



March 16, 2021

TO: Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

FROM: Ron Munds, General Manager
Laura Durban, Administrative Services Manager

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 6 – 03/16/2021 Parks & Recreation Meeting**
Review of the Dog Park Concept Plan Comments and Project Update

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DESCRIPTION

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dog Park Project has been on hold for the past year. This report briefly summarizes the progress made prior to the pandemic. At the meeting, the committee will discuss the steps to move forward as the COVID-19 restrictions hopefully ease.

RECOMMENDATION

Discuss and provide staff with direction on the next steps to be taken.

DISCUSSION

Background

In late 2019, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) was making steady progress towards identifying the design elements needed for a community dog park facility. There was a robust discussion at the November 19, 2019 meeting regarding the limited comments received from the public and the committee's vision for the amenities at the park. Based on the outcome of those discussions, a conceptual plan was provided by Matt Parker, a Wallace Group employee who donated his time to the effort.

Using the draft conceptual plan, the PRAC, at the January 21, 2020 meeting, directed staff to solicit further comments from the public in order to better refine the details of the draft plan. Staff utilized the District's Facebook page, the ENews online newsletter and the website to gather comments.

In April 2020, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee reviewed comments made through the first quarter of 2020. It was envisioned that additional public input would be solicited at public events and other in-person opportunities. Since that time, the project has been on hold due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Next Steps?

With the projection that COVID-19 restrictions may ease during 2021, now would be a good time to start formulating a plan to move forward once it is safe to proceed with further public outreach. To start the planning process, attached are all the comments received through March 10, 2021. Staff believes it would be beneficial to review these comments to re-familiarize the committee with where

the project was left back in early 2020. Staff will be asking for input and direction on the committee's perspective on the next steps.

To briefly summarize the comments, most voiced support of the Dog Park Concept Plan. In these comments there were many community members voicing support for grass or artificial turf, and most are against wood chips. There were many comments/inquiries on the size of the park, having drinking water available for the dogs, having a small training/agility area for individual dogs, benches for the dog owners, and the parking.

Other comments of note were asking about finances, timeline, public input from neighbors, trees/shading, and sound.

Attachment

Comments:	I'm concerned with the added noise (Barking Dogs) we already have loud noise from the community center from time to time and on weekends when we are trying to enjoy our yards. Also the less fortunate/Homeless population already hide along the homeowners back fence line and with the added berms and screening I am concerned it may become worse
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Comments:	How far have the dog park plans advanced? Thanks.
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Comments:	<p>Hello, I Love this idea and am happy share my comments. My first initial impression is that there should be Less Parking Lot and More creatively designed Park space. There is already the park parking next door and street parking, so simple minimal frontage parking would work fine if Any. Plan to use this space to it's fullest potential! ~I would like to see at least 3 concept plans and narrow it down from there with community participation & voting, not just one plan to say Yes or No on. ~The more Trees the Better, the Less Impermeable surfaces the better. ~Incorporate walk in Entrance paths form several sides of the park. ~Create a dog/owner friendly run track for owners and dog to both exercise on, but designed with space for a faster level of travel (running/walking with dogs on a meandering loop). As a dog owner I often want to go run a track with my dog but can't ~ How wonderful it would be to do get a good walk/run in, and then let the dogs play in a safe gated zone after, or before. ~To avoid dog pit fighting chaos, I suggest creating separate gated areas, one for wild dog frenzy ball/Frisbee throwing, and other gated zone for those who simple want to sit more quietly with dog meeting other dogs with out the added hype. I don't know how important small dog vs. large dog is. ... Maybe have the small dog area and large dog area and a 3rd ball/Frisbee throwing area for those confident their dogs wont eat the small dogs? ~Use donated and recycled materials for fencing and walk ways. I like wood pole style fencing and if a running track/meandering path for owners is incorporated, I would like it made with field track material. Great Idea and Great Start!</p>
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Comments:	<p>A dog park in a town with minimal park space should not be so large nor should it be so centrally located. That area should be used as park space for children and families. The current children's play area is much too small with not enough play equipment. Put some of the dog park money into expanding that! The Cayucos dog park is much smaller and I have never seen more than a few dogs there. Either decrease the size or relocate it entirely to some available CSD property, such as 7th and Farrell. It is large enough for a dog park and the currently planned walking path.</p>
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Comments:	Seriously? There's already a "dog park" across the street...Tax money was spent on that. Now its occupied by a homeless camp and you want to spend my tax dollars on another one? FAIL.
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Comments:	Great! Been wanting a dog park for a long time.
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Comments:	Joyfully anticipating a real Dog Park in Los Osos! Please have plenty of benches and trees. You've thought of drinking water sources, of course. Glad to see there are two double gates. Looking forward!
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Comments:	This is an exceptional idea and plan and; one that is long overdue. My only input is this: this park should bear the name of Ann Calhoun. Ann lobbied endlessly for this park and it's exciting to see it moving along to this stage. I agreed with Ann on not one thing concerning the building of our sewer, but I still miss her witty insights and unique perspectives on life in Los Osos. What a fitting tribute this wold be to her.
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Comments:	Is the park going to have a liner to prevent urine from getting into the water table?
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The Comments below have been previously presented at the April 2020 meeting

Comments:	I strongly support the plan. A dog park is very much needed in Los Osos. The surface material should be less muddy than the Del Mar park and less messy than El Chorro park. Is artificial turf a possibility?
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Comments:	First, a big THANK YOU to all involved in moving forward a much needed Dog Park in our community. Big Picture Question: Why does it have such a large footprint? If we are to keep in step with the Vision found in the draft LO Community Plan, then walking and biking (e.g. non-motorized modes of transportation) are to be encouraged in our land use planning in order to achieve a more Livable Community atmosphere for our town's people. I submit these items for the Committee's consideration: 1. From the Park's Concept Plan map, there are 20 onsite parking spaces, including one ADA parking site. 2. The number of parking spaces suggests this Dog Park was designed as the "be-all and end-all" for dog parks in the South Bay. 3. Is this Dog Park intended to serve the entire LO/BP Community, or are others being planned that are more within walking distance? (Walking distance is considered by transit planners to be no more than a quarter mile to a bus stop). 4. Rather than having one big dog park
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	<p>that is car-oriented, what are the long term plans for a series of walk-able dog parks strategically located throughout the Los Osos/Baywood Park community? 5. Having a greater number of smaller dog parks located throughout our community (on either existing county land or donated lands) would better meet the Vision of the LO Community Plan. Thanks for this opportunity to provide my input to the Dog Park Concept Plan. Yours truly, Tim Los Osos</p>
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Comments:	<p>Hello and thank you for considering this project. I frequent the existing park located between the tennis courts and the community center and find it very nice and attractive. There are a number of regulars who meet to socialize and exercise their pets. In my experience, everyone is friendly and the pets well behaved. The pet owners are responsible and pick up dog droppings, etc. My suggestions include: Keep it simple. Don't overdo the landscaping. Laguna Lake's park has mostly dead trees and shrubs now. Waste bag dispensers are helpful. A water spigot would be nice. Possibly a weed abatement fence and wood shaving ground cover to minimize fox-tails. That's about it from me. Thanks again for your efforts! John</p>
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Comments:	<p>This has been in the works for so many years. Please, let's finally make this happen.</p>
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Comments:	<p>A dog park is critical to the safety of humans and dogs in Los Osos. Having to avoid cars on non-existent sidewalks has been a challenge for me and my husband. To have a fenced in area for my high energy active dog will be amazing; not to mention the community building it will create by neighbors meeting one another. Thanks to all who are working so diligently on this project!</p>
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Comments:	<p>Seems small. Thought it was going to be on the corner of LOVR and Pine, where all the non livable houses are. Since people go to the park to have their dogs run and go to the middle school to have them run, this seems inadequate.</p>
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Comments:	<p>Add more shade trees. Add a shade/wind shelter where owners can sit and talk with other owners while the dogs play and explore. Make it a robust shelter, especially to shade/shelter from late afternoon/evening sun & sandy wind. Provide a watering point - but I don't know how you could secure it from misuse. Thanks</p>
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Comments:	I'm a local dog owner and would like to keep up with the progress towards the dog park. The concept plan looks good. I agree with some of the comments such as including picnic tables and benches. Do we really need that many parking spaces? It seems there is plenty of street parking available. Thank you
Comments:	I was on the board for the development of both the Paso and the Templeton Dog parks . One of the most important things we had to do was fund raising and PR work. I haven't heard how this park is going to be funded? Also, is the county imposing regulations?
Comments:	Hi! Am I correct in seeing that the dogs' actual play area is something other than grass? We take our dog to Del Mar dog park and I can't imagine that dogs would like something called "park surface" rather than a soft grassy area. Thanks for explaining the reasoning you have for this type of surface.
Comments:	I hope you plan to separate small from large dogs. I believe all dog parks in SLO County have separate play areas--for good reason.
Comments:	I'd like the dog park to have grass and shade trees with plenty of benches for dog owners. I'd also like a bathing pool for the dogs with a large water fountain that filters recycled water. Let's do it right the first time! No wood chips!
Comments:	I am in strong support of the Los Osos Dog Park. I believe the dog park is long overdue for our small community. I believe this is great location for our dog park. It is already adjacent to an existing park, across the street from the library and just down from our community center.
Comments:	A dog park is so needed here. And I appreciate all efforts to build one. And I'll use it. But, if I'm being honest, the planned park is too small by at least half. (Why not just designate that large area behind the library as an off leash area?) A water spigot would be good to fill water bowls. A few more trees. Benches for the two legged. A giant log for the dogs to climb and pee on. Not sure what is planned for the ground. Small bark chips are okay but rough cut chips like at the dog park out by Cuesta are horrible. TBH, I don't go there largely due to the splinter giving chips. It's also tough to pick up poop from. Better gravel, sand or just the bare ground. Lawn is the cleanest and best but probably impractical. Shovels, rakes, poop scoopers and bags encourage people to keep a dog park clean. Clearly marked signs

	with rules and regs. A volunteer board to organize clean up days etc. is a good idea even though it always gets ugly with politics. Lol. Thanks!
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Comments:	I am a current resident of Los Osos, and have no dog. Yet I am fully in support of bringing a dog park to Los Osos. Without it, dog owners have few in-town choices and thus sometimes resort to bringing them to areas where they are technically not allowed - parks, schools - where they allow them off leash. Because those are the same areas where children are playing, kids' activities are impacted. Kids hesitate to throw a baseball for fear of a dog chasing after them. Kids hesitate to run around the field, for fear of being chased. Kids' guardians are frustrated at having to clean dog poop of a child's shoe, or comfort a child who is already afraid of dogs and is now crying because they got chased by one. The community of Los Osos needs a dog park that allows dogs a chance to run and be free in a dedicated space.
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Comments:	This is great news. Please be sure water is available & consider bark where muddy areas drain.
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Comments:	Is there enough space to fence off a separate space (a rectangle) that a single dog could inhabit to play fetch with its human? If you put a 10 minute time limit on its use I think the humans could work it out so that dogs could get their exercise.
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Comments:	Great idea. Would take the wear and tear off other places that are used for sports and kids events and decrease emissions to drive to Morro Bay area or SLO area for the same purpose. Next let's build some soccer fields!
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Comments:	Sight blocking material should be installed on the fence between the large dog and small dog play areas. Small dog surface should be primarily grass. If wood chips are to be used in the large dog area they should be SMALL, not large shreds or chunks or sticks. A few general suggestions.... Benches should be placed in both areas. A shed is needed for storage of materials (Mutt Mitts, hand sanitizers, yard maintenance equipment etc.). A small kiosk or the like is useful for posting park information, notices, donation envelopes, incident forms etc. Donation boxes or similar should be installed in both large and small play areas. Will the Parks and Rec Committee Meeting be open to the public ?
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Comments:	Yay ! Osos really needs this. The only comment (questions) we have is about what kind of surface materials are being considered? El Chorro seems to be having issues with a poisonous mold/mushroom which may become a problem in the even wetter environment of los osos.. We like bark but many times it is NOT really bark but wood chips which can contain anything. Is there any way we can contribute (\$\$)?
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Comments:	I support
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Comments:	Please do not use wood chips for ground cover like Chorro dog part it's awful and very hard on the dogs paws.
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Comments:	Looks wonderful. Just two comments. Please don't use chips/wood chips, at least in small dog area. My 12 pound dog can't walk in chips much less run - he actually trips over them. Grass is best. Del Mar dog park is great example. Second comment - if there is a way to curve the interior fence by the gate nearest main parking lot it will help keep incoming dogs from being mobbed by dogs already inside. Entry is most dangerous moment for the dog as he is outnumbered and there is lots of excitement. Fights often occur at the moment of entry as ALL the dogs check out the new guy - and it can be overwhelming and result in a fight if the new guy feels cornered. THANK YOU for as ll the work on this project and for being open to public input!
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Comments:	Are there any benches within the grounds for dog owners to sit on? Fixed hydrating fountain for the dogs? Potty bag dispensers?
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Comments:	Build it and we will come!
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Comments:	Looks great!
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Comments:	very exciting. my only comment is that the bark surface at el chorro is awful for the dogs- they get splinters in their mouth when they play fetch! the best dog park i've ever seen is "dogs run free" in Condon park, in Grass Valley. https://www.facebook.com/DogsRunFreeGV/
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Comments:	Add an agility course!
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Comments:	I like this design. How tall will the fences be? Will there be anyone who cleans it up. People can be very bad at cleaning up after their dog. The separation between large and small dogs is really important. I've lived in Los Osos 34 years and have heard talk of this all that time. It would be wonderful to have a dog park.
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Comments:	I walk my pup a couple of times every day. She has 8-9 that she walks with. They are all friendly and social. We always have to try to find places where they can be kids. We say almost daily what a joy a dog park would be. I know I be happy to volunteer to help maintain the park. I love the Chorro dog park but it is hard to get all our pups together. YES PLEASE.
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Comments:	This idea probably doesn't belong here.. but, as someone who works with shelter animals and sees a lot of reactivity and aggression towards other dogs. It would be nice to make a field or grass area for dogs who don't get along with other dogs and need to get out some exercise with their owner. something they can rent for 30 minutes? And make some cash off of it. A lot of people in the area, don't have yards or don't have big enough yards to let their dog run around. I've always wanted to do something like this for the community because I know there's plenty of people who would use such a thing. Just maybe something to think about.
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Comments:	Hopefully there can be water stations around the yard for the dogs! Also it would be great to have benches and or picnic tables for the humans to use. We can't wait to use the dog park! Thanks for your hard work!
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Comments:	What an excellent concept! As local dog owners and residents for over 40 years, we hope this happens! The El Chorro Dog Park is nice, but a closer park would be so wonderful! What a great opportunity to socialize our dogs, and provide them a great place to play! Can't wait...Let's do it!
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Comments:	We quit utilizing El Chorro Dog Park due to excessive dust created by active dogs. Our concern was potential transmission of Valley Fever spores in that horrendous dust. We are aware of dogs in Los Osos who frequented El Chorro Dog Park who contracted Valley Fever and later died. Wood chips are not the answer.
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Comments:	Excellent Work!
Comments:	It's a lovely plan. Is there a cost estimate to build? What kind of timing?
Comments:	Thank you for your efforts. Here are my initial questions: 1. How does this compare size-wise to other dog parks in the County? 2. Is there a sufficient visual break between the small and large dog areas? 3. It would be wonderful if the park could be designed to have a training area as a permanent or easily convertible component. Thanks again.
Comments:	I love it! I love that there is more parking as well, although I'm wondering how we plan to fund that. Thanks to the Wallace Group.
Comments:	Do we bring our doggie to the meeting? Looks like a good idea for the community. Not much space for a large dog.
Comments:	Please make sure those that live on that side of Bush drive, like myself, have greater input on issues such as noise, increased smells and the placing of trees to block views.
Comments:	The parking seems excessive because there are also between 8-10 parking options on Palisades, easily within walking distance for most dog owners. Realistic review of how many parking spots could be needed needs to be considered because it takes away space for the exercise area. The Skate Park provided zero extra parking spots when approved. Also ADA handicaps parking should be increased to at least 5 because many users in need of the opportunity to exercise and socialize their dogs are seniors or cannot walk easily. The plan is well-thought out otherwise. The restroom could use composting toilet technology, if we want to get innovative. Drinking water stations should be considered, as well as benches. Memorial bench options could cover the cost. Also please consider Memorial tree planting as a way to get more shade trees planted. Thanks, Linde. ;-)
Comments:	The ground covering should be grass real or artificial for the dogs to run and play. Other ground coverings are not practical, dirt becomes muddy when it rains and stays that way for days till it dries out or becomes dusty during warm climate, wood chips are not comfortable for the dogs paws. I have had my dog play in parks with grass, wood

chips or dirt and the grass covering has been the best for dogs to play and roll around on.

Comments:

Moreover, I see that there will be parking in the new proposed dog park. Will the county then start putting homeless people there along with the County library? If so, please expect lawsuits to the county and to individuals on the board who let this idea to go through. I'm am not kidding.