The community meeting on a Dog Park began at 7:00pm.

Staff present:
Lisa Sheppard, Executive Director/Secretary
Chris Leiner, Director of Parks/Maintenance
Bobby Collins, Director of Recreation/Facilities
Erin Classen, Supt. of Marketing/Comm.
Jenny Runkel, Administrative Assistant
Shannon Stevens, Recreation Intern


Presentation: Barbara Heller, of Heller and Heller Consulting, gave a presentation on dog parks.

Comments against a dog park:

Verbal comments:
- Location concern based on parking and the look of the dog chain fencing.
- There are two dog parks within five minutes. Why not get a cooperative agreement?
- Does not need to be a huge dog park, can be the size of the community hall
- Small community: sound, proximity to homes, thoroughfare of bikes and people

Post-It comments:
- To make it successful, perhaps consider restricting access by professional walkers with multiple dogs, so there is supervision (in favor of a dog park)
- Locating a park near any residence is unfair to the neighborhood. If we need a dog park it must be away from homes!
- Must a dog park be permanent? Why not have seasonal locations – e.g. golf course in winter months
- People who break dog park rules must be punished – including big fines and banishment
- Dogs are nice (usually). No problem with a park for them if local residents are not adversely affected.
- Concerned that placement near homes will negatively impact the homes and safety of the residents. In favor of dog park if there is space away from residential area.
- This is a flawed process – I saw people removing red dots and replacing them with green dots!
- I am in favor however, consistent barking and noise is disturbing. This park should be large enough and far away enough from homes.

Comments for a dog park:

Post-It comments:
- Dog parks allow us not to be law breakers
- Prevents dogs from off leash/ being in unwanted areas because there is a dedicated space
- We need beach all year around
- Engages neighbors, especially older residents, many of whom might be isolated
- Keep fence at 6 ft to keep from dog dumping
- Makes Glencoe appealing to potential homeowners who see that all neighboring burbs have dog parks
- Absolutely no membership fees! You don’t charge neighborhood children to play at local parks, don’t charge residents fees for a dog park
- Won’t have to pay triple fees at neighboring parks
- Much needed community amenity
- Keeps the parkways along the streets clean
- People with dogs who play together stay together in our community
- Keeps dog healthier
- For dog owners it is a time and money saver
- Most dog owners pay money into other communities instead of their own for dog parks
- Glencoe residents only keeps from dog dumping for dog
- Develops friendships and a sense of community
- Encourages outdoor activity and provides a destination for dog owners that is safe
- A space with no coyotes
- Builds relationship and community awareness as dog owners talk to each other
- Gets adults to mingle
Dog parks are critical for dog/puppies to socialize so they are not aggressive to other dogs
A separate place for small dogs, water, agility toys/props, dog exercise equipment, keep deer out/no deer poop, ensure dogs do not pass germs/illnesses

General Comments:

- Landscaping/berms between houses and the park
- Hours, sunrise/sunset, key fob system to control hours
- Is Takiff an option?
- Dog runs for small dogs the size of community hall, even a small dog park is a community builder
- There is no open space where the Village public works is located
- Next steps: compile comments, Special Project meeting in the next couple months
- Cook County Forest Preserve has communicated that there are three dog parks throughout the county and they are not interested in doing any dog parks. Dogs are welcome on leash.
- There was a discussion in 2000. Eighteen years ago, dog parks were not a big thing.
- Hands raised of people who have used a dog park
- A town in Massachusetts has 13 of their 40 parks designated as off leash from 8:00am-1:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Sheppard
Secretary