destination for walking from downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.
 - o Suggestion that UofM parking lots may be used after hours when a permit is not required, however it was suggested that they not be endorsed as it is not public parking.
- Residential access – many supporting comments that the park location was considered highly accessible by many areas of residents
- Questions about land conditions, and how the grass and mud would be affected by having a dog park located near a river.

In closing, all attendees were in support, no objections voiced