



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Rob Anderson, Recreation Division Coordinator

MEETING DATE: November 19, 2013

SUBJECT: Report APRAC13-038
Off Leash Dog Park Update – New Operator

PURPOSE

A report to provide an update from Staff on a new operator for the Off Leash Dog Park within Farmcrest Park.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arenas Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report APRAC13-038 dated November 19, 2013, of the Recreation Division Coordinator, as follows:

That Report APRAC13-038 be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no budget or financial implication resulting from the approval of the recommendation of Report APRAC13-038.

BACKGROUND

As of August 15, 2013, the site preparation work for the off leash dog park was completed, other than some minor top soil and seeding. On the morning of September 9, 2013, the Peterborough Dog Owner Association (PDOA) publicly announced they were declining the offer by the current City Council to establish an off leash dog park in Farmcrest Park.

Council's Direction Following the PDOA's Rejection of the Farmcrest Park Site

On September 30, 2013, Council approved the following motion:

That staff be requested to identify and undertake discussions with new potential operators of the off-leash dog park in Farmcrest Park and report further on the securing of a new operator.

The Corporate Policy for off leash dog parks defines an operator as follows: An established Dog Owner Association with lead responsibility for managing and operating a Dog Park on City owned land.

New Operator

On September 27 and October 28, 2013, Staff met with Mr. Paul Schaubert, the only party who has expressed interest in operating the dog park, at Farmcrest Park. He has established an organization known as the Peterborough Dog Club (PDC), complete with a Board of Directors. At the time this report is being prepared, the PDC had submitted application papers for incorporation, and approval is pending.

Council's Approval of a New Operator

On November 12, 2013, Council approved the recommendations of Report CSRS13-007 – Dog Park Update, as follows:

- a) That the Peterborough Dog Club, be approved as the operator of the Off Leash Dog Park located within Farmcrest Park, upon confirmation of the Club being incorporated;
- b) That the City's Chief Administrative Officer and the City Clerk be authorized to execute an operating agreement with the Peterborough Dog Club;
- c) That upon execution of the operating agreement, all funds donated to the City of Peterborough for the purpose of establishing an off leash dog park be transferred to the Peterborough Dog Club, to assist with capital and operating expenses;
- d) That flexibility for use of alternative fencing-type options, such as commercial grade chain link fencing, be approved;

- e) That flexibility to amend the wording and logos on the Off Leash Dog Park signs, to accommodate the change in operator and potential sponsors, be approved; and
- f) That opening the Off Leash Dog Park occurs in two phases, with the eastern side opening first, and the western side opening later in 2014.

Alternative Type of Fencing & Signs

With the transition to a new operator for the off leash dog park, Council approval was required for other types of fencing options to be considered, as well as amending the wording and logos on dog park signs, to accommodate the change in operator and potential sponsors. The positioning of the fence and signs will remain as originally approved by Council.

Financial Donations Made to PDOA

The PDOA committed to donate to the City the \$13,255 they raised for the off leash dog park. The City has received the funds from the PDOA. Upon execution of the operating agreement between the City and the PDC, the funds donated to the City by the PDOA will be transferred to the PDC.

Financial Donations Made to the City

The City received and deposited to an account held by the City a total of \$4,715.00 in donations, as per Council's approval of the recommendations of Report CSRS11-010, dated October 17, 2011. As of the time this report was prepared, the balance in that account had reduced to approximately \$2,300, as some donors requested their donations back, when the PDOA announced they had rejected the Farmcrest site.

Phased Opening

The off leash dog park will open in two phases, with the eastern side opening as phase one, and the western side opening later in 2014, as phase two. This will provide the time needed for all new grass seed in the west side to take root, and for the PDC to raise the additional funds required to finance phase two.

Submitted by,

Rob Anderson
Recreation Division Coordinator

Contact Name:
Rob Anderson
Phone: 705-742-7777 Ext. 1833
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
Fax: 705-748-8824
E-Mail: randerson@peterborough.ca