

City of Culver City, California
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: <u>12/02/08</u>		Item Number: <u>A-2</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of a Recommendation to City Council of Designated Dog Paths within Culver City Park.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Patrick Reynolds, Parks Manager		Phone Number: (310) 253-6471	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☐ No ☒		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒	Attachments: ☒
Public Notification: PRCS Master Email Notification List (11/26/08); Advance Courtesy Email Notification to the City's Master Email Notification List and PRCS Department Distribution Lists (11/19/08); Flyer Distribution in Seven (7) Culver City Parks, the Senior Center & Council Chambers (week of 11/17/08); Flyer Distribution in Culver City Park (during the weekends beginning 11/22/08 and 11/29/08); PRCS Public Notification Signs in 5 areas of Culver City Park (11/19/08 through 12/02/08).			
Department Approval: Bill La Pointe, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (11/25/08)		City Attorney Approval: N/A	
Chief Financial Officer Approval: N/A		City Manager Approval: N/A	

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (PRCS) Commission consider a recommendation to the City Council to approve and authorize designated dog paths within Culver City Park on sidewalks along Duquesne Avenue from Jefferson Boulevard to Leash Lane and the Dog Park, and continuing up the hill to the gated entry of the upper area of the Park; and also paths branching off from the Duquesne Avenue sidewalk (in Culver City Park) to the Recreation Hut restrooms (Attachment A).

BACKGROUND:

At the Parks, Recreation and Community Services (formerly the Parks and Recreation) Commission's request, staff brought a proposed pilot program to allow dogs on leashes in Culver West (Alexander) Park for a period of ninety days before the City Council at their July 25, 2005 meeting (Please see Agenda Item A-2, Attachment E). During the public comment portion of the meeting, Culver West (Alexander) Park neighborhood residents expressed their concerns about having to go out of their way and walk long distances in order to get to the streets and roadways on the other side of the park. They had to take a long, outlying circuitous route in order to avoid breaking the law by crossing the Park while walking their dogs. In response to citizens' concerns, an alternative motion was passed by Council directing staff to come back with a plan to allow dogs to pass through Culver West (Alexander) Park when leashed and under the control of a responsible party, so long as the dogs remained on concrete walks and not in the grass (5-0).

City of Culver City, California
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Agenda Item Report

On August 17, 2005, a site visit to Culver West Alexander Park was made by Parks and Recreation Commissioner Vicki Daly Redholtz, PRCS Director William La Pointe, Deputy City Attorney Heather Iker, Scott Malsin, acting as a representative of the Culver West Park Neighborhood Association, and Patricia Mooney, PRCS Senior Management Analyst. During that visit, various options for the location of a "Pooch Path" were discussed. The consensus of the group was that the best way for people to "cut through" the Park while walking their dogs was to access the Park via the sidewalk from McConnell Boulevard using the pass-through easement north of the tot lot (commonly known as the McConnell "Alleyway") to get into the park and then traveling through the Park on to Wade and Moore Streets. The advantages of having the path in this location were discussed at the October 4, 2005 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and were also highlighted in the August 14, 2006 Agenda Item Report to City Council. Copies of the staff report and minutes of the August 14, 2006 City Council meeting are provided as Attachment B.

At that meeting, City Council introduced Ordinance No. 2006-008, amending Section 9.01.055 (A) and adding Subchapter 9.10.600, of the Culver City Municipal Code relating to allowing dogs on leashes on designated dog paths in certain City Parks (5-0). Excerpts of the Municipal Code related to this item are provided as Attachment C.

DISCUSSION:

It has come to staff's attention that, with the popularity and use of the Dog Park in Culver City Park, the need for dog owners to be able to walk to and through the Park to the Dog Park as well as to be able to walk from the Dog Park to the Recreation Hut restrooms has arisen.

Currently the only "legal" means by which a dog owner with dog(s) can reach the Dog Park is by driving a vehicle to the Park. In keeping with the City's environment-friendly policies, a designated dog path in Culver City Park would encourage and allow dog owners and their dogs to legally access the Dog Park by walking to and through a portion of the Park.

In addition, once at the Park, some using the Dog Park find they need to use the Recreation Hut restroom facilities. However, they cannot leave their dog(s) unattended in the Dog Park and currently they are not able to walk their dog(s) through the Park to the restroom facility. A designated dog path from the Dog Park to the Recreation Hut restroom facility would allow this convenience.

Therefore, staff is recommending the Commission recommend City Council consider legalizing the designated dog paths shown on Attachment A.

City of Culver City, California
Parks, Recreation and Community Services Agenda Item Report

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the City Council takes action to designate dog paths in Culver City Park, costs associated with marking the route as a "Pooch Path" are expected to be approximately \$500.00 for signage; paint and stencils. Funds for this expenditure are available in PRCS Parks Division Account 10133100.514100 – Departmental Special Supplies. Staff time devoted to the project will be approximately twenty (20) hours and will be posted to PRCS Parks Division Account 10133100.411100 – Regular Salaries.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Possible location of designated dog paths in Culver City Park
- B. August 14, 2006 City Council Agenda Item A-2: *(1) Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Sections 9.01.360 and 9.10.055(A), and Adding Subchapter 9.10.600, of the Culver City Municipal Code Relating to Allowing Dogs on Leashes on Designated Dog Paths in Certain City Parks; and, (2) Adoption of a Resolution Designating Certain Pathways or Walkways of Certain Public Parks as "Pooch Path" and related meeting minutes*
- C. Excerpts of the Culver City Municipal Code relating to "Pooch Paths" and associated Sections of the Municipal Code

MOTIONS:

That the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Commission:

- 1. Recommend that the City Council consider, approve and authorize designated dog paths in Culver City Park as noted on Attachment A;

or

- 2. Provide further comment to staff.