

**MINUTES OF DOG BEACH/DOG PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE WINNETKA PARK DISTRICT, WINNETKA, IL**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

Commissioner Archambault called the meeting together at 5:30 pm.

Committee Members Present: The following members were present: Commissioner Mickey Archambault, Commissioner Colleen Root, Committee Members Marie DeLean, Sally Tomlinson, Elizabeth Lane, Allen Welch, and James Dahl. Also present was Winnetka Park Staff Committee Liaison Kyle Berg.

Audience Present: None.

The following items were discussed and resolved as indicated:

1. Commissioner Archambault provided each member with a hard copy of the Objectives of Dog Beach & Off-Leash Dog Park Advisory Committee, as reviewed and approved by the Winnetka Park District Board. He then provided an overview of the past research and work of the Winnetka Park District in exploring alternative Winnetka Park beaches where dogs might swim and efforts at possible locations for an off-leash dog park, presenting those present with copies of the “Winnetka Off-Leash Dog Park Guidelines” and “Dog Park Timeline and Site Evaluations” as previously prepared by Park District Staff. He advised that the estimate for the construction cost of both a Dog Beach and Park approximated \$150,000.00. He also explained that the recommended sites for both projects were located on Winnetka Village property and would require approval by the Village of Winnetka Council. He stated that Village President Chris Rintz had graciously agreed to work with the Committee as Village Liaison.
2. Commissioner Root focused the Committee on the Park Staff recommendation that the dog beach be relocated to a beach front area north of the Tower Beach Pier with both Commissioners advising those present that the location would be subject to Village Council approval as the area was Village-owned property. Commissioner Archambault informed the Committee that Park Staff had placed a stake at the northern-most boundary of the suggested dog beach with the pier being the southern-most boundary and requested that Committee members visit the site to review the proposed location.

3. Commissioner Root then summarized Plank #4 of the 2021 Winnetka Caucus Council – Parks Plank, advising the Committee that Caucus had requested that an effort be made by the Park District to prioritize continuous access for a permanent dog beach. She then advised that work on the Off-leash Dog Park, if located at the Village Waste Management site as recommended by Park Staff, could not begin until conclusion of the Storm Water Project, further advising as to the projected schedule for that project.
4. Commissioner Archambault emphasized to the Committee the necessity for excellent community communication on any proposals and status of beach/park efforts. In anticipation of community questions and concerns, Committee Member Tomlinson inquired if the Park District kept logs of dog incidents on Park property. Park Staff Member Kyle Berg agreed to investigate the issue to determine what records might exist. Committee Member Dahl suggested that the Committee also explore Winnetka Police records. A discussion then ensued as to what guidelines, laws and rules would be necessary to confine dogs and keep them separate from members of the public with an understanding that future research of these issues would be necessary and that rules would need to be created for dog beach/park use.
5. The Committee then discussed the possibility of off-season dog beach use of Elder Lane Beach with Committee Member Welch inquiring why Lloyd Beach could not also be an off-season dog beach. Committee Member Welch suggested that the Committee might also explore Village beach property located south of the Village Power Plant at the terminus of Tower Road.
6. Committee Member Elizabeth Lane then shared her knowledge and experience of Jaycee Park, located in Deerfield, Illinois, where she advised that a dog park is in close proximity of a playground and community building and that the amenity has been a success for the community for many years. A discussion ensued on the similar success of the Gillson Dog Beach in Wilmette.
7. Committee Member James Dahl suggested that the Committee investigate creative above-water fencing solutions to contain swimming dogs to the parameters of any dog beach and suggested that the group reach out to other Illinois dog beaches and to the IAPD for additional resources.
8. Committee Member Welch suggested that there be coordination on the Village Storm Water Project to facilitate walking paths at the Hibbard/Hill

retention sites that could be used by all members of the public with or without their dogs.

9. The Committee then determined that the best time for future meetings would be on Wednesday afternoons commencing at 5:30 and scheduled the next meeting for 5:30 pm on Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.