



HIGH PARK  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

**Present:** Robert Glover, Roman Bijan, Paul Wehrle, Sharon Lovett, Bernard Sanders, Terry Wade, John Cleary, Tammy Reid, Melanie Houston, Robin Sorys

**Regrets:** Cindy Carroll, Amanda Osmond, Kim Beemer

**1. Adoption of minutes of previous meeting**

Due to amount of material (Jan. & Feb. meeting minutes) to go through, additional correction can be provided by email or at next meeting.

Motion to pass: Robert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Terry with option to make changes

**2. Business arising from the minutes**

- a. Update on motions at Feb. HPCAC meeting (rental space and Ken/Robin)  
The group was updated on the results of the motions at the previous council. The rental space motion was not accepted (10 against, 8 for) and the motion regarding Robin/Ken was withdrawn. There was some debate about the resulting discussion regarding Terms of Reference and the group heard from Robin that Sandy Straw had been contacted but Robin hasn't heard back in regards to meeting with the Terms committee
- b. Future meeting with Animal Services  
There was continued interested in arranging for Toronto Animal Services staff to attend the next meeting to discuss issues related to dogs in High Park. The group discussed the possibility of having Parks Bylaw Enforcement also attend to discuss issues related to City bylaw regulations. John will make arrangements with both Animal Services and Parks Bylaw Enforcement.

**3. New Business**

- a. Bylaw enforcement and Animal Services  
The group heard from various members that Bylaw enforcement was walking the trails. There were different explanations from Bylaw staff regarding why they were in the park ranging from checking on poop/scoop, ensuring dog walkers were walking right amount of dogs (4-6 dogs/walker) and ensuring commercial dog walkers had their permits visible. The group heard that staff were issuing both warnings and tickets and were focused on areas near the zoo, on off-leash trails and Spring road. The group discussed how to improve compliance around Forest School and Nature Centre. Some of the suggestions include:
  - telling other dog-owner about increased enforcement
  - increase number of signs near Forest School
  - targeted enforcement in those particular areas

There was a question of whether bylaw staff are working on the weekend, with some reporting that Officer say they work seven days a week. John indicated to the group that Bylaw supervisor reported that staff had received special constable training but were not certified. The group wondered about the difference with special constable training and indicated this would be a good topic of discussion for the meeting with staff.

There was also a question of whether officers respond to complaints or regular patrolling. John responded that from previous meetings, he is under the impression that staff respond mostly to complaint.

b. **Contact numbers**

The group discussed the emergency and enforcement numbers which have been posted to the Dog Hill bulletin board. The group suggested changing the wording of the 2<sup>nd</sup> number (Bylaw enforcement) to “Enforcement via access Toronto” to indicate that this is not a direct line. It was also suggested that the police number also be added (11 division) as well as the animal cruelty number for Toronto Animal Services.

c. **K9 website update**

The group discussed updates to the K9 website and John showed the group an offline version of the website. Suggestions from the group included:

- adding contact numbers on website to match the contact numbers on Dog Hill bulletin board.

- adding a community section with input from community (lost dogs, pets up for adoptions, memorial section).

- updates on other dog-related events

- vets and emergency clinic. The group discussed the need for a warning about the committee not endorsing any particular vet or emergency clinic.

The group thought that this information was important for new dog owners especially the emergency clinic given previous incidents in the park.

- business links (vets, dog-walkers, dog services). The group discussed the various implications from having business links on the website and that it may conflict with HPCAC function. There was a question about whether other HPCAC groups had business links on their webpage and the difference if the group sponsored K9 events in the past. There was a suggestion that the dog-owners association could handle any business listings to avoid any confusion.

Roman indicated that a website that lists dog-walkers already exists and he would provide the website ([www.torontodogs.com](http://www.torontodogs.com)) to K9.

#### **4. Reports/Updates**

a. **Off-leash review group**

The group has not met and there are no meeting scheduled for the immediate future.

b. **Program committee meeting**

The group was updated on the upcoming program committee meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> where the program groups will be discussing revamping of the HPCAC webpage. It was thought that membership program information would be good to host through the website.

The group discussed that the park is busy during summer and mark break with new users and different users suddenly appear. There are lots of kids on Dog Hill and there is a need for certain etiquette and safety issues with children on dog hill. There was suggestion of postings notes to parents (on dog hill) in coordination with Nature Centre about how children should handle themselves around strange dogs. John indicated that the Nature Centre already provides training to children enrolled in their programs. The group discussed the difference between behavior with a single dog versus behavior with a pack of dogs. The group discussed that people unfamiliar with park, such as City recreation groups, often wander through the off-leash area unknowingly. There was a suggestion that K9 could create a notice to City about the off-leash area, indicating its location and that recreational groups in the park should be aware of its existence. Robin indicated that there is a central office for the recreation aspects of High Park with a park staff equivalent to Helen (Terrance Duffy). Members will work on wording for notice for events and recreational groups.

The group also discussed the need for maps of the park, even if they are old. The public have a difficult time of finding locations in the park and lots of dog-owners get asked for directions. John will ask Helen about reprinting an updated map and providing copies to the Grenadier restaurant as well as hosting new maps on the website. Other suggested brochures for printing include:

- Behavior of dogs in off-leash area
- How and why your dogs behaves differently in off-leash areas.

### **High Park is my park day**

The group discussed the upcoming High Park is my Park day with a potential date in July. There were various suggestions including having live music and increasing the participation of programs and other groups in the park. Paul indicated he was willing to help the organizers with hPIMP. Other suggestions included:

- direction signs for various venues, missing zoo sign, lack of large sign at Grenadier restaurant, children's playground, option to have security guard hand out maps and directions.

### **c. Spring cleanup**

The group discussed the upcoming Spring cleanup on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event will be on the weekend after long weekend. There is the need for two groups with one in off-leash area and another outside of off-leash area. K9 should provide maps for areas that need cleaning. Suggestions included

- K9 reach out to rec. groups to clean the recreation fields and areas during this event.
- fix up the puppy play area. The area need works and the snow fencing is in need for repairs. A gate is really needed to make it work for training and recall work. The group heard that this area has been worked on before and its not used very often. If a group would like to work on this area during cleanup, they should contact K9 for more information.
- Flagging tape for dog-walkers and people who are in the park more often to mark areas in need of improvement. This may help identify areas of fencing that need repair but may also be detrimental in terms of visual

distraction and nuisance for City staff

- Green bin project for dog hill. The group thought it would be good to launch this initiative during cleanup. John indicated he hasn't heard of any breakthroughs with City staff regarding green bin problems and Robert was going to try contacting waste diversion.

- involving schools in cleanup. The group heard that schools already have cleanups in the park in April (Earth day and mayors community cleanup) The group felt that High Park needs more cleaning days not less given the level of waste and that lack of City staff. K9 should contact Helen about outside groups interested in park cleanups.

**5. Other Business**

**6. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn, Tammy, 2<sup>nd</sup> Roman