

Agenda Topics and Results 2023

1. Dog Park within city limits.

- a. Initiated by committee members and city residents. Dog Park idea has been mentioned several times over the years and cited in the 2020 CDP.

FROM THE 2020 CDP ****Many comments received during the 2020 CDP outreach expressed the desire for a dog park within City limits.

**The feasibility of a dog park was previously studied by the Animal Issues Committee.*

****The concept was rejected due to limited public land and the ability to construct a dog park in an environmentally safe way.***

Disposition: From the February 21, 2023 Animal Issues meeting: the idea of a dog park within city limits was tabled and committee member Deb Ward was investigating how our neighboring communities are handling dog parks or dog runs. Committee Member Cheryl Crow was also continuing initial discussions with Sussex County about a dog park within the county.

2. PSA Flyer related to leaving dogs unattended in hot vehicles.

- a. Member Cheryl Crow presented a draft copy of a PSA flyer that would remind people of the danger of leaving pets, and humans, in hot weather.
- b. The committee proposed a magnet or sticker on meters along with a printed message that could also alert people via the park mobile system. Commissioner Tim Bennett discussed the concept with Asst. City Manager, Even Miller, and while he supported the idea, the logistics were not feasible. (ie: a magnet would not work because the kiosks were not magnetic)

Disposition: Committee member Melissa Riesco spoke to RBMS about distributing the flyer to local businesses. Commissioner Bennett also met with Lynne Coan, Communications Manager and she edited, produced, and distributed the flyer this spring. Lynne added a QR code that also listed emergency and animal resource contact numbers along with city dog rules.

The flyer was also distributed to The Chamber of Commerce for rental packets, and RBMS had available print or e-docs available for businesses upon request.

The flyer was also a topic of Lines in the Sand and posted on the city's social media outlets Facebook and Instagram.

3. Committee recommended a message be placed on the electronic billboard across from City Hall on Rehoboth Ave.

Disposition: Lynn Coan posted an alert to remind motorists not to leave pets or people unattended in hot vehicles. The message ran every day the temperature was in excess of 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

4. The Committee recommended that an updated list of animal emergency services contacts, Denrec, and vet hospitals be provided on the city website.

Disposition: The committee members provided and edited an updated list of contacts and Lynn updated the city website. A hard copy of the information was also provided to the City operator/front desk. This information was also added to the QR code that is on the flyer.

5. City residents Jan Konessy and Carolyn Diefenderfer both suggested the idea of dog bag waste stations near our parks.

The committee agreed with the recommendation. Commissioner Bennett presented the idea to Lynn Coan and City Manager Laurence Christian.

Disposition: During a commissioner workshop June 5, City Manager Laurence Christian announced five stations had been installed – two in Grove Park and three along the walking path of Lake Gerar.

6. Feeding Wildlife

The committee discussed any additional options to discourage people from feeding wildlife within the city.

Disposition: The consensus was that the city had adequate signage and there was not much more we would do other than us all saying something if we see people feeding wildlife, particularly at our lakes.

7. Member Cheryl Crow recommended the city consider purchasing a Microchip Scanner to help lost animals.

Disposition: In May 2023 Rehoboth Beach residents Carolyn and David Diefenderfer donated the scanner and it is housed in and operated by the Rehoboth Beach Police Department.

8. Commissioner Tim Bennett proposed the idea of a pollinator garden.

Disposition: This topic was dropped after a committee member informed the group that the Environmental Committee was already discussing the idea.

9. Signage to remind people and enforce no dogs on the beach at Poodle Beach and Prospect Ave.

This came from city residents that websites and people think Poodle Beach is a dog beach. It is a daily nuisance for the neighborhood and there is no enforcement.

Disposition: City Manager Christian, Chief Banks, Kevin Williams and other city staff surveyed the area and new, more bold signage was installed to remind people of the dog rules related to the beach and boardwalk. Neighbors report limited success, but lack of enforcement continues to be a challenge and needs to be addressed. It was suggested that Rehoboth Beach employ a person to monitor the dogs on the beach and boardwalk. **This should not be the responsibility of the Lifeguards.**

10. Animal Issues committee passed 3 initiatives for the DOC to consider. Based on results from Reach Out Rehoboth and city resident Dave Diefenderfer.

1. Changing the dates dogs are allowed on the boardwalk to match the parking and bicycle boardwalk rules. Create a season”
2. Allow dogs on the boardwalk in season until 10am similar to bikes.
3. Allow dogs on the beach “in season” on leash before 8am.

Disposition: BOC to discuss on December 4, 2023 during the Workshop