

PACC Dog Task Force Meeting

November 13th, 2023

5:30pm – 7pm

Virtual

In attendance: Maria Karunungan, Cindi Wight, Abbey Duke, Tom Young, Jake Schumann, Lori Kettler, Ilona Blanchard

Public Forum was opened at 5:35pm. No members of the public were present. Public Forum was closed at 5:36pm.

Karunungan began the meeting by going over the agenda. She explained that the off-leash subcommittee would share the Appendix D revisions and the off-leash dog policy. She continued that then the group would look at the report in progress. She shared that PACC is interested in hearing what the recommendations are and why. And that the group can decide what next steps are after this meeting depending on what people think.

Duke shared that PACC is looking for “the meat” on the first page with addendums to explain everything.

Karunungan began by sharing her screen with Appendix D showing. She shared that anything that is in this is a part of the ordinance, and therefore law. But the off-leash dog policy is approved and maintained by the Parks Commission which means there would be a little more flexibility with changes – for example times that people could have dogs off-leash, instead of trying to change laws.

Karunungan continued by reviewing Appendix D and the comments others had made. And began with off-leash areas being in each section of the City.

Kettler suggested italicizing certain words that are a part of a “definition”.

Blanchard asked if the locations noted are enough and Wight shared that there are other areas listed in the off-leash policy.

Schumann shared his thoughts and began that he felt some of the points are redundant. The group talked through his concerns and worked on re-wording.

Blanchard suggested grouping the rules in “not allowed” and “allowed”. The group agreed that would be clearer and Karunungan moved things around.

Blanchard suggested that an age be named for children being allowed in dog parks without an adult and the group agreed on 12.

The group continued to re-word and re-work the section together.

Schumann suggested adding in a rule about an owner needing to remove their dog if they are not behaving.

Wight responded that she didn't feel comfortable defining "good" or "bad" behavior in the ordinance because it is too subjective.

Kettler felt that this would fall under an owner not having control over their dog, which has already been stated as a rule that needs to be followed

Blanchard suggested using the word "bullying" and the group was in favor of including that in the "not allowed" section.

The group then moved on to the Enforcement section and made minor adjustments, which concluded the group's review of Appendix D.

Karunungan then screen shared the off-leash policy that would be approved and maintained by the Parks Commission. She shared that the off-leash committee decided to link Appendix D at the top for people to reference. She continued that the policy will dictate the times of operation.

Blanchard suggested giving more specific descriptors for some of the off-leash locations so that it was clearer where the areas were in each park. The group agreed and talked those additions through.

Karunungan continued by looking at the "General Rules" section – which she noted are all of the rules that were removed from Appendix D.

Wight suggested moving the 2 "additional general rules" – which are digging holes and consumption of human food – back into the ordinance since those will not be changing.

Schumann shared concerns about losing the ability to add more rules if things are moved.

Duke responded that the Commission has the ability to add rules to the off-leash policy if needed.

Wight continued that anything that needs to be enforceable needs to be in the ordinance. She then by brought up the idea of changing that section title to "community expectations". Everyone felt like that was a good compromise.

Blanchard asked that since Appendix D is specific to fenced in dog areas if there is anything missing for the off-leash areas because of that.

The group looked and determined that all of those rules would be applicable to off-leash areas, so decided to leave out the word "fenced". The group felt that that change fixed the concern.

That wrapped up that piece of the agenda.

Karunungan began wrapping up the meeting by asking if people were okay with having one more meeting in December. Everyone felt that this was productive and was in favor of having one more meeting.

Wight asked if people were available to meet next Monday the 20th in an effort to get the Final Report to PACC at their next meeting. Most were available at 5:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

