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From: Gillian, Barb
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 4:48 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Agenda Item 13 - K9 Equine 5K Run - Jan 9, 2109 mtg

Dear Park Commissioners,

I am opposed to the 5K Run course in item 13: City of Madison Police K-9 Equine Partners for the use of Olin Park and Quann Park. Quann park is an off-leash dog park and using it for a run closes the park for its intended users. Off-leash dog parks are a scarce and valuable resource within the city and should not be closed for any other uses. Quann dog park is the largest off-leash park in the city, so sacrificing Quann constitutes closing roughly half of all the dog park acreage in the city. While the city has created a few tiny off-leash parks over the last decade, and allowed on-a-short-leash, on pavement trails at more parks, there are still only the 3 original dog parks in the city that are big enough for people to get in a good walk while their dogs also get their needed off-leash exercise. I'm one of many people who gets my daily exercise by walking at Quann. The dog parks are fully supported by users fees - we PAY to have this park. Closing Quann dog park for any other uses should never be allowed.

The AEC has popularized this run route over the last few years and now everyone wants to use it. We can't do anything about the AEC hosted events due to their lease. AEC has been closing Quann dog park for more and more events, every year and last summer closed the dog park for over 60 days, including a full month in June/July. That number doesn't include all the unannounced days that they leave the gates open, have heavy equipment in the park for mowing, prep & take-down for events and inadequate repair the massive damage they do to the park. We don't have the full AEC schedule of events yet for 2019, but from what I could find on their website calendar they already have at least 41 days of closure, including a color run, a bubble run and the inflatables run, the Crossfit games, Brat Fest, Midwest Horse Fair & World Dairy Expo. I anticipate even more dog park closures for things like Halloween Hustle, Turkey Trot and big agricultural events that aren't listed yet. Those 41 closure days include 8 weekends, exactly when the dog park would get its highest usage. Enough is enough! The city should not allow any additional events to close the dog park for any reason.

I am not opposed to most of this run - only that it closes Quann dog park. Surely there are other places that a loop could be placed that wouldn't close the dog park but still provide that precious 5K distance. A loop within Olin or Goodman park could be substituted. Even without closing the dog park, this run course does affect all park users because the route completely encircles Quann park so that all entrances, both vehicular and bike/pedestrian are affected. This impacts not just the dog park but also the tennis courts, playing field, the community gardens and the south side residents in Capitol View and Bram's Addition neighborhoods who use the Wingra Creek bike path to enter the bike path system and as their route to the Goodman Pool. We can accept that temporary

inconvenience as long as the dog park remains open and the event organizers don't get greedy and try to prohibit anyone else from using Expo Way, Bram St and/or the bike path - all of which has happened multiple times.

So I am requesting that the Park Commissioners deny not just this event as written but also institute a blanket denial of any event application that uses the Quann off-leash dog park. Make it known to Parks Event staff so we don't have to revisit this issue over and over as every fun run, charity run, fundraiser run, & for profit run wants to close the dog park. No one has a greater need for Quann park than its already beleaguered, paying dog park patrons. I should make it clear that this request includes the section of the off-leash dog park along Wingra Creek, north of the bridge. This area was specifically set up to provide a sacrosanct section of Quann dog park that the AEC couldn't close and which they agreed never to use. The Quann dog park creek corridor is the only handicapped accessible off-leash dog park in the entire county. Yet AEC and various runs still violate that agreement at least twice a year, often without any notice and no consequences.

The city is always patting itself on the back for their great dog park program. Please show us you mean it. We need the Park Commissioners to protect our dog parks.

Sincerely,
Barb Gilligan
[REDACTED] Sundstrom St.
Madison, WI 53713

P.S.

I could find no legend for what the labels 1,2,3 on the map indicate, but I do see that two of them are in Quann park. What do these locations indicate?

From: KAREN A CARLSON <[REDACTED]@wisc.edu>
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2019 6:25 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Closing Quann Dog Park

I admire Madison's K-9 program and Equine Partners. But I object to yet another event closing Quann Dog Park. Many events that close the park leave negative consequences that are never fully remediated. Over the past ten years, I have visited this park, *when it is open to people and their dogs*, about five times a week. And over this past decade more and more events close the park for more and more days. Every year there are more closures and more turf damage. Some entities that manage runs leave equipment behind, cartons of water bottles, piles of trash--trash that is picked up by early dog walkers before the city is even aware of it.

But the problem is not just the poor job in protecting the park turf and cleanliness but the sheer number of days the park is closed to dogs. The Parks Commission needs to craft a policy that limits events and days that close the park. Surely there are other venues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karen Carlson
[REDACTED] Erin St #105
Madison, WI 53715
[REDACTED]@wisc.edu

From: AT&T <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 8:20 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Quann Dog Park

To Whom It May Concern,

Please see Barb Gilligan's, a tireless advocate for the Quann dog and dog people park, e-mail regarding "the 5K Run course in item 13: City of Madison Police K-9 Equine Partners for the use of Olin Park and Quann Park."

I too am opposed to the continued and increasing approval for 'other' use of this park. Regular and unannounced use of the park, gates left open etc cause those of us, who regularly use this designated dog park, to have to drive to Verona to exercise ourselves and our dogs. We pay for these parks. There should be a reliable, large dog park in Madison.

Thank You,
Sandy Wolens and Bella

From: Kenneth Butch <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 10:48 AM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Closing Quan Park

Item 13 - 5k run - I am opposed.

Why does Quan Off-Lease Dog usage get targeted so often for interruptions? Find another place to use. Why not Elver Park? Oh. That might interfere with Softball users, real people, whereas dogs are easier to push around.

From: mary preston <[REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Park Commission <pacommission@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: 1/9/19 Mtg comment on item 54232

Dear Park Commissioners,

I am opposed to the 5K Run course in item 13: City of Madison Police K-9 Equine Partners for the use of Olin Park and Quann Park on a Sunday morning, May 5, 2019. Weekends are busy days at the dog parks.

For myself, Quann Park is almost the only park in the Madison park system that I use, and I use it almost daily, along with my two dogs. It's the only handicapped-accessible dog park in Madison. I don't mind supporting Madison parks that I cannot use because I walk with my dogs, and I do not object to paying extra to use the few parks I can; however, having my "home" park unavailable during prime dog-walking months/days/hours due to event closures seems unfair.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Preston, Dani and Jemmy Corgis
[REDACTED] Fisher St.
Madison