Minutes for Woonsocket Dog Park Committee, March 22, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 5:10pm

Introductions:

Jared Katz spoke about his role as a liaison between the planning department, the Mayor and

the committee.

Kelly Wilson spoke about his experience as a long time dog owner and veterinary technician.

Eric Boyko spoke about his experience working with and owning rescue dogs. He stated that

having a dog park would be a draw for the city.

Amy Devereaux spoke about being a long time dog owner and also being the legal liaison on

the committee as she works for our legal department.

Melissa Murray spoke about her years of experience managing an off leash dog daycare facility,

being a veterinary technician and working over ten years in animal rescue.

Potential locations were discussed. They included Bisonette Park, Costa Park, Cass Park,

Bernon Park and Riverzedge complex. All members were encouraged to drive by each location

to familiarize themselves and compare potential obstacles. Adequate parking was discussed as

a concern.

Parameters and safety were discussed, and that having small and large dogs separated was

crucial along with having a double gated entrance to prevent dogs escaping. Having at least a

five foot high fence was also a concern as anything lower can be jumped by larger dogs. The

committee agreed that having dispensers with plastic bags for waste and a trash receptacles

are an absolute must, and that rules and regulations must be clearly posted at the entrance. A

possible fountain for drinking water is on the wish list but may not be immediately feasible due

to cost and placement. Amy will look in to contacting DEM to see if there are actual

requirements for dog parks that must be adhered to.

The biggest concerns discussed were enforcement and cost. Melissa stated that there had been

an ordinance outlining rules and regulations put forth but that it had been tabled by the previous

City Council. A copy of the rules will be forwarded to the committee via email for discussion and

suggestions. Kelly spoke about dog parks across the country that had corporate sponsorship,

specifically Purina brand dog food. A dog memorial where individuals would buy bricks in

remembrance of a pet was mentioned as a possible fundraiser. Melissa asked the committee to

think of more fundraising ideas to bring to the next meeting. Melissa will look into costing out

fence to use as a baseline fundraising goal and also look into seeking out possible grants

through the RI Foundation. A possible kickstarter campaign was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.