

**City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report**

Meeting Date: <u>06/17/14</u>		Item Number: <u>A-1</u>
PRCS COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM: Recommendation to the City Council to (1) Amend the Culver City Municipal Code to Allow for the Establishment of Designated Dog Paths by Resolution of the City Council; (2) Designate “Pooch Path #1” within Veterans’ Memorial Park as a Designated Dog Path; and, (3) Designate “Pooch Path #2” within Veterans’ Memorial Park as a Designated Dog Path with the Stipulation of a Six-Month Review by the PRCS Commission.		
Contact Person/Dept.: Dan Hernandez, Phone Number: (310) 253-6655 PRCS Director		
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐ General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐		
Public Hearing: ☐ Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒		
Public Notification: (Email) Parks, Recreation & Community Service Department Updates, Meetings and Agendas – Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission, (06/13/14).		
Department Approval: Dan Hernandez (06/09/14).	City Attorney Approval: N/A	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: N/A	City Manager Approval: N/A	
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission make a recommendation to the City Council to (1) amend the Culver City Municipal Code to allow for the establishment of Designated Dog Paths by resolution of the City Council; (2) designate “Pooch Path #1” within Veterans’ Memorial Park as a Designated Dog Path; and, (3) designate “Pooch Path #2” within Veterans’ Memorial Park as a Designated Dog Path with the stipulation of a six-month review by the PRCS Commission. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> 1. Establishing Designated Dog Paths by Resolution of the City Council Currently, the Culver City Municipal Code (CCMC) must be amended to add the name of each Designated Dog Path upon approval by the City Council. Staff is recommending that Commission make a recommendation to the City Council to amend the CCMC to allow for the establishment of Designated Dog Paths by resolution of the City Council. This proposed change will streamline the administrative process of establishing Designated Dog Paths without altering the established review and/or approval process. That is, if recommended by the PRCS Commission and approved by the City Council, the language in CCMC Sections 9.10.600.A, 9.10.600.B and 9.10.600.C below will be revised to reflect the fact that Designated Dog Paths are established by resolution.		

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CCMC Relating to Dogs and Designated Dog Paths

For reference, the following is an excerpt of the CCMC relating to the prohibition of dogs within Culver City Parks:

§ 9.10.055 PROHIBITIONS

Within the limits of any public park it shall be unlawful for any person:

- A. Having charge, care, custody or control of any dog, except as permitted by § 9.10.400 or § 9.10.600, or other animal, fowl, or reptile to cause, permit or allow the same to be within the limits of any public park within the City, unless such person shall have obtained a special permit from the City Council to conduct an entertainment or exhibition in which an animal is a participant.

§ 9.10.400 relates to the Culver City Dog Park within Culver City Park; § 9.10.600 relates to the designated Pooch Paths within Culver West Alexander Park and Culver City Park. § 9.10.600 is excerpted below and the recommended revisions are indicated by strikethrough (for deletions) and underline (for additions) text:

§ 9.10.600 DESIGNATED DOG PATHS.

A. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Code, a person may have charge, care, custody or control of any dog upon the designated dog paths established by resolution of the City Council in Culver West Alexander Park and Culver City Park; provided such dog is at all times restrained by a substantial chain or leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length, in the control of a competent person.

B. For purposes of this Section, **DESIGNATED DOG PATHS** shall mean the pathways established by resolution of the City Council as designated dog paths in Culver West Alexander Park and Culver City Park that areand identified by conspicuously displayed signs indicating that they are **DESIGNATED DOG PATHS**, and where the pathways themselves are marked with pictures of paw prints.

C. Nothing in this Section shall permit or allow any person having charge, care, custody or control of any dog to permit or allow that dog to be in any portion of any public park, except as permitted by § 9.10.400, other than on the designated dog paths established by resolution of the City Council in Culver West Alexander Park and Culver City Park.

The PRCS Commission's Role in the Development of Designated Dog Paths

In its role as an advisory body on matters pertaining to parks, the PRCS Commission has previously made recommendations to the City Council on both the topic of allowing dogs in Culver City parks and on the creation of designated Pooch Paths within the parks. At the February 9, 2009 meeting, the following action was taken by the City Council:

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THAT THE CITY COUNCIL CONTINUE THE EXISTING LAW AND PRACTICES THAT DO NOT ALLOW DOGS IN PARKS, EXCEPT IN THE CULVER CITY DOG PARK OR WHERE THERE IS A DESIGNATED DOG PATH, AND AUTHORIZE STAFF AND PARKS, RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION TO CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FOR DESIGNATED DOG PATHS IN OTHER PARKS WHEN A NEED IS IDENTIFIED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COMMISSION.

2. Prior PRCS Commission Discussions and Actions Regarding Recommending Designating Certain Sidewalks/Walkways within Veterans Memorial Park as Dog Paths

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM	OUTCOME (paraphrased)
August 6, 2013	A-2. Consideration of a Recommendation to the City Council Regarding Designating Certain Sidewalks/Walkways within Veterans' Memorial Park ("VMP") as Dog Paths.	The PRCS Commission took action to make a recommendation to the City Council to designate the sidewalk running along the south side of the Veterans Memorial Park parking lot adjacent to Culver Boulevard as a Designated Dog Path ("Pooch Path #1"); deferred action on the interior sidewalk/walkway within VMP that connects the Culver Boulevard Parking Lot to Barman Avenue (to the west of the Park buildings; "Pooch Path #2") until after the Culver West Alexander Park Pooch Path Extension has been reviewed in January 2014.
January 7, 2014	A-2. (1) Nine Month Review of the Extension of the Pooch Path at Culver West Alexander ("CWA") Park to include the Walking/Jogging Trail Located within the Park; and, (2) Discussion of Reconsidering the Issue of Recommending a Designated Dog Path on an Interior Walkway at Veterans' Memorial Park at a Future PRCS Commission Meeting.	Staff informed the Commission that Park Patrol reports of dogs in unauthorized areas of CWA Park had decreased since the designation of the walking/jogging trail as a Pooch Path and that there did not appear to be any notable negative consequences related to the extension of the Pooch Path. The Commission took action to agendize the continued consideration of recommending a designated dog path on the interior walkway ("Pooch Path #2) at the March 4, 2014 meeting.
March 4, 2014	A-1. Continued Consideration of a Recommendation to the City Council Regarding Designating a Dog Path on the Sidewalk/Walkway within Veterans' Memorial Park that Connects the Culver Boulevard Parking Lot to Barman Avenue.	The PRCS Commission took action to make a recommendation to the City Council to establish the sidewalk/walkway within Veterans' Memorial Park that connects the Culver Boulevard Parking Lot to Barman Avenue (to the west of the Park buildings; "Pooch Path #2") as a Designated Dog Path with the stipulation that the Commission will review it six-months after the date that the Pooch Path signs have been posted.

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Summary of Public Notification and Comments

Meeting Date:	August 6, 2013	March 4, 2014
<i>Post Card Mailing</i>	734 postcards	1,091 postcards
<i>Email Notifications</i>	3,305 subscribers (2 emails)	3,522 subscribers (2 emails)
<i>Website Highlights Posted</i>	Two weeks prior	Two weeks prior
<i>Culver City TV Slide</i>	One week prior	Two weeks prior
<i>Notices Posted in VMP</i>	One week prior	One week prior
<i>Comments in Support</i>	1	9
<i>*Conditional Support</i>	2	1
<i>Comments in Opposition</i>	7	6
<i>Conditional Opposition</i>	0	0

****Conditional Support:***(1) Yes, if rules & regulations are strictly enforced (e.g., dog feces must be picked-up); (2) Yes, for all sidewalks facing the streets, even those separated by a parking lot; and, (3) Yes, as long as measures are taken to ensure that the dogs are not on the private property of the homes in the VMP neighborhood.

DISCUSSION:

Regardless of any change in the administrative process, staff recommends that the PRCS Department's and the PRCS Commission's central role in the process of designating dog paths be preserved, including conducting public outreach, compiling and reviewing public comment, consideration and discussion at a noticed public meeting and the submission of a formal recommendation to City Council.

An aerial view of the proposed Designated Dog Paths within Veterans' Memorial Park recommended by the PRCS Commission at the August 6, 2013 meeting ("Pooch Path #1") and March 4, 2014 meeting ("Pooch Path #2") for consideration by the City Council is provided an Attachment.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS:

As noted in previous staff reports on this topic, if the City Council takes action to designate dog paths in Veterans' Memorial Park based on the PRCS Commission's recommendation, costs associated with marking the route as a "Pooch Path" are expected to be approximately \$1,500.00 for signage, paint and stencils. It should be noted that "paw prints" marking the dog paths will only be stenciled at the beginning, end, and at random intervals within the designated sidewalks (as opposed to along the entire route).

There are sufficient funds in the City Council Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2013/2014 for the Parks Division in 10130300.514100 (Parks Division / Departmental Special Supplies) for the signage, paint and stencils and in 10130300.411100 (Parks Division / Regular Salaries) for approximately twenty (20) hours of staff time for the project.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Aerial View of Proposed Pooch Path #1 and Proposed Pooch Path #2 at Veterans' Memorial Park
- B. Enhanced Aerial View of the Proposed Designated Dog Path, "Pooch Path #2," at Veterans' Memorial Park

MOTIONS:

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

Make a recommendation to the City Council to:

1. Amend the Culver City Municipal Code to allow for the establishment of Designated Dog Paths by resolution of the City Council;
2. Designate "Pooch Path #1" within Veterans' Memorial Park as a Designated Dog Path; and,
3. Designate "Pooch Path #2" within Veterans' Memorial Park as a Designated Dog Path with the stipulation of a six-month review by the PRCS Commission.