



HIGH PARK  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

95 Lavinia Avenue, Box 108  
Toronto, Ontario M6S 3H9  
(416) 392-1748  
www.highpark.org  
k9@highpark.org

**K9 Meeting Minutes**  
**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Howard Park Tennis Club**

**Present:** Robert Glover, Roman Bijan, Paul Wehrle, Sharon Lovett, Bernard Sanders, John Cleary, Tammy Reid, Robin Sorys, Kim Beemer, Roy Siokalo, Jane Brown, Amanda Osmond

**Guests:** David Bellamy (Bylaw Enforcement Officer)  
Paul Michalik (Animal Care and Control Officer from Toronto Animal Services)

1. **Question and Answer session with Animal Services and Bylaw Enforcement**  
The group met with officers from both Toronto Animal Services and Parks Bylaw Enforcement for an informal question and answer session. See attached sheet for summary of Q&A.
2. **Adoption of minutes of previous meeting**  
Correction to minutes regarding website of dog-walkers and Roman.  
Motion to adopt with corrections: Tammy Reid, 2<sup>nd</sup> Robert
3. **Business arising from the minutes**
4. **New Business**
  - a. **Green Bin Program**  
John updated the group on the efforts of the City to promote the green bin program in High Park. There are still difficulties working out the logistics with Park staff as there is currently no way to transport green bins from Dog Hill to Bloor Street for pickup by Waste Services. Samples of the two types of paper products that they City will be providing were passed around the group. There was debate about the necessity of paper products and the difficulties using the products in the varied terrain of High Park. John indicated that the green bins will still be picked up even if plastic bags are found inside. Presentations from Parks Waste Diversion staff will be made available upon request to anyone interested in learning more. Paper copies of the presentations were passed around during the meeting.
5. **Reports/Updates**
  - a. **Meeting between council members and Mayor Miller's staff**  
The group discussed the recently reported actions that some council members, acting as individuals, met with Mayor Miller's staff, who had associated them with the council, regarding the High Park off-leash area and concerns regarding the natural environment. The contents of the meeting and the names of the individuals involved remain unknown to the general council, despite a call for the individuals to step forward. John stated that he

felt that the actions, coming from council members even if acting as individuals, were disrespectful to the K9 committee, the council and the off-leash review group. He indicated there were several steps that could have been taken before such a meeting should have taken place. Some of the potential steps could have included meeting with: K9 committee; K9 co-chairs; HPCAC; HPCAC executive; HPCAC officers; park supervisor; and park manager. There was a discussion of some of the potential actions that could have been taken by the anonymous individuals prior to arranging a meeting with Mayor's staff, including indicating to the council that they were attending the meeting as individuals and not council members.

Tammy explained her emotional response to the release of the information at the last council meeting. She indicated she felt disrespected at the council meeting especially given the tremendous amount of work and energy by the K9 committee into building a better off-leash area. Due to the continued disrespect, shown by members of the VSP and NEC towards K9 and their contribution to the council and the park, Tammy indicated she would no longer be attending council meeting as the K9 representative, although she will continue to be involved in volunteering within the park.

Members of the group suggested the need to advocate in a similar fashion for dog-owners in response to the actions. John indicated it might be best to hold off on action until hearing from the officers/executive and any updates at the next council meeting. Members of the group felt strongly towards advocating for a motion to investigate the anonymous action, especially considering the anonymity has the potential to fracture the council. Some members felt the actions warranted dismissal from the council as it showed a lack of responsibility and commitment towards the council. A member indicated that an individual can do whatever they want as long as they don't indicate they are representing the council. John indicated that the actions were definitely against the spirit of the council and does nothing to help bring other groups into the council.

The group discussed the need to express the concern of the committee about the actions and the right to reserve actions according. Some of the group were concerned that other committees of the council or City staff were involved in arranging the meeting or knew about the meeting beforehand. The concerns expressed by the committee during the meeting were to be brought to the attention of the council as well as to the executive

#### **6. Other Business**

Due to the late hour, any additional business was postponed until the May K9 meeting. Anyone with urgent request or suggestions was urged to contact John or Tammy at [K9@highpark.org](mailto:K9@highpark.org)

#### **7. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn: Tammy Reid, 2<sup>nd</sup> Robin Sorys