



DOG PARK COMMITTEE MINUTES

Wednesday, May 14, 7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Committee Members Present:

- 🐾 Tom Gillispie, Chair
- 🐾 Karen Martin, Vice-chair
- 🐾 Clare Siska
- 🐾 Fred Kinch
- 🐾 Nadia Byrnes

Other Attendees:

- 🐾 Jeff Bergart
- 🐾 Joe Will
- 🐾 Cathy Fochtman

Chair Tom Gillispie called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

I. New Business/Old Business Updates

1. Funding Updates

- Thom Begin has secured sufficient additional funding to meet the construction costs through reclassified ARPA funds and the Recreation Department revolving account. Recent additional WDA expenses have also been covered by ARPA.
- Jeff B asked for confirmation whether the Recreation Commission needs to approve the expenditure, and whether it is a gift or a loan. Tom G will follow up with Thom B and Melissa Settiani-Rufo.
- We are awaiting news from T-Mobile on our HomeTown Grant application. Notification is expected by the end of May, 2025.

2. Bid/Construction Updates/Timeline

- No updates at this time.

3. Walking Trail

- Woodall Construction provided an estimate in the area of \$75K for the walking trail, based on Dale Design's specifications.
- Committee consensus is that the shade pavilion should take priority; the walking trail should be designed in coordination with the Senior Park team when that project starts

moving forward. A full discussion of requirements is needed by the ADPC at that time.

4. Dog License Fees 2025 / FBO Work

- Questions were raised about the \$4K in annual funds, earmarked for maintenance, which needs to be spent within the fiscal year. Can we identify FBO items to be purchased within that time frame? Is storage available? Can this become a revolving account carries over year to year? Continued discussion is needed, as is follow up with Thom B.
- Committee members were asked to review the FBO list for items which are not yet covered for discussion at our next meeting.

II. Regular Business

1. Updates:

- McManus Manor groundbreaking event, attended by Tom G and Karen, was “awesome.”
- Karen reported that the calendar contest has raised over \$2K to date. There will be another event at Wag N’ Wash on Saturday, May 25. Contest closes on May 31.
- Communications have focused on the calendar contest. Avenues have included Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, eblast, flyers and word of mouth. We anticipate an article to appear in the Acton Exchange this weekend and will do one more eblast before the end of the month.
- Our next fundraising event is Fifer’s Day, Saturday, June 21. **We are in need of volunteers.**

2. Minutes:

- Review and approval of meeting minutes for February 26, March 12, and March 26 were tabled for the next meeting.

III. Old Business

1. None.

IV. Schedule Future Business

1. Next ADPC meetings - Wednesday, May 28, 7 PM, virtual.

V. Residents’ Concerns

1. None

VI. Adjournment

1. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Clare Siska
Member, Acton Dog Park Committee