

From: [Rob Colquhoun](#)
To: [Clerk](#); [dola](#); [Facilities Plan](#)
Subject: re: Dog Parks Feedback
Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2017 7:52:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello City! I hope this feedback is able to be used in your meeting this morning. For the most part, the City does a great job. Real estate is such a limited resource, and yet the City seems to find places to put dog parks.

1. People who plan people parks and arenas should not be the same people who plan dog parks. It's tricky because the word 'park' is in dog park, but a dog park is the furthest thing from a park. It's an outside doggie daycare. Dogs needs a lot of things, dog parks require a lot of things – too many to list here (shade, six-foot fences, fences that are not see-through, the lack of human-created nature reserves, hazards, etc). Just, my feedback would be to have a readily available dog professional planning dog parks.
2. Commercial Dog Walker Only Dog Parks. Too many times do I (and my dog walkers) get bit breaking up fights between two dogs whose handlers are owners, not professionals. That's because dog handling is a profession and many dog owners have no clue how to identify the number of signals a dog will give before an attack is made. Dog walkers take an enormous amount of training that allows us to mitigate risks and keep the peace. With the growing number of dogs (there are more dogs than dog walkers), and the limited amount of spaces, why not let the owners with single dogs stick to parks that have no dog walkers, and let the dog walkers be in the parks with other professionals. Predictability is a dog professionals best friend, and untrained dog handlers compromise this.
 - a. did you know that the presence of a small child can trigger the prey drive of the best-behaved dog? I still see parents letting their toddler run around a dog park with a stick in her hand. That's asking for trouble.
3. Transform the dog parks from being a cost item into a revenue generating unit by engaging in corporate sponsorships. Many private companies (national and local) would be happy to sponsor parks in the exchange of having banner ads around the inside and outside of dog park fences. (by the way, dogs should never see each other with a fence in between them) This would allow dog parks to always be kept up to date, without requiring City resources being taken away from the Parks n Rec resources. Too many gates are broken, too many fences are too low, too many surfaces are inappropriate for dogs.

I am happy to elaborate with detail should this be required. Thanks so much for your time and consideration.

Rob

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