

## **Pedretti, Christopher**

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**From:** Skidmore, Paul  
**Sent:** Monday, January 28, 2013 9:57 AM  
**To:** Rutledge, Kay  
**Cc:** Pedretti, Christopher; Schmitt, Joshua  
**Subject:** Walnut Grove NA annual meeting - dog park discussion

Greetings Kay,

Here is a brief update on yesterday's meeting. I gave my annual overview of what is happening in the City, the 9th District, and the Walnut Grove neighborhood at this well attended meeting. I said very little about the proposed dog area in Walnut Grove Park. I focused on my history on the Park Commission, my involvement in the establishment of dog parks in some of Madison's parks, and my perception of the public's attitudes towards dogs in parks. I did not voice my personal opinion on the proposal, but reinforced my support for the process of establishing dog parks.

Chris and Josh did a great job of presenting the proposed dog park area and answering questions. They can fill you in on the details, but I can tell you that they covered all of the bases. There were two individuals from the neighborhood who made a presentation on why this was not a good location for a dog park. I think that the audience appreciated the balanced discussion. I did not hear any new or convincing arguments that this would not be a good location for a dog park. In fact, a number of residents who did not speak up during the meeting talked to me privately after the meeting to make sure that I still supported Walnut Grove Park for an off-leash dog area. It is my opinion that the opposition is similar to the comments that I have heard regarding previous proposed dog areas. I feel that the opposition to this proposal is from a small, vocal minority. Unless something dramatic happens, I will support the creation of an off-leash dog area in Walnut Grove Park. Also, for the record, I would also support an on leash dog area along the paved path through the park.

Keep up the good work. Please keep me in the loop. Please let me know if and when you need my help.

alder paul