

## **Parks Policy on Dogs in Parks: Public Involvement Process**

### Objectives:

- Provide information on current city policies regarding dogs in parks
- Create a forum in which public opinions may be voiced
- Increase understanding of the range of public sentiment regarding possibility of changes to MGO 8.19
- Solicit ideas about good practices leading to positive experiences when people and dogs are in parks

### We plan to use a three-part approach:

1. Public education
2. Public meetings
3. Public survey

### Public Education

Experience has shown that many people are unaware of MGO 8.19 (which prohibits dogs in some parks). Parks staff will provide information on the current policies regarding dogs and parks, especially on which parks allow dogs either on or off leash. Additionally, Parks staff will provide background information on how dogs are handled in other near-by park systems, e.g., Dane County, Middleton, and Sun Prairie.

The following venues will be used to share information:

- Social media (content by Parks staff, posting by Shea)
  - Facebook
  - Instagram
  - Twitter
  - Blog post (Ann and Grant to write content with Shea's help, Shea to post)
- Press release(s) (contacts by Shea, follow up if needed, by Parks staff)
- Fall 2019 (Sept) Winter 2019 (Dec) Parks Newsletter (Out and About)
- City web pages
- Neighborhood association listserves

### Public Meetings

Four meetings are planned, East, West, South and Central (see below). The meetings will occur in quick succession during July. Meetings designed to accommodate 75 to 100 people at each meeting.

### Public Survey

A public survey will be available on-line and as a hard copy at the public meetings. The survey will be open from July 15<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> of 2019.

### Outcome

A public input summary will be provided to the LRP at the August 2019 meeting. Public input will provide guidance to the LRP as to the next steps in this policy review.

## Continuous Public Input

At each step we will:

- Reach out to various outlets, directing people to our web page
- Provide a public comment period after the DRAFT policy has been developed at the July and August LRP meetings (three week public comment period, comments due in time for Sept. 25 LRP meeting)
- Summarize comments received at the close of the public comment period and share that with LRP as possible policy changes are discussed and recommendations to the BPC are determined.

Note: Public comment opportunities are also available at the LRP and BPC.

Public Meeting Outline:

1. Quick Introduction of Topic
2. Snap poll on (a) attendee demographics, e.g. zip code, age group, park use, dog ownership; (b) reasons for attending; (c) yes/no poll on statements on current policies
3. Presentation on Topic (while presentation is underway, question cards will be provided to the audience. They will be asked to write down questions which will be answered by staff after the presentation.)
  - a. Current status in Madison
    - i. MGO 8.19
    - ii. Off-leash dog parks
    - iii. Parks where dogs are allowed on-leash
  - b. Dogs in Parks Policies from other communities
  - c. Answering the question cards
4. Sticky Note Exercise on Dogs in Parks
  - a. Intro exercise
  - b. Quiet work time
  - c. Categorizing notes by meeting attendees on large sheets of paper
  - d. Attendees return to seats
  - e. Facilitator to summarize notes on large sheets of paper and report out
5. Repeat Snap poll on statements regarding current policy and potential change
6. Proposed next steps
7. Meeting wrap up

Public meetings will be between 6:30 and 7:30. Locations and dates as follows:

- Warner Park Community Center – July 16<sup>th</sup>
- Memorial High School – July 17<sup>th</sup>
- Villager-Atrium Community – July 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Central Library – July 25<sup>th</sup>

- **Sennett Middle School – July 30<sup>th</sup> (Tentative)**