Village of Cross Plains
Park and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2016

I. **Meeting called to order** at 6:03 pm By Committee Chair Brosius

Roll Call – Present: Kevin Thusius, Dale Buechner, Jim Billmeyer, Bill Brosius; Frank Durham

Also Present – Mike Axon (Parks/Recreation Director), Jay Lengfeld, Jennifer Zwettler, Niki Hagen, Paul Vassalotti, Jeff Miller, Debbie Miller, David Neuser, Jeff Willma, Greg Valaskey, Chris Zimmerman, Allison Halley, Emily Zeimentz, Mia Zeimentz, Brian White, Noreen Esser, Cyndi Mair, Lee Sorensen, Dana Fuhrman, Bob Schell, Gary Mott, Penny Schell, Abbie Kalina, Mike Sanders, Tara Sommers, Lisa Schell, Lynn Ward, Trent Estabrook, Renee Estabrook, Paul Yochum, Ying GA, Lana Ichikida, Dustin Reeson, and Andy Smith.

II. Public comment

a. Mike Cliff mentioned that he is still in favor of a mountain bike trail in Cross Plains.

III. Reports

1. *Committee Chairperson* – Brosius welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Also stated that this meeting would be more structured than previous meetings in the past.
2. *Committee Members* – No Report
3. *Park and Recreation Director* – Mike let everyone know that the pool is now open and the slide is installed and a new water source for the slide was put in place. Also membership to the pool is up from last year. Mike also noted that Hydro Burn is offered this year and is aerobics in the pool. And Youth Dance is back this year with more participation that last year.

IV. Committee Discussion

1) **Discussion and action to approve the minutes from the regular meetings held May 16, 2016.** Kevin Thusius noted that in section 4 the last sentence should have read: The committee also wanted The **attorney** to look **at the language of the** easements (restrictions) and current ordinances in the village. Kevin T. motion for approval Dale B. 2nd – Approved with changes.

2) Presentation by Village Staff regarding the concept of a Dog Park within the existing Village Park System. Mike Axon discussed the results of the Survey Monkey and recommendations by staff. (This was all included in the packet.)

3) **Public Input regarding the concept of a Dog Park within the existing Village Park System – This is an opportunity for anyone to address the Committee solely on this issue. Please observe the time limit of 3 minutes per commenter. Signup sheets are available at the door for those who wish to speak and should be turned into the Clerk prior to the agenda item.**

   a. Joe Zeimets, 4010 St. Francis Street, Thanked the committee for having the process in place that allows for this dialogue. The most important aspect of this process is taking what is said tonight to in regards to feedback and is what you go forward with to this point. Joe has been at four meetings objecting this location and still objects to this location and other residential areas.
   b. Gary Mott, 7010 Laufenberg Blvd, The dog park would be right in my backyard which would bring down the value of my house if I wanted to sell. I don't want to see the dog park back there. We do see dogs back there now that people walk back and forth, fine, but most of the time they take them off the leash and have them run around. What about the location right behind the Kwik Trip? There is the creek and railroad but would be a great place for the dog park. The village should look into buying the property and putting a fence up.
   c. Jay Lengfeld, 3092 Creekside Way, I'm one of the few in favor of the dog park at Raspberry Park. It's important for the village to have a diverse park system. Not everyone in the village can afford a nice house on a nice lot. We've approved 120 units over the past 2 years. These people should have an area to run their dogs. There is a need for a dog park. Raspberry Park is divided into two parks, west side for soccer and basketball, not a good place for dog park. The east side of the park is a great place as there is only one lot that abuts to the park. The north side has a buffer zone (creek), buffer zone (water retention) which makes this a pretty rural lot in regards to the village. Most dog parks don't have parking for residential parks, except for Baer and Municipal. I don't think this has to be a yes/no, but thinks there could be a compromise and push the park back 40 yards.
   d. Mike Wollmer, 7029 Laufenberg Blvd, Opposes all dog parks but especially this one. Signed the petition but wants to disassociate self from the flyer that was taken around town. Thank the staff and committee for allowing for this process and what they've done.
   e. Paul Vassalotti, 4002 St. Francis Street, Biggest concern is safety. Attacked by a pitbull over the winter within the village which feels this could happen in St. Francis school and is absolutely against this dog park.
   f. Debbie Miller, 7018 Laufenberg Blvd, Many concerns to this: survey didn't know anything about. Never received a letter in the mail or email. 10% response rate isn't good enough. Read a number of studies with creating a dog park and it states to not put this in a currently developed park or established neighborhood. Cars are parked on the street which is another huge safety concern. Noise and property evaluation is a concern.
   g. Jeffrey Miller, 7018 Laufenberg Blvd, I chose not to have a dog. I know when neighbors dogs see other dogs around they get excited, suggesting this isn't an appropriate place. This should be in a remote area.
   h. Jeff Wissink, 7014 Laufenberg Blvd, We are dog owners and dog lovers but is this a "want" vs. a "need"? If you're going to put a circle of fence in Raspberry Park, as a tax payer, I'm against this. This is too small for this amenity. You get what you pay for and if you don't plan it right, someone's going to get hurt. What kind of research has been

done? Lets do this and do it right; give people a chance to help. We hope you take this feedback in as positive manner as possible. We just want to be heard and if we're going to do a dog park, lets do it right.

i. Greg Valaskey, 7016 Laufenberg Blvd, Very much against it. Safety is the most important factor for me. There are no sidewalks to get to the park currently. If anyone is parked on the road, there are a number of blind spots. The traffic that the park could bring in is a major factor of safety. Indian lake is not far. Airport road is not far; anyone can take their dog there.
j. Chris Zimmerman, 4014 St. francis Street, came to the last 4 meetings and been able to walk around and talk with neighbors which has been a lot of fun. Thank Mike for putting together the survey and allowing feedback. Been to a number of dog parks over the years. A number of owners don't know how to take care of their dog. His dog was attacked, over $3,000 in damage to his pet. Money can be spent better than a dog park.
k. Brian White, 3092 St. Francis Street, Thank everyone for allowing us to speak. Appreciate the dialogue and concerns for safety.
l. Lee Sorensen, 1269 Gils Way, stand in my front yard and see a number of houses with dogs which points out that there's a need of something of this nature. There are dogs all over the community. If the village is going to do this dog park, it has to be in the village. I understand that Raspberry Park might not work for everyone but the city of Madison has a number of dog parks within the city. Hoping for a dog park within the village. Neighbors were up in arms over Milestone property due to lowering their home value, but that hasn't happened.
m. Dana Fuhrman, 7033 Laufenberg Blvd, raised family within this community; served on PRC Committee and held Recreation Director title. The park included t-ball and soccer games, kite flying, and children riding bikes. Our parks come at a premium for our community for organized activities. Over 20 years ago our schools and programs were at capacity. Come full circle today, I'm sure there's still a need. What about the current programs? If the committee feels this is a need, why not put this in a new development? It allows people to plan accordingly, including allowing people to know before they purchase their lot. Safety is another major concern. The dog park should not be put into a residential area.
n. Bob Schell, 4008 St. Francis Street, will be building a home next to the proposed dog park. The lot is perfect for my family dog park or not. Please hear us and reconsider that this will not be a dog park.
o. Mike Sanders, 7002 Laufenberg Blvd, invested in our community. The silver ligning is that we all got to know our neighbors. Now everyone know your facebook page. There's a place for a dog park and a place it shouldn't be. The parking lot is 3 feet from the playground. We shouldn't wedge it in there. What about vaccinations and licenses? Everyone is against this idea of having it this neighborhood; we're asking you to consider that.
p. Penny Schell/Abbie , 4008 St. Francis Street, we don't want a dog park due to smell and noise. The dog(s) could bite the family; kids are more important to dogs.
q. Lisa Schell, 4008 St. Francis Street, directly across from the proposed dog park. Received information from Matt and Mike in regards to the dog park. We have a number of kids to corral, thought it was important to go door to door to talk about the dog park. A number of them didn't know about the park. Main concern is safety; dogs coming into my property; kids biking down our driveway and a dog running at him/her.

r. Tara Sommers, 4012 St. Francis Street, against the project due to safety and being a nurse. The location would be against DNR Regulations due to creek; the amount of paraistes and decease that can be spread dog to dog, dog to human the study is overwhelming. The parasites can live in the soil for months, including the winter months. We shouldn't be putting this in a residential area. Who's going to monitor the vaccinations and license? Who's going to take care of this when a dog bites? Number of blind spots with the current parking system in place.

s. Dustin Reeson, 3029 Allies Lane, against the proposed park but not against the dog park in general, just need a well planned park. I did some research self, on a precedence that the Village has already set with Creekside kennels, a business that is closed now, a source I spoken with. Why didn't they have outside areas? The village said they couldn't due to the noise. This is in a commercial setting, how can we then say it's ok in residential? Haven't looked into village minutes on this but wanted everyone to know that a precedence was set.

There were 17 village community members that each had an opportunity to say what they wanted about having a dog park in the village and the location at Raspberry Park. Two of the 17 were in favor of a dog park and 15 were opposed to a dog park. Some of the concerns were but not limited to dogs off leash not in a fenced area, safety, noise, bacteria that could kill children and other dogs, property devaluation, traffic and not a good path for kids to get to park and parking, not enough room to exercise dogs and people. Also reason to have a dog park is there are many residence that live in apartments that need a place to run their dog, there are several dog parks in the city of Madison that are in residential areas doing just fine. Dogs parks are the fastest growing parks in the nation and the Wi Dept of Tourism advertises that we are dog park friendly. There was also a comment that the village could see if the farmer on Hwy P south of the village in the Town of Cross Plains would sell his property for the use of a dog park. There was another comment that maybe there could be a compromise.

4) **Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding the concept of a Dog Park within the existing Village Park System.** Motion was made by Kevin Thusius to recommend to the Village Board: *To remove Raspberry Park and all other current village parks from consideration of locations for dog parks.* The motion was 2nd by Jim Billmeyer. After committee discussion, the vote was 5 – 0 in favor of making this recommendation to the Village Board.

V. Adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted by:
Bill Brosius
Committee Chairman
June 20, 2016