

MEETING MINUTES - 1

General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting on a Dog Park
4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

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

Committee Members: Leighton Pratt, Simi Balter (absent), Myles Riner, Judith Miller, Michelle Lintzner, Janet Pahl, Indra Winquest, IVGID District General Manager, and Shelia Leijon, Director of Parks and Recreation
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. Reviewing your homework assignments – survey and frequently asked questions and answers

Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon proposed that she go through the documents presented to compile it and look at it for the November 2 meeting to invite Ms. Ferguson to join this meeting to advise the committee on structuring a survey. The committee had a short discussion about this proposal, the proposed survey, and the purpose of the survey. District General Manager Winquest suggested that the survey really be written by this committee. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon asked if this committee when they could land on a site rating? Dr. Riner said his inclination is to not rate the sites and give people the information along with some visuals and potential costs essentially all the information we can put together and without prejudicing of the committee, ask them. Then that would lead to a rating by this committee and then to the Board. Ms. Miller asked about the USFS contact. District General Manager Winquest said he did reach out to the USFS representative and asked for an update on the special use permit. The USFS representative replied that the project is on the program of work this year and that she hopes to get back to it in November and asked for more information. Ms. Lintzner asked about the calendar year. District General Manager Winquest said that would extend to 2023. He added that he was thinking about the dog park while on vacation and that Ski Beach is heavily used as a dog park and that people would rather go there instead of a dog park and if you have a lesser usage, perhaps we should consider Diamond Peak as a part time dog park. Need to continue to think outside the box as this is new information from USFS about

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the requirement for it to be the only site in the community. District General Manager Winquest asked the committee if they want to talk with the USFS Representative directly. Ms. Miller said that she thinks they want to be sure that the USFS site is the only one we want and we have to provide that evidence. District General Manager Winquest suggested being strategic on this as we want to keep all options open. Dr. Riner said that we are between a rock and a hard place because we really know what the USFS will do for us on this site and that this may be a Catch-22 situation. District General Manager Winquest said he thinks we can get the answers to all of these questions from the USFS. Ms. Pahl asked if we can invite her and walk the site. District General Manager Winquest said he will invite her and ask her to meet us at the site and noted that she has seen the site. Dr. Riner said we need to know what we are allowed to do and that she probably doesn't need to visit the site. Ms. Lintzner asked to hear more about the District General Manager's thoughts on the split dog park idea – Ski Beach and Diamond Peak. We don't know what USFS will do, Village Green – we will receive push back, and then Diamond Peak is an option because it has parking and restrooms and the challenge is it is an offbeat location. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she is thinking about the School House area. Dr. Riner asked about the park behind Incline Beach – grassy area. District General Manager Winquest said for kick ball, etc. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said pop ups go to that site. Dr. Riner clarified that he was referring to Ski Beach. District General Manager Winquest said there is an area that is unused space and we have been exploring using that space and take away some of the clutter. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she isn't sure about restricting it with it being at the beaches. Ms. Lintzner said she would like to add Diamond Peak as a potential site. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said there would be no displacement of any other activity. The committee members discussed the site briefly. Ms. Miller asked what the operating hours/times would be. District General Manager Winquest said potential late April. Mr. Pratt asked where it drains to? District General Manager Winquest said it would be significantly away from anything else. We have also tossed around the idea of extending Ski Beach until the end of April. Ms. Pahl said the grand opening was October 15 and that the event was great. District General Manager Winquest said it was a great event but his Staff had to pick up a lot of dog poop. Dr. Riner said it is a long way up there. District General Manager Winquest said he hopes that the survey will help. Dr. Riner asked for a sense of how the committee members feel about each of these sites? Mr. Pratt would like to take his time to go through these things and read them.

C. Discussing a possible 4th site visit to the Fit Trail

Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon asked what the committee members thought about this site? Ms. Lintzner said if we fence it off, it does keep the dogs

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out of the stream. Dr. Riner said if you look at what the trail does and that the walking trails are different. You would have to rework the trail and it would be half size of the Village Green. Mr. Pratt said he thinks it is just too small for large dogs. Ms. Lintzner asked about the road. District General Manager Winquest said we have an easement on that road. We looked at this site during the Master Plan process and we started talking to McCloud representatives and there may be a challenge there. Dr. Riner said that the noise will go up. Ms. Pahl said it is too close and that the ones on the USFS there is a distance there. Will meet with a lot of resistance. Ms. Lintzner said there are a lot of benefits there and it would require redesigning the fit trail and if we can use some of the road, it could be a viable space. Not that different from Tahoe Vista. Dr. Riner said that the overflow parking lot is really busy in the summer. District General Manager Winquest is going to require ADA parking. Ms. Lintzner said we should consider the space as people go to that area and people told us this was the dog park and therefore very easy for the community to adopt it. It would reduce costs. Then it would open up Village Green for activities. Yes, Diamond Peak is a much better spot and the only one that is downside is the location. District General Manager Winquest said his only concern is parking. Ms. Lintzner said it won't go away. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said the fit trail is supposed to be dog friendly, on leash, and there is no way to enforce it. Do we want to keep adding potential sites or do we want to funnel down to two or three sites? Ms. Miller said there is a reason that a perfect site has never been found and we have to make concessions. Ms. Pahl said that she has heard from a lot of people in Tyrolian about accidents, parking, etc. but just keep it in your mind about getting resistance from Tyrolian Village. District General Manager Winquest said that their only concern might be noise and that Bitterbrush might be more upset but let's go up and check it out. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she thinks it is a good option. District General Manager Winquest said we need a copy of the easement with McCloud. Dr. Riner reminded everyone about the need for shade at any site. Mr. Pratt said he is interested in visiting other dog parks and understand the rights and wrongs of the dog parks. District General Manager Winquest said he has a list of dog parks in Reno and that he will send that list to the committee. There is one in Tahoe Vista. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we should go independently. Dr. Riner said IVGID can reach out to get this information. Ms. Lintzner said there is a small one in Tahoe City, Tahoe Visit, and Mr. Pratt will call to get the list and his interest is in what went wrong. Ms. Pahl said that the walk behind the Visitors Center is just too rough and that Andy Chapman doesn't want a dog park behind his Visitors Center. Dr. Riner said that everyone has an issue with every site and there is a preference and what he tries to say is what is best for the community. If we are going to be honest about a role it is the best thing for most people in this community while limiting the cost and do the best of we can for the community. We have to get away from how it is going to work as individuals and how it is going to work for

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the community. Dr. Riner asked what would we do if a donor came to us and said he is the money but you have to build it here. District General Manager Winquest said we need to drive the site and then let people donate to that side. Dr. Riner said that everybody is not going to agree to one site. Chances people will reach out and this could turn into a high school popularity contest. District General Manager Winquest said that for the Ordinance 7 Committee, there was compromise and that the process will work in the end. Dr. Riner said that this revolves around a site and not a policy. That will be a tough part of making this decision. District General Manager Winquest said he hopes that we can answer the question about that this is important to the community. Dr. Riner said we will get a different answer depending on how we formulate the questions for the survey. Ms. Lintzner asked about fencing in the Village Green in two separate spots? Have they ever talked about that piece? District General Manager Winquest said yes it has been talked about. He is convinced that the USFS site is the one we need to go for. Ms. Miller challenged that site. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon gave a recap and the committee provided their input. Homework task is to narrow it down to the top four sites. Dr. Riner suggested that the neighborhood areas may need a little more outreach that is specific. Ms. Miller asked about water needs i.e. do a lot of dogs require water access. Ms. Pahl said at the October 15 event, there was about 20% of the dogs in the water and they were mostly larger dogs. District General Manager Winquest said that there is a lot of maintenance, etc. that goes into manmade water features. Dr. Riner suggested some research into how much water is used and where it goes?

D. Reviewing the Pros and Cons for each site already visited

See above.

E. Set next meeting date/time – November 2, 2022 (proposed)

Will be at Diamond Peak and Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon went over the proposed future schedule.

November 9 – present an update to the Board – brief verbal update from Dr. Riner and Ms. Miller

November 16 – Ms. Ferguson to talk about building the survey.

F. Adjournment at 5:43 p.m.