



SPDOA Board Meeting Minutes – October 20,

2011

MEETING MINUTES

Time:	7:15PM – 8:15 PM	Location:	Seger Park Recreation Center
Minutes Submitted By:	Dana Imperia	Date:	10/20/2011

NEXT MEETING

Date:	Thursday, November 17, 2011
Time:	7:15 PM – 8:15 PM
Location:	Seger Park Recreation Center

	BOARD	IN ATTENDANCE	DONORS IN ATTENDANCE	
President:	Ashley Hellinger	✓	Joann Oser	
Meeting Chair:	Ashley Hellinger	✓	Lori Atkin	
Treasurer:	Aaron Weindling			
Secretary:	Dana Imperia	✓		
Membership:	Louise Nelms			
Park Operations:	Jim Oser			
Fundraising:	Chris Agresta,	✓		
	Randi Rabinowitz	✓		
Webmaster	Lindsay Imperia	✓		

TOPICS & DISCUSSION

TOPIC	Motion to Approve August Meeting Minutes
TIME ALLOTMENT	1 minute
PRESENTER	Ashley
CONCLUSIONS	1. Motion to approve - Approved.

TOPIC	Report on Annual Fundraiser Event
TIME ALLOTMENT	5 minutes
PRESENTER	Ashley
KEY DISCUSSION	1. Breakdown of numbers from the event: prior to event \$1830 on ticket



SPDOA Board Meeting Minutes – October 20,

2011

POINTS	<p>sales; after event around \$5000 deposited; made around \$5800 from the event – most successful to date.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Around 90% of thank you notes sent to corporate donors. Ashley will complete the remainder. 3. Price made from the event included purchases made on promotional items, which we need to start posting info on website/in the dog park to advertise/market our promotional items to members. 4. Takeaways from the event: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Event date/time was good. b. Possibly too many items, which may have caused low bidding on items that should have received higher bids. c. Next year consider separating items by category and do raffled items instead of all just silent auction items. 5. Current balance in bank account is \$12000 – the most we have ever made so Board needs to start coming up with a plan on continuing to fundraise and addressing big projects for the upcoming year. 	
ACTION ITEM(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
N/A		

TOPIC	Halloween Event
TIME ALLOTMENT	5 minutes
PRESENTER	Chris & Randi
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considering possibility that SPDOA will host a small Halloween event at the dog park for a costume contest amongst members. This is not another fundraising opportunity, but rather an event for members to come out and enjoy Halloween festivities in the park. 2. Get in touch with Litter Paws to consider having them judge for members to have an opportunity to win trophies for 1st, 2nd & third place. 3. Need to get info up on website ASAP and start handing out flyers/advertise at the park. 4. Tentative time: 3-4pm on Sunday, October 30th. Chris – put email together for everyone. 5. Pictures for the website.



SPDOA Board Meeting Minutes – October 20,

2011

ACTION ITEM(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Email to send to members	Chris	10/24/2011
Website/flyer for event	Lindsay?	10/24/2011
Contact Litter Paws	Chris or Ashley	10/24/2011

TOPIC	Elections	
TIME ALLOTMENT	15 minutes	
PRESENTER	Ashley	
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With our bylaws is there a nomination process and what are our options to move forward with the elections this year. 2. Lori: need us to let her know what direction we want to go in the bylaws so that she can draft them. 3. 7-11 persons as board of directors; two key officer positions include President and Treasurer 4. Ashley sending out email to generate interest in elections. Send out email by the 23rd and send in nominations by the 1st and give 2.5 weeks and the election will be finalized at the meeting on 11/17. 5. Email to nominate: nominees for P, S, T, VP? and then board members at-large. 	
CONCLUSIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Move forward with election this year and revisit the bylaws in the new year so this problem does not occur at the following election. 	
ACTION ITEM(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Send out email to membership to obtain nominations for board of director positions.	Ashley/Randi	10/24/2011

TOPIC	City-wide Dog Advocacy Group	
TIME ALLOTMENT	5 minutes	
PRESENTER	Ashley	
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ashley contacted by group who instituted litigation against the City and Parks Department for trying to downsize Schuylkill River dog Park. Would like to start a city-wide dog advocacy organization to speak out for dogs and dog owners throughout Philadelphia. Meeting to be planned in mid-January to discuss interest in group, strategies and objectives. 	



SPDOA Board Meeting Minutes – October 20,

2011

ACTION ITEM(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Ashley will forward email from group interested in creating a city-wide dog advocacy organization so board members interested can respond.	Ashley	At earliest convenience.

TOPIC	Maintenance Plans for next six months
TIME ALLOTMENT	15 minutes
PRESENTER	Ashley & Jim
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to start considering long-term (or temporary) plans to fix drainage and mulch issue at the dog park. 2. Look into options, such as K-9 Grass – they provide a warranty for nine years and indicate that the surface lasts for 15 years. It includes a drainage system – may be too expensive, but possibly worth looking into for future overhaul of dog park. 3. Ashley has document from previous research by former board members that compared various surfaces, which includes pros/cons of each type. 4. Joann calling K-9 grass to inquire about costs and possibility of having them come out to make a presentation to the board. Also, check references. 5. With all the rain recently, the dog park is having major drainage issues. We cannot keep putting wood chips down, which was a quick fix this past spring/summer. We need to consider a more permanent fix (maybe something temporary required for winter?) so that we can move forward. Dog Park cannot take another spring/summer without permanent improvement. 6. Need to make a list of projects and prioritize what the membership wants. 7. Spend winter researching and raising more money to do a big project in March/April. 8. Obtain estimates and go to membership on options and how much money would be required to be successful. 9. Things to keep in mind: contact local vets and obtain donations from them; permits are very hard to obtain so need to get moving on this. 10. Jim obtained several estimates for us a few months ago. We should revisit these estimates – possibly have contactors come in to talk to us. Bids were ranging from 7K to 12K.



SPDOA Board Meeting Minutes – October 20,

2011

	<p>11. Small dog park: This was a temporary measure to see if it generated more membership amongst small dog park user. We considered the possibility of making permanent but no small dog park users approached the board about permanence. Temporary fencing is falling down and would require monthly repairs so we either come up with a permanent plan or take down. Need to hear from small dog park users if they want this to be a permanent fixture in dog park.</p> <p>12. Trash removal: Has become a job that is primarily handled by only 3 board members. Persons are unable to commit to this once a week. We need a committed company/person to remove trash once a week, 8 garbage cans, on Wednesday.</p>	
CONCLUSIONS	<p>1. Need to come up with plan to fix dog park surface over the winter so we are ready to move at the start of March/April.</p>	
ACTION ITEM(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Research into K-9 grass	Joann Oser	1-2 months
Create list of projects that we want to do so we can show membership and prioritize accordingly.	Chris	
Research options to fix dog park surface, so we can begin March/April.		
Bring in estimates/contractors to meet with the board and discuss our options.	Jim or Joann – setup appointments with contractors.	
Small dog park: need to push small dog park users to either commit to the dog park or consider taking this area down because it is not used accordingly.	Chris	
Trash removal: explore options for either volunteers/pay a kid/or contract with a company for trash removal.		

TOPIC	Dog Park Incidents
TIME ALLOTMENT	10 minutes
PRESENTER	Chris
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	<p>1. We currently have a population control situation. There are too many dogs in the park at one time and too many overly aggressive dogs. There has been more dog fights than ever before around 1-2 a day.</p> <p>2. Big issue is unneutered males in the dog park, which cause neutered</p>



SPDOA Board Meeting Minutes – October 20,

2011

	<p>males to get upset.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Need to get a bigger signage regarding NO unneutered males over 1 in the dog park. (also children have still been an issue – this is worrisome for many dog owners). 4. Options to help with this situation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Educate membership on problems with aggressive dogs and problems caused by unneutered males in the dog park. Have Opportunity Barks or other trainer come in to talk to membership. b. Future consideration: Separate entrance/exit doors because there is too much activity going on around the one gate door, which causes many fights. c. Put out container by entrance with literature about the problems unneutered males cause in the dog park setting with neutered males. 	
ACTION ITEM(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Signage and educational materials regarding unneutered males in the dog park.	Chris	

TOPIC	Membership/Website	
TIME ALLOTMENT	10 minutes	
PRESENTER	Louise (Ashley on behalf of Louise)	
KEY DISCUSSION POINTS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have 29 new members in the past two months. At the event it was 112 and since the event we went up a few more. This is the most members to date. 2. Explore opportunities to pay someone to handle upkeep of the website because Lindsay is not in front of a computer all day, and therefore cannot keep up with the demands of the website/Board. 	
ACTION ITEM(S)	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Find someone to handle website maintenance		