

City of Culver City, California
Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: <u>03/01/11</u>		Item Number: <u>A-3</u>
PRCS COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM: Report from the Recreational Activities and Special Projects Subcommittee and Consideration of the Recommendations of the Dog Park Ordinance Review Group.		
Contact Person/Dept.: Pam Robinson, Acting PRCS Director		Phone Number: (310) 253-6724
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☐
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒
Public Notification: (Email) Meetings and Agendas – Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission (02/24/11).		
Department Approval: Pam Robinson (02/21/11).	City Attorney Approval: N/A	
Fiscal Impact Approval: N/A	City Manager Approval: N/A	
 <u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Staff recommends the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission receive a report from the Recreational Activities and Special Projects Subcommittee on the recommendations of the Dog Park Ordinance Review Group (DPORTG), consider DPORTG's recommendations and take action as deemed appropriate. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> On February 17, 2011 the members of the Dog Park Ordinance Review Group (DPORTG) held their second meeting related to the Ordinance review. The primary objective of the group is to determine whether or not the Rules and Regulations for the Culver City Dog Park (the Boneyard), as stated in Culver City Municipal Code Section 9.10.400 (Attachment A), need revision now that the Dog Park has been in operation for almost seven years. The DPORTG is not a City committee, but instead is a work group that includes two PRCS Administrative Division staff members, a representative from the City Attorney's office, two representatives from the Friends of the Culver City Dog Park and the members of the PRCS Commission Recreational Activities and Special Projects Subcommittee, Chair Hudson and Commission Kim. <u>DISCUSSION:</u> At the first meeting of DPORTG, two main concerns regarding public participation at the Dog Park were raised: (1) Potential dog-on-dog aggression related to the presence of intact male dogs, and (2) potential problems related to children's behavior in the Park. In advance of the second meeting of the DPORTG, a packet of information was emailed to members in order to inform the discussion on February		

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17 (Attachment B). The packet contains information regarding the Los Angeles County Spay/Neuter requirements and a *Review of Dog Park Rules* of forty-six (46) cities/areas.

Intact Male Dogs

The *Review of Dog Park Rules* revealed that while only 9% of the rules specifically stated that dogs must be altered (spayed/neutered) to enter the dog park, 85% stated the only licensed dogs are allowed in the park. In Culver City and other areas, a dog must be altered to be licensed. Therefore, staff collected information regarding the licensing requirements of nearby areas and found that the following included mandatory spay/neuter:

City of Los Angeles (covering or partially covering 128 zip code areas), including:

- Bel Air
- Beverly Hills (the City of LA handles their animal licensing)
- Brentwood
- Century City
- Hollywood
- Pacific Palisades
- Playa del Rey
- Venice
- Westchester
- Westwood

All unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, including:

- Baldwin Hills
- Ladera Heights
- Marina Del Rey

The City of Inglewood

In addition, these Cities do not require spay/neuter as part of their dog licensing program but offer a discounted license fee to owners with altered dogs:

- Manhattan Beach – \$18 altered / \$50 unaltered
- Redondo Beach – \$20 altered / \$40 unaltered
- Santa Monica – \$16.30 altered / \$54.70 unaltered

After discussing this and other information, the DPORG determined that the most effective and efficient way to address potential problems related to the aggressive behavior associated with many intact male dogs is to: 1) continue to rely on the

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existing regulations, which prohibit aggressive dogs in the Park and require all dogs that use the Park to be licensed; and 2) post additional signage at the Dog Park highlighting the rule that a dog must be licensed to use the Park and providing further detail regarding Culver City's licensing requirement, particularly the fact that it includes mandatory spay/neuter. A draft of a sign that was developed based on this recommendation is included as Attachment C; the actual sign will be 11" wide by 17" high.

The Behavior of Children at the Dog Park

The *Review of Dog Park Rules* indicated that 61% of the rules specified that children must be supervised by adults while in the dog park. Language prohibiting children of was found in 28% of the rules. When reviewing the rules, staff found that it is common among cities to have both a formal set of rules, such as those that might be contained in a City Ordinance, and set of behavioral rules or "Rules of Etiquette" that apply to dog parks.

Since the existing Culver City Dog Park Rules and Regulations clearly states that "*Children twelve (12) years of age and under are not permitted in the Dog Park, unless accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times*" (Section 9.10.400-B), the DPORG determined that the most effective and efficient way to address any potential problems related to children's behavior at the Park is to post additional signage at the park which highlights the existing regulation, explains what "supervision" means for parents and describes the ways children and the adults who accompany them are expected to behave in the Park. A draft of a sign that was developed based on this recommendation is included as Attachment D; the actual sign will be 11" wide by 17" high.

Summary

In summary, the DPORG recommends that both the concerns regarding intact dogs and the behavior of children be addressed through additional signage at the Dog Park. The presence of such signage will assist participants in "self-policing" the Park to deter unwanted behavior and enhance user experiences at the Park. It should be noted that both draft signs (Attachments C and D) are open to review and discussion by the full Commission.

DPORG recommends a three month trial period for the temporary signage, commencing when the Dog Park reopens. At the end of three months, the DPORG will meet to discuss how the signs have been received at the Park, if this solution has adequately addressed the concerns and whether or not the language on the sign should be revised in any way. Once the language on the signs has been finalized, permanent signage will be installed at the Dog Park.

The members of the Recreational Activities and Special Projects Subcommittee may want to comment on and/or add to the information presented in this report.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The fiscal impact associated with temporary signage is minimal and will be absorbed by the PRCS Department budget. When the estimates for the permanent signage are available, staff will contact the Friends of the Culver City Dog Park to inquire as to if they are willing to help cover the cost.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Culver City Municipal Code Section 9.10.400: OFF LEASH DOG PARK – RULES AND REGULATIONS
- B. Information Emailed to the Dog Park Ordinance Review Group on February 15, 2011
- C. Draft Sign – Culver City Dog Licensing Requirements (*NOTE: The actual sign will be 11" wide by 17" high*).
- D. Draft Sign – Rules of Etiquette for Children and the Adults who Accompany Them to the Culver City Dog Park (*NOTE: The actual sign will be 11" wide by 17" high*).

MOTIONS:

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

- 1. Receive a report from the Recreational Activities and Special Projects Subcommittee; and,
- 2. Consider the recommendations of the Dog Park Ordinance Review Group; and,
- 3. Take action as deemed appropriate.