

DOG TASK FORCE COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTES from December 1, 2003
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room, 12:15-1:30pm

Public Comment:

Perry Shipman – Multi-use requires good citizenship and would require some form of enforcement. Issue is environmentalist against the bad guys. We live in a community that impacts the environment. We need to be realistic in what is sensitive and what is not.

Melanie White - She is good dog owner. She doesn't understand why she got a ticket on the sidewalk leading to the glacier on forest service property. How do you throw sticks and balls to your dog if they have to be on a leash? She is upset in how she was treated by the Humane Society.

Karen Fox - Encourage group that we have area for leashed dogs and an area of unleashed dogs. Need to spend time targeting bad dogs. Concerns for elderly people. Dogs need exercise but it's hard to do that if dog is on a leash. Children also need to play with dogs.

Larry Bussone - He objects to restrictions.

Marty Messick - She has had conflicting instructions around the glacier visitor center. Dogs need to be on leash by visitor center but can be off leash on trails.

Ron Berg - He would like to see general policy with some limitations. His favorite trail is between the two fish creek areas. No one else uses the trail so doesn't see why dogs would have to be on a leash. There is a need for education.

Ray Behnert - He doesn't favor one size fits all.

Survey Discussion:

Karla Hart put together a DRAFT survey from questions she had heard from the previous two meetings. She requested ideas or questions.

The survey was discussed for the remaining allowed time. It was suggested that the survey be similar to the survey conducted by the Trails Working Group. The committee might systematically look at sub areas of Juneau to better define the problems and to come up with solutions that work specifically for each sub area. If for example we want to create or suggest an area where dogs can be off leashes, it may make more sense to recommend a few areas spread around the community so that they are conveniently located near many different neighborhoods. The main point being that maybe we should look at sub areas as we go through the process.

A mailout and phone survey were both discussed. If a mailout is done people would be notified ahead of time to expect it in the mail.

Karla requested the committee submit additional comments regarding the survey to her by next Monday, Dec 8th.

Sue McGregor from the Capital Kennel Club asked that the following statement be added to these Notes which reflect the views of the club:

Trails and parks in Juneau have historically been maintained for the multi-recreational use of all citizens of Juneau, and with realistic respect for the preservation of the environment and ecosystems. Recently there has been a growing pressure to limit the multi-use aspects of these CBJ resources.

The Capital Kennel Club of Juneau (CKCoJ) supports the maintenance of policies ensuring broad usage of Juneau's parks and trails. We recognize that some pressure to limit use has resulted from poor citizenship of some dog owners. We support the clarification of canine regulations with an emphasis on the historical patterns of use of our parks and trails. We also recognize that some areas should be designated as mandatory on-leash areas, such as downtown Juneau, our city streets, and other areas or times when an actual ecological, safety, or health issue is involved.

CKCoJ supports and is dedicated to providing education as the key to ensuring "good citizenship" in the dog community, thereby decreasing canine related conflicts in our parks and on trails. We also support the use of enforcement by CBJ Animal Control, when necessary, as a deterrent to poor behavior by some dog owners that reflects badly on the entire dog community. We do not support increased regulation or the designation of existing trails as "dog free", and we feel that these methods will deprive a large segment of Juneau's population their rightful use of trails and parks.

Chava Lee from Gastineau Humane Society - This committee is not in place to address complaints about animal control problems. She encouraged people to call either her or the director with complaints. If people don't call, problems can't be rectified.

Next meeting will be Monday, December 15, 2003, 12:15-1:30, Downtown Library, Large Conference Room.