



Agenda Item #:



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Cohen and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager

FROM: Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation *R.G.*
 Idris Jassim Al-Oboudi, Recreation Services Manager
 Cameron Harding, Recreation Supervisor *CH*
 Michael Brooke, Recreation Supervisor *MB*

7.10.09
 Idris Jassim Al-Oboudi

DATE: July 21, 2009

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Parks and Recreation Commission Recommendation to approve Additional On-Leash Dog Access along Specific Pathways in Polliwog Park

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation for the following expansion of dog-on-leash access in Polliwog Park:

1. Establish on-leash dog access for the pathways along the southern edge of Polliwog Park (near Manhattan Beach Blvd.) and the pathway around Premier Field. Pathways that shall remain prohibited are those around the amphitheater, picnic areas, fitness area, and both of the playground equipment areas. (Please see Attachment A).

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

This expansion will require additional signage, mutt mitt dispensers and marking the designated walk paths. The estimated cost for these items totals \$1,450.00 and will be encumbered by the current Parks and Recreation operating budget.

BACKGROUND:

During the January 9, 2007 joint meeting of the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Commission was given the go-ahead to hold discussions on future dog-access areas and dog-run sites; to revisit old sites and try to gain approval from the various neighborhoods, based on the success of the approved park access/dog run locations.

After the successful implementation of the new on-leash path areas at Sand Dune, Polliwog Park and the lower grass area of Bruce's Beach, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the continued utilization of a dog committee comprised of Recreation staff and other community members to continue looking into future opportunities for additional dog runs and dog-on-leash

access to city parks. The Commission suggested that staff conduct community outreach regarding the formation of the dog committee.

DISCUSSION:

In preparation for these future projects, Parks and Recreation staff conducted community outreach regarding needed committee members. A press release was sent on November 26, 2008 inviting new committee members. These efforts resulted in four (4) new members of the committee (renamed Community Dog Advisory Committee).

The committee holds ongoing, monthly meetings, looking into each project area. The expansion of dogs on leash along pathways at Polliwog Park was selected by the committee as its next project.

In September 2007, City Council approved the committee's proposal to allow dogs-on-leash access along the westerly pathway in Polliwog Park (along Begg Field and Begg Pool). The current proposal seeks to expand the areas of on-leash dog access to the southern pathways of Polliwog Park and the pathway around Premier Field. These pathways were selected for this expansion because they are used specifically as thoroughfares by park users. The pathway around the upper playground area and all internal pathways were excluded from the committee's proposal so as to keep dogs from areas where large groups of people gather and remain, as well as from areas where ducks, geese, and other birds collect. Additionally, the amphitheater area was excluded from this proposal because of the frequency with which the area will be blocked off from dog access during such special events as Concerts in the Park. Staff and the committee believe that by excluding the amphitheater area, incidents of misunderstanding with dog owners will be avoided.

Extensive notification to the community was pursued in the preparation of this proposal:

- 1) A Public Notice was created, identifying proposed areas of expansion and sent to all residents living within a 500 foot radius of Polliwog Park on April 17, 2009 (please see Attachment B). This notice listed the date, time and location for the May 5, 2009 Community Dog Advisory Committee meeting, as well as information regarding the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting on June 22, 2009.
- 2) The same notice was posted on the Recreation page of the City of Manhattan Beach website, along with a map of the proposed expansion, on April 17, 2009

These notifications informed the public of the proposals and invited them to attend a community meeting on May 5, 2009 to provide input. The notifications also informed the public of the date and time of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on June 22, 2009, when the committee's recommendations were discussed.

Staff received three email responses (five persons) to the notification (Attachment C) opposing the expansion of on-leash dog access at Polliwog. There were no members of the public in attendance at the CDAC meeting on May 5, 2009.

At the community meeting, staff and the committee discussed the history of the established dog

on leash-access areas, identified the new proposed expansion and described how the expansion would affect Polliwog Park and users.

Staff contacted the middle school principal on April 30, 2009 regarding the proposed expansion of on-leash walk-through access at Polliwog Park. Staff and the middle school principal explored their concerns with usage of the Polliwog Park path by students for fitness and exercise classes. They agreed that the weekday interactions would be minimal, since most dog owners walk before 7:30 a.m. and after 4:00 p.m. and felt that Parks and Recreation could mitigate any problems with signage and hour limitations. Staff did not see any conflict between activities in the park and the proposed walk-through because its location is out of the way of such activities. As in other park walk-throughs for dogs on leash, staff noted that the use is minimal and has no significant impact on park operations.

On June 22, 2009, this recommendation was unanimously approved by the City of Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Commission.

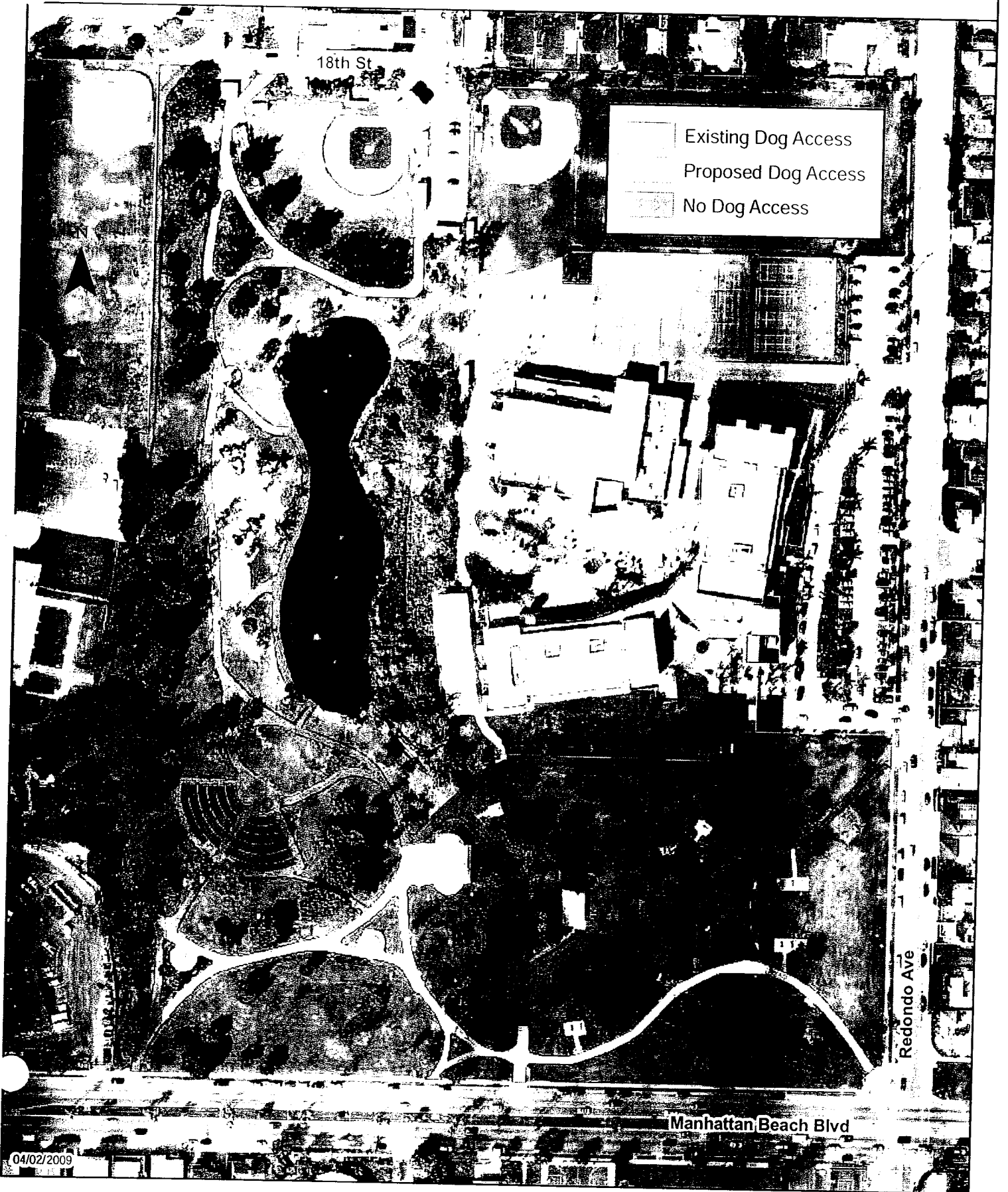
CONCLUSIONS:

Staff believes this is only a minor adjustment to the existing use for on leash dogs using the westerly pathway. The westerly pathway was approved for use by on-leash dogs in September 2007 by the City Council. Staff has not received one complaint since the westerly pathway was approved. In fact, staff has received a great deal of positive feedback from the community.

The committee and city staff will monitor and gather information through user surveys and contact with concerned neighbors as was done for the currently established dog paths and dog runs. If significant or chronic problems occur, staff will work with the committee and neighbors to find prudent solutions or discontinue the changes in use.

- Attachments: A. Pathways
B. Public Notice
C. Email Responses

Polliwog Park On-leash Dog Access Proposed Expansion





City of Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Department
1400 Highland Avenue
Manhattan Beach, CA 902626

Dear Resident,

The Community Dog Advisory Committee (CDAC) is a sub-committee of the Manhattan Beach Parks and Recreation Commission designed to address the needs and concerns of residents regarding pets (dogs) in the community. This sub-committee is comprised of a group of volunteers and City Staff from the Parks and Recreation and Police Departments.

The CDAC has developed a proposal to present to the Parks and Recreation Commission. This proposal is for the expansion of on-leash dog access in Polliwog Park. At present, dogs are permitted on a walkthrough corridor, on-leash, along the western most path of Polliwog Park. The proposed expansion will include the pathways along the southern edge of the upper level of the park and the pathway around Premier Field. Pathways that shall remain prohibited are those around the amphitheater, picnic areas, fitness area, and both of the playground equipment areas. The map shown on the reverse side of this page shows this on-leash expansion and is also available online at the City of Manhattan Beach website, www.citymb.info, on the Parks and Recreation page.

Your participation and input regarding this proposal is vital. The Community Dog Advisory Committee invites residents of Manhattan Beach to its next meeting to provide input and suggestions regarding the proposed expansion of on-leash dog access in Polliwog Park.

The next meeting of the CDAC will be Tuesday, May 5, 2009, from 6:00pm to 7:00pm at the Police & Fire Department Conference Room, located at 400 15th Street. This proposed expansion, with input received at the May 6th CDAC meeting, will be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 22, 2009, at 6:30pm in the City Council Chambers located at City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue.

If you have any questions or comments, please email Recreation Services Manager Mr. Idris Jassim Al-Oboudi at ialoboudi@citymb.info or call (310) 802-5404.

ATTACHMENT *e***Jane Grace**

From: Idris Al-Oboudi
Sent: Wednesday, June 24, 2009 2:07 PM
To: Richard Gill; Michael Brooke; Cameron Harding; Jane Grace
Cc: 'lucy artinian'; Idris Al-Oboudi
Subject: info from Ms. Lucy Artinian & Mr. Robert Hoersch regarding Dogs at Polliwog Park as of June-24-2009

FYI and noted for next steps in the process.

From: lucy artinian [mailto:lartinian20@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 9:26 PM
To: Idris Al-Oboudi
Subject: RE: IJA info to Ms. Lucy Artinian & Mr. Robert Hoersch regarding Dogs at Polliwog Park as of June-23-2009

Thank You for your information. I would point out that this will cost money when we don't have any in the city or school. \$ 1500 is alot when parks and rec. is being cut back. Please forward my cost objection to the city hall
 Bob and lucy hoersch

Subject: IJA info to Ms. Lucy Artinian & Mr. Robert Hoersch regarding Dogs at Polliwog Park as of June-23-2009
Date: Tue, 23 Jun 2009 14:37:21 -0700
From: ialoboudi@citymb.info
To: lartinian20@hotmail.com
CC: rgill@citymb.info; charding@citymb.info; mbrooke@citymb.info; ialoboudi@citymb.info

Good afternoon Ms. Artinian & Mr. Hoersch, this is a fallow up email regarding the subject of expanding dog on leash access on paths in Polliwog Park. Please note attached report and information regarding the subject. The parks and Recreation commission met yesterday, June-22-2009 at 6:30pm at City hall and unanimously approved the recommendation for the expansion of dog-on-leash access on paths in Polliwog Park.

During the June-22-2009 meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission, I did go over the fact that I had received information from five deferent people in opposition to this expansion (Three emails). I talked about the core reasoning for the opposition to allowing dogs on leash in the park is SAFETY and Park maintenance. The commission considered each point and asked for clarification. After deliberation, the Commission unanimously approved the recommendation for the expansion of dog-on-leash access on paths in Polliwog Park asking staff to forward recommendations to City Council. The next step in the process for staff is to forward Commission recommendations, etc to city council to consider in an upcoming meeting. I hope to know the date this subject will come up on council agenda and will inform all involved parties ASAP.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance

Thank you,

6/24/2009

Idris

ATTACHMENT C

Mr. Idris Jassim Al-Oboudi
Recreation Services Manager
City of Manhattan Beach
Phone 310-802-5404
Fax 310-802-5001
ialoboudi@citymb.info

"Parks and Recreation Create Community and Quality of Life Through People Parks and Programs"

From: lucy artinian [mailto:lartinian20@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2009 9:03 PM
To: Idris Al-Oboudi
Subject: Dogs in Polliwog park

Hi Mr. Al-Oboudi:

Thank you for meeting with my husband and I.

This email is to inform the City Counsel of Manhattan Beach that we are opposed to additional access areas for dogs in Polliwog park.

As it stands, not all dog owners clean after their dogs.

Granting additional walk areas will further deteriorate the cleanliness of our park, that's already filthy due to the pigeons, ducks, seagulls.

However, if the City grants more park sites for the dogs, then they must issue them a permit and charge them a fee, to be used for the additional cleaning required.

Lucy Artinian & Robert Hoersch
1400 Faymont Ave
Manhattan Beach

6/24/2009

ATTACHMENTC**Jane Grace**

From: Idris Al-Oboudi
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 2:32 PM
To: 'Carl & Ann'
Cc: Richard Gill; Michael Brooke; Idris Al-Oboudi; Cameron Harding
Subject: IJA info to Mr & Mrs Jund
Attachments: New Dog Path Comm Notice Final Final.pdf; On-Leash Dog Access in Polliwog Park 6-22-09.doc; PolwogParkDogAccessFINAL WITH BEGG.pdf

Good afternoon Mr & Mrs Jund, thank you for your follow up email regarding the subject of expanding dog on leash access on paths in Polliwog Park. Please note attached report and information regarding the subject. The parks and Recreation commission met yesterday, June-22-2009 at 6:30pm at City hall and unanimously approved the recommendation for the expansion of dog-on-leash access on paths in Polliwog Park.

During the June-22-2009 meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission, I did go over the fact that I had received information from five deferent people in opposition to this expansion (Three emails). I talked about the core reasoning for the opposition to allowing dogs on leash in the park is SAFETY and Park maintenance. The commission considered each point and asked for clarification. After deliberation, the Commission unanimously approved the recommendation for the expansion of dog-on-leash access on paths in Polliwog Park asking staff to forward recommendations to City Council. The next step in the process for staff is to forward Commission recommendations, etc to city council to consider in an upcoming meeting. I hope to know the date this subject will come up on council agenda and will inform all involved parties ASAP.

Please contact me if I can be of any assistance

Thank you,

Idris

Mr. Idris Jassim Al-Oboudi
Recreation Services Manager
City of Manhattan Beach
Phone 310-802-5404
Fax 310-802-5001
ialoboudi@citymb.info

"Parks and Recreation Create Community and Quality of Life Through People Parks and Programs"

Mr & Mrs Jund (1800 Harkness 310-372-3267) regarding Dogs at Polliwog Park as of June-23-2009

-----Original Message-----

From: Carl & Ann [mailto:carl-tuzzo@earthlink.net]

Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 1:45 PM

To: Idris Al-Oboudi

Subject: Dogs at Polliwog Park

7/10/2009

ATTACHMENT C

Dear Parks and Recreation Personnel:

Please send a copy of your deliberations concerning the allowance of dogs at Polliwog Park. I called one of your associates yesterday to indicate my concerns including size, breed, path barriers, proximity to children playing nearby, clean-up concerns and liability.

My wife and I strongly oppose the easing of dog restrictions at Polliwog based on the concerns stated above and the fact that we have had several negative experiences at a similar park in Orange County where our grandchildren live.

Carl and Ann Jund
1800 Harkness Street
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
310-372-3267