

**Parks and Facilities/Programs  
Dogs in Parks Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes**

The Parks and Recreation Dogs in Parks Subcommittee of the City of Mesa Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a teleconference meeting at the Parks and Recreation office at 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on January 6, 2010.

Members Present (via teleconference):

Frank Alger  
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman  
Ron Wills

Staff Present:

Dawn Bies  
Dale Furnas  
Mike Holste  
Andrea Moore  
Roy Nunnally

**Welcome and introductions**

Dawn Bies initiated a teleconference with subcommittee members Frank Alger, Connie Gullatt-Whiteman and Ron Wills and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Mr. Wills was sitting in for David Martinez.

**Public Comments**

None

**Discuss and make recommendation regarding Dogs in Parks feasibility meeting results**

Dale Furnas told the subcommittee members that City staff representing the City Attorney's Office, Park Rangers, Park Maintenance, Public Information Office, and PRCF leadership met on December 22, 2009. Their discussion focused on the following:

- A six-month trial has significant associated costs and risks such as sign modifications, additional receptacles, and confusion.
- Once dogs are legitimately allowed in all parks, it will be extremely difficult to revert back to allowing leashed dogs in only some parks in designated areas.
- City currently funds 4 Park Rangers and 3 Animal Control Officers. There are no budgetary resources in the foreseeable future to add additional staff.
- An "Action Plan" can be adopted to allow leashed dogs in all City of Mesa parks on an ongoing basis (no trial, but for the foreseeable future).
- Turn this challenge into an opportunity to engage and educate the public to help maintain the safety and cleanliness of our parks by being responsible pet owners. The Public Information Office's resources can be utilized for this public education campaign including signs, TV spots, public service announcements, social media, etc.
- Parks Maintenance struggles to keep dog feces out of parks and anticipates that this problem will increase as dog owners learn that leashed dogs are allowed in all Mesa parks. Therefore, additional "doggie pots" could be installed. The type that is currently being installed encourages park users to provide bags and cost approximately \$200-\$400 each. Since additional trash collection, especially in basins, is not budgeted park patrons can be encouraged to "pack it out."
- Business partnerships may be available through sponsorships of doggie pots, etc.

- Comments from citizens can be gathered through December 2010 to evaluate the affects of the change in policy. This can be accomplished through the City's website and through comment cards distributed by Park Rangers and Park Maintenance staff.
- If the change in policy is successful, the City can consider modifying rules and ordinances in January 2011. New signs in parks may be needed to reflect new City codes.

Mr. Alger wanted the action items to include an "Adopt-a-Park" program whereby volunteers could adopt a park or basin to maintain. Ms. Gullatt-Whiteman agreed with that suggestion.

Andrea Moore said that citizens would have to be signed up as a City volunteer in order to adopt a park or basin.

The Dogs in Parks Subcommittee will meet again by March 2010 with a goal of creating a final recommendation for Parks Board consideration on March 10, 2010.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Raines  
Deputy City Manager