

MEETING MINUTES - 1

General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting on a Dog Park
4:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

- A. Roll call of the committee members – All members were present.

Committee Members: Leighton Pratt, Simi Balter, Myles Riner, Judith Miller, Michelle Lintzner, Janet Pahl, Indra Winquest, IVGID District General Manager, Shelia Leijon, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Sara Schmitz, IVGID Board of Trustees, Treasurer. Administrative Support Staff: Susan Herron

Rules of Engagement: All committee members shall be respectful of one another and treat each other with kindness. No one member shall talk over another member. All ideas are welcome however they may not be discussed in depth or in detail depending upon time and/or merit and that determination is solely held with the General Manager. All committee members are equal participants.

- B. Historical Review of the Dog Park

1. Review and discuss materials provided

District General Manager Winquest gave a basic, general history on the dog park and its location and stated that we will also review the FAQ document. Mr. Pratt asked about the fish resources and asked if it has changed over time? Mr. Winquest said it was minimal initially but it has become more intense over time via members of the community who have had legitimate concerns. Testing is accomplished in several locations including right where the stream enters the lake. Ms. Pahl said from the dog's point of view, the dog park does need to be fenced because it isn't an issue until the dog becomes sick. Ms. Miller said young dogs shouldn't be taken to a dog park and then once they are a year or two old they are less likely to get sick. Ms. Leijon said that the Desert Research Institute does also do testing as does the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). It should be noted that our team does pick up a lot of feces from the stream zone. Ms. Lintzner said she didn't realize that there were hours of the dog park and that she thought that Aspen Grove is a good spot but that people have to respect the rules. Ms. Balter said she has two vets who would be happy to talk about disease etc. Ms. Schmitz said that Steve Dolan will talk about the quality of the streams and these two streams are critical to the lake and her husband is also working with Mr. Dolan and that her husband has been walking the streams and

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picking up trash, etc. and once the gate comes down, the males are exhausted from spawning, etc. and her recommendation is to fence over the streams and that people need to accept it. On the United States Forest Services (USFS) site, she doesn't think it can be fenced so she is concerned about that waste. Ms. Lintzer said that neighborhood is extremely against fencing off the forest. Mr. Winquest asked if the neighborhood was opposed if they still had access? Ms. Lintzer said the neighborhood isn't excited about this site due to increased traffic along with a number of other things. Put it on the side, keep the stream open, we already use it as a dog park, and that is without cost to us. They feel like they are already using it there. Mr. Winquest said that the plan currently is no plans to build on that side of the stream. Ms. Schmitz said there may be additional ways to filter or mitigate the runoff from Village Green. What are we doing and why are we doing it – replicate at another site. We need to understand the drawbacks for each situation. Dr. Riner said before we get to the point about talking to the community about a potential site, it is really difficult to make an assessment without answers to a multitude of questions/situations. He would encourage us to hold back a little bit about expressing opinions on sites until we know what the options and mitigations might be for each site. He would like to make informed choices versus knee jerk choices. Ms. Miller said whatever we are going to present to the public, we need facts. We have heard that the water has been tested and the District has data to support it. Concerned about the fish, she has looked for data and have found nothing to support their endangerment, she hasn't found anything. She would like to see some numbers on the decreasing fish population and the reasons why. Her dog loves that creek and acts like a teenager when in the water. Mr. Winquest said we also need to consider what is best for the entire community, we don't have possession of the USFS site and it is getting use by the community. Kids are building forts and we need to look at from a perspective of the community as a whole. Dr. Riner said there is no place to deposit dog feces or get dog waste baggies so there are things we can do to facilitate the use of that property for walking dogs that is better than what is currently there. Ms. Leijon said we will bring you some information from NDOW as they have some serious data and a representative has agreed to come and talk to us. Dr. Riner said we might be able to get all the data that we need. Ms. Miller said then we can't make decisions now. Mr. Winquest said we will make some educated decisions and that he has been right in the middle of all of the episodes for the past 15 years. Staff has moved most of the soccer off of Village Green as well as the Water Carnival. The amount of dog waste that we have to dispose of is a huge issue. We have made some big adjustments of the use of that field – why – more events bring more complaints. Mr. Pratt asked how many days are they used for events? Mr. Winquest said AYSO soccer uses upper

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Village Green and then only 4 or 5 days for other events. Ms. Schmitz asked where were they moved? Mr. Winquest said we have moved them to the Ridgeline Field at the Middle School; if Village Green is our selected site, he would push hard for the High School field for soccer. Ms. Schmitz said for the Men's LaCrosse event, it was too congested, parking issues, beach issues, etc. Mr. Winquest said if we can get the upper field, all those events would move up there. Dr. Riner said we can talk about all the good and bad options and we will have this long list of pros and cons and there are tons of lists that we will come up with. We should also look at what we could be doing using Village Green so it operates like other Village Greens in other communities. Ms. Miller said it is a surprise to her about using the upper field for soccer, High School owns it but IVGID maintains it. Mr. Winquest said we maintain and get reimbursed for the stadium field. The upper field is just in bad condition and we have said if we had that field, it would take a lot of pressure off everywhere and it is not something that we are ignoring. Mr. Pratt said he walks around all the time, highly maintained, and see very little activity there. Can we get them in the decision tree process for events? Mr. Winquest said that the size of the outfields isn't the right size for soccer. The community is starting to get burnt out from out of town events so we have been saying no. There is capacity but it's a balance. Ms. Lintzer said that we do use Preston for AYSO. Mr. Winquest said he didn't know if they were going to use it this year. Ms. Leijon said Village Green is the community's area and open to people that don't have beach access so we have the potential to leave out 40% of the community. We have been asked to host a Farmer's Market and it just doesn't make sense right now. We have had music concerts there and community events. Dr. Riner said that people just show up and families just play. Mr. Winquest said that is all part of the historical use and the reasons why we are still searching for a permanent dog park. It is ok to not satisfy the entire community but it's tough to even say that. It is important to understand why we are here. Ms. Pahl said that the Farmer's Market is not that well attended so opening up to a larger park would probably be a bad idea. Mr. Winquest said he doesn't want to go back to using the field and having vehicles on it, etc. Dr. Riner asked to continue with the history which Mr. Winquest did. Ms. Schmitz asked what is the acreage of Village Green? Dr. Riner said just a little more than 3 acres. Mr. Winquest concurred. Mr. Winquest asked if the dog owners used primarily the lower Village Green? Yes, was the consensus of the committee. Mr. Winquest acknowledged that it is a social aspect for the owners. Dr. Riner asked to move up to the USFS site. Mr. Pratt said that the wooded area is also a draw and we need to consider a woody site and the Village Green. Mr. Winquest said that is an extremely sensitive stream zone and that dogs are to be on leash in that area. Did look at the wide open area near the

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parking lot but McCloud was against it. Another issue is parking. Ms. Lintzer said that she thought she read that they were interested in partnering with us? Mr. Winqest said yes, it was considered an opportunity site but that all fell through and there have been a lot of people who are concerned about dogs and cars mixing. If it were to change, the use, it could be looked into. Ms. Pahl said the old elementary school site is also too close to Southwood which is a very busy street. Mr. Winqest continued his historical review. Dr. Riner asked if the USFS indicated to you that they require a community survey before they give you a special use permit? Mr. Winqest said yes, they do require additional outreach. May be requiring us to survey the community, also have to do community outreach to the area surrounded the proposed site, and we have reached out to Club Tahoe. Dr. Riner said to clarify that when we do this survey, we would have to let people know that we don't have a use permit yet, we have asked for one and it has been proposed, and structure the survey accordingly. Won't get the use permit until we have a survey. Ms. Miller said we have a real quandary – people won't be able to make an informed decision. Mr. Winqest said not quite true because we have some information about removal of trees, fencing, etc. We probably won't know everything. Dr. Riner said give them a preliminary plan and go from there. Ms. Miller said will we have some of the answers in order to give the public enough meaning? Ms. Lintzer asked about providing other options – what other options are we going to give when we do the survey? Mr. Winqest said the Visitors Center area is one option, Village Green is another option and he is open to any other sites. Yes, we will evaluate, at minimum, at least 3 sites. Ms. Schmitz said if the decision is not going to use the USFS land, is there an alternate plan for that site and does that non-use mean that the application just get pulled? Mr. Winqest said if we tried to wedge it in by the Visitors Center, we might want to move the disc golf there and yes, they would entertain a change in the use. Ms. Schmitz asked if the District has the option to pull that application? Mr. Winqest said yes, we can pull it. Ms. Schmitz said what she really likes is there are so many options and sometimes there is value to that synergy, Village Green is our Central Park. Mr. Winqest said yes, it is our Central Park and that is all Incline Park and how do you fit everything in. Dr. Riner said that is true. There is a pro and con to that park and we have to find a way to accommodate the parking. People go to the area they want to use. Ms. Schmitz said, from a management perspective, it is easier to manage a larger site. Dr. Riner said don't be surprised to see both pros and cons. Mr. Winqest said that it is nice to have everything in one place as the community is very fortunate to have that large area. Ms. Leijon agreed that is a recreational corridor and management is easier. Mr. Winqest said that the Master Plan has more potential for wayfinding, etc. in that area. Mr. Winqest then continued with

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the historical overview. Mr. Pratt asked what is the community that you serve and how do we consider all the interests? Mr. Winquest said we don't need to be overly concerned about tourists and we know we can't make it a private dog park which is also a good thing. We have heard that there are dog feces everywhere because people aren't picking up their dog waste. Dr. Riner said they did a neighborhood pick up day and it was surprising. Ms. Pahl said she was surprised by those that bagged the waste and then just left them. Dr. Riner said a neighbor put up a dog waste bag station on their front lawn to help with that problem. Ms. Schmitz said that off leash is probably a good part of the problem. Dr. Riner said that when there are more waste bags and disposal sites, the better the pickup is. Ms. Pahl said that the folks on Lakeshore are pretty good.

2. Additional discussion and background information – see 1. above.

3. Review and potentially revise the questions and answers document

The committee reviewed the document and a multitude of revisions were submitted. Mr. Winquest will be rearranging the document and sending back out for review by the committee.

Ms. Schmitz said that she feels strongly that Washoe County should be helping with this effort and Mr. Winquest said that his contact with Washoe County has said there is something within their organization and he will follow up. Ms. Miller said that she has learned that Washoe County is using some of their soccer fields as a demonstration project – she thinks it is up in November and she would love to hear about the outcome. Ms. Miller said that all we are building is a fence. Mr. Winquest said that there are requirements that will need to be met such as ADA parking, restrooms, etc. Ms. Pahl asked where would you move the Visitors Center to? Mr. Winquest said nowhere and that it is the area where the disc golf center is.

C. Village Pet Fair Discussion

1. Committee Goal #3 Community awareness and engagement opportunity to solicit feedback on the project

Ms. Pahl said that the Village Pet Fair is set for September 10 between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Preston Field and Ms. Pahl explained the purpose of the foundation and described the event and its activities. Ms. Miller expressed her disagreement with this event. Mr. Pratt said he will be there. Mr. Winquest said that he thinks there is benefit to having committee members

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present at the event. Ms. Schmitz suggested having cheat sheets. Mr. Winquest stressed that it must be the same message that is coming from the committee. Ms. Balter said that she will be there but she will be at the Pet Network booth. Ms. Schmitz said she will try to make it to the event. Ms. Leijon said she will start working on some items and sharing them with the committee. Ms. Miller said that she will be there. Dr. Riner said he will not be able to attend. Ms. Balter agrees that being there is important but is there something clever or game to do so as to build fun around it. Ms. Pahl said that Pet Station is going to supply the prizes for the winners and there will also be gift certificates to Alibi for the humans to the dogs.

- D. Set next meeting date/time – August 24, 2022 at 4 p.m.

Site walk of Visitors Center site. Meet at the Visitors Center.

Known absences

September 7, 2022 meeting – Dr. Riner will not be in attendance.

September 7, 2022 meeting – Ms. Miller may not be in attendance.

- E. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.