

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
April 15, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day remotely by video conference. Commissioners present: President Brad Lindner, Vice President Jim Goetz, Commissioner Susan Castellini, Commissioner Linda Lee Thomas, and Commissioner Molly North. President Lindner called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M. Attendance was confirmed by roll call.

Moment of Silence for Parks Employee

Jenny Mobley announced the unfortunate passing of teammate Bart Sherrill, who joined Parks in 2015. A moment of silence was held in his memory.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

President Lindner acknowledged public comments were received by the Park Board prior to the meeting and they would be posted online with the meeting minutes.

Approval of March 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the meeting minutes from March 18th. Commissioner Thomas seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

ELECTION OF PARK BOARD OFFICERS

President Lindner announced the annual election of Park Board officers. He expressed his willingness to step down from the President role. Vice President Goetz expressed appreciation for President Lindner and announced his willingness to step into the President role, if elected.

President Lindner asked for nominations for Vice President. Commissioner Castellini nominated Commissioner Thomas for Vice President. Commissioner Thomas accepted the nomination.

President Lindner motioned to approve the slate of candidates. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Commissioner Thomas thanked President Lindner for his service in the role. Vice President Goetz echoed her sentiments and expressed appreciation to Mr. Lindner.

QUARTERLY POLICE REPORT

Captain Dennis Swingley provided an update on calls for service, types of arrest, and follow up on previously discussed items pertaining to City parks. He announced there were over 60,000 calls for service for Police Officer response across the city last quarter, 3,539 of which were calls for service to City parks, a 14% decrease in calls for service compared to the first quarter of 2020.

Captain Swingley announced a decrease in calls for service for the top parks compared to 2020, aside from Eden Park. He explained there were 112 calls for service in the first quarter of 2021, compared

to 98 in the first quarter of 2020. He explained the PIVOT Team (Place-Based Investigations of Violent Offender Territories) could be having a positive impact.

Captain Swingley explained top calls for service include 911 calls, hazards, accidents, investigations, and parking violations. He announced a decrease in calls for service related to investigations in City parks, but a 44% increase in noise complaints this past quarter. He explained statistics for City parks include adjacent property. He announced theft (244) and criminal damaging (111) were the top types of offenses in 2021.

Captain Swingley updated the Park Board on discussions with Assistant Police Chief Mike John, DOTE Director John Brazina, and District Commanders in the Public Information Office regarding reckless motorcycles and ATVs driving through the city and said a public service announcement was issued.

Captain Swingley explained standby cars from all Districts were at Smale Riverfront Park on March 28th to address motorcycles and vehicles, fighting, and a gun shot heard in the area. He announced local residents have reported incidents in Mt. Storm Park including loud noise, littering, speeding, and fireworks and extra patrols have been established in the park. Captain Swingley explained he has asked District Commanders to increased patrols in the parks and will be working with Parks operations to discuss individual parks. Deputy Director Jenny Mobley commented on this working relationship and the upcoming meeting to collaborate with the police to help deter illegal activity.

Commissioner Thomas asked for a written copy of the Captain Swingley's update and noted the reduction in calls for service to the Parks versus this time last year. President Lindner asked about the presence of ATVs and Captain Swingley provided further details on addressing the issue through warnings and impounding the vehicles.

NEW BUSINESS

Dunore Park Survey Results Discussion

Rocky Merz provided background on the Board request for community engagement for a dog park at Dunore Park. He explained the guiding principles of transparency in the process and inclusivity, aiming to include as many stakeholders and members of the community as possible. He highlighted methods for engagement, primarily a survey, which was distributed through email to stakeholders, posted on Clifton Next Door, and noticed on physical signs in the park. He explained the community was also invited to send email feedback and staff met with a group of residents on site at their request to address questions.

Mr. Merz noted 850 responses were received from 25 zip codes, most of which being Clifton. He explained responses included over 1,300 comments to the various survey questions which asked about interest, park usage, benefits, and concerns. He noted 21 emails were received during the survey time period and distributed along with survey results to the stakeholders and Park Board and posted on the website quickly after the survey closed.

Mr. Merz provided a summary of the feedback, highlighting 55% of respondents were "for"/ "strongly for" and 45% were "against" / "strongly against." He noted those living closest to Dunore

Park were more likely to be opposed, and those living further from the park were more likely to support. He explained community groups have met since the survey results were distributed and presented resolutions submitted from Clifton Town Meeting, Burnet Woods Advisory Council, and Mt. Storm (Dunore/Bowdle Park) Advisory Council. Mr. Merz expressed staff have noted opportunities for improvement in engagement processes moving forward.

Director Kish expressed Parks is in a good place to move forward with this discussion, stating data supports additional engagement to identify and vet potential sites for a dog park in the area. She noted staff continue to work with the community to identify other sites in the area, and once a viable site is vetted by staff, that would serve as a launch point for further community engagement. Ms. Kish presented the staff recommendation, asking the Board to allow staff to work with the community councils and CPACs to identify a site list, engage the community, and bring additional feedback to the Board for consideration.

Commissioner North thanked staff. She noted the data strongly supporting a dog park but expressed concern regarding the amount of community opposition for Dunore as a location. She agreed with the approach to identify a location as a next step but was concerned the community may not be able to agree on a location in Clifton. Ms. North noted whichever design concept is established may also change the sentiment of the Board and community in terms of support. She asked about the source of funding for the dog park. President Lindner asked about funding as well.

Vice President Goetz echoed the sentiments Commissioner North expressed, including funding and expressed the need to engage the community for funding ideas. He agreed the design concept would impact community support and funding and expressed he would be more supportive of a design concept similar to the Westwood Town Hall dog park. He expressed support of further community engagement and indicated a need to establish a firm timeline. Director Kish suggested a timeline of 30 days to work with community partners to identify a list of locations and begin community engagement. She expressed a staff recommendation of location and potential funding sources could be presented to the Board at the regular June meeting. Mr. Merz indicated the next round of community engagement could include funding sources and design concepts.

Commissioner Thomas noted the overall strength of survey results in support of the dog park in Dunore, but expressed concern regarding the overwhelming opposition of individuals directly impacted by the Dunore location and community groups. She recommended support of a dog park in Clifton be established first, then engagement to determine where precisely it will be located. She expressed the June staff recommendation should include design concept, location, funding, timeline, and how community members directly impacted feel.

Director Kish thanked the community for participating in the engagement and staff look forward to continuing the discussion.

MEMI Revised Management Agreement

Jenny Mobley presented the Park Operation and Management Agreement with Music & Event Management, Inc. (MEMI) for the Banks Lot 23. She thanked Vice President Goetz for assistance with the process, which was a cumulative effort amongst all parties involved.

Vice President Goetz expressed gratitude for Kaitlyn Geiger in City Law for her work and time spent on the process. Commissioner North asked if there were any concerns with the agreement or if the Park Board will need to tend to the agreement. Vice President Goetz explained as it is a new venture, some factors, such as annual maintenance costs, are based on assumptions and will require tracking. He also expressed the partnership with MEMI is new but has been positive and agreeable thus far. Commissioner Castellini expressed excitement for the progress.

Vice President Goetz motioned to approve the staff recommendation to approve the presented Operation & Management Agreement for Lot 23 at Smale. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Lot 28 Design Services

Steve Schuckman explained Parks is ready to move forward with the final piece of the Smale Riverfront Park Extension, Lot 28 on the corner of Elm Street and Mehring Way. He presented the staff recommendation to retain a Landscape Architect to develop the design. He presented schematic design concepts which include a small podium for Parks storage on the north end and a terraced garden setting with accessible ramps. He described the RFP process and the Selection Committee's selection of MKSK. Mr. Schuckman explained \$100,000 would be available from the Parks Foundation to fund these design services. He reiterated the staff recommendation to approve the selection of MKSK and fund design services from Fund 329 up to \$202,215. He explained there is potential for the Foundation to raise funds for the construction of Lot 28.

Commissioner Castellini asked if MKSK would consider ongoing maintenance of park features and gardens within their design. Mr. Schuckman explained design will have the same level of finish and character established in the rest of Smale, and the operations team will be involved in discussions to ensure practical maintenance.

Vice President Goetz asked about possible design savings since conceptual drawings exist. Mr. Schuckman indicated construction drawings would still need to be developed. Mr. Goetz commented the \$400,000 estimate for Phase 2 of Lot 23 referenced seemed high and asked when a firm bid would be available. Mr. Schuckman explained it was based on a percentage of construction for remaining work to be done and additional design needs and when a request for proposals or direct award is established, the estimate will be updated.

Commissioner Castellini suggested touring the site. Mr. Schuckman indicated the park should be open to the public in May, but a tour could be set up prior.

Commissioner Thomas asked about timing for Lots 23 and 28. Mr. Schuckman explained construction on Phase 2 of Lot 23 could possibly begin Spring of 2022, depending on concert schedules. He expressed Lot 28 is still flexible because funding sources are not yet known. President Lindner asked for a budget range for Lot 28 and Mr. Schuckman said estimates have been around \$4 million based on existing supporting structure.

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Commissioner Thomas seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Smale River's Edge

Steve Schuckman provided background on the significant bank erosion west of the Roebling Bridge at Smale Riverfront Park. He explained a \$500,000 State grant was awarded in the past that could be used as a match on a future partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He explained an RFP has released and the selection committee recommended KZF to provide schematic designs for stabilization and a cost estimate, which will be useful in working with the USACE for further Federal appropriations for the project. He presented the staff recommendation to retaining KZF Design, Inc. to provide schematic design services. The cost of design services was clarified as \$99,400 which is coming out of the \$500,000 State grant.

Vice President Goetz thanked Director Kish and Mr. Schuckman for their proactive approach on this project. Commissioner Goetz asked if renderings could be included in the scope of work and Mr. Schuckman explained a site plan and schematics would be included to estimate costs and renderings would require additional funding. Mr. Goetz suggested the detailed renderings could help with presentations to USACE but staff could determine what was necessary.

Commissioner Goetz motioned to approve the staff recommendation. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Contracts & Agreements for Approval

President Lindner acknowledged the list of contracts and agreements requiring Board approval which included Rapid Run playset replacement, Administration Building renovations, Mt. Airy retaining wall repairs, and five Landscape Maintenance Agreements.

Vice President Goetz asked about the timeline of the Administration Building renovations, as the project was approved in Spring of 2020. Mr. Schuckman explained the original bids were rejected and had to go out a second time. Commissioner Castellini asked the reason the original bids were rejected and Mr. Schuckman explained he was unsure but staff could provide an answer. A timeline was requested and the delay was discussed further.

New versus renewed Landscape Maintenance Agreements were discussed. Mr. Goetz asked about the process pertaining to 3CDC's maintenance agreement and why it was possible when Parks was unable to accommodate 3CDC's flower pot program. Ms. Courtney explained the flower pot program effectively doubled in size, which would have required the purchase of an additional watering truck which was not possible this season. She furthered, the flower pot program was not declined due to staff capacity and Parks staff are available to service the landscape maintenance agreement with 3CDC. She described what the planning staff have done for the landscape maintenance agreements and the change in contract terms to streamline the process year to year. Commissioner Thomas asked about cost adjustments year to year and if costs change over time. Ms. Courtney indicated there is a 2% increase each year.

Vice President Goetz expressed his support for the Park Board offering these services to the City.

The new Downtown Cincinnati LLC (DCI) landscape agreement for on-ramp to Interstate 75 located at the intersection of 4th Street and Central Avenue was discussed. Ms. Courtney explained staff will be analyzing the budget and opportunities for landscaping of ODOT right-of-ways.

Commissioner North expressed excitement for the new playground at Rapid Run Park.

Commissioner North motioned to approve the presented contracts and agreements. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

In-Kind Contributions

Craig Sherman explained Board approval is needed to retain QTR 1 2021 in-kind contributions. He presented the staff recommendation to approve in-kind contributions in the amount of \$2,893.63 for park supplies and contract services.

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the in-kind contributions. Commissioner Goetz seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Presentation: Volunteer Program

Rocky Merz announced April is Volunteer Month and expressed appreciation for the major efforts of volunteers throughout the Parks system. He introduced Volunteer Coordinator Christyl Johnson-Roberts to present updates to the volunteer program since being centralized within the Division of Communications, Engagement, & Volunteerism (CEV).

Ms. Johnson-Roberts presented functions of the volunteer program and types of support offered by volunteers. She explained volunteers assist long-term and on an occasional or one-time basis with conservation and land stewardship, horticulture, landscape maintenance, litter pickup, as well as offer support with events, programs, and administration. She described recent changes to the program including full-time status of the Volunteer Coordinator position and centralization within the CEV Division, which allows for more engagement support, relationship building, and improved data tracking. Ms. Johnson-Roberts introduced the newsletter and new online volunteer portal, Better Impact.

Director Kish thanked Ms. Johnson-Roberts for her passion and creativity, and recognized the initiative she has taken to build the volunteer program.

The ways in which volunteers are thanked were discussed, including individuals and group volunteers being highlighted on a monthly basis, as well as the parks that have the most volunteer hours. Use of the Better Impact portal and utilizing data to find additional funding sources was discussed.

Commissioner Thomas recognized the positive impact of the Volunteer Coordinator being full time and within the CEV team, and suggested organizing a volunteer appreciation event in the future. President Lindner suggested a competitive volunteer event.

Presentation: Krohn Conservatory

Jenny Mobley introduced Mark House, Manager of Krohn Conservatory to present an update on Krohn. Mr. House announced although Krohn is currently closed, it will open for the Butterfly Show on May 8th. Mr. House presented a brief history on the conservatory and provided an overview on Krohn's use, operations, collections and how it is adapting to modern cultural changes. He presented a digital database recently created with the help of volunteers and GIS, as well as how Krohn has grown its virtual presence through an online giftshop and virtual programming and events.

Director Kish expressed appreciation for Mr. House and his creativity and management of Krohn. President Lindner also expressed gratitude.

Vice President Goetz commented the database could serve as a useful tool for field trips and school programs and expressed excitement for Mr. House's vision for Krohn.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Goals

Director Kish presented a draft of Director Goals, which includes items she would be tasked with and held accountable to up to June 30th.

Commissioner North commented on previous discussions regarding engagement of professional resources and community to enhance core values and mission, and to establish a strategic plan.

Commissioner Castellini thanked Director Kish for providing the goals.

Commissioner Thomas asked about identifying an executive coach. Director Kish explained she explored options and identified Lisa Gick of the Curious Agency as the best fit for 6-month leadership coaching. Director Kish explained she could immediately initiate obtaining Lisa Gick if that is the wish of the Board.

President Lindner expressed confidence in Director Kish to achieve the presented goals. Director Kish commented achieving goals will be possible with the support of the Leadership team.

Commissioner Castellini motioned to accept the Director Goals. Vice President Goetz seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

STAFF COMMENTS

Rocky Merz presented staff comments, commenting on the difference between this time last year and now, and steps being taken to reopen and reinstate programs and reservations. He explained after consulting with the City, Parks will begin taking shelter reservations again on April 30th. He presented the plans for Krohn's 25th Butterfly Show, "Butterflies of Bali" which will open May 8th-September 6th, which is extended in order to recover some lost revenue while Krohn was closed.

Mr. Merz presented plans for Earth Day (4/22) and Arbor Day (4/30). He explained the Parks Foundation and the LifeCenter Donor Network have worked with Parks on "The Path of Life" project at Mt. Echo Park, for which LifeCenter is donating 40 native hardwood trees, to be planted by volunteers on Earth Day, and signage in honor of their 40th Anniversary, National Donate Life Month and to recognize LifeCenter and organ donors. Mr. Merz announced a volunteer tree planting in Eden Park at the Vietnam Memorial on Arbor Day and plans for social media promotions, including highlighting importance of trees and the natural environment and celebrating Cincinnati's 40th year as a Tree City USA.

Mr. Merz announced the upcoming virtual CPAC Live event on April 22nd at 4:30 PM geared toward engaging CPAC volunteers via Facebook Live, and explained the updates which will be presented at the event. Mr. Merz also presented the City Nature Challenge taking place on Arbor Day which encourages people to inventory the City's biodiversity of plants and animals and then identify them. He explained Parks is partnering with Great Parks of Hamilton County to represent Cincinnati and compete in the annual challenge.

Mr. Merz presented a list of upcoming project dedications planned for the upcoming year including the Kyle Plush Pavilion on June 5th and the Marian Spencer Statue on June 27th. He explained the Commissioners have been provided with a list and will receive invitations to each event. Staff Comments were concluded.

Vice President Goetz highlighted nature walks in Burnet Woods hosted by Michael George.

Commissioner Thomas asked for clarification on reservations, and Mr. Merz explained reservations can be made April 16th and the earliest date shelters can be reserved is April 30th. He furthered, there are no limits on attendance, but the public will be reminded of safety recommendations.

President Lindner asked how the figure for 65,000 trees planted in the 40 years as a Tree City USA was calculated. There was discussion and Crystal Courtney clarified the approximation reflects street trees planted by Parks not counting the ReLeaf program.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Castellini asked about plans to demolish a building in Owl's Nest Park, and Steve Schuckman clarified it is due to be demolished this season. She commented on the lack of trash receptacles at the baseball field and the litter within the park. Director Kish explained operations staff are looking for opportunities for improving the user experience throughout the system, including amenities.

Commissioner Castellini asked for an updated on the Boat Dock. Director Kish explained in the last 48 hours, City Administration have determined Parks should proceed with a Request for Proposals which allows anyone to submit a bid to construct and operate a boat dock. She commented staff have been actively engaging in this process since the Park Board decision to move forward with the project. Ms. Mobley explained she is working with DEI to set inclusion goals and Procurement understands the need to release the RFP quickly. She expected the RFP should be released by mid-May and she will suggest having it open for a month. Vice President Goetz recommended having it open for as short a time as possible that allows for adequate time to prepare a proposal. President Lindner supported the 30-day timeline and Ms. Mobley commented she will also seek guidance from Purchasing on an appropriately efficient timeline.

President Lindner commented on use of hammocks in Ault Park during cherry tree blossoming. Director Kish mentioned the need for staff to investigate and further consider use of hammocks in the parks relative to tree health. Mr. Merz clarified this is currently against Park Board rules as trees can be damaged. He explained staff are working to educate the public or possibly update rules to reflect best practices. Commissioner North expressed hammocks are increasing in popularity and allow park users to passively enjoy the parks, and perhaps could be used to the extent that trees are not harmed.

Ms. North commented on the federal stimulus funding and presuming Parks is a recipient, the need to closely track the work the execution of funded projects. Director Kish explained details of projects will be provided. Vice President Goetz requested projects that were included on the Mayor's proposed distribution of federal stimulus funds, as well as other projects proposed by Parks which were not included, so the Park Board and Foundation can advocate.

ADJOURNMENT

President Lindner announced the next regular meeting will be held on May 20th at 9:00 A.M. Commissioner Castellini motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

ATTEST:


PRESIDENT


DIRECTOR

[External Email] Dunore Rd., in opposition to dog park (Public Comment: 4/15)

Shawn Baird

Mon 4/12/2021 8:08 AM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: Kish, Kara <Kara.Kish@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachments (633 KB)

Dunore Residents Against the Dog Park.pdf;

External Email Communication

Dear Board of Park Commissioners, Kara Kish, and Mary Unterreiner,

I am submitting this email on behalf of our working group concerning the proposal for a dog park at Dunore Park. Attached in PDF format is our official, signed correspondence in opposition to the matter. Please alert me if there is any difficulty in viewing or downloading the material. We kindly thank you for your valued time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shawn Baird

Dear Board of Park Commissioners,

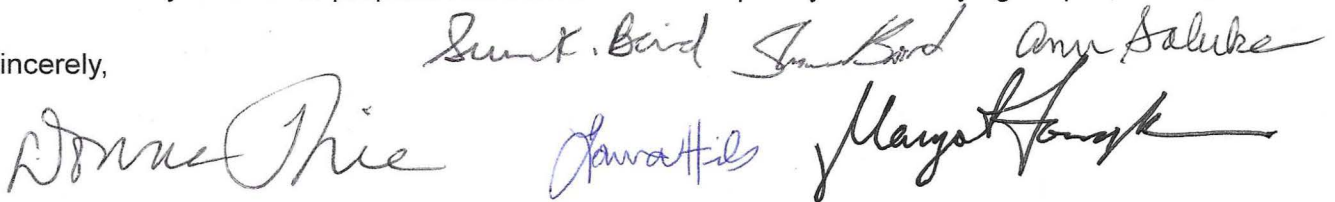
We are a group of residents on Dunore Road in Clifton who have been working on behalf of our neighbors and others who do not support a dog park in Dunore Park. We respectfully request that the Board reject the proposal for a dog park in Dunore Park. If the Board decides to pursue the broader idea of a dog park in Clifton or a nearby neighborhood, we ask that Dunore Park be excluded from that process. Our view that a dog park is inappropriate for Dunore Park is shared by (1) the Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati, which gave us permission to express its position; (2) Clifton Town Meeting (CTM), which passed a resolution stating, among other things, that CTM does not support the construction of a dog park in Dunore Park; and (3) the Mt. Storm Advisory Council, which we understand will provide its own statement to the Board.

We believe that Dunore Park is the wrong location for a dog park for the reasons listed in survey comments and other public feedback: interference with Clifton United Jewish Cemetery; burden on immediate neighbors, including traffic, noise, waste, and safety concerns; proximity to Ludlow Avenue; reduction of valuable community greenspace; disruption to current uses of the park, including by families and children; and the cost of building and maintaining a new facility during a time of strained budgets.

In addition, some data from the survey struck our attention. First, we agree with CTM's assessment that the idea of a dog park in Dunore Park is polarizing. Cincinnati's parks should be places of community, not places that sow division. Second, 72% of people who reported that they live within a block of the park do not support the proposal. Dunore Park is a small neighborhood park in the middle of a residential area with mostly single-family homes. Dog parks become city-wide attractions, and the area around Dunore Park cannot accommodate this type of public use.

In closing, we would like to thank Cincinnati Parks for engaging the community, for answering questions posed by members of this group and many others, for reviewing the survey results and other public feedback, and for thoughtfully considering our position. We are invested in Dunore Park and would like to work with Cincinnati Parks, Cincinnati Parks Foundation, and Mt. Storm Advisory Council to propose more modest--and hopefully more unifying--improvements.

Sincerely,



Shawn Baird, Sumir Baird, Margot Fosnaugh, Laura Hills, Maura McVey, Eric McVey, Ann Saluke, Donna Thie, Don Yellon

Cc: Kara Kish, Director



[External Email] Dunore Dog park

Marcia McLaughlin

Mon 4/12/2021 3:26 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Board Members:

We live within one block of Dunore Park and can see it from our front windows. We have observed life in and around the park for the 24 years we have lived here. We have either walked or driven past the park multiple times each day, as it is impossible to get to Ludlow Ave. without doing so. We are opposed to a dog park in Dunore Park for the following reasons:

1. Dunore Park is situated right in the middle of a residential area and is completely surrounded by houses and the Jewish Cemetery. We are unaware of any professional standards or criteria for the installation of dog parks which would recommend placement in the middle of a residential neighborhood.
2. We strongly object to the human and canine noise, the litter and waste, and the parking and traffic problems that accompany dog parks.
3. According to your staff, the placement of the dog park would take up the area currently used for activities like frisbee and ball play. In addition, it would be located right next to the small children's playground. Dogs can be very frightening to kids and vice versa, setting up a potentially dangerous situation for both.
4. With climate change at crisis levels, why tear up greenspace? We envision instead, planting trees to replace the ones taken out, additional plantings of native shrubs and greenery, more park benches and picnic tables, and enhanced playground equipment for the increasing number of children in the neighborhood.
5. The Jewish Cemetery is an active cemetery. A funeral was held there just yesterday. Placing a dog park in front of the cemetery with attendant noise, barking, and traffic problems is disrespectful to mourners.
6. Key stakeholders, ie. the Jewish Cemeteries of Greater Cincinnati, the Clifton Town Meeting, the Mt. Storm Advisory Committee, and nearly all of the surrounding residents are opposed to a dog park in Dunore Park. We are respectfully requesting the Park Board members to please reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Marcia McLaughlin
Dean Morgan

[External Email] No to Dunore Dog Park

Ann Saluke

Tue 4/13/2021 5:40 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Board,

I am writing to express my opposition to the development of a dog park in Dunore Park.

Ludlow Avenue is a busy thoroughfare with commuting traffic some hours of the day, and ambulances, fire trucks and buses at most hours of the day. In addition, there are plans to develop bike lanes on Ludlow which will eliminate parking along Dunore Park on Ludlow Ave.

I view Ludlow Ave, including Bowdle and Dunore Parks, as one of the gateways into Clifton.

I visited Doris Day Dog Park last year when this discussion started. I do not want to see one of our Clifton gateway parks become the muddy, littered terrain that I observed at Doris Day Dog Park.

I am not opposed to a dog park in Clifton, but am opposed to the consideration of Dunore Park as the selected site.

I love Cincinnati Parks and appreciate your leadership working to develop and maintain family friendly green spaces in the city.

Thank you.
Ann Saluke

45220

[External Email] Public Comment: 4/15/21

Lisa Haglund

Tue 4/13/2021 8:02 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: Merz, Rocky <Rocky.Merz@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Kish, Kara <Kara.Kish@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Mobley, Jenny <Jenny.Mobley@cincinnati-oh.gov>

 1 attachments (7 KB)

2021 04 07_Dog Park Resolution_Burnet Woods.docx;

External Email Communication

**Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council
Resolution on Dog Park Concept in Burnet Woods
April 7, 2021**

Whereas a proposal to create a dog park in Dunore Park (Clifton) has been put before the Park Board both in early 2020 and again now, in 2021; and

Whereas community discussion of creating a dog park in Clifton or Clifton-near has extended to boundaries beyond Dunore Park, to include Burnet Woods Park; and

Whereas in the Clifton Town Meeting Parks Committee Meeting of April 1, 2021, Park Board Vice President Jim Goetz said that locations in Burnet Woods Park were scoped for a potential dog park; and

Whereas in the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council Meeting of April 7, 2021, members in attendance unanimously agreed that a dog park in Burnet Woods was not desirable.

Resolved, that the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council is not in favor of the construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods, and respectfully requests that the Cincinnati Park Board remove Burnet Woods Park from its list of considered locations for a dog park.

Lisa Haglund, 2021 Chair
Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council

Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council
Resolution on Dog Park Concept in Burnet Woods
April 7, 2021

Whereas a proposal to create a dog park in Dunore Park (Clifton) has been put before the Park Board both in early 2020 and again now, in 2021; and

Whereas community discussion of creating a dog park in Clifton or Clifton-near has extended to boundaries beyond Dunore Park, to include Burnet Woods Park; and

Whereas in the Clifton Town Meeting Parks Committee Meeting of April 1, 2021, Park Board Vice President Jim Goetz said that locations in Burnet Woods Park were scoped for a potential dog park; and

Whereas in the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council Meeting of April 7, 2021, members in attendance unanimously agreed that a dog park in Burnet Woods was not desirable.

Resolved, that the Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council is not in favor of the construction of a dog park in Burnet Woods, and respectfully requests that the Cincinnati Park Board remove Burnet Woods Park from its list of considered locations for a dog park.

Lisa Haglund, 2021 Chair
Burnet Woods Park Advisory Council

[External Email] Public Comment: 4/15

Margot Fosnaugh

Wed 4/14/2021 12:42 AM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Cincinnati Park Board:

I'm writing today on behalf of my family to implore you to stop the process of considering a dog park at Dunore Park. This less than 3 acre park, nestled in a residential area and along a busy street, is the wrong location for the City of Cincinnati's 6th public dog park. Dog parks are hugely popular and dog owners travel many miles to take their dogs to the off-leash areas. While this may be a boon to large and neglected parks, bustling community hubs, or other locations where an influx of people from around the city is welcomed, such an influx would not be welcomed by the many residences surrounding Dunore Park. I am certain that a suitable location for a dog park (if there is a need) can be found within the City of Cincinnati, possibly even in Clifton, that does not disrupt residences or displace current park uses.

It is fair to consider a dog park or other "attraction" in a given location, only when that use would be an improvement over the space's current use. In the case of Dunore Park, which is less than 3 acres and a tiny fraction of the size of Clifton's major parks, I don't believe using any of the space as a dog park would be better than the park's current uses. Regular uses of this small space include:

- Small children playing on the playground and swings;
- Kids, families, friends, and dog walkers use the open field for play, frisbee, picnics and walks;
- The many residents driving by and walking through and around the park enjoy its visual calm and beauty.

I visit Dunore Park with my family several times per week. I have no choice but to pass Dunore Park every time I leave my house on Dunore Road, whether on foot or by car. Even my childrens' bus stop cannot be reached without walking along Dunore Park. Realization of a dog park in this location would negatively impact my life on a daily basis. This is personal for me and I've focused on that aspect in this letter. The residents of Dunore Road have separately provided a plethora of documents and information that substantiate Dunore Park as an objectively poor location for a dog park.

Please vote NO to continued development of a dog park proposal for Dunore Park.

Thank You,
Margot Fosnaugh

[External Email] Please, no dog park at Dunore (Public Comment: 4/15)

Shawn Baird

Wed 4/14/2021 7:32 AM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Parks Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to the proposed dog park at Dunore. Dunore Park is at its heart, an open, treasured green space which for decades has been a place where families gather, where children grow and play, and where people stop to enjoy a break from the pace of Clifton. Its greenscape has long provided peace and companionship to the Jewish cemetery, a historic resting place which sits directly across Old Ludlow. More than ever during the pandemic, this welcoming island has provided a much-needed space where people can gather safely to escape their burdens.

It is my view that a dog park of any size, shape, or form would ruin Dunore park, and negatively affect the lives of those inextricably linked to it. Undoubtedly, its ruckus would disrupt homeowners, but more importantly it would pollute the sanctity owed the Jewish Cemetery, its mourners, and the families whose loved ones lay in its rest. Not only would the increased activity and traffic disrupt access to the Cemetery, but there are also more than 30 homes whose access lies solely through the park. These homeowners would have no choice but to reckon with the increase in danger, noise, animal waste, and trash.

In addition, looming over this proposal is its material cost. Why, despite budgetary shortfalls, should it be worth pursuing even the necessary planning for a dog park at Dunore; much less its ultimate price tag? Dunore is a location that fails all criteria for a dog park. Aside from its direct proximity to over 100 homes, there is no plumbing, electricity, or drainage at the park. To correct these failures would constitute a major public works, which as the survey results clearly state, the community has no desire to fund. The cost of adequate irrigation, synthetic surface, and continued maintenance would be exorbitant. What benefits outweigh these costs? What would outweigh the fact that neighboring homeowners are against it, and that it is not supported by the Jewish Cemetery, CTM, or the Mt. Storm Advisory Council, and many other individuals involved in the community whom I've spoken to?

Before this proposal was submitted, Dunore's neighbors were offered no engagement in the idea of a dog park. However, since the independent proposal has been explored by your staff, there has indeed been much feedback. Breaking out the survey results, CTM found that 72% of those within a block of the park strongly oppose it. Those who most strongly supported it, were outside of the 10 minute walk, and have no real stake in its maintained success. The survey also found that almost 80% of respondents will not help pay for it, nor volunteer to maintain it. The publicly available commentary was overwhelmingly negative towards Dunore as a specific location, while most of the input that was supportive of the proposal, tended to endorse mainly the broader desire for a dog park in Clifton.

I am not against a dog park in Clifton per se, and would appreciate an open, proper discussion about the greater interest. That type of community effort is the approach championed in the CTM resolution, which passed with broad support. Although there are many alternatives being discussed, it is not my place to recommend an alternate location. That is for the community. It is my place here to state for the reasons mentioned, and many more contained in the feedback Parks has received, that this proposal should be abandoned. I also believe Dunore Park should be recognized as unsuitable for any future plans of a similar nature.

I humbly thank you for your valued time and consideration.

[External Email] My statement to the Parks board of governors

Wed 4/14/2021 4:47 PM

To: Unterreiner, Mary <Mary.Unterreiner@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Mary:

Thank you for being so supportive of our parks work in Madisonville.

Here's my statement to the Park Board's board of governors

THE ODNR [PAVED] TRAILS GRANT AWARDED FOR BRAMBLE PARK:

I want to thank the Park Board board of governors for agreeing to commit \$24,000, coupled with another \$24,000 from an anonymous foundation donor, that enabled us to learn two weeks ago that the City was awarded an ODNR trails grant to build a paved trail in Bramble Park.

This paved trail -- first designed by the City's planning department and committed to the Madisonville community 45 years ago in 1976 -- will connect Bramble Park and Bramble Avenue to the right of way where the Village of Fairfax (decades after the City's promises to Madisonville) obtained federal funds and built the Murray Path paved trail in 2004.

Today, by year's end, this combination of the Bramble Park paved trail and the the suburban Murray Path will be part of the Wasson Way network which will link Bramble Park and Madisonville proper, through the Village of Fairfax, to Wasson Way, Ault Park, Hyde Park Plaza Shopping Center, Withrow High School, Evanston, the City of Norwood, Xavier University and within two years to Walnut Hills High School and Avondale at the intersection of MLK and Obama Road (Reading Road).

THE NEW WALKING TRAIL, FOOTBRIDGE AND STEPS CONNECTING BRAMBLE PARK TO THE MURRAY PATH THAT OPENS THURSDAY

This week this new infrastructure, built for us for \$5,000 by Groundwork Ohio River Valley's Green Corps young-adult workforce-development team, will be completed on Thursday within hours after your meeting. Thank you to the CRC, and the Park Board, and the City officials for quickly facilitating the Right Of Entry document for Groundwork. The \$5,000 for this project was paid for with a \$3,000 donation from Meg Perez, a Madisonville-based realtor with Coldwell Banker West Shell, and a \$2,000 anonymous donation from the CEO of a Madisonville-based business.

Under Groundwork's leadership in partnership with Madisonville parks activists, a lot of new unpaved trail infrastructure has been completed in the Bramble Park woods (about 7 acres) at the south end of Bramble Park, during the last 10 months, abutting the Cincinnati City Limits next to Fairfax and Mariemont. We cannot thank Groundwork enough for coming into Madisonville in recent years, via its partnership with Lighthouse Youth and Family Services and the Cincinnati Public Schools. Through these partnerships, as well as a more recent relationship between Groundwork ORV and the CRC, via the City's expanded youth-employment program (for 15-18 year olds), Groundwork is elevating the greenspace and agriculture that they are restoring in our town, and which is such a vital part of the agricultural and environment heritage of this town which was annexed by the City of Cincinnati in 1911.

These trail projects in Bramble Park are, in effect, bridging the Apartheid-like barrier that, frankly, has existed between Madisonville and its suburbs since these suburban lily-white communities (often known as Sundown Towns) of Mariemont and Fairfax were carved out of Madisonville 100 years ago. Although on the surface this may seem like purely a recreational achievement, it is also a blow to institutional racism in the real-estate markets. I say that because this, in effect, re-unites the pioneer town of Madisonville founded in 1809 with its neighbors whose communities were founded by Mary Emery and her Mariemont Company more than 100 years after Madisonville was founded on land that traditionally was considered "Madisonville" in terms of postal addresses, retail shopping areas and schools (historically integrated in Madisonville, and hyper-segregated in the Mariemont public school district.

On this point, I challenge the Park Board to recognize, going forward, these vestiges of Apartheid real-estate practices in and around Park Board land holdings. Specifically, I'm talking about hills, creeks, old streetcar and railroad rights of way and power lines rights of way that place barriers between City and suburb (as we see in this case), and between heavily white affluent communities in the City and communities in the City with large populations of working-class people and BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) people. Some good examples here would be the disconnects between:

- Daniel Drake Park and the City of Madeira,
- French Park in Amberly Village with Kennedy Heights,
- Hyde Park and Evanston at Bettman Woods,
- North Avondale and Paddock Hills at Avon Woods,
- Mount Storm Park in Clifton and the Mill Creek Valley communities, and
- Lower Price Hill and the Price Hill Incline District along the abandoned Maryland Avenue and streetcar incline, or cable car. [I realize this is a Public Services issue, and not a Park Board issue, but it's part of the larger Apartheid-like pattgern cited here that the City needs to address with its walkable infrastructure.]

Fortunately, the long-standing barrier between the east side of Ault Park and Madisonville will be erased later this year with the completion of Wasson Way through to the Madisonville side (the east side) of Ault Park. Many thanks here to Green Umbrella, which is based in Madisonville, for advocating for this configuration for Wasson Way.

UPDATE ON THE [SLOW] STATUS THAT HAS KEPT BOOTS OFF THE GROUND TO START THE ALREADY FUNDED PROJECT TO RESTORE LITTLE DUCK CREEK IN BRAMBLE PARK

Also, I wanted to give you an update on the status of the stream restoration project in Bramble Park along Little Duck Creek. The State of Ohio awarded this money, via a Ohio Public Works Commission grant administered by ODNR. This state grant was obtained after we in Madisonville raised the 25% matching funds of \$25,000 from the Haile/US Bank Foundation, \$5,000 from Debby Oliver through the Oliver Family Foundation and \$13,000 from an anonymous donor that Jennifer Hafner at the Parks Foundation recruited.

We obtained that grant money from the state many months ago -- more than a year ago as I recall. However, not only have we not seen any boots on the ground in Bramble Park with this money that already sits in City coffers, but no contracts have been issued, and no effective RFI has been sent out (one was sent out earlier and cancelled due to an inadequate first response from vendors, as I understand it). Today, the latest we hear is the Parks staff has done its work for this 2nd RFI, but it's being unexplainably held up somewhere at City Hall, perhaps in the procurement office.

I report this to you not to fault anybody on the Parks staff. Au contraire.

I report this because I hope you understand how frustrating this is to community people who volunteer their time to parks projects, and recruit private donors to help with these projects, in order then to wait and wait and wait and wait for construction to start years after the projects are vetted in the community and approved both in the community and by parks staff.

Clearly, there are flaws in this system, flaws that there are particularly no excuse for now that, with the new Presidential administration, we're looking at HUGE increases in parks infrastructure funding to come, at levels not seen out of Washington in two generations, AND OUR CITY IS NOT ORGANIZED TO APPLY FOR AND WIN OUR FAIR SHARE OF THIS "GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE" MONEY AND THEN "make it happen" on the ground.

In closing, I wanted to thank you for working with us in Madisonville to environmentally restore and upgrade Bramble Park and the Little Duck Creek Preserve. We've enjoyed a very good relationship with Parks since Wade Walcutt and then Kara Kish took over CEOs. Prior to that, under previous parks CEOs, we were essentially ignored. Not so now.

I cannot say enough good things about Wade Walcutt and Kara Kish.

This will be my last communication with you as a resident of the City of Cincinnati. My wife and I are listing our house in Madisonville next month, and will be moving to a new-build condo closer to family, in a condo development in Deerfield, Massachusetts, along the Connecticut River, that abuts the beautiful Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation (park). It's time to not only take advantage of the red-hot housing market in Madisonville which fetches us a greater return on our investment than we ever felt possible, but also to "go condo" and live closer to family. Thank you for your time.

Best regards,

Bill Collins

[External Email] Subject- Public Comment: 4/15 - Opposition to Dog Park in Dunore Park

bob bergstein

Wed 4/14/2021 3:58 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <Cincy.Parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Subject- Public Comment: 4/15 - Opposition to Dog Park in Dunore Park

Hello,

My name is Robert Bergstein. I have lived in Clifton for many years, and my house is a 5 minute walk from Dunore Park. Since I did not fill in the previous questionnaire, I take this opportunity to express my opinion.

I oppose a dog park being built in Dunore Park for several reasons.

1. The park as it exists now, is fine. It is a beautiful green area, nice trees, open area. I see people walking along the park. People walking their dogs, mothers with their children playing on the playground. College kids throwing frisbees. Very peaceful.

I note that it is especially nice for kids and parents, since the parking is easy, and it is very open, so that they feel safe. More playground equipment could be added.

Also, I note that it is a very nice park to drive by, which I often do, as do thousands of others every day. Very serene. Greenspace, in itself, is valuable to people, providing a psychological benefit, as is now well-known.

2. I talked to several of my neighbors and one person in Dunore Park as they were walking their dogs. I asked them if they would use the dog park. They all said no. They were concerned about their dogs being old, or too small, or uncertain if their dogs would be safe.

In other words, if the dog park was built, the park would be less useful to many dog owners. They do walk their dogs there now.

Sincerely,
Robert Berastein

Note – this is emailed to Cincinnati Park Board as specified.

“Public comments may be submitted to the Park Board via email at cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov no later than 5 P.M. Wednesday April 14th. (please include “Public Comment: 4/15” in the subject line).”