

BARK OF THE TOWN

BY: CHRISTINA COATS, CITY OF EAGLE PARK AND RECREATION

Canines and their owners are elated as the City of Eagle conducted the first Dog Park Open House on January 25th. During the open house, participants were given the opportunity to “purchase” dog park amenities, vote on potential locations, discuss what they like and dislike about dog parks, and contribute comments via comment cards. Post Dog Park Open House, I sat down with the Director of Parks and Recreation, Mike Aho, for a Q&A regarding the potential first dog park in Eagle.

Q: What is the process for establishing a dog park? How long can it take?

A: This is the first dog park we have done so we are following other communities’ processes that they have used. We heard from a variety of people in Eagle who said they would like a Dog Park which drove us to have an open house on January 25 to get more formal input from the public. We will next be asking City Council to form a working group made up of community members who have an interest in the Dog Park that can help put together a more formal recommendation to the community and to City Council. I anticipate this process to take at least 2 months. Once a more formalized presentation is done and the community and City Council have had an opportunity to comment we will hire a design firm that can put together a formal plan for the park.

Q: What did you take away from the Dog Park Open House?

A: I found that the community really wants a Dog Park and want their voices heard in regards to the location and design.

Q: How will a dog park benefit our community?

A: A Dog Park is like a playground or sports field, it is an element of recreation that the public needs and wants. Dog owners love the social aspects of a park for the dogs and for themselves. It really creates a bond for the users. This bond will help us run the park, put on events and raise funds for operations and improvements.

Q: What are some challenges with establishing a dog park?

A: Location for us is a challenge. It would be ideal if we had 5 acres for a park but we currently do not have that much land available. We will be looking for land but in the short term we may be able to have a Dog Park on some land that we currently own and look forward to a larger park in a different area of town like the west side.

Q: How can citizens help with the process?

A: Stay involved by getting on our email list. They can email us at parks@cityofeagle.org to get placed on the list. We can then inform interested people about the process we will be using and rough timeframes as this process goes forward and of course we are looking for land.

Q: Anything else you would like to add about the potential dog park you would like people to know?

A: Eagle will have a Dog Park and it will be a process driven by the public.

If you have questions or comments regarding the future dog park, or if you would like to get involved, contact City of Eagle Parks and Recreation at (208)489-8763 or email parks@cityofeagle.org. For up to date information, visit our website www.cityofeagle.org and Eagle Parks & Recreation Facebook.

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