



**PARK CITY MUNICIPAL OFF-LEASH TASK FORCE
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
445 MARSAC AVE.
PARK CITY, UTAH
February 29, 2016**

Heinrich Deters, Trails and Open Lands Manager for Park City Municipal asked for a motion to open the meeting of the Task Force at approximately 3:30pm; Charlie Sturgis with Mountain Trails Foundation opened the motion, Kate Sattlemier with Summit Lands Conservancy seconded the motion.

Heinrich Deters made introductions.

Task Force Members in Attendance:

Charlie Sturgis - Mountain Trails Foundation
Becky Burns - At large
Alisha Niswander - Recreation Advisory Board
Alison Child - At large
Eric Hoffman - Recreation Advisory Board
Brian Hanton - Snyderville Basin Recreation District
Kate Sattlemier - Summit Land Conservancy
Cynthia Sandoval - Recreation Advisory Board
Ed Parigian - At large
Tod Frohnen - At large
Clay Coleman - Summit County Animal Control
Rusty Millholland - Utah Open Lands
Heinrich Deters - Staff Liaison, Park City Municipal Corp. -
Ken Fisher - Recreation Manager, Park City Municipal Corp.
Tate Shaw - Assistant Recreation Manager - Park City Municipal Corp.
Councilman Tim Henney - Council Liaison Alternate
Excused: Andrew Latham - Park City Police Department
Barbara Maw - Citizen

Adoption of Minutes:

This was the first meeting of the Task Force therefore adoption of previous meeting minutes was not possible.

Public Input:

Heinrich Deters asked if there was any public input. Jon Benoist, local citizen recommended the task force work on policy and resolutions and he realizes this will be a challenge. Deters thanked him for his input.

Heinrich Deters began the meeting with an overview of the history, objectives and roll of the Task Force.

In 2007 Summit County and Park City worked on a memorandum of understanding that outlined the process Animal Control would work throughout Summit County. He stated that in 2008/2009 (due to recession) Summit County Animal Control eliminated a number of positions, then under the direction of County Manager Bob Jasper.

In 2013/2014 Summit County Councilwoman Kim Carson headed a committee to establish a leash law for the County. Deters stated that he, Charlie Sturgis and Kate Sattlemier were members of that committee. Through process the stakeholders presented their recommendations to the County in November of 2014. A goal of the committee was to help the County identify and designate possible off-leash dog park areas. Additional ideas presented was the recommendation of staff increases at Animal Control, updating licensing and vaccinations in Summit County; the Run a Muck Dog Park was also created as a result, it was an infrastructure improvement near Utah Olympic Park.

In 2015/2016 Park City began hearing complaints from citizens regarding the need for a leash law. Council members were receiving many complaints from their constituents and asked city staff to conduct public hearings, they then granted the City the ability to create off-leash areas.

Deters stated that the City of Park City had its own Animal Control Title 7 Code in place as did the County; citations were being issued in Round Valley and in Park City.

Both Park City and the County have recently made changes to their Animal Control code. On January 7 the City Council adopted amendments to the Ordinance and designated Round Valley as an off-leash park within the City limits along with designating the Library field as an off-leash park.

Per Council direction a six month pilot program to identify problems, create solutions, make recommendations was formed; additionally city staff was directed to create a task force to examine the two designated off-leash areas (Round Valley and the Library field) present recommendations to Council in June.

Task Force Objectives per City Council Direction:

- * Evaluate additional dog related designated areas
- * Possible improvements on existing designated areas
- * Possible Management tools in designated areas
- * Criteria to establish High Enforcement areas
- * Additional Dog related Policies, Regulations, and Programs
- * Participate in the evaluation of existing Round Valley and Library field designated areas

Deters asked some of the stakeholders if they would share with the group their history and involvement with dog parks over the years.

Ken Fisher, Recreation Manager at Park City Municipal stated that dogs off leash have always been a hot issue in Park City. The Recreation Advisory Board of which he was a member was asked to look for potential off-leash dog park areas; the Sports Complex and the base of PC Hill were both considered. Neighbors opposed the PC Hill site, the Park City Sports Complex had low impact although everyone would have had to get in cars and drive to the park.

Rusty Millholland, Utah Open Lands identified the specific properties they own conservation easements on: Gilmore Stone Ridge property on the north end of Round Valley, the Clark Ranch (currently working on conservation easement), the Willow Ranch and Armstrong.

Charlie Sturgis with Mountain Trails Foundation stated that they look at the user groups: bikers, hikers, skiers and dog owners and feel they are all entitled to fair and equal access to the trails and spaces available; Mountain Trails uses this as a guideline. He went on to say that management strategies and educational strategies they've used have helped trail users become better users.

Clay Coleman, Summit County Animal Control realizes that this is a hot topic. Animal Control covers the entire County. He stated they have officers rotating through the Coalville area consisting of Henefer, Echo Canyon and Warship; Kamas and Woodland area and the Basin area. They are law enforcement and they will enforce the law and have been giving out citations. The County realizes they have a real problem with the leash laws being obeyed and have been enforcing the law where previously they had only been warning dog owners. The County has the statistics on citations and licenses and Coleman stated he would make those available to the committee. Coleman believes this is having a positive effect, more people walking their dogs on leashes, less dog issues.

Ed Parigian inquired about fees the County was charging for citations; Deters mentioned that he had that information and would forward to the committee.

Alison Child inquired about electronic collars and wanted clarification if they were legal. Coleman stated that they were and it is stated in the County Leash Law policy. Deters followed up by saying the change was a result of the County's 2014 Leash-Law policy committee.

Brian Hanton, Snyderville Basin Recreation District provides trails and parks for the community; their main objective is safety. Dogs running at large during soccer, baseball and lacrosse events becomes a problem. They have created dog park areas at most of the parks and fields. After the stakeholder meeting with the County in 2014 they created Run a Muck Dog Park.

Kate Sattlemier, Summit Lands Conservancy identified some of their conservation easements in the County and Park City area: parts of Round Valley, Quarry Mountain, top of Daly Canyon, areas of Deer Valley, Iron Mountain and the McPolin Farm. Summit Lands Conservancy's job is to uphold conservation values. Ms. Sattlemier went on to define conservation values: public recreation, scenic, nature, wildlife; at times they can all compete and it becomes a balancing act.

Deters asked members if they had any questions before they moved on, there were none.

Deters moved forward explaining the next steps of the meeting for the committee. He stated defining the problems then offering solutions was the goal of the group; Tate Shaw would be facilitating this section of the meeting.

Shaw reiterated that to find solutions they needed to identify the problems:

- * Dog owners - irresponsible, etiquette, courtesy, tolerance
- * Perspective between users
- * Non-dog users - leashed vs unleashed
- * Fear of animal - fear of people "retaliation"
- * Safety - bites, aggressive behavior
- * Rules - understanding
- * Impacts - trails, wildlife, water, waste, bites, unleashed, weeds (noxious weed transfer)
- * People - crowds, multiple users (too many so no one goes)
- * Unforeseen consequences
- * Right vs privilege (dogs run free)
- * Conflicting uses
- * Signage
- * Enforcement - lack of staff capacity (creation of bad behavior?! in 'Old Town' or other off leash areas)
- * Habits
- * Love of their dogs - education
- * Passion of their use
- * Licensing numbers
- * Wildlife
- * Dog training - lack of
- * Tired dog = good dog
- * Awareness - of community resources
- * No 'people only locations'
- * Off leash dogs - playgrounds
- * High use areas
- * 100% Compliance is a myth
- * Response time for help
- * Pack mentality (4+ dog walkers)
- * E-Collar = issue?!
- * Access - residents / non-residents
- * Existing dog parks - more / less - utilized

Discussion took place as each problem was identified and listed.

Shaw then asked the group to identify possible solutions:

- * ↑ Enforcement = Violation, schedule / ↑ fees
'resources' noted - safety / #'s contact

- ↓ =
- * Dogs on a leash = Certified for off leash - Dogs and owners
 - * Education and marketing = Licensing?! (promo - green tags / non-resident fees)
 - * Fencing - fee based
 - * Formal locations - ↑ infrastructure (space)
 - * Dog 'free zone' - safety
 - * Segregated trails - specific use - safety
 - equestrian - x county skiing
 - hike only - up hill / downhill
 - Odd / even days - Dogs in/out
 - * Expectations - education and enforcement
 - Alta - water shed
 - * Community enforcement -
 - park Ambassadors (Volunteer)
 - peer pressure
 - confrontation
 - licensing (on site): dog identity
 - trailhead check in
 - veterinarian involvement
 - * Geographic impact - (building, non-use / change)
 - all of ... vs .. some of
 - more places - walkable / energy / type of ex.
 - wildlife
 - type of use - exercise for dog, social for owner
 - (Rights/Privilege)
 - * Dog wash
 - * Ordinance focus
 - numbers on leash
 - business for walking - licensing requirement
 - 'e' collar (education / options) viewed as 'bad behavior'
 - * Buses?

Discussion took place as each potential solution was listed.

Shaw then asked the group to re-evaluate, streamline and redefine the two lists. Some of the items were further discussed for clarification.

Councilman Henney shared an example of what he has seen in Round Valley: he explained that in Round Valley there is the 'Land of Oz' which is designated as 'no dogs'. He skis there often and has yet to see any users other than skiers on the trails in that area; it is signed as designated for skiers only. Henney followed up stating that he feels the system works there.

Deters then asked the group to evaluate the idea of areas that are specific to a group - off leash dog only areas for example.

Shaw asked the members to think about the geographical aspect of impact, all of ... or ... some of / too many? It was mentioned that Round Valley was often congested; Henney interjected

that a zip code survey conducted by the city indicated a number of zip codes that were both out of the County and the City.

Ed Parisian stated that the type of exercise was important to identify an area, as an example: Round Valley was primarily used as a hiking, walking dog area whereas the Library field is the only area in the city limits an owner can throw a ball, stick or frisbee for their dog. He believes that the Library field is going to be overrun if it's the only area allowing these activities.

A comment was shared that there are two types of dog parks: one where the dog is exercising with the owner dog park and two the social dog park.

Kate Sattlemier interjected that her concern for segregation was not having proper enforcement.

Conversation was expanded on some problems and solutions: is it walkable from the house, addressing the City's energy concerns; adding more locations; does it provide the type of exercise the owner needs and the dog needs (type of use); wildlife impacts; social for the owner.

Fisher noted that dog walking companies are a big business in the city and questioned whether there should be restrictions on their use. What would and should there be licensing requirements for this type of business?

Deters brought the veterinary aspect back to the discussion; licensing, vaccinations offered by participating veterinarians.

Discussion of non-residents fees vs resident fees; the educational component of e-collars, many residents do not realize they can be an option.

Shaw asked the committee to think about the 'problems' and the 'solutions' using the following criteria:

Infrastructure related

Ordinance related

Policy related and focus related

Education / outreach related

Enforcement related

Deters asked if there were any questions or comments.

Councilman Henney stated he wanted to share what he believes may be a problem with some segments of the community. The received criticism is that the City's new ordinance has created 'bad behavior' throughout town; examples are in Swede Alley, the North Forty Fields and in Park Meadows. He feels people are allowing their dogs to run off leash because the City has not explained their off leash policy, which does not apply to those areas. The policy applies only to Round Valley and the Library Field which he feels the committee is very clear on. Amongst the community the only criticism is coming from people who are making the connection to the change in the ordinance and 'bad behavior' in other areas of town not in the areas that have been designated off-leash. He believe this is a problem, it's being communicated to council as criticism, therefore a problem. Henney mentioned this could be a lack of communication and understanding on both parts. He wanted this to be noted and addressed.

Millholland commented that habit should have been addressed and was missed. He stated that creating a new area with expectation is much easier than changing an area that has been around much longer, Gorgoza Park being an example.

Deters then interjected that Council had also asked the Task Force to discuss dogs on busses and would like this to be discussed at the next meeting.

Councilman Henney reiterated 'Land of Oz' that has signage indicating 'no dogs' has skiers using the area because there are no dogs; skiers are using the area that they have not used in many years because there were dogs. He believes this is an example of what is working.

Deters reminded the committee that if e-mails are received by them from community members to pass them on to him. He is on the committee and will respond as the collective group.

Deters reminded the group the next meeting is March 14, 2016 at 3:30 pm Council Chambers.

Deters then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kate Sattlemier moved to close the meeting, Eric Hoffman seconded, motion carried.

Meeting minutes prepared by Jody Morrison.