

City of Bowling Green, Ohio

Parks & Recreation Board

March 14, 2022 ~ Simpson Meeting Room ~ 5:00PM

Meeting Minutes

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**Welcome and Call to Order**

**Chair Jodi Anderson (5:02 PM)**

**Attendance**

**Cheryl Witt**

- *Present: Jodi Anderson, Cal Bowers, Cale Hover, Emily Keegan  
Linda Cubberley, Tyler Dunn, Bryan Hartzler, Monique Rosati & Phil  
Simmons*
- *Staff Present: Kristin Otley*

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Chair Jodi Anderson**

- *November 2021*
  - *Unanimously approved on a motion by Phil Simmons and a  
second by Tyler Dunn.*
- *January & February 2022 – No quorum at these meetings*

**Correspondence**

**Kristin Otley**

- *None at this time.*

**Chairpersons Report**

**Chair Jodi Anderson**

- *No report.*

**Old Business**

- *Fee Adjustments*
  - *The result of a lengthy discussion on the adjustment of pool  
rates resulted in the following motion by Cale Hover:  
“Keep the rates the same as long as ARPA Funds can be used  
to recover the anticipated losses due to increased expenses.  
Anticipated projected losses are at least \$16,000.00.”  
Motion was seconded by Bryan Hartzler and was unanimously  
approved.*
  - *Kristin Otley reported that two generous donations to the  
splash fund have already been made for the 2022 pool season!*
- *Approve 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Fee Waiver Report*
  - *Unanimous approval on a motion by Phil Simmons and a second  
by Cale Hover.*

## **New Business**

- *No new business.*

## **BGPR Foundation Board Report**

**Chair Jodi Anderson**

- *Foundation is providing \$9,000 in funding for a new engraving machine for the department to make signs.*
- *Membership Drive is underway and the mailing went out. A new business membership was added this year.*

## **BGPR Directors Report**

**Kristin Otley**

- *Master Plan Update: went to Planning Commission on March 2. Approved unanimously. Goes to City Council on May 2 (public hearing @ 6PM).*
- *Wood County Plays Fundraiser @ Carter Park on April 23: Duck Drop & Toothbrush Relay*
- *Warm weather does not mean that the water fountains and restrooms will be open yet, have to wait until no possibility of freezing pipes.*

**Coordinators Reports:** *No reports at this time.*

## **Lobby Visitation:**

- *Councilman Bill Herald is supportive of ARPA Funds being allocated to the pool.*
- *Jo Ascunce, Raul Ascunce, Robin Stanton Gerrow & Lana Leck spoke to the Park Board in favor of the need for a dog park on existing city parkland that is more of an accessible location. The group also spoke on behalf of Amy Craft Ahrens who was not able to attend the meeting. A handout was provided by the group to the Park Board.*

## **Adjourn**

- *Meeting adjourned at 6:15PM by Jodi Anderson on a motion by Cal Bowers and a second by Emily Keegan, unanimously approved to adjourn.*

Respectfully Submitted by Cheryl Witt on April 15, 2022.

  
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Jodi Anderson, Chair

**Next Meeting: April 26, 2022 @ 7:00PM ~ Simpson Meeting Room**

**Presentation to Bowling Green City Parks and Recreation Board  
-March 14, 2022-**

During the onslaught of Covid, my husband and I, like numerous other families in our city, adopted pets to help us to simply get through the lonely days of our isolation. I was amazed, as I'm sure you will be, to know that the number of licensed dogs in the BG city limits alone has grown to 3,477! And like many of those families, our dog, Charlie helped us through some very difficult days, and continues to bless us with his love, humorous escapades, and his unwavering devotion.


*\*\* (In a study published in December 2021 in the journal PLoS One, scientists reported that dog owners had more social support and fewer depressive symptoms during the COVID-19 pandemic compared with peers who didn't own a dog. )*

Traveling to many locations recently throughout the US with Charlie, we have experienced some absolutely lovely city-sponsored dog parks that truly made their residents proud of their 5-star doggie play lands. These were well-attended, with walkways, benches, shade, and ready access to water. Most had separate areas for large and small dogs, and were free to use by anyone.

We are certainly aware of the present county dog park located at the city's edge off of Gypsy Lane road. The dog park we are proposing would be much more accessible being located within existing parkland, which would lessen the financial impact of such construction. Moreover, locating a dog park in already established city parkland is not only prudent, but "space-frugal". Additionally, our proposal comfortably meets the requirement of ARPA funding supplying a one-time funding opportunity.

We also acknowledge that ongoing costs will need to be addressed in future discussions. By locating a dog park in an existing park that is already being maintained by the city, additional maintenance costs should be minimal. Parks to consider would be Wintergarden Park, Conneaut-Haskins Park, City Park, and the city-owned field across from the Marathon at Wintergarden/Wooster.

We truly feel that a more accessible, well appointed dog park would be most beneficial to the dog owning residents of Bowling Green and a real attraction and asset to our community. According to recent conversations with BG city council members, there has been ongoing discussion on this topic for at least the last 3 years. (We were very disappointed that this project was not included in the recent ARPA survey. That would have alerted dog owners of the possibility of using ARPA monies for this project.) So, we are more than ready for action to help achieve the goal to construct a more accessible location to safely exercise and socialize our puppies, poodles, hounds and mongrels in the city we love.

  
Raul & Jo Asuncos  
517 Flanders Ave.  
Bowling Green, OH 43402  
419-308-2704/419-308-2928

"There are several reasons that I believe a more centrally located dog park would be beneficial.

As a local dog owner, I know the value of having the chance to let my dog play and romp with other dogs. Our newest dog is young and was never socialized with other dogs or people so we have had to spend some time working on this with him. We've not once considered the current dog park for this purpose. It is not located in a place that makes visiting it easy. It's on the very outskirts of town, it doesn't seem to get a lot of use, so if you do take your dog there, you are often the only one there which completely defeats the purpose when trying to socialize a dog. And it's just not very inviting.

I believe a more centrally located dog park would get more use. It would be lovely if folks could walk their dogs to the park and back, giving them a safe place to allow their dogs to play and run freely. That is not possible for even a small fraction of our communities dog owners. This would give dog owners a place to be more physically active with their dog(s) without the fear of them getting loose.

Off-leash play is important for young and active dogs. Not only do they get much needed physical exercise, but the mental stimulation is important to help with troublesome behaviors at home. Not everyone with a dog has a fenced yard and having a more accessible dog park would be beneficial for both dog owners and the community at large. As my husband and I like to say, a tired dog is a good dog.

One of the effects of the Covid-19 crisis was that a lot of folks got new pets over the last two years. Having access to a dog park could play a part in making those pets, along with their owners, happy and healthy.

I support the idea of creating a more centrally located dog park within the city limits."

Amy Craft Ahrens  
210 Wolfly Ave  
Bowling Green, Ohio"

