

## Mississippi Mills – Dog Park Working Group

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Virtual Meeting conducted via Zoom

Start Time: 2:00 pm

Present: Councillor John Dalgity  
Vicki Lowe  
Laurel Cook  
Sandra Franks  
Calvin Murphy (Staff Representative)  
Dawn McDonald (Recorder)

Absent: Terry Ainsworth

Vicki Lowe developed the attached draft survey which was sent to working group members prior to the meeting. As the survey is designed to take respondents to different questions depending on their responses, some members found it confusing and somewhat difficult to follow. John and Vicki agreed to try and develop an electronic survey for the next draft.

A fulsome discussion ensued with the following revisions being suggested:

- Include an identifier in the survey (ie. email address) to ensure that each person is only responding once.
- Include a question asking respondents to indicate which Ward they live in (Ramsay, Pakenham, Almonte)
- Laurel Cook provided her comments in written format (see attached). Suggestions discussed included:
  - Expand question “do you think Mississippi Mills would benefit from having an area where dogs could safely (*add exercise*) play off leash?
  - Delete question “What is most important to you in terms of safety if there was a dog park in the Town” (This will be covered in the previous question - benefits).
  - Expand question re: multi-use park to allow residents to respond about walkers and cyclists separately.
  - Revise question on “Park Size” to include catchment and change Neighbourhood park size to *approximately 1 acre*.
  - Reasons offered to residents for “which type of park they prefer” should be consistent, value added options. Laurel to give suggestions to Vicki for this question.
  - Insert a question prior to addressing funding options to introduce the concept of a dog park organization/group who would assume a level of responsibility for the park.
  - Expand “Funding” question into a 3 part question to ask respondents which type of funding they would choose for each type of park: neighbourhood, community and regional.
  - Replace “Town” with Municipality and “User Group” with Dog Park Group through out the survey for accuracy and consistency. Refer to attachment from Laurel Cook for other suggested word changes.

Costs and Liability were also discussed. As costing is somewhat fluid and exact costs are not available for all options it is difficult to incorporate this into the survey. Calvin Murphy contacted the Municipality's insurance provider for guidance on liability. The insurance agent could not provide a definitive answer. In general, owners are responsible for their own dogs; however, this could come back on the Municipality. The Municipality would need to maintain the park, filling holes, repairing fencing, etc. A minimum 6 foot fence was recommended and it was suggested that a fencing specialist should be consulted prior to commencing the build.

The goal is to have the survey on the agenda for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee for either the April or May meeting. The suggestions from the group will be incorporated into the survey and a revised version will be circulated. Another quick meeting of the Working Group can also be scheduled if required.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.