

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 07/25/05		Item Number: <u>A-2</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of a Proposed Pilot Program to Allow Dogs on Leashes in Culver West Park for a Period of Ninety Days; and Consideration of Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Culver City Municipal Code Sections 9.01.360 and 9.10.055(A), Relating to the Prohibition of Dogs Running at Large and in Public Parks, in Order to Implement the Pilot Program.			
Contact Person/Dept.: William La Pointe		Phone Number: (310) 253-6682	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☐ No ☒	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Master Notification List on 7/11/05; all businesses and residents within a 300-foot radius of Culver West Park were notified via postcard totaling 97 cards at a cost for postage of \$22.31 on 7/11/05. Emails or postcards (40 postcards at a postage cost of \$9.20) were sent to interested parties on or before July 14, 2005.			
Department Approval: William La Pointe 7/18/05		CAO Approval: Jerry Fulwood 7/20/05	
City Controller Approval: Marlee Chang 7/19/05			
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> By the Parks and Recreation Commission's action, staff is bringing to the City Council the following recommendations for consideration. 1. Proposed Pilot Program to allow dogs on leashes in Culver West Park for a period of ninety days; and 2. Introduction of an Ordinance amending Culver City Municipal Code Sections 9.01.360 and 9.10.055(A), relating to the prohibition of dogs running at large and in public parks, in order to implement the Pilot Program (Attachment 1). <u>BACKGROUND:</u> At its June 1, 2004 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission (the "Commission") discussed the issue of a possible amendment to the Culver City Municipal Code to allow dogs on leashes in City parks on a temporary basis until the Dog Park is developed, and directed staff to return with additional information, such as how other cities handle this issue. Copies of the staff report and minutes for the June 1 st meeting are included as Attachment 2. After staff conducted additional research, this issue was further discussed by the Commission at its October 5, 2004 meeting. One member of the public expressed			

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opposition to allowing dogs in the parks, even if leashed. In order to determine how other members of the public felt about this issue, it was suggested by the Commission that a community survey be conducted or, in the alternative, that a public hearing be held. The Commission moved to table the discussion of a temporary amendment and requested that the issue of a permanent Municipal Code amendment be agendaized for a public hearing at a future meeting. Copies of the staff report and minutes of the October 5th meeting are included as Attachment 3.

Subsequently, a public hearing was held to discuss this issue at the Commission's June 7, 2005 meeting. Staff presented a report giving an overview of what other California cities are doing in relation to allowing leashed dogs in City parks. The meeting was well attended by members of the public (including comments received by e-mail), who expressed views both in support and in opposition to this issue. After giving the public an opportunity to be heard and considering all the information before it, the Commission directed staff to come back with a proposal for the implementation of a pilot program to allow dogs on leashes in one of Culver City's public parks. Copies of the staff report and minutes of the June 7th meeting are included as Attachment 4.

On July 5, 2005, staff presented to the Commission a proposal for a pilot program to be conducted in the "lower park" area of Culver City Park in order to study and observe the impacts of allowing leashed dogs in the park for a 90-day period, before a decision is made as to whether or not to allow such a practice on a permanent basis and in additional City parks. Some Commissioners did not believe Culver City Park to be a good location for the pilot program and suggested Culver West Park instead, while other Commissioners were opposed to allowing dogs in the park at all, even as part of a temporary program. After discussing the matter, a motion was passed by the Commission (3-2, Shapiro and Deen dissenting) to recommend to the City Council that a pilot program be implemented at Culver West Park for a period of 90 days, in order to evaluate the feasibility of allowing leashed dogs in City parks on a permanent basis. Copies of the staff report and minutes of the July 5th meeting are included as Attachment 5.

DISCUSSION:

This pilot program is being proposed in order to study and observe the impacts and feasibility of allowing leashed dogs in one of the City's parks, before a decision is made as to whether or not to allow such a practice in additional City parks and on a permanent basis. The basic guidelines for the proposed Dogs-on-Leashes Pilot Program were drawn from the Parks and Recreation Commission's comments and recommendations at its meetings of June 7 and July 5, 2005, and include the following:

- The pilot program shall be implemented at Culver West Park.
- The duration of the pilot program will be 90 days.

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- Dogs must be on leashes not exceeding six feet in length at all times.
- Retractable leashes are not allowed.
- Dogs are prohibited from the park playground and tot lot areas.
- Dog owners must clean-up and properly dispose of their dog's feces.
- Dogs are allowed in the park only during regular park operating hours.
- Temporary signs will be posted to inform park users of the rules of conduct for dogs and their owners.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Implementation of a Dogs-on-Leashes Pilot Program is anticipated to have some impact on staff (for cleanup, patrolling efforts, data collection analysis and reports) and temporary signage as noted below:

1. 48 hours staff time @ \$24.00/hour	\$1152.00
2. 3 ea. temporary signs and posts @ \$25.00 ea.	<u>\$ 75.00</u>
Total cost estimate	\$1227.00

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed ordinance;
2. Staff report and excerpt of minutes from 6/1/04 Commission meeting;
3. Staff report and excerpt of minutes from 10/5/04 Commission meeting;
4. Staff report and excerpt of minutes from 6/7/05 Commission meeting; and
5. Staff report and excerpt of minutes from 7/5/05 Commission meeting.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Authorize a Dogs-on-Leashes Pilot Program to be implemented in Culver West Park for a period of ninety days;
and
2. Introduce, for first reading, the Ordinance amending Culver City Municipal Code Sections 9.01.360 and 9.10.055(A), relating to the prohibition of dogs running at large and in public parks, in order to implement the Pilot Program;

OR

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3. Reject the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation for the development of a Dogs-on-Leashes Pilot Program to be implemented in Culver West Park for a period of ninety days;

OR

4. Discuss the issue and provide further direction to staff.