

Pet-Friendly Dubuque  
Meeting Minutes  
August 21, 2019  
5:30 pm  
Multi-Cultural Family Center

Present: Jeremy Jensen (facilitator), Mary Rose Corrigan, Paul Hoffman, Robin MacFarlane, Marie Ware, Ray Werner, Becca Kuhle, Laura Carstens, Lisa Johnson, Mallory Schmid

Absent: Mary Ann Kirkendall, Amanda Shaffer

I. Council Direction

There is council member support to look at an ordinance change to allow pets in parks. Additionally, the consensus is the Council is looking for recommendations on how to make Dubuque Pet-Friendly. Nothing came out of the recent Council goal setting for anything new related to Pet-Friendly Dubuque.

The Park and Rec Commission has decided to address issues one at a time. The first issue they have decided to address is pets in parks and the ordinance change.

City staff explained the process for an ordinance change and recommended that public input sessions be a big part of any change, prior to going to Council. It was stressed that City/community partnerships are essential and that most partnerships are  $\frac{1}{4}$  City and  $\frac{3}{4}$  City partner.

II. FIDO request for pet park in the Port of Dubuque

In July, FIDO made a proposal to the City Council and the media that a pet park should be placed in the Port of Dubuque. This proposal included a conceptual drawing. Lisa explained this has been on the radar since at least June 2018, as a replacement for the DOT site and the intent was to see what support was out there. Other members of the committee pointed out that since this was not discussed with this committee, it felt like they were “blindsided”. Discussion was held on past experiences of trying to get pet initiatives changed and not having a united front, which is believed to ultimately cause the initiatives to fail. Laura Carstens brought maps of the City Master Plan for land use, which includes zoning issues. The location in the Port of Dubuque is not zoned to have a pet park, which would require additional commissions to be involved and Council action.

The committee has agreed to table any pet park ideas and when the priority becomes looking at future pet park locations to include the committee and City Staff. A good model of the process would be the new skate park in Flora Park.

### III. Next Steps

See below

### IV. Future of the committee

The committee will continue to meet, at least monthly, to work on recommendations.

Meeting rules for the Pet-Friendly Dubuque committee were discussed at the beginning of the meeting. Appointed committee representatives are allowed to talk during the discussion. Appointed alternates can speak through their appointed representative, unless their appointed representative is not present. There must be transparency among the group for the group to work, so any actions, etc. related to this issue should be brought to the group for discussion. This is a work group that reports to the Park and Rec Commission. The Park and Rec Commission then reports to the City Council.

#### Next Steps:

The Park and Rec Commission will be looking at draft ordinances to allow pets in parks at their September 10, 2019 meeting. They will provide copies of the draft to the committee and look for recommendations. No time line will be set for completion as the process needs to be complete and thorough.

The committee will be looking at education campaigns, as well as modeling, responsible pet ownership. This will be continuous, ongoing, and concurring with any other priorities.

An option for implementation ordinance change may include a pilot with a small number of parks. A successful pilot was done with bowhunting within the City limits which then lead to the current ordinance.

Jeremy will send out possible dates for the next meeting, which will be after the Park and Rec Commission meeting in September.

#### Assignments:

The assessment will be put on the City website in multiple locations (cross posting) – **Pet Friendly Community webpage is updated: <https://www.cityofdubuque.org/2740/Pet-Friendly-Community>**

Apply for a Sustainability Grant to assist with responsible pet ownership education. Laura will work with Robin and assist with he application.