



**PARK CITY MUNICIPAL OFF-LEASH TASK FORCE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
445 MARSAC AVE.
PARK CITY, UTAH
MARCH 14, 2016**

Heinrich Deters, Trails and Open Lands Manager, Staff Liaison - Park City Municipal asked for a motion to open the meeting of the Park City Municipal Off-Leash Task Force at approximately 3:30pm

**Alisha Niswander, Recreation Advisory Board moved to open the meeting;
Brian Hanton, Snyderville Basin Recreation District seconded the motion.**

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Charlie Sturgis - Mountain Trails Foundation
Becky Burns - At large
Alisha Niswander - Recreation Advisory Board
Alison Child - At large
Eric Hoffman - Recreation Advisory Board
Brian Hanton - Snyderville Basin Recreation District
Kate Sattlemier - Summit Land Conservancy
Ed Parigian - At large
Barbara Maw – At large
Tod Frohnen - At large
Clay Coleman - Summit County Animal Control
Rusty Millholland - Utah Open Lands
Heinrich Deters - Staff Liaison, Park City Municipal Corp. -
Ken Fisher - Recreation Manager, Park City Municipal Corp.
Tate Shaw - Assistant Recreation Manager - Park City Municipal Corp.
Councilwoman Becca Gerber – Council Liaison
Councilman Tim Henney - Council Liaison Alternate

Excused: Andrew Latham - Park City Police Department
Cynthia Sandoval - Recreation Advisory Board

Heinrich Deters asked Barbara Maw to introduce herself to the Task Force, she was unable to attend the February 29th meeting; the Task Force members then introduced themselves.

Adoption of Minutes from the February 29, 2016 Task Force Meeting.

Barbara Maw motioned to approve the minutes from February 29, 2016; Alison Child seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously

Public Input:

Heinrich Deters asked if there was any public input; Jon Benoist, local citizen was welcomed back by Deters.

Deters informed everyone that the Open Meetings Act training that was to be presented by Polly Samuels McClain, Assistant City Attorney would not be taking place this evening, allowing an additional twenty minutes for the meeting.

Summit County Animal Control Statistics on Fees and Citations; Clay Coleman, Summit County Animal Control stated that he had basic statistics. The county has a new program that they are using now and are manually inputting the 2015 statistics. He explained that the old program was primarily used by the police officers as a log. The older program did not allow tracking location of an incident, or type of incident such as chase, worry or bite.

He shared some County statistics with the group although will update by next meeting. This year's (year to date 2016) citations - Mr. Coleman separated the two citation groups into two types: Dog vs animal (dog) and dog vs person. Coleman stated that these were Summit County statistics:

There were two incidents that involved dog vs person, Coleman described one of the incidents. The incident took place in Round Valley; the persons were cited for the incident. Coleman explained that the victim was out for a walk and was bitten by an off-leash dog; although she was wearing a coat she did receive puncture wounds. The victim called the police and gave them the responsible individuals contact information. The police visited the individual and issued a citation, the responsible party was very receptive. Coleman also stated that the dog was licensed.

Coleman was asked about muzzling and he explained that if his department determined that a dog was vicious they could require the dog wear a muzzle; this would definitely be considered if there was a second offense with the same dog.

Charlie Sturgis, Mountain Trails Foundation inquired as to current statistics on this type of incident vs previous year's statistics. He felt that two incidents was relatively low and severity minimal.

Ed Parigina, At Large inquired about the second incident that Coleman had mentioned. Mr. Coleman stated that the responsible party that caused the second incident ran off before contact could be made.

Deters asked Coleman for clarification regarding the availability of the 2015 citation data. Coleman stated he would present the information at the next meeting and it would include a breakdown of zones. The group felt that it was important to have baseline statistics to determine if the off-leash program was working and which strategies were or weren't successful.

Barbara Maw, At Large inquired about the language in the code pertaining to off-leash. Deters stated that he would review the language in the code, although he shared that the language used in the basin is also used at trailheads in the city. He mentioned the information can be found at the trailheads and the website.

Sturgis stated that the code is posted in long version at the kiosks and an additional sign reminding the individual 'you're entering an off-leash area' is placed near the trailhead.

Coleman was asked for clarification regarding the citations given out as to whether they were specific to Round Valley; he stated that they were Summit County stats. Additionally he was asked what information was going to be requested on the citation. Coleman stated that he was in the process of finalizing the changes to the document and would appreciate the groups input. It was suggested that type of dog, location, time, severity of bite, damages (where they settled), possibly a remarks section might all be considered.

Other questions pertained to muzzling, putting a dog down, euthanasia were directed to Coleman. He stated that Animal Control wouldn't euthanize unless the owner requested it be done.

Sturgis asked if there was a 'three times you're out' policy used by the county. Coleman stated he wasn't aware of that policy and had not used it himself.

He explained the process in determining a penalty, it involved meeting with the owners, possibly signing an agreement, letters signed by the owners and Animal Control and a possible court appearance. He explained documentation was very important. If a dog has a third violation Animal Control can take possession of the animal and send it to a rehabilitation center where it may be retrained and placed with another owner.

Conversation ensued regarding the collaboration between Park City Police dispatch, Summit County dispatch and the Animal Shelter

Kate Sattlemier inquired how data pertaining to dog incidents is collected between the three entities and could be used to determine policy, code successes or failures.

Deters explained that the group will next be addressing policy, codes, how to collect data, how to use the data collected, how the entities will coordinate.

Sturgis suggested having a monthly report that was included in a newsletter giving an update on policy, issues, statistics, and information on an area, reminders that it's important to be a responsible dog owner; group liked the idea.

Education and Evaluation – Deters moved the group forward giving them an update on items that had come up since they last met, specifically relating to the city’s website and the recording of PSA’s on KPCW. Councilman Henney, Charlie Sturgis and Lynn Peek each recorded a PSA that that can be heard during the 9am -11am timeframe; among others two of the PSA topics were focused on leashing your dog and trail etiquette.

Deters then introduced Park City Municipal’s website for those that were not familiar with it. Under the Open Space and Trails tab along the left column there is the Dog tab, click on it and all dog information is available. There are maps indicating open space, trails and dog off-leash areas, where they are located, dogs running at large, Dog Task Force information and meeting minutes and the Summit County Animal Control emergency numbers. He went on to say that the website is basically a one stop shop for the community.

There is a link to a video on the website that Sturgis help produce and edit; the video identifies locations for off-leash areas, limiting impact on wildlife and the environment, reminders to owners to pick up after their dog, trail etiquette. He also discusses the appropriate protocol for approaching an off-leash area from the parking lot to the trailhead. Sturgis continues in the video stating that the community has a wonderful trail system for bikers, hikers, skiers, with dogs, without dogs and has a vested interest in taking care of their trail system and enjoy it at the same time.

Deters continued to show and identifying the different links on the webpage: maps indicating the open spaces, trails and parks and the frequently asked questions. He also mentioned the ‘etiquette poster’ that was a collaboration with Utah Open Lands, Summit Lands, Mountain Trails Foundation and the City was pretty clever and encouraged all to view it.

Tate Shaw, Assistant Recreation Manager commented that he had recently attended the Utah Recreation Parks Association Conference. He shared that a graduate student working on her PhD at the University of Utah gave a presentation on the importance of including dogs in parks, trails and exercise. Her dissertation is much of what the task force has been working on this last month; the student would be willing to share some of her international statistics, solutions and the numerous concerns she has seen in many places. He went on to describe two dog parks she spoke of that rotated use to limit the impact on the grass. Shaw felt having her visit and share her research with the group would be a great opportunity to gain additional insight with a broader focus.

Evaluation Form – Deters introduced the evaluation form and the dog app. Copies of the form were passed around the group. The City’s IT Dept. created an app for cell phones. The app is primarily to collect and record data. A Task Force member can sign up for a certain dog park, either the Library Field or Round Valley to record any observations or encounters with dogs and owners both positive and/or negative, photos may also be taken. Quite a lot of information can be inserted onto the form: date, observations, incompliance, and noncompliance, notes, zip codes, voice and site control.

There is a Geo locating (geographic location) server that will identify locations down to zip codes. Deters stated that the more data collected will eventually help identify trends.

Deters explained that having members of the task force sign up for specific times would eliminate the possibility of double dipping, avoid a lot of duplication, resulting in a more true collection of data.

He will follow up by sending an email to task force members with the information to download the app. to cell phones.

Review defining the problem / Provide the solutions – Before turning the next portion of the meeting over to Tate Shaw, Deters reviewed the progress the Task Force has made: identifying issues, listing possible solutions and creating categories: education, infrastructure, enforcement and policy.

He then introduced the 'Heinrich Matrix' to the group that listed the categories and sub-categories the group would collectively expand on. Deters requested the group share thoughts and ideas focused on dog prohibited areas, off-leash areas and dog parks. He also asked the group to discuss infrastructure and enforcement.

Tate Shaw explained that the matrix was built on the issues and solutions identified previously; the sub-categories are where the group will begin to add to or redefine.

Deters will send out the updated matrix with the minutes. Listed below is a brief summary of comments made by the group pertaining to each category.

Education - discussed briefly; Kate Settelmeier stated that awareness through media and peer pressure would be very effective.

Infrastructure - discussed in greater detail with added ideas and concerns: environmental impacts, public access, private property and liability, enforcement, expense, parking and future opportunities.

There was considerable discussion on what a formal dog park might look like: should they be fenced, have water available, allow agility and obedience programs, shade, and signage

Becca Gerber mentioned a dog park in Wisconsin that had a two mile loop that allowed activities in the center.

Tod Frohnen and Kate Settelmeier felt individuals wanting to access a 'dog prohibited area' should have access from trailhead without needing to cross an 'off-leash dog area', many people have a fear of dogs.

The group discussed dog park acreage and felt a park five (5) acres or less would be acceptable for exercising your dog. They also agreed that a park forty (40) acres or over a half mile of trail would be acceptable to exercise with your dog.

Tod Frohnen commented that the size of a park should be determined based on the location of the park.

Enforcement – *formal* 'dog prohibited' areas should have high enforcement; high enforcement should take place in high density areas, Main Street during high tourist season, events around town

Jon Benoist, public input believes general leashed areas are the majority of town; additionally, Main Street should be a high enforcement area.

Barbara Maw interjected dogs on ski area property by law must be leashed.

Brian Hanton shared an incident that occurred on a public field during an organized event, a dog on a leash bit a child; Basin Recreation staff is now creating a stricter enforcement policy to present to the Board that will address this type of situation.

Informal 'off-leash' dog areas might require less enforcement.

Ed Parigian stated that in regard to the high/low (less) enforcement in an area or an event, park, concert, Main Street or trail the (who, what, where of the event) dog owner is participating in, peer pressure and etiquette will prevail.

Parigian reminded the group that the Library Field is the only place you can throw a Frisbee or stick for your dog and is concerned it will become over used if other parks are not created.

Shaw stated the group was dialing down on the problems and solutions; further discussion on these items will be discussed at the next meeting.

Policy was not discussed because of timing, although will come back around for further discussion.

Deters reminded the group that of the recommended ideas and possible solutions that will be presented to council only a small percent might be accepted, but they would represent positive changes.

Deters reminded the Task Force the next meeting will be March 28, 2016 at 3:30pm Council Chambers.

Deters then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting;

Ed Parigian moved to close the meeting; Alisha Niswander seconded the motion; motion carried unanimously

Meeting minutes prepared by Jody Morrison

The meeting of the Park City Municipal Off-Leash Task Force was noticed on Friday, March 11, 2016 on the Park City Municipal website, Utah Legal website and posted at City Hall, Park City.