

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

The Parks and Recreation Dogs in Parks Subcommittee of the City of Mesa met at the Parks and Recreation office at 200 S. Center Street, Building 1, Mesa, on December 15, 2009.

Members Present:

Frank Alger
Connie Gullatt-Whiteman
Ron Wills

Staff Present:

Dawn Bies
Dale Furnas
Mike Holste

Frank Alger called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Public Comments

None

Analysis and Discussion Regarding Findings of Dogs in Mesa Parks Citizen Public Comments

Mr. Alger addressed the panel and stated that results from the citizen input indicate that most survey participants want to allow dogs on leash in Mesa parks. A discussion ensued regarding:

- enforcement of leash laws
- cost of purchasing dog waste receptacles/supplies
- cost for changing park rules signs
- establishing areas in parks where dogs are not allowed
- forming partnerships with local businesses to offset costs of providing additional waste receptacles and supplies for parks

After much discussion the subcommittee recommended that staff meet to determine the feasibility of a 6 month trial period allowing dogs on leash in all Mesa parks, with the following guidelines:

- Dogs not allowed in picnic/ramada areas, playgrounds, sports fields and/or courts (basketball, tennis, softball, baseball, soccer)
- Dogs owners are responsible for the continued safety and cleanliness of Mesa parks, ensuring that dogs are on leash (only exception is Quail Run off-leash dog area), under control, and dog waste picked up and disposed of or carried out of park

At the end of the 6 month trial period, this issue will be revisited by the Parks Board for further review and discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan Raines
Deputy City Manager