

Attachment 4

Comments via email

Thank you for sending me this e-mail on such a frivolous matter that the city is thinking of spending \$300,000 to complete. Have they even thought of the percentage of the population of this city who want this park? I would bet it is much less than 10%. Can it be requested that this issue be among those placed on a citywide ballot so that the community can make the final decision on this project? Please let me know how I can make this request known to the City Council.

Thank you,
Marcia Hollander

We wanted Roxbury Park NOT ARSENIC TOXIC THROWAWAY LAND TO POISON OUR DOGS!!!!!!!
Sandra Be-Taylor

It would be greatly appreciated if this letter is made a part of the Administrative Record on this matter.

I'm writing this letter in support of the proposed dog park on Foothill on the site previously considered. Our residents need and deserve a place they can take their dogs off- lease. The subject site has been reviewed and considered extensively and is the best site available in the city – far better than Roxbury Park. The site is of sufficient size, not adjacent to residential uses and immediately across the street from a veterinarian clinic and the Amanda Foundation. The proposed site is of sufficient size to serve both large and small dogs and I do not see a need to separate the same. I'm very familiar with the dog park in Malibu off Trancas Canyon, which is of a similar size to the proposed Foothill dog park, which does not separate large and small dogs, and I have never seen a problem.

I believe the dog park should be open appropriate day light hours seven days a week. I suggest the dog park be approved with these hours for a trial period of 6 months to 1 year to assure that if there is a noise or other problem with neighbors that the hours can be adjusted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Robert Block, Esq.

I am in full support of the off leash dog park at Foothill Road and Alden Drive.

I support operating hours similar to those of our existing parks. If lighting is available, evening hours should also be considered.

I suggest limiting the access of the park to licensed dogs. The dog license program is operated by Los Angeles County for our city and, I believe, does not require actual residence in the city. The license documents rabies vaccination and is priced to encourage owners to spay or neuter their dogs.

In the event that park days and or hours are limited, I would ask that our police, fire and rescue personnel along with professional dog trainers be permitted full use of the facility during these restricted periods. Dogs undergoing training in the presence of professional handlers provide a benefit to our community through rehearsal of K9 team skills or service dog capacities. Access to demanding training/certification opportunities such as the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen Program are a valuable resource for all dog owners and their pets by creating well-mannered dogs and knowledgeable handlers.

Lastly, any operating restrictions placed upon park access and usage should have a sunset provision. City Council may wish to regularly revisit special rules governing this park so that restrictions quickly adapt to the needs of our city.

Truly,

Marc Saleh

Drs Winters, Suehiro and Takahashi at the Beverly Hills Small Animal Hospital strongly support the dog park. However, there is a concern regarding adequate street parking for the clients patronizing the businesses in the area and the people using the dog park. At times, our clients have a difficult time finding parking spaces. Sometimes they have park quite a long distance from our hospital.

Our other concern is traffic safety in the area. Cars seem to speed down Foothill Rd and there have been numerous accidents or close calls at the corner of Foothill and Alden. You may need to place speed bumps in the area to slow down the speeders.

Thank you.

We are strongly in favor of a dog park, and would appreciate if you would share our sentiments with the Recreation and Parks Commissioners.

Presently, we use dog parks in both West Hollywood's, and the LA Park in Brentwood, and two parks in the Palm Desert area.

Our comments to your specific enquires are as follows:

Hours - should initially be limited, *e.g.* 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., 7 days a week, for an initial trial period (*e.g.*, 6 months). This would give time to see how the park integrates into the neighborhood.

After six months evaluate the hours/days of operations and if appropriate, expand the hours, perhaps to 7 p.m. in summer, and open the park earlier (first to 9 a.m., then 8 a.m., and eventually to 7 a.m. - only if that can be done without problem for the neighborhood).

Lighting - I'm suggesting no evening hours, hence no need to provide lighting.

Fees/Charges - some cities limit dog parks to local residents - Beverly Hills should not so limit the park. However, the Commission might consider requiring a 'Rec Card' for the use of the facility, just as is required to use the tennis courts. There can be a slight higher the fee for a Rec Card for non-residents/people who do not work in BH.

One of the reasons for requiring a Rec Card is it gives the City an opportunity to acquaint patrons with the "rules" for the park.

Limitations On Use - although it will be difficult to enforce, the park should not be available to commercial dog sitters/walkers.

The propose project is across from a pet shelter. There should be discussions with them about their self-limiting the use of the Park - for it would be unfair to the community to be squeezed out by the use of, and wear and tear by one organization.

Patrons should be limited to two dogs at a time. More than that, it's difficult for someone to look after and supervise their dogs.

Ingress/Egress - To minimize the conflict with Alden Drive, have the entry off the south side of the proposed area, at least 25+ feet east of the Foothill sidewalk.

Parking - there should be 20-30 minute meter parking on Foothill/Alden. Further parking is currently available at the structure on 3rd, west of Foothill.

Size Of Dogs - if space permits, some parks have a small dog and large dog areas (*e.g.*, Brentwood), while other parks do not (*e.g.* West Hollywood - one area for all dogs). With an half acre allotted to this project, we might consider not divining the space into large/small,

rather, have specified hours for mixed (both small/large), and separate hours for small dogs, and separate hours for large dogs.

Furbishing - furnishing should be minimal, some seating. The goal should for people to actively supervise their dog, and not linger in the park. So furnishing should be to a minimum (e.g., a few benches), no shade.

There should be a drinking water facility that services both dogs and humans.

Especially since this is a 'test' - we might want to consider installing a camera (with audio). This would help to deter unruly pet owners, identify commercial users, and provide a degree of safety (people behave differently if they know they are on camera).

Rule - curtesy, only 'friendly animals,' owners are responsible for any damage caused by their pet to persons and other dogs, owners should pick up after their pets. The 'on-leash' rule should be actively enforced, especially in the 1st few months. So that no owner let's their dog out of the car, and walks un-leashed to the park.

Concluding Comments

We are long term residents (El Camino – Howard is BHHS class of 69) – and are dedicated to and have worked for the betterment of the City.

A dog park will be a welcomed addition to the City's resources - one that will be used by many people who presently do not make use of other City resources.

Hopefully, a few naysayers will not derail the dog park once again – there is clearly a large number of residents that are in favor of a park.

If you or the Commission would like us to elaborate on any of the above, or would like us to appear at a Commission meeting, please call on us.

Sincerely,

Howard Fisher
Francine Fisher

I am shocked that you are going to spend \$400,000 just so dogs can run around in a park. I am also shocked that this was "a top priority for Council-member Lili Bosse when she was mayor last year".

For all the problems and challenges you encounter when you are a Mayor THIS was your priority? Really? And not just a priority but a TOP priority! So you put dogs ahead of people, huh?

And do you really have \$400,000 to waste? That's a huge amount of money. (You say \$400,000 and I see half a million). And even if it's \$400,000 don't you think you can spend it more wisely on something that benefits the residents of Beverly Hills rather than dogs and their owners so Fido can run in the park, which he does anyway?

I assume that Lili Bosse is a dog-owner. Only such a person can consider this as a top priority!

You said "On the table are issues such as entry gates and protocol, site management, hardscaping details, urban furniture, hours of operation, inclusion of a small dog park and other details of the site."

Why spend so much time, money and energy on these matters? I suggest that you simply forget about the whole idea!

I believe Park is for People!

Not every park in the City has to be a dog park.

A dog park = a noisy park with barking. A park is for people to relax, find a place of quiet. Even if there is a separation between the park and the dog park (you don't intend to transform the whole park in a dog-park, are you?) the noise will be heard anyway. A fence or some demarcation on the ground do not stop noise from traveling. And if it's open to non-residents of Beverly Hills, you will see people flocking from everywhere as is it's happening with every other dog-parks. Meaning more traffic, more noise, more parking issue for BH residents, etc.

This is a bad idea. This is a costly idea. Dog-owners do not have to win every time (as seems to be the trend since every year a new dog park is open somewhere in LA).

Reject this proposal! And don't ever bring it up in the future either.

Michael Orlinski

I am writing in support of the proposed dog park in consideration for the corner of Foothill & Alden. I live on Palm and Alden, a few blocks away, and frequently pass this space on walks with my 9 year old border collie, Pixie.

My wife and I are originally from Seattle, where there is an abundance of off leash dog parks, both in the city and in suburban neighborhoods. Since moving to Los Angeles two years ago, we have struggled to find an off leash dog park that is clean and within walking distance (or at least within a few miles) of where we live.

Here is my case in support of the Foothill & Alden dog park:

Existing LA Dog Parks and Their Flaws...

-Laurel Canyon - Poorly kept, smells bad, would not recommend to other pet owners

-Runyon Canyon - Decent, but not a great space for dogs given how many people are hiking

-Lake Hollywood Park - Grass park, unofficial off-leash space - recently the city has patrolled and issued tickets to people with dogs off leash
-Huntington Beach - The best off leash dog area in Los Angeles in my opinion, but over an hour away

Pros of New Dog Park

The location is great, as it is in a low traffic area but still accessible to local residents in the flatlands. There is an animal shelter across the street that should get great use of the park and boost morale of dogs that do not have a home yet.

Cons of New Dog Park

Cars speed through on Foothill, Palm, Maple, Alden, and Third St on a daily basis, and there never seem to be police around to monitor. The park may increase foot traffic. As a condition of opening a dog park, I strongly urge the installation of speed bumps on the neighboring streets to ensure pedestrian safety, especially to protect children.

Recommendations for New Dog Park

1. I recommend (if possible) a grass covered space as dirt is not great for dogs paws, often tearing their pads open in the dry heat. Understand that the drought may not warrant a grass park, but this would be a key differentiator vs other parks in LA.
2. A separate space for small / timid dogs is common at dog parks.
3. City-supplied dog bags and cleanup tools would be a plus.
4. Since there are only businesses and city buildings nearby, extended hours of operation would not be disruptive and lights timed to turn on at dusk would be a great addition and differentiator from other dog parks.

I do not mind if this email is read aloud to the counsel, you have my permission.

I look forward to a favorable vote that would give dog owners a local and accessible option to enjoy every day for many years to come.

Thank you,
Jason Curtis

Please I encourage you to develop a dog park in the Beverly Hills neighborhood. I spend a lot of time walking my dog on leash at Roxbury Park. It would be so nice not have to have the dogs off leash for socialization purposes and to build friendships between dog owners/dogs. A great hang out for all.

Please let me know how I may help!

Best,
Debbie Dresner

I am unable to attend the meeting on the 25th, so I wanted to put in my two cents!

I am so excited about the proposed dog park. I would urge you to have areas divided for large dogs and small dogs. It really works better from what I have seen at other dog parks. Everyone is more relaxed with this type of arrangements, especially small dogs!

I am opposed to closing the park early on Friday and not opening until noon on Saturdays. I believe the park is a City government project, and there is separation of church and state. We should not be abiding by any religious rules in our City. Everyone should be represented here, not just those whose religious views prohibit activities on the Sabbath. It is not everyone's Sabbath and not everyone observes Sabbath rules. The park should be available early on Saturdays. And that would definitely keep the dogs off the street.

I would also urge you to make this park available to Beverly Hills residents only. I took my dog to a Santa Monica dog park and received a citation. Their dog parks are only for Santa Monica residents.

Thank you for your continued good work.

Linda Maman

These are comments from a Maple Drive resident who received the letter. She cannot attend the meeting on Tuesday.

- 1) She agrees with the recommendation to close on Shabbat – she believes they need quiet time to pray.
 - 2) The operating hours should be 9 – 5. (Business hours)
 - 3) The expenses for the upkeep should be paid by the people who use the park – the dog owners.
 - 4) She hopes people will not park on Third, Maple or Palm. There will be construction concerning the Post Office and it will be busy enough. She feels there is plenty of street parking otherwise.
 - 5) She stated the dog park will benefit only SOME residents. Not the majority. She asked if we had numbers of how many residents own dogs in Beverly Hills..??
 - 6) She said it should be only open to Beverly Hills residents. We need to restrict admission/limit use.
 - 7) Finally she is overall AGAINST THE IDEA OF A DOG PARK. She does not think it is warranted in Beverly Hills. The property values are too high to use this piece of property for a dog park.
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My name is Rhoda Sharp and I now reside at 200 North Swall Drive having moved from 2021 Loma Vista Drive. I am a Beverly Hills resident since 1960.

I am unable to attend Tuesday, August 25 City Council meeting but I would like my thoughts to be heard. I am in favor of a dog park at the location being considered. However, I am strongly opposed to closing for secular holidays. The park needs to be opened every day and enjoyed by everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rhoda J. Sharp

I am unable to attend the meeting but would like to say that I think the dog park is a great idea.

Sincerely,

Marian Sloane Berger

We cannot attend the meeting, but want to convey our **STRONG** support for this long-overdue, over-studied and ridiculously opposed project which our community and it's dogs need.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert Foran

We both feel \$400,000 is way to much to spend on a dog park...there are many more problems in Beverly Hills like schools that we could spend it on.

Nan and Gene Corman

Thank you for your letter of August 17th and for inviting residents to comment on the proposed dog park. Sadly, I will not be able to attend the meeting on August 25th.

I am a resident of Beverly Hills, a dog owner and have experience of dog parks in California, Connecticut and New York.

I set out below my thoughts, some of which are commonsense, some no doubt will be controversial. In any event, I hope they are helpful and constructive.

- 1: Given the size of the proposed park, it should be restricted to Beverly Hills residents with dogs.
- 2: It should be gated, with a lock and access by card or key.
- 3: Applicants for a card should prove they reside in Beverly Hills and produce an up to date vaccination certificate from a vet that the dog has all the required shots - rabies etc. And this certificate should be required to be produced every two years, just as with a smog certificate.
- 4: The application for a card should be similar to a parking permit in Beverly Hills.
- 5: A reasonable annual charge to cover necessary expenses should be considered.
- 6: The park should be open during daylight hours unless some form of effective lighting can be installed but this may be too onerous an expense.
- 7: There should be security cameras.
- 8: To be considered - limitations as to the size (by weight) of the dogs.
- 9: To be considered - exclusion of certain breeds - for instance certain homeowners insurance policies have restrictions for Chows, Rotweilers, Pit Bulls and Staffordshire Terriers. Owners of these breeds will surely protest but insurance statistics and serious incidents attest to possible problems.
- 10: There should be postings requiring owners to pick up after their dogs and citations if they do not. If they do not, after say 3 citations, dog park privileges should be withdrawn.
- 11: Every so often a parks official should conduct a walk through the park and arrange for any clean up if necessary.
- 12: regular clean-up checks should be arranged.
- 13: there should be ample receptacles for the trash and poop.
- 14: there should be a supply of poop bags for dog owners who forget to bring their own or run out.
- 15: there should be benches for people to sit while the dogs run around.
16. There should be a water trough with fresh mains water supply for the dogs.
- 17: There should be a few phony water hydrants as these are inducements or dogs to urinate in prescribed places.
- 18: There should be some plantings of bushes.

These are my thoughts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephen Maitland-Lewis

Off Leash' is the key point. About time.
Our BH dogs are glassy eyed from lack of freedom.
What is the exact address of this Park?
Keep up the good work.

Em Green.

I am writing to you as a supporter of the proposed dog park in Beverly Hills. As a BH resident for the last 35 years, I feel this is something that is long overdue as a community service. I am unable to attend the City Council meeting on August 25, but please consider this email a vote FOR the dog park.

Many thanks in advance for your support.
Best, Lisa Engel

Please I encourage you to develop a dog park in the Beverly Hills neighborhood. I spend a lot of time walking my dog on leash at Roxbury Park. It would be so nice not have to have the dogs off leash for socialization purposes and to build friendships between dog owners/dogs. A great hang out for all.

Please let me know how I may help!

Best,
Debbie Dresner

I am traveling or I would most definitely be at the council meeting on Tuesday to profess my deep desire for Beverly Hills to have a dog park!
I wished we'd had one when I was a little girl growing up on Angelo Drive and I hope we have one now, as an adult living near the high school.

Our town is full of dogs and dog friendly people. Dog owners love to congregate with other dog owners and even more so, dogs love to congregate with each other! As someone who loves dogs more than I love anything else, I can't see a greater addition to our city. Not only does it help dog's well-being to socialize but it creates opportunities for lifelong friendships to be built amongst neighbors. And I can't tell you how many resources I have found over the years from people I meet at dog parks. Resources like dog sitters, dog walkers, best vet for such and such an issue etc.

The one concern I have is that I hear it would be open to Beverly Hills residents only. I think this is a mistake. I don't ever remember having to live in the exact location of any dog park I have visited. I fear it will only add to the illusion that Beverly Hills has an image of snobbery, and I know our dogs don't care what hood their other friends are from. And neither do I.

Cheers!

Kate Stern

This is Jennifer Virgen - Buddie (the dog) Virgen's mom. I can't make it but I am so happy for you and the animals. U have to tell me how to do it . Good night and good luck.

I have lived in Beverly Hills for 62 years and am in favor of moving ahead with the dog park. Presently I have to drive to the dog park on Barrington near Sunset to take advantage of the lovely facility provided by Los Angeles. It would be a boon for all dog owners in the city. However, I do not favor restricting access to the park as LA graciously allows us to use their dog parks without any restrictions.

Hopefully Beverly Hills will move forward with this endeavor. It's about time.

Many thanks,
Judith Tuch

I am a resident of Beverly Hills for several decades.
I love my city very much and I hope it continue to stay beautiful and clean for many more years.
I adopted my dog from Amanda foundation a few years ago. Eris, my dog has drastically improved my life.
I have a wonderful companion and I walk her at least twice a day, which improves my health.
Unfortunately, she has to walk with me on a leash all the time.
I am not able due to my age and health to run with her.
So, running for my dog is dream.
Eris needs to run.
A dog park would give her an opportunity to be more active and lose some weight.
Once I took my dog to a dog beach in Long Beach.
She was running like a wind!

I hope you approve the project of creating a dog park in our beautiful city. I am sure my dog is one of many who would live to run as a wind on a regular basis.

Regina Yermus

We need one is Roxbury park still a possibility? I would support an off leash dog park in Beverly Hills Roxbury or elsewhere should be big enough to throw a ball. How can I help?

Nina Haller

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in regards to the building of a dog park in Beverly Hills. I am employed by 'Scoop' a retailer on Beverly Dr in Beverly Hills. A dog park would be a wonderful addition to the community. Not only am I a pet owner but many of my friends who are Beverly Hills residents are as well. The convenience of having a dog park would be a fun gathering spot for us and a great place for our pets to socialize as well. I am very excited and supportive of a dog park in Beverly Hills.

Thank you
Sydney Pearson Glynn

Hi,

I'm a resident of Beverly Hills, and I understand a dog park has been proposed at Alden and North Foothill. I want to express strong support for this project.

I've heard that there is discussion about having it closed on Jewish holidays, including every Sabbath. I am Jewish, but I'm not in favor limiting access to a public park. It should be open to the public at normal park hours.

I look forward to seeing a dog park in Beverly Hills.

Thanks,
Nancy Barth

I am a resident of Beverly Hills and I support the dog park.

Regina de la Madrid
James B Robinson
Marianne Robinson

I am unable to be at the meeting at City Hall tomorrow but want to support the possibility of creating a dog park in Beverly Hills.

I help produce the annual Beverly Hills dog event, "Woofstock 9010" - next March 6, will be our 8th year!

Our annual event shows our support and commitment to dog rescue and BH's recognition of the value dogs bring to one's life.

It will be perfect time and place to announce the park!

- A dog park in Beverly Hills is a natural evolution of BH's involvement in the dog world.
- I frequent the Beverly Hills dog friendly restaurants, and feel a dog park will broaden the appeal to locals and visitors who travel with their dogs.
- Being the sister city of Cannes, I think a liberal dog policy is an extension of a French tradition to INCLUDE dogs in everyday events and tasks.
- Our local BH pet store "Pussy & Pooch" has become a tourist attraction! An example of our dog friendly atmosphere.

I vote YES to the possibility of a "Beverly Hills Dog Park" (and please, may THAT be the name, not something cute or a dog pun) Beverly Hill's is the BEST name brand!

Sincerely,

Mary Ruth Koogler

I received the postal mail notification about the open hearing scheduled for tomorrow, August 25th re: Proposed Dog Park.

I live in the area & would like to express my resounding YES for this proposal. The Beverly Hills area is significantly underserved when it comes to available places to socialize our dogs and to have a place for them to run free. This would enhance our community by bringing together pups, family and fun! Other adjacent areas have their own parks – it's time Beverly Hills did too!

I hope the proposal is seen favorably among our fellow neighbors. I will be eager to hear the decision in future correspondence.

Respectively,

Kathryn ... and Lexi & Piper too 😊

As a long time Beverly Hills resident my husband Jamshid and I wanted to share with you that we are strongly in favor of having a dog park in Beverly Hills. As a matter of fact, we believe a dog park is long overdue.

Beverly Hills is always at the cutting edge and I know that our leadership is truly interested in the betterment of life in our city. A dog park would certainly contribute to that.

Angela Maddahi

Attached is a letter on behalf of Sue and myself in support of the proposed Foothills/Alden Dog Park. I know you have put a great deal of thought and energy into this process and to that end we are grateful. Now is the time to move the project forward and "bring in the dogs".

All the best,

Barry Brucker

The attached letter:

To: Steve Zoet – Director, Community Services - City of Beverly Hills
& Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Re: Dog Park (Foothill and Alden)

Dear Director Zoet and Commissioners,

I cannot thank you enough for your time and energy put into the thorough process relating to having a Dog Park here in Beverly Hills and in particular at the corner of Foothill and Alden.

The City of Beverly Hills has always been dog friendly, we are known for our famous Woof Stock Dog Gala at Roxbury and our important pet adoptions. I have been to several dog parks and 99% of the pets have well behaved masters who respect the surrounding neighborhood, the “clean-up” responsibilities and the proper behavior etiquette of all parties two legged & four legged.

The location of a park has been debated for years and the most logical and responsible location is the current one proposed on Foothill & Alden. This location provides for ample parking, minimal residential impact, low-traffic density especially on the weekends and no arterial streets to contend with.

I also hear that some are proposing to close the park on Friday evening through Saturday Evening. This I feel would be a terrible mistake. Many dog owners who use the dog parks work and after Daylight Savings Time their time to run their dogs is quite limited due to the early sunset. Weekends are precious time for a dog and owner to have together to bond, get exercise & socialize.

Please Take A Moment and consider ALL the positives associated with having a Dog Park and JUST DO IT!

On behalf of Sue and myself along with our super friendly grand-dog Chase (that we got from the Shelter), it is time to “Stop the Barking” and start the “Tail Wagging” at the new Beverly Hills Dog Park.

Sincerely,



Barry Brucker

Thank you for letting us weigh in on the long awaited dog park. As a nearly 3-decade resident of the 400 block of N. Maple, I cannot begin to tell you how excited we all are to have this in our neighborhood. But as a resident of this area, I would like to point out a few things of great concern:

- 1) The congested parking on Alden and Foothill from the Mercedes service center and lack of available street parking for dog park visitors;
- 2) The transport vehicles from the Mercedes dealership. There are frequent 18-wheelers and other large tow vehicles dropping off and picking up cars all day and long into the night. Mercedes, under their conditional use permit needs to keep control of the transport vehicles in the neighboring streets. They are supposed to ONLY be on Alden and not Maple, however they are everywhere. They presently line up right in front of the proposed dog park.

3) The ferrying of cars back and forth between the Mercedes service center, dealership, Alden annexed lot and 345 N. Maple (Maple Plaza) parking structure.

As you can surmise, the Mercedes service center/dealership is the big bully in the neighborhood creating traffic tie-ups and parking difficulties. Please take this into consideration for parking and ingress/egress of the new dog park.

But again, I can speak for the dog owners of the area, who do not need parking; we are super excited to see this dedicated dog park come to fruition.

Thank you kindly,
Alisa Bishop

I am a 20 year resident of Beverly Hills, a BH business owner for over 17 years as well as a dog-lover.
We rescued Tucker and Buddha many years ago and they have brought such joy to our family. I am in full support of implementing a dog park for the city of Beverly Hills and think it's a much needed addition to our great community.
I am hoping my support will help.
Best,
Jill Roberts Freeman

Thank you for your letter to my home about the dog park. I appreciate the notification and want to stress on behalf of Canyon News and MANY of our readers we are all anxiously awaiting for this. The dog park is much needed to give dogs and their families a place to be welcomed to run free. We need this park. Please let us know if we can give you any type of notice in our publication.

Winter Kelly
Canyon News

I am a 90210 resident in favor of a dog park. I hear from the Beverly Hills Courier there is a meeting on the subject 2 pm. Where exactly do I go to attend the meeting?

Thanks, Kira

Kira Reed Lorsch

My business is in Beverly Hills and I am writing for your support of a Dog Park which I know other business and residents support. This would be a wonderful addition to the many things that Beverly Hills already offers to its residents and I know it will be well received.

Sincerely,

Andrea Joseph

As a business owner in Beverly Hills, I would like to urge your support of the proposed Dog park, the first of its kind in Beverly Hills! Many of my clients and colleagues live in Beverly Hills and I know there is a lot of support for this addition to the city. Thank you in advance for your support.

Kindest regards,
Cynthia Pett

I am a long time property owner in Beverly Hills. I think it is a wonderful plan to have a dog park in Beverly Hills. Our pets are loved family members & deserve their own park.

Thank you,
Barbara Duskin

I support the establishment of a dog park at Foothill/Alden. With the increasing number of families that travel with pets, a large percentage of Beverly Hills Hotels allow dogs in rooms. The location proposed is walking distance from many of these hotels. I took my labradoodle on a walk from Roxbury park thru the City Hall area and over to the Foothill location and back to Roxbury via the shopping district. It was a very pleasant walk for the two of us. This leads me to believe that the Dog Park would be a central destination spot in the place you have selected.

This is a win-win for residents, commuters, and tourists alike.

Kathi Rothner

I live at 1130 Tower Road, Beverly Hills and have been a Beverly Hills resident for the past 16 years. My wife, Donna Black, has lived here for the past 30 years.

We strongly support the development of a dog park for Beverly Hills residents and their pets in the industrial area where it has been proposed.

As the owner of many dogs over the years, and currently owners of a 14 month old Portuguese Water Dog, we believe that the development of this project will provide a needed recreation outlet for both our pets and their owners. The exercise and socialization that dog parks provide dogs makes them and their owners happier and healthier.

As you are aware, the closest dog park to the City is in Brentwood near the Post Office on Barrington, just south of Sunset Blvd. Commuting to that location is difficult, especially during rush hour. When we are able to get to that dog park on weekends, we inevitably have to bathe our dog immediately upon returning home because the site does not have any grass and has wood chips and top soil for the dogs to play on.

A clean, modern site, with either grass or synthetic lawn, will meet the standards that Beverly Hills residents expect for our public facilities.

Harvey A. Englander

I'm sorry I will be out of town and won't be able to attend the dog park meeting. If I was there I would be very vocal in my feelings about needing a dog park in Beverly Hills. I hope you agree.

Thanks for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Carrie Brillstein

Please convey this letter to the members of the commission on my behalf. I am unable to attend the commission meeting and I am requesting that my letter be read into the record.

I am writing to thank you all for your work in service to our city and to express my strong support for the dog park our community has needed for so long.

In memory of Noel, Sandy, Phoebe, Lady, Lily, and Lucy Reims - life long members of our family and (four-legged) residents of Beverly Hills - we are asking that you finally move to make a much needed dog park a reality. Coco Reims is our sweet 10 year old cockapoo - she would sincerely appreciate being able to go to a dog park in her own city during her lifetime.

Residents and businesses in Beverly Hills voice their needs and desires to the various commissions and the City Council on a regular basis. The need for a dog park in our city has been expressed for so many years and finally, at long last, we are on the verge of making it happen.

I have read comments from others objecting to the location of this site and the expense to clean it up and install the dog park. This is city owned property which will be transformed for a use that cities everywhere provide. Any new use that could occur on this property would require a clean up - this is certainly a positive, productive way to spend our tax dollars for the benefit of our entire city. And, as far as the hours of operation - even a cursory observation of parks all over the world demonstrates that Saturday and Sunday are the days of the week that most people have some precious leisure time to spend outside, at city parks, together with their families and pets. A municipal dog park is not a frivolous luxury - it is commonly recognized as a basic public amenity in cities all over the world. The majority of our residents live in multi-family buildings and do not have backyards. City parks function as our 'community backyard' - and provide a chance for people to be outside, get to know their neighbors, and engage in healthy activities we all value.

Great cities are always looking for opportunities to enhance the quality of life for their residents - a dog park on Foothill is a perfect opportunity knocking on our door right now. And, as the old saying goes.....when opportunity knocks, open the door.

Any change takes some getting used to - we all care about our community - we share our city, our streets, and our sidewalks. We're neighbors - let's be respectful friends too. There's room for us all in our wonderful city.

Thank you.

Kathy Reims

My name is Cheri Shankar and I live in Trousdale Estates. I can't make it to the meeting today but I wanted to go on record that I whole heartedly support a dog park in Beverly Hills.

Dogs parks are extremely popular and there are more and more cropping up in municipalities all over the country. I don't see any reason why such a high profile city such as Beverly Hills shouldn't have a dog park. There are so many dog lovers here and it would be wonderful if everyone had a place to commune and socialize with their beloved pooches right here in our wonderful city of Bev Hills!

Please allow this project to go forward!

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Cheri Shankar

I am a Beverly Hills resident and I would LOVE to have a dog park. We need it. Unfortunately I am traveling and cannot make the meeting.

Please vote for me.

Sincerely,
Doreen and Joe Wallach

Speaking on behalf of all dog lovers including my staff & family, we would love a dog park in Beverly Hills.

Thank you & have a wonderful day,

Cristina Vericella
il Cielo

Comments from Sandra Croll –

Suggests a double entry gate, small and large dog areas, BH Residents a and must be current on shots. Has ideas for signage, need water area for dogs, shade trees, seating for owners and regular cleaning will be necessary.

I just wanted to note as the R&P Commission discusses design, that it might be beneficial to put the double-gate entrance to the park on Foothill, rather than Alden. Or maybe entrance for small dogs on Alden and big dogs on Foothill. I feel like it could potentially decrease walker traffic around the synagogues.

Also, if you decide to make it a license-only park, then can you be sure that there is a sign posted with a QR code or something that explains how to acquire one?

And can you be sure to post rules at the entrance(s). It is important that people understand that when they enter the park they must be alert and watching their pets at all times, and that they are responsible for their pets and their activity at all times.

It worried me when someone said at the meeting that they planned on taking their laptop and their dog to the park. If you are working on a laptop, you aren't watching and maintaining the safety of your dog. If you are in the park, you need to watch your pets.

Thank you.

Best,
Christina
(non-resident, but I work in BH)

I know the city is talking dog park again (how the years have flown by ha ha). Some of my suggestions: The dog park should be tacked on to the city's park activity card (like tennis or the library for example). Dog park users should pay a membership fee which would make them a member of the B.H. Dog Club. I think it would be a great social outlet for so many dog owners in the city. The dog park would be entered by a card swipe at the gate. The dog club would have meetings and be responsible for rules of the park. Maybe obedience classes could be conducted there and there could be different times/days for different sized dogs, monitored by club members. I'll bet they could get a lot of support from the local pet care businesses.

Barb Linder

Wanted to share with you and the Commission that the City has a "Infrastructure Committee," that is evaluating and prioritizing approximately 57 Capital Improvement Projects that the City has under consideration (e.g, Santa Monica Boulevard, Water Mains, Beverly Gardens Park renovation, etc.). The coordinator for this Committee is David Lightner, Dept. City Mgr.

Number one on the list of the "Top 10 infrastructure projects" is the **Dog Park**. This reflects how important the Committee believes the dog park is to the community.

As the Commission evaluates the current proposal for the dog park on Foothill, I hope that they take into consideration the value placed on having a dog park by the Committee.

Cordially,
Howard

As citizens of Beverly Hills, we are writing to you to express our opposition to the Off-leash dog park. We second all the objections that the four synagogues in the area have already shared with you. We would add that we can afford the water and money that the park will need, we better use them to improve the Burton Way median, which looks miserable.

Kind regards.
A. Zaki/S. Hua

Pini,

This idea is very inconvenient and even dangerous for many people , living in our area for a couple of reasons :

- off leash dogs can run away which creates danger for them and others
- they can get hurt and even killed by the moving vehicles
- some people are afraid of walking hear dogs without any leashes
- we have two religious buildings in the same area and we would like to have serenity and peace of mind while people attend religious services on daily basis ... People will start avoiding our Shul when the dog park is functioning .
- with all the respect who is going to guarantee that the park and the areas close to this park will remain spotless , safe , clean and free of dogs debris ?

I suggest to file against Beverly Hills district or who ever is planting this seed to open a park for dogs in this area. Philip, you know what to do. We can all sign your petition and we have to stop this terrible project right now .

Thank you

Irina Schaeffer

Dear Pini and Philip

This dog park would be an absolutely disastrous move - calling this a nightmare would be an understatement.

One of my recreational activities is power walking Runyon Canyon Park.

If you want to get the full flavour of the result of allowing dogs to roam freely, go and check out the assortment of wierdos walking around the park - and it's not just the dogs that are strange, some of the owners are the oddest bunch of supposedly sane people you've ever encountered.

What's worse than the parking, which is a nightmare of unresolvable proportions, with cars endlessly circling, is the terrible mess and associated smell that dogs leave and no one, specially not their owners, bother to clean up.

If you're not there early in the morning the stench is unbearable; as unlike London there's no rain to cleanse after the dogs have been to the lavatory.

We have a dog by the way and she is a wonderful companion but here down on the Thames where we walk, there's lots of space, the air is fresh, but even so there's so many social problems with unrestricted access in some areas.

Richmond Park for example have had to impose restrictions, the other Royal Parks have changed the way dogs are allowed to be exercised, again because of the inevitable problems that simply cannot be policed.

Most of the dog owners in London and smart suburbs have daily dog walker services that collect and drive the dogs out to the country where they do not interfere with local residents and parking is simpler.

Has anyone considered where people would park, as one main recreational day would be Sunday; what with the Farmer's Market Traffic there would be even more congestion. Also what about the danger to traffic getting the dogs in and out of the car?

Inevitably there would be parking in front of the synagogue which would also impinge on the tranquility of our shabbos services.

I can hear the cries of "Here Rover..."

Good luck with opposing this idea.

FYI This is my girl Tally and she's very well behaved - responds to eye contact signals without sound - obviously not Jewish.....

Very best regards to you and everyone at The Shul.

Ralph Goldstein

Dear John, Dear, Lili, Dear Mahdi,

Thank you for meeting with me and Rabbi Mendel Schusterman of the Chabad Synagogue earlier this week.

I felt that our meeting went well, and I am grateful to you all for listening to our viewpoint, and for being so positive about our suggestions.

Of course I understand the issues there are with public demand for the dog park, and also with the need to follow protocol and public process in considering such a proposal and any dissent, but after meeting you I know you understand our legitimate concerns and reasonable suggested solutions.

If I may, please let me summarize our concerns with the proposed dog park:

1. While the location that has been identified may be the "last man standing", that does not mean that a dog park can be created there without creating problems for the local residents, namely the numerous people who attend the four synagogues every Saturday and on all the Jewish festivals, all of whom arrive by foot, and numbering in the hundreds on those days. We are collectively concerned about the multiple impacts that an attraction for thousands of dog owners literally on our doorstep will have for us, and we feel that due consideration needs to be given to these concerns.
2. There are approximately 35,000 residents in Beverly Hills. We cannot know the exact percentage, but we can assume that there is a high percentage of these residents who own dogs and who may want to visit an off-leash dog park close to their home. That is a reasonable assumption. Many of those dog owners may own multiple dogs. We are concerned that if no controls are in place, there is no reason why hundreds of dog owners, and certainly dozens at a time, would not turn up all at once creating all kinds of problems in the park, and outside it. We feel that there are no plans to mitigate this concern, and that this is a potential disaster waiting to happen.
3. There is limited on-street parking in the area, much of it used on most days that the synagogues are attended - not by our members, who don't come by car, but by those who use the salons and cafes on Civic Center Drive. This is a really problematic issue.

4. We have seen no plans to prevent non-Beverly Hills residents from using the dog park. If the park is opened up to non-residents, all of the problems already mentioned, and others, will only be increased, and many times over.

5. We have not been informed of any oversight for the park by park rangers, whose job it would be to police the park and the local area, to ensure, for example, that no dogs would be taken off their leashes before entering the park, which could create problems, and is in any event illegal.

6. We have not seen anything that gives guidelines as to the maximum number of dogs allowed in a half-acre dog-park at any one time, nor any suggested method by which this could be controlled once that maximum number is known. By that I mean, if the maximum number (this is random, I have no idea of the actual number) is 15 dogs for a half-acre park, what would happen if the park has 15 dogs and now another 3 owners turn up with 5 dogs? Who is going to manage that?

7. What happens if the park proves to be a local nightmare for one or all of the reasons above, or other reasons not mentioned? If the council has not enshrined some kind of review system, and even a sunset clause, in the process of setting up the park, how will any infraction or local concern be addressed? To leave it to be addressed only at monthly council meetings is, in our view, clumsy and strategically unwise.

I think the above summarizes our principle concerns, although I have not mentioned the fact that no public sounding has been taking as to whether if it was a choice between using this site as a dog-park or as something else for the benefit of residents (we are aware of many schemes that have been proposed over the years for that site) whether the public might have opted to use this site differently. Be that as it may, I would like to suggest the following for your consideration, which would be the very least we would expect if you want the cooperation of all those who frequent our 4 synagogues:

1. The council needs to look into the number of dogs that can safely use such a space and create a 'maximum capacity restriction' as it does with all public spaces.
2. The council needs to look into creating 'dog cams' that can ascertain in real time, and by playback, what is going on in the park and on the surrounding streets. Dog owners could check the cams via the city website to see how many dogs are in the park before they decide to go, to ensure that it is not at maximum capacity.
3. The council should put in place proper policing of the park by park rangers for the full period of the trial for this dog park, so that all the possible problems can be addressed by officials on the spot, and not retroactively by law enforcement officers.
4. The council should consider creating a permit (like the parking permits) available to all Beverly Hills residents, that requires an application by the dog owner, and that will mean that dog owners register their dogs, to prove that these dogs are in good health, and that they are responsible dog owners who will follow the law when using the park. These permits could be used as entry 'tickets' into the park. Non-resident permits could also be issued to those who work in Beverly Hills, but it should be at the discretion of the city, and the non-resident permits should be limited in number.
5. The council should consider creating a committee for oversight, to meet regularly, to deal with public concerns, and practical issues relating to the dog park. This committee should not just be made up of dog park enthusiasts - it needs to be fully representative of the local residents, council members, public park professionals, and dog park enthusiasts.

6. The council should consider putting in place a sunset clause to close the park if after 12 months it proves to be more problematic than beneficial. This is very important, because once it is there, it will be very hard to remove unless this option has been agreed in advance.

I hope the above represents the salient points that we discussed at our meeting, and I look forward to your comments and observations. If any other topics occur to me that need to be addressed I will be in touch with a second email.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, and for ensuring that the feelings of all Beverly Hills residents will be addressed before a final decision is taken.

Warmest wishes, Pini

Rabbi Pini Dunner

I am not opposed to a city dog park, but not where they are planning on putting it now.

Thank you.

Lois Hirt

The rabbis who have met with you regarding a dog park did not poll their members on this particular issue. Some of us support a dog park on Foothill. However, we are concerned about parking and access/congestion issues. Thank you.

Gregg Gittler

As a lifelong dog owner, I support and applaud the impulse to care for our four-legged friends with the utmost care. Our first responsibility, however, is to ensure the well-being of our fellow human beings, and in this case, our fellow Beverly Hills residents, and place their needs before the needs of our pets.

As both a Beverly Hills resident and a regular attendant of the YINBH Beverly Hills Synagogue, I feel compelled to express my concerns regarding the proposed dog park on Foothill, between 3rd and Alden. Not only my own synagogue, but three other synagogues, stand in the immediate vicinity of this area.

Building the dog park in the proposed location is concerning because it will undoubtedly create problems for our community, not to mention the surrounding residents.

Please give due consideration to the following points before finalizing this proposal:

1) **Noise Pollution** - Numerous people attend the four synagogues every Saturday and on all the Jewish festivals, all of whom arrive by foot, and number in the hundreds on those days. A dog park on the doorstep will likely create ongoing noise pollution (and other, more mucky kinds of pollution) that will negatively impact our communities of faith. Ask yourself: would you build a dog park on the doorstep of a Church or Mosque?

2) **Policing** - We have not been informed of any oversight for the park by park rangers, whose job it would be to police the park and the local area, to ensure, for example, that no dogs would be taken off their leashes before entering the park, which could create problems, and is in any event illegal.

3) **Limited Parking** - There is limited on-street parking in the area, much of it used on most days that the synagogues are attended - not by our members, who don't come by car, but by those who use the salons and cafes on Civic Center Drive. This is a really problematic issue.

4) **Permits** - We have seen no plans to prevent non-Beverly Hills residents from using the dog park. If the park is opened up to non-residents, all of the problems already mentioned, and others, will only be increased, and many times over. If no controls are in place, there is no reason why hundreds of dog owners, and certainly dozens at a time, would not turn up all at once creating all kinds of problems in the park, and outside it. We feel that there are no plans to mitigate this concern, and that this is a potential disaster waiting to happen.

5) **Overcrowding** - We have not seen anything that gives guidelines as to the maximum number of dogs allowed in a half-acre dog-park at any one time, nor any suggested method by which this could be controlled once that maximum number is known. By that I mean, if the maximum number (this is random, I have no idea of the actual number) is 15 dogs for a half-acre park, what would happen if the park has 15 dogs and now another 3 owners turn up with 5 dogs? Who is going to manage that?

6) **Sunset Clause** - What happens if the park proves to be a local nightmare for one or all of the reasons above, or other reasons not mentioned? If the council has not enshrined some kind of review system, and even a sunset clause, in the process of setting up the park, how will any infraction or local concern be addressed? To leave it to be addressed only at monthly council meetings is, in our view, clumsy and strategically unwise.

These are our principle concerns. They are compounded by the fact that no public sounding has been taking as to whether if it was a choice between using this site as a dog-park or as something else for the benefit of residents.

Be that as it may, I would like to express my support for the following suggestions, outlined by Rabbi Pini Dunner of the Beverly Hills Synagogue. These considerations would be the very least we would expect from the City of Beverly Hills to encourage the cooperation of all those who frequent our four synagogues:

1. **Policing** – The council should put in place proper policing of the park by park rangers for the full period of the trial for this dog park, so that all the possible problems can be addressed by officials on the spot, and not retroactively by law enforcement officers.
2. **Park Hours** – The Commission voted yesterday 3-1 that the park will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Please reconsider and have the park open from sunrise to sunset.
3. **Number of Dogs Per User** – The council needs to limit the number of dogs that can safely use such a space and create a 'maximum capacity restriction' as it does with all public spaces.
4. **Permits** –The council should consider creating a permit (like the parking permits) available to all Beverly Hills residents, that requires an application by the dog owner, and that will mean that dog owners register their dogs, to prove that these dogs are in good health, and that they are responsible dog owners who will follow the law when using the park. These permits could be used as entry 'tickets' into the park. Non-resident permits could also be issued to those who work in Beverly Hills, but it should be at the discretion of the city, and the non-resident permits should be limited in number.
5. **Oversight** –The council should consider creating a committee for oversight, to meet regularly, to deal with public concerns, and practical issues relating to the dog park. This committee should not just be

made up of dog park enthusiasts - it needs to be fully representative of the local residents, council members, public park professionals, and dog park enthusiasts.

6. **Sunset Clause** –The council should consider putting in place a sunset clause to close the park if after 12 months it proves to be more problematic than beneficial. This is very important, because once it is there, it will be very hard to remove unless this option has been agreed in advance.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, and for ensuring that the feelings of all two-legged Beverly Hills residents will be addressed before a final decision is taken.

Regards,

Deborah B. Thompson

I would first like to say that I have no objections to concept of a dog park. I think they are a community asset when established in a multi-acre park setting with trees and grass, away from heavily used pedestrian traffic, with proper staffing to enforce the leash and license laws and keep the park clean from dog waste, and with plenty of parking for the users.

That said, I believe this proposed space is too small, with no grass or trees, too close to pedestrian traffic, too expensive to both clean up and then maintain properly, too intrusive on the limited parking available in the immediate area, and too much of a potential liability to the city. My specific concerns, according to what I heard from the staff, are as follows:

1. The soil on the property is contaminated with arsenic, and perhaps other substances as well. They seemed to imply this was an easy fix. **I hope, at the very least, you will insist on a permanent solution verified by reliable and multiple experts that will make this area safe for both animals and humans both in the short term and the long term.**
2. The park will have a limited capacity and will be open only to licensed dogs. Both of these promises are worthless unless they are enforced by city employees or park rangers. At the moment there is no plan for hiring personnel to enforce these provisions. **I hope, at the very least, you will insist that they be enforced by on-site city employees every minute the park is open to the public.**
3. It was acknowledged that hundreds of pedestrians will be using the sidewalk on Foothill walking to various synagogues in the neighborhood on the Sabbath and other Holy Days. Since the park will have a limited capacity, there inevitably will be people with dogs crowding the sidewalks outside the entrance waiting to get in. Even now, people visiting the facilities across the street walk their dogs on the adjacent grassy area, sometimes without a leash, leaving urine and sometimes feces. Some of the waiting dogs could very possibly not be on a leash, others could very well become aggressive towards another both inside and outside the park, as has happened in other dog parks. This could, at the very least, present a nuisance to the pedestrians walking by, and worse yet a liability issue should a dog attack a pedestrian. If you don't think this can happen, my son was attacked on a busy sidewalk in Beverly Hills by a dog on a leash as he was passing by. The dog bit him on his lower leg breaking skin and drawing blood. **I hope, at the very least, you will insist that there will be protocols in place to avoid these problems as well as personnel at all times to make sure they are enforced.**

I trust you will take my concerns seriously and enter my comments into the public record.

Sincerely,

Avrumie Schnitzer
Beverly Hills Resident

From: Steven Zoet
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 5:31 PM
To: Rabbi Pini Dunner
Cc: Michael Baum
Subject: RE: Objections to Proposed Dog Park Design Concepts and the Associated Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

Thank you Rabbi Dunner. September 29th was not what would otherwise be the regularly scheduled meeting for the Commission for the month but as one or more members had a conflict they initiated the revised date based on their availability. I will be happy to ask them to reconsider and will get back to you.

Thank you.

From: Rabbi Pini Dunner
Sent: Friday, August 28, 2015 3:48 PM
To: Steven Zoet
Cc: Mike Baum
Subject: Re: Objections to Proposed Dog Park Design Concepts and the Associated Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

Thank you.

Please be aware that September 29th is a Jewish holiday - Sukkot - which will mean that our members will not be able to attend the meeting on that day.

Is there no way for this meeting to be moved to accommodate the many members who I know wish to speak up on this issue?

It seems unfair to give an advantage to those who are not Orthodox Jews and who therefore can attend the meeting.

Thank you for your consideration, Pini

Sent August 27, 2015

Good morning, Mr. Baum. The Recreation and Parks Commission is going to be discussing this topic again on Tuesday morning, September 8th. The purpose is for the Commission to be present on the site and to assess possible operating conditions. As this is a public, special meeting it will be opened here at City Hall at 9am, recessed and then reconvened on site at the proposed dog park location. I would suspect that, timing wise, the Commissioners will arrive at that location by approximately 9:15am. We will be sending out a formal notice to this effect to Young Israel of North Beverly Hills, as well as the other synagogues in the area, as well as to others that have expressed the interest in being kept apprised of this topic. The Commission also has a meeting set for September 29th at 9:30am in their regular meeting room here at City Hall (Rm. 280A) where I anticipate the matter to also be agendaized for discussion. Staff typically print the Commission's packet on the Thursday preceding their meeting dates and provide that information to the Commissioners on the following Friday. Information pertinent to a

topic of discussion that is received after that schedule can be providing to them at the dais the date of the meeting or electronically scanned and sent them in advance depending on the time received.

As this continues to be an information gathering process of the Commission, no date has yet been set for staff to present the Commission's recommendations to City Council. Additionally, there are no other City Commissions currently discussing this item.

Please advise should you need any other information.

Thank you.

From: Michael Baum

Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 7:59 AM

To: Steven Zoet

Cc: 'Rabbi Pini Dunner'

Subject: RE: Objections to Proposed Dog Park Design Concepts and the Associated Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Mr. Zoet,

Could you let me have a schedule of all pending hearings/proceedings regarding the Dog Park before the City Council, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, etc.

Also could you please let me know all pending deadlines regarding written comment or objection to any matters relating to the Dog Park.

Thank you,

Michael Baum

Subject: Follow up to Dog Park Meeting

September 8, 2015

Dear Chair, Vice Chair Commissioners and manager,

Thank you for all you have done together with the other commissioners to try to accommodate all the residents, Synagogues and businesses in the area of the proposed, (or at this point, said,) dog park location.

I do want to point out a few issues that came up, just so that they have been said and to be on record.

We strongly feel that there has been a great injustice to our communities.

If I were to propose a skateboard park in the "canyon" of the city hall property (spanning from Rexford Parking structure entrance to Civic Center Drive), you would have the classes of BHHS empty for the day with every last student coming out to support it. That does not make it the right location.

What you have here are dog owners coming out to support a dog park at the expense of the directly impacted residents. As we heard today many of the people in favor would actually rather it be in closer proximity to a larger existing park. Their mere support does not constitute this location as suitable.

With all the concerns that this location brings forth, that we have now been made aware of, is this *still* the best suitable spot?

- Tax payers not wanting to pay extra for measures needed to keep neighbors happy.
- Bathrooms (portable / unbecoming Beverly Hills...)

- Size (we are comparing to WHDP which is 47,000 + 77,000 sq. ft.) This lot being 22,000 in total.
- Fire Hazard. (If we were going to keep to the commitment of moving the entrance to foothill to be further from Young Israel NBH) Having just ONE EXIT for the allotted 40 dogs and their owners, would definitely constitute a fire Hazard. **Now add the double gate component and you have a fire disaster!**
- “Snobyness” As was clearly one of the most thought about decisions with outspoken apposition, was the Issue of Non-Residents use. It would be the ONLY Beverly Hills venue which is not welcoming to NON-Residents. (a decision that was based primarily on keeping us “Neighbors” happy – Thank you!)
- Cost to modify. The idea of CC cameras, the keyed entry, ranger monitoring and redoing the soil and more, all this would not need to be addressed had it been in a more sensible location.
- Possibly ILLEGAL. As I have brought up in the meeting earlier this afternoon, (assuming there would be a “dog permit” system in place, having a City Owned park that is ONLY open to DOG OWNERS, in my humble opinion is simply illegal. I believe it is a clear discrimination (although normally the discrimination would be in reverse). Is there a park ONLY for NON dog owners?

In summary; does this location still make the most suitable location for a dog park? For over a year we have been told that there will be studies and assessments before any final decision would be made. Had all these facts been presented to the City council and at the public hearings, would it still have the same result? Or, just as we had to wait for a suitable location in the past, we may still have to look.

Not having a suitable location does not make this one suitable.

When we asked about Roxbury Park, we heard it’s simply not big enough (I haven’t measured, but I take their word for it). However, considering all the above, is that still enough of a deterrence? We have the Bathrooms, Rangers, and parking. As for all other concerns, they simply fall away!

As one who literally covered almost every inch of land in Beverly Hills on my bike rides growing up in the 80’s, I’m happy to help find a suitable solution!

One that comes to mind is the rather large patch of grass on the opposite side of Coldwater Canyon Park just north of the Fire Station. No major work would be needed other than a chain linked fence along Coldwater Canyon. Bathrooms are across the street, parking is available as it is for the park etc.

Another that comes to mind would be South East corner of Rexford and Sunset. Having dogs running around on a reservoir shouldn’t be a problem. (I may be mistaken but I believe there is some sort of building on it which could possibly be a restroom)

Finally, I am all of 35 years old. Very non-assuming and quite frankly non-confrontational, I hope I spoke in the most respectable manner and was not off color in any way. This is the procedure of a democracy.

However, without Chutzpah, I would like to call off Mr. Howard Rosoff, who approached me at the elevator as I was leaving and asked me a question to which I answered quite politely. To my utter shock, he responded “Good, so NOW BACK OFF!” If this were to be a legal court room, I believe this would be enough for a recusal.

I would imagine that even if you choose to go ahead with your plan, it is still reasonable for me to have addressed our concerns. Having him as a commissioner analyzing this project may prove to be a bit bias, to say the least.

Just my thoughts and I would be delighted to hear yours as well.

With best wishes for a Shana Tovah! Happy and Healthy Sweet New Year!

Respectfully yours,

Mendel Shusterman

Received September 18, 2015

Hello Chairman Friedman -
May this find you and yours very well.

As you have offered to read correspondence into the record, if you would, please kindly arrange to have the following comment read out before the meeting, whenever it is held.

As to Whom Addresses You:

My Name is Benjamin Stuart Thompson, and I am a former Beverly Hills High School Teacher, having worked during the final year of the legendary Department Chair John Ingle in the Performing Arts Department, together with his prodigy, Joel Pressman, may their memories be for a blessing.

My family has been part of the City of Beverly Hills community since my grandmother attended automobile races at the Beverly Hills Raceway at Santa Monica Boulevard and Wilshire over 80 years ago.

I therefore speak from a deep understanding of the members of our community, of our city and of our synagogue neighborhood, which was established many years ago, when Young Israel of N. Beverly Hills had its facility in the Gibson Building across from City Hall and continued more recently when our building was dedicated three years ago.

What is problem with Alden Drive?

On the face of it, Alden Drive is a completely inappropriate location for a dog lavatory/park. Please note that while we were gathered at the proposed site for a brief time a few mornings ago, I counted at least seven 10 ton trucks maneuvering on Alden. None of which were using the existing city lot and therefore will continue to work on that street in the future..

Each dawn and dusk during the week, members of our community gather on Alden to enter our synagogue. Often at sunset, when the proposed park would be open, and, as was the case even at dawn this morning, a 40 cubic yard bin truck trailer was off loading in the street.

Mercedes Benz also offloads a large number of automobile tractor trailers on this street each week.

Should your proposal go forward, I am certain that there will be multiple pedestrian injuries within a brief span of time as scores of owners being towed by up to three dogs each, dash or lurch, to and from in this industrial loading area.

Alternatively, why not consider the Burton Way grass meridian - now a huge dead grass eye sore. That space is far more sprawling than the arsenic-laced Alden lot. Burton Way could easily become a wonderful attraction with safety fencing and hedges and plenty of parking.

Alden has three synagogues that already experience heavy pedestrian traffic. And even now, with now dog park, the amount of animal refuse and stains on the street is a nuisance. If you install this wrongfully considered park, the street it will become intolerable and unsafe.

Please reconsider.
Benjamin Stuart Thompson

Sent September 18, 2015

Dear Rabbi Dunner:

I felt I should reach out to you and fill you in on our last commission meeting. As I am sure you know by now, many of the details regarding the proposed dog park on Alden and Foothill have been decided within our commission. Having said that, the issues that we felt we could not resolve that quickly will be discussed on Sept 29th. I know that you requested that we change that meeting due to the Sukkot Holiday, and being Jewish myself, I of course would have loved to oblige. But, it seems that the four days in the middle of Sukkot are regular, working days and really have no restrictions on them except of course for mealtime and dining in a Sukkah. It is not easy to change a meeting, there are five commissioners, at least six staff and the need for availability for our meeting room. So, keeping all of that in mind, and the lack of work restrictions for those four middle days, we are keeping with our original date of Sept 29. I am hoping that you will be able to attend. If you feel that you would like to speak, or if you would like to send a written statement, I would gladly read it into the record. Once again, the meeting is open and everyone is welcome to give their opinion. If we do not resolve everything, or are not able to finish our agenda, there is always the possibility of scheduling another "special meeting" to finish all of our objectives. We are sincerely hoping to be able to send all of our recommendations to City Council for their October 20th meeting. Please remember that we are an advisory commission. All final decisions are made at the the City Council level. As I have stated many times at our meetings, we as a commission want to be the best possible neighbors that we can be and also meet the needs of our entire community. I am hoping that you were able to either view on line or read in the Courier the items that were voted on and also the items that will be discussed on the 29th of this month.

My Best,
Simone Friedman
Chair, Recreation and Parks Commission

Received September 18, 2015

Subject: Re: September 29 - Recreation and Parks Meeting

Simone,

You are either mistaken, or misinformed. September 29 is not an intermediate day, it is a festival day - the second day of Sukkot. Intermediate days begin on September 30. Please be aware that if you decide to go ahead with the meeting on September 29, we will certainly treat this decision as a deliberate attempt by you and your colleagues to hold a one-sided hearing on the matter of the proposed dog-park, so that our legitimate concerns and reasonable mitigating proposals are neither heard nor adopted.

With regard to the votes that were taken, I have read them through and they prove beyond any doubt that minimal regard has been given to our many concerns about the proposal, as expressed at meetings,

and in email correspondence. The thought has struck me, and many others who feel the same way, many of whom are Beverly Hills dog-owners, that either no one is reading the detailed emails I have sent, or that they are reading them but cheerfully ignoring everything I have written.

Whatever the case may be, we intend to vigorously oppose your recommendations, and will do everything to ensure that the neighborhood in the vicinity of our synagogues will not be marred by this ill-thought through, so-called 'community' project, which, if it emerges according to your plans, will be a blight on our local area, and a blight on Beverly Hills. Maybe 'community' in the singular is the correct word to use - one particular very limited community of dog-owners in Beverly Hills are intent on imposing an unsupervised, ill-considered dog-park on an area in Beverly Hills that will suffer as a result.

Please understand - and I wish to state this clearly and unequivocally - neither I, nor the many Beverly Hills residents who are opposed to this project, object to dogs or dog-parks. We love dogs, and would be delighted for there to be a dog-park in Beverly Hills. What we are opposed to is a plan that guarantees problems and conflict in an area of Beverly Hills that has hitherto been peaceful and wonderful.

Let me repeat it again (just in case you didn't catch it the first time) - neither I, nor the many Beverly Hills residents who are opposed to this project, object to dogs or dog-parks.

I hope that this clarifies our current position on this matter.
Best wishes,

Rabbi Pini Dunner

Sent September 18, 2015

Rabbi Dunner,
I apologize if I was incorrect regarding the festival dates. I was given that date and I didn't double check it. That of course was my error. I have asked that a new date be selected, if at all possible, and as soon as I have any further information I will personally let you know.
Simone Friedman

Received September 18, 2015

Dear Ms. Friedman,

I understand you have acknowledged you were mistaken in your statement that September 29 was not a religious observance day for the members of the four Orthodox congregations impacted by the proposed dog park. (I would note that Commissioner Bilak made the same statement at the September 8 meeting claiming the expertise of someone who was "formerly Orthodox" in her religious practice. Frankly, and despite your apology, this was a total insult coming without any investigation of the facts and after at least two rejected requests by Rabbi Dunner and one from me to postpone the hearing due to religious observance requirements on that date.)

While I appreciate your acknowledgment of this error, the scheduling of a Commission meeting on a day when members of the four synagogues could not attend is unfortunately typical of the disregard your Commission has shown to the needs of our members who are the Beverly Hills residents most directly impacted by the proposed project. This disregard is either deliberate or indicates a cavalier, amateur and uninformed approach to the project in which the Commission members are so blinded by their zeal to have a dog park that they have failed to make a studied or intelligent effort to evaluate the impact of the park or to mitigate the harm to the neighbors—which also include office buildings, etc. that have similar rights not to be disturbed by a dog park.

You have yet to present any valid projections as to i) the number of users, ii) the impact on noise, iii) the impact on traffic, iv) the impact on parking or v) the impact on sanitation. Despite the lack of such data you continue to wholeheartedly advocate for this park without any real or meaningful regard to the objections of the neighbors. Despite the lack of any studied estimate of how many people will be attracted to the park, you continue to believe that no full time supervision is needed. We expect the park will draw large numbers of people (and your enthusiasm for the project evidences your expectation that it will draw large numbers of people), yet you refuse to recognize the impact these users will have on the neighbors. Do proceed with a project like this based on “guesstimates” and biased information is an abdication of your responsibility to the Commission, to the City Council and to the City.

I was present at the September 8 meeting during the public comments period. Seven (7) of the eighteen (18) members of the public that spoke were either against the dog park. 7 of 18 people who spoke is a consequential presence against the project as currently proposed. These 7 expressed their concerns and their belief that there need to be limits and controls on the park to avoid disturbing the neighbors, synagogues or their members walking to and from synagogue and to avoid noise, congestion, traffic and to control the large numbers of people expected to use the park.

I have since obtained the “synopsis” of the meeting and am dismayed to find that the park is proposed to be opened from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., that there will be no full time supervision, and that you are permitting 40 dogs at a time in this small area. The video recording of the proceedings indicate you have no intention of having a full time ranger or other staff present but that as a palliative to the neighboring synagogues you will have “more frequent” ranger patrols when the park is first opened. Most of their other concerns were not addressed or disregarded. It also appears that because of the cost of patrols and of proper supervision you are declining to implement such measures.

Your initial refusal to continue the September 29 meeting despite several requests and you incorrect statement that there was no required religious observance on that date is typical of the biased and ill informed and “damn the torpedoes full speed ahead” approach the Commission has taken with this project.

In viewing the video of the proceedings after the public comment period I was dismayed to learn that the Commission continued to accept public comment from Teri Austin, head of the Amanda Foundation—this occurring after the rest of the public was told they could leave because no more public comment would be accepted. Ms. Austin in fact appeared to be the Commissions guru on all questions they had about the park. Ms. Austin is clearly biased in favor of the park and has clear business reasons for favoring a park that is directly across the street from her dog-centric business. This park is clearly favorable to the business interests and fund raising activities of the Amanda Foundation and Ms. Austin is hardly an objective source of information about anything having to do with this project. To have encouraged the other members of the public to leave and then to continue to take comments from Ms. Austin is totally inappropriate.

It is simply reckless to go forward with this project if you are not able to incur the costs needed to maintain public order and to avoid harming the neighborhood. It is simply reckless to proceed with this project based on guesswork rather than any studied analysis of the impact on the neighborhood. It is simply reckless to proceed with this project if doing so will harm the property interests of the neighbors and subject the City to liability for disruption of the synagogues and other neighbors of quiet enjoyment of their property rights.

I request that you and the other Commission members recognize your obligation to the neighbors who were present long before any proposal of a dog park existed for this location. I request that you do so in an unbiased fashion (and despite what you may contend, the record of the Commission's action show bias and a disregard for the neighbors—including the fact that they were not even provided with notice of some of the earlier proceedings relating to this location). I also request that you take seriously your obligation to maintain public safety and order and that you recognize that proper supervision of this facility will be required on a full time basis together with other mitigation actions to abate noise and disruption of the neighborhood. If you cannot do this objectively or do not have the budget to do it correctly, then you should not open the park.

Thank you,

Michael Baum

Received September 19, 2015

Hello -

Please include this submission when ever your next public comment meeting is to be held.

Please view the attached image of the protective hedge that is currently in the middle of the Burton Way Meridian.

This is an excellent location for the dog park and the same type of protective hedges may be extended to surround the entire park.

The park entry may be set up adjacent to a cross walk and signal.

Burton Way often has available parking. This picture was taken before the landscape watering was shut off to this meridian. The meridian is currently a dead grass eye sore and would greatly benefit from a dog park as an improvement.

What a wonderful way to free the community from the unnecessary and misguided morass of the current proposed location on Alden and Foothill!

Cordially,
Benjamin Stuart Thompson

Received September 19, 2015

Dear Mr. Baum and Rabbi Dunner,

I understand your concerns about the conflict with the scheduled Commission meeting date and we are working on to coordinate another date for the meeting. Staff assumes the responsibility for not carefully checking for the potential conflict and I apologize for that. Rather than addressing your comments to Chair Friedman, I ask that you and other concerned members of the public direct your communications to me and Community Services staff to ensure that they appropriately conveyed to the Commission and the City Council as part of the records on this matter. Please inform your members as well.

The Commission has worked hard to gather public input and develop recommendations for the design and operation of the dog park as directed by the City Council. There will still be opportunities to address your concerns to the entire Commission and the City Council when this matter comes before them in the near future. I have asked staff to prepare a comprehensive response to the issues you raised and what the Commission has discussed and recommended in response and will forward that to you as soon as possible.

We appreciate your patience while we look for another date to schedule the Commission meeting and will inform you all once that is confirmed.

Thank you and have a nice weekend.

Mahdi Aluzri, City Manager

Received September 19, 2015

Subject: RE: Beverly Hills Proposed Dog Park-September 29 - Recreation and Parks Meeting

Dear Mr Aluzri,

Thank you for your email, the contents of which surprised me. The date of the meeting is a symptom of the problem, not the problem itself, as both Mr Baum and I have made very clear.

Furthermore, you and everyone else from the professional staff are very familiar with the issues of concern, as I have communicated with you and others on numerous occasions, and met you and others to discuss these issues. Your claim that the Commission has "worked hard to gather public input" is an exaggeration bordering on fantasy. Despite it being widely known that our synagogue and other synagogues, and several local businesses, will be seriously impacted by this proposal, we have at all times been treated as an annoying bunch of killjoys, while dog-park cheerleaders have been treated with a level of respect that demonstrates that this project is considered a "wave through" project, and that all talk of "recommendations" is window dressing purely so that the Commission can at some later date claim that they had done their due diligence. I know this to be a fact, because had I not spoken up at the city council meeting in May 2014, we would already have an unmitigated dog park nightmare on our doorstep. At the very least my intervention at that meeting prevented a worst case scenario happening right away. But reading through the current list of recommendations it seems as if we are very far from being out of danger.

Please explain to me how you can claim that our concerns have been taken into account, or that having the opportunity to address our concerns to the Commission will make the slightest bit of difference. Nothing could be further from the truth. Not one person on the Commission cares one iota about our concerns. They couldn't even care enough to check a calendar to see when the festival days of sukkot occur this year, despite having been informed that there was a conflict. This is typical of people whose partiality and subjectivity is blatantly obvious, and whose crass disregard for anything that interferes with their zealous, single-minded, obsessive desire to create a dog park in Beverly Hills has stripped them of any shred of community spirit or common decency.

Frankly, we are not interested in a "comprehensive response" that defends the indefensible. We are only interested in ensuring that our reasonable concerns are addressed and suggested solutions are adopted, so that we can make sure that our lives are not blighted by this reckless folly. Actions speak louder than words. Instead of telling us that you are taking us seriously, just start taking us seriously. Its that simple. Demonstrate that you and your team recognize that the Commission has strayed well beyond its remit, and make sure to present recommendations to the City Council that take into account our legitimate concerns. Otherwise any "comprehensive response" is not worth the effort, as far as we are concerned.

Mr Aluzri, I am fed up with being patronized and/or being treated like a fool. I, and all the members of the synagogue community I lead, and the members of the other synagogue communities in close proximity, are tax-paying residents of Beverly Hills who deserve to be taken seriously no less than the dog-park enthusiasts. It is time for the city to do its duty to all its residents, not just one group of enthusiasts whose indifference to anyone else's views is nothing short of an utter disgrace.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Pini Dunner

Received September 21, 2015

Subject: RE: Beverly Hills Proposed Dog Park - Next Recreation and Parks Meeting

That is correct; there are no religious restrictions for that date and time.

Thank you!

Mendel Shusterman

----- Original message -----

From: Ilene Knebel <iknebel@beverlyhills.org>

Date: 09/21/2015 8:58 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: Rabbi Dunner <rabbi@yinh.org>, rabbi@jewishbeverlyhills.com,
magendavidofbeverlyhills@gmail.com, wctorahcenter@gmail.com

Subject: RE: Beverly Hills Proposed Dog Park - Next Recreation and Parks Meeting

Please advise if **Tuesday, October 13 @ 2 p.m.** is a date/time you and members of your congregations you represent, are able to attend a meeting without religious restrictions.

Thank you!

Ilene Knebel

Sent September 24, 2105

Dear Rabbi Dunner,

We wanted to let you know that the date of the next Recreation and Parks Commission meeting will be October 13, 2015 at 2 pm in City Hall. At this time, it appears that the issue will be brought to the City Council on October 20, 2015. We encourage you and members of your synagogue, as well as the other synagogues to attend these meetings to share your thoughts. As Mahdi and Simone have expressed, we are truly sorry that the mistake occurred with the scheduling of the meeting during Sukkot.

I wanted to address the sense that minimal regard has been given to the concerns you, your congregants and the other synagogues have expressed. I want to assure you that we have examined them, provided options and recommendations to the Recreation and Parks Commission, and I believe they have made a number of strides to address the concerns. Additional issues and questions will be addressed at the Commission meeting on October 13th. Below are the requests as best as we understand them, as well as some of the recommendations the Commission and staff will be making to the City Council to address them:

Entrance

- The request was made to locate the entrance to the dog park “as far south on Foothill Drive as the site would permit.”
- The entrance, which was originally proposed to be located on Alden Dr., is now proposed to be along Foothill to minimize interference with pedestrians.

Utilization

- The request was made to “...limit usage of the dog park to Beverly Hills residents with access rights to be by application...and access to be controlled by a keycard with picture ID” as well as to create a permit that requires application by the dog owner to be used as entry ‘tickets’ into the park.
- The recommendation as of today is to:
 - restrict the use of the dog park to 1. Beverly Hills residents 2. those who own a business or work in Beverly Hills, and 3. those who are guests of Beverly Hills hotels or residents, provided that they are able to display a vaccination and health status of the dog and obtain a permit from the City of Beverly Hills and display a tag to denote this permit.
 - restrict the use to allow only dogs that are licensed and in good health and spayed or neutered. If they are exempt from being spayed or neutered, they are to provide documentation to this effect.
 - institute a limit of three dogs per person when visiting the park.
 - limit the number of dogs to 20 small dogs and 20 large dogs, totaling 40 dogs in the entire park.
 - require that children under the age of 14 be accompanied by an adult in the dog park.Staff is currently investigating the possibilities of a key coded entry system for the dog park. This will be discussed at the upcoming Commission meeting.

Noise

- The request was made that the dog park "...incorporate sound deadening and sound screening fences, trees, vegetation, etc."
- The existing perimeter walls are being examined, and sound mitigation measures will be implemented. The specific designs are under investigation but would include sound absorbing surfaces, materials, landscaping etc. Additionally, the current recommendation is for the small dog area to be located on the west side of the park. Small dogs have yelps which are higher frequency and travel farther. However, the sound level decreases as it travels through distances and obstructions.

Park hours

- The request was made to "...close all Friday evenings and evenings before all Jewish Holidays at 5:30 or one hour before sunset, whichever is earlier. Close all day Saturday and all Jewish Holidays."
- Currently the recommendation is to have the dog park open daily 6 am – 10 pm. While this timing is different from the request, the recommendation currently includes a pathway to be built for dogs and their owners to use when walking along Foothill. Congregants for the Temples could then use the sidewalks on the both sides of Foothill and have some assurance that they would not be disturbed.

Size

- Request was made that the size of the dog park be "...no larger than 120' x 120' and the frontage along Alden Drive be dedicated to use of a suitably sized children's playground."
- We are in the process of finalizing the recommended size of the dog park. Unfortunately the lot that is being considered is not large enough to accommodate a children's playground as well as the dog park.

The following issues have been identified, but a recommendation has not yet been determined:

- Staffing levels for the dog park. The request has been made to have a Beverly Hills Park Ranger to be on-site full time during the hours of operation. This issue will be considered at the Recreation and Parks Commission meeting on October 13th, and the Commission will make a recommendation to the City Council
- Parking. Parking levels are currently being evaluated and tracked. I recognize the request was made to prohibit dog park patrons from parking on Maple, Alden or Foothill. There are metered parking spaces on these streets which are available to the public and cannot be reserved or restricted for particular uses. Parking will be discussed at the Commission meeting.
- Creation of an oversight committee. There has not been a recommendation on the creation of an oversight committee; however, there has been some discussion of creating a Friends of the Dog Park group. Creation of an oversight committee will be discussed at the Commission meeting.
- Sunset clause. The request was made to establish a sunset clause to close the park after 12 months should the park prove to be unfeasible. This will be discussed at the upcoming Recreation and Parks meeting.
- Dog cams. The request was made to install cameras so that the park can be monitored in real time and via playback capabilities. Additionally, these cameras could be used by dog owners to check to see how many dogs are in the park before they decide to go. Staff has verified that it is possible at this site to install CCTV cameras that interface with the City's system. At their meeting the Recreation and Parks Commission will discuss whether to install CCTV cameras as well as the ability for the public to view these cameras.

I hope the above information helps to demonstrate that we are very aware of your concerns and are working to address them. We look forward to working with you and the other synagogues. I work out of the Library, and as you may know, we hosted Young Israel here for a number of the years, and I believe that partnership worked very well.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best,

Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Assistant Director of Community Services

This email was blind copied to the City Council and the Recreation and Parks Commissioners

Received October 6, 2015

Subject: PLEASE SIGN PETITION TO Beverly Hills City Council: SAY NO TO THE DOG PARK PROPOSED FOR ALDEN DRIVE AND FOOTHILL

Hey,

I just started the petition "Honorable Julian A. Gold, John A. Mirisch, William W. Brien, Lili Bosse, and Nancy H. Krasne: SAY NO TO THE DOG PARK PROPOSED FOR ALDEN DRIVE AND FOOTHILL" and wanted to see if you could help by adding your name. If you are opposed to the dog park near your synagogues and business please log in and sign this Petition.

My goal is to reach 100 signatures and I need more support. You can read more and sign the petition here:

https://www.change.org/p/honorable-julian-a-gold-john-a-mirisch-william-w-brien-lili-bosse-and-nancy-h-krasne-say-no-to-the-dog-park-proposed-for-alden-drive-and-foothill?recruiter=399659124&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=share_email_responsive

Thanks!
Michael Baum

Above comments compiled as of October 9, 2015

Please make this happen!!!!
A dog park here in Beverly Hills is so necessary!!!
Thank you,
Patricia Ahdoot

I think it's long overdue that there be a dog park in Beverly Hills.

As the founder of Hollywood Hounds one of the first dodgy Day care facilities in west Hollywood on Sunset Blvd, I do know that a place for the dogs be run and play is long overdue .

Thanks

Susan Marfleet

Dear Mr. Zoet

I'm writing this quick note out of a bit of confusion.

I have received at least 7 or 8 emails from the BH courier asking me to sign and support the dog park.

From what I would have thought, a resident living anywhere North of Santa Monica Blvd, south of Burton way and west of Rexford (if that), should have no opinion on whether the LOCATION of this park is suitable. (East of Doheny wouldn't be residents)

I do, however, believe that their signatures are of the same importance for the CREATION of the park as any of ours. Which, if there is a large showing of support, should be taken into strong consideration by the commission and acted on when it works.

There seems to be a rather large divide between the petition of Mr. Mike Baum and what the courier is proposing. I think most of the signatures for Mr. Baum would be signed on the courier's petition were it in another location. If the Courier wanted to counter Mr. Baum, it would need the signatures of the vans parked on the back of the corner lot, and that of the business owners of Maple Plaza, Amanda Foundation and possibly some of the residents on Maple Dr.

If there was a "race" for support, it would have to be among the same demographic.

HAVING RESIDENTS FROM ALL AROUND THE CITY SIGN, IS SIMPLY WORTHLESS. I hope we share that same logic! If there was a "race" for support, it would have to be among the same demographic.

I have written previously in my emails to the commission, that gathering signatures is effective when the people DIRECTLY EFFECTED want to express their Support or dislike. If I came along and proposed a skateboard park or a Medical Marijuana joint in the city hall complex and gathered the signatures of all 2500 or so students of the High School it would and should have zero effect (unless of course, city hall found it to be the most suitable location).

Signatures are good for when there is a suitable location request and it's up for reasonable debate. If we have such opposition from so many effected residents, it may no longer be a suitable location even if the signatures were to be from the demographic I have circled earlier. (Just as if the 2500 student signatures would vastly outnumber the lever-headed city managers.)

Instead of this being about working out the logistics, this has become a war of heated dog owners who could care less where the park is as long as they have one, and the "horrible religious people" who will have to deal with it daily.

Thank you!

Rabbi Mendel Shusterman

Having always been dog lovers we have often wondered why there is no dedicated space for dogs in our city. After reading the objections voiced by those opposed to the dog park we feel torn and saddened.

A city is like a family in so many ways. We want the best for each family member but in our day to day life we must often resort to compromise to settle disputes. I realize, with mixed emotions that not everyone loves dogs as much as we do. If they did, wouldn't there be a dog park already in a much more central location than the one selected? I am sure there are many reasons (none come to mind) why a dog park can't be constructed as an adjunct to an existing, popular city park. (Roxbury Park for instance)

Our suggestion to the City Council is to not reinvent the wheel. If a segment of our city wants to police the proposed park location with surveillance, guards, permits and restrictions on the types and numbers of dogs allowed it would seem that this location is going to be a lot more expensive and a lot less efficient than originally planned.

If the city agrees to all these requests, what benefits do the dog owners get? They can't use the park on Friday or Saturday (big days for dogs). If the city goes ahead with the Dog Park without clearly defined parameters then it leaves the door wide open for litigation. Is it not an option to redesign Roxbury Park to include a dedicated area for dogs?

We are grateful to the council for their measured approach and hope a solution will be found that works well for everyone.

Pauli and Mark Moss

Subject: I SUPPORT THE DOG PARK

Thank you,

Norm Garr

Unfortunately, I was not able to attend today's meeting regarding the Beverly Hills Dog Park as I was in San Francisco. However, I was informed by an attendee, that Tammy Wiseman, the current Burtonhill Townhomes HOA President, stated that all 24 of the unit owners were in favor of not having a dog park at the Foothill and Alden site. This is not a truthful or accurate statement and, indeed, is not a statement of fact. There are many (a minimal of 5 unit owners) that have pet dogs who are in favor of the dog park, and 4 non-dog owners that are also in favor of the dog park. A vote has never been taken and the unit owners have never been polled about their opinion regarding the dog park by the Burtonhill Townhouse HOA. I have been a past vocal supporter of the dog park and have noticed that Michael Baum, representing the Young Israeli Temple has made many statement that were unsubstantiated allegations concerning the dog park. I have been a 33 year resident of the Burtonhill Townhomes and formerly served as HOA President for more than 10 years. Unfortunately, I strongly feel, as a homeowner and long time resident of Beverly Hills that special interests are at work and that these special interests groups will do anything to obtain their wishes at the peril of the Beverly Hills Community. I inform you of my sentiments as a concerned and deeply disappointed citizen of Beverly Hills.

Sincerely,

Carlton Y.S. Lee, M.D.

We support the dog park

Lillian and Stuart Raffel

Thank you so much! Saw part of meeting live but watched the entire meeting on your link. So happy to have a dog park in Beverly Hills. I live around the corner and have been a resident of BH since 1971. Have seen a lot.....Love BH and love your commission..... Gloria Milkowski

I'm in support of the dog park. Dogs need their freedom to run around without a leash. Many behavior problems in dogs are caused by a lack of physical & mental activity. Many become bored, lonely and overweight. They have excess energy and no way to expend it, so it's not surprising that they often come up with activities on their own, like unstuffing couches, raiding trash, cans and gnawing on shoes. This is, also, an opportunity for dogs to maintain social skills.

Sherry Tedeschi

I will not be able to attend the council meeting tonight but would like the following read into the record:

Good Evening Council Members. As a resident of Beverly Hills, I want to express my enthusiastic support for the new dog park on Foothill. I have 2 dogs that enjoy running around my backyard throughout the day and are eager to have a place to run around and play with other dogs. It is also a great place to socialize with other residence while the dogs play. It will be such a pleasure to have a place close by to bring my dogs to instead of having to schlep them up to the dog park up Laurel Canyon and fight my way through all the traffic.

Thank you City Council Members for making this dog park a reality. Ruby and Scrappy also thank you!

Warmly,
Hillary Hartman

Nancy:

I unfortunately will be unable to attend the Tuesday evening meeting regarding the dog park, and I would like my position letter to be read into the record.

Thank you in advance for accommodating me.

Debra Sarokin

I am Debra Sarokin, long term resident in Beverly Hills, and a committed dog owner. I am **very** much in favor of a dog park in our city.

More than half of our city owns dogs coupled with dog friendly businesses within our city limits. These animals need a legal place to exercise and socialize.

Dogs have very simple needs – love and attention, food and water, and a place to exercise and socialize. We allow dogs in the city, and these dogs deserve to be properly taken care of, without having to go to a neighboring city to meet these needs.

We are behind the times here. Thousands of cities in California are successfully dog friendly, offering both small and large off leash parks. In my fourteen years going *daily* to the dog park I have **NEVER** witnessed a dog bite a person. I have **NEVER** even seen aggressive “posturing” towards a human. And, as for dog poop enroute route to the park – dogs do **not** poop on sidewalks/cement if given a choice. Lets give them that choice.

Some people don't understand the love and therapeutic value of animals, and appear to be approaching the dog park issue from a position of fear. Fear is an irrational, unfounded and/or uneducated phobia.

To those who feel this may not be the *perfect* location, I say, it's an excellent start. At some point we may realize that more than one park would be a wonderful or even necessary addition to our city. Where I presently take my dog, there are non dog owners who show up for the camaraderie, and the joy of seeing dogs having such fun – their joyousness can lift your spirits ---- if you are open minded.

Thank you

I'm in support of the dog park. Dogs need their freedom to run around without a leash. Many behavior problems in dogs are caused by a lack of physical & mental activity. Many become bored, lonely and overweight. They have excess energy and no way to expend it, so it's not surprising that they often come up

with activities on their own, like unstuffing couches, raiding trash, cans and gnawing on shoes. This is, also, an opportunity for dogs to maintain social skills.

Sherry Tedeschi

The one in Venice is even across the street from an elementary school.

**Bill Crowe, Director
The Pet Care Foundation**

Attached are 3 pages showing some of the various dog parks in the LA area that are surrounded by residential and commercial properties. These dog parks have been operating for years without issue even though they are very close to heavily populated zones.

Thank you,

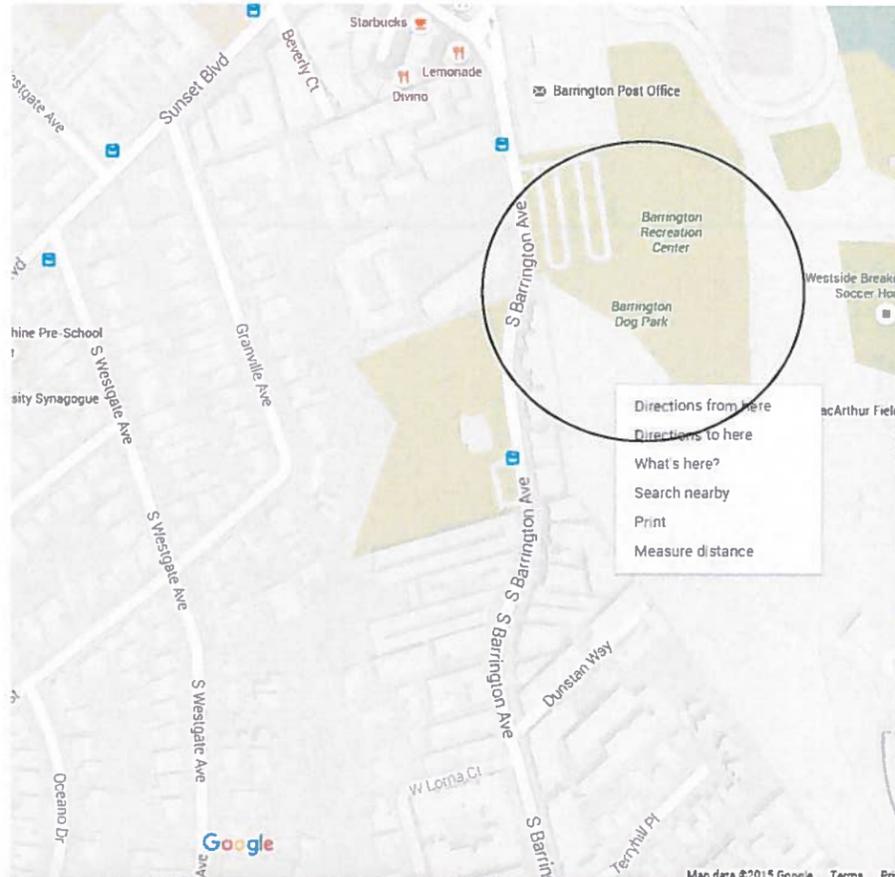
Bill Crowe, Director, The Pet Care Foundation

I'm in support of the dog park. Dogs need their freedom to run around without a leash. Many behavior problems in dogs are caused by a lack of physical & mental activity.

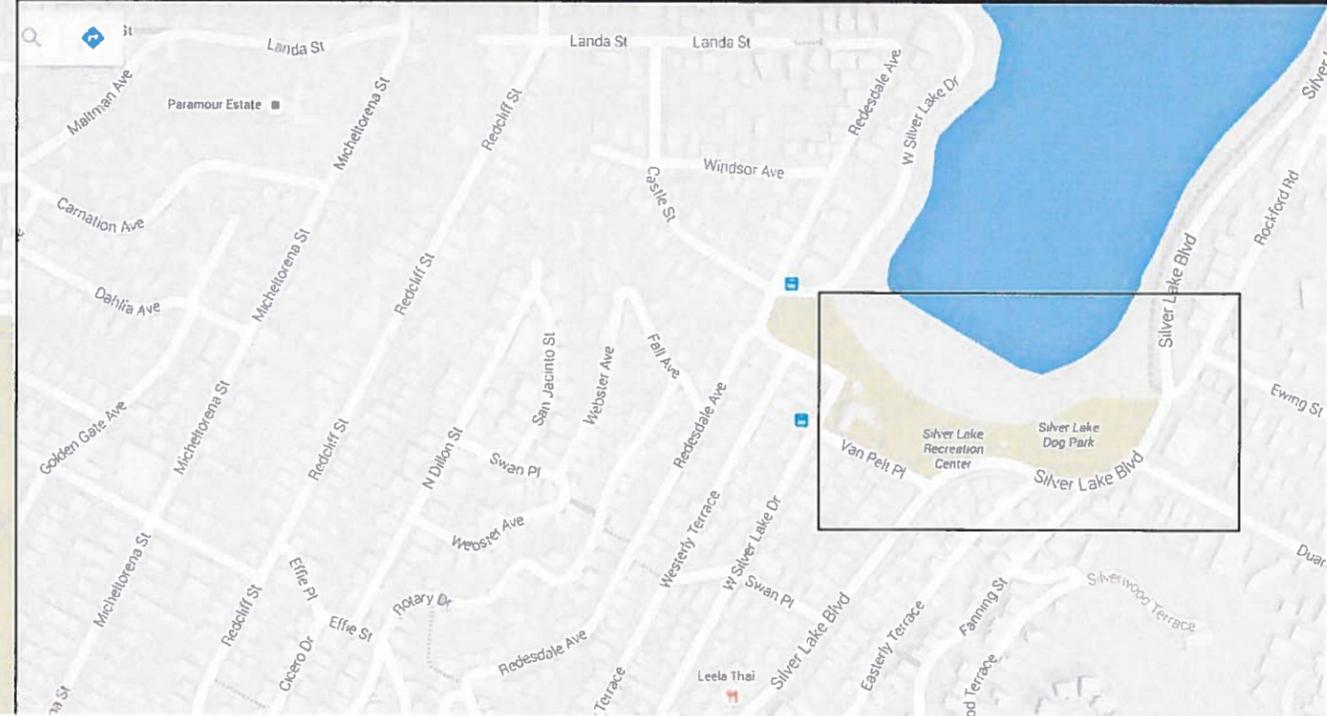
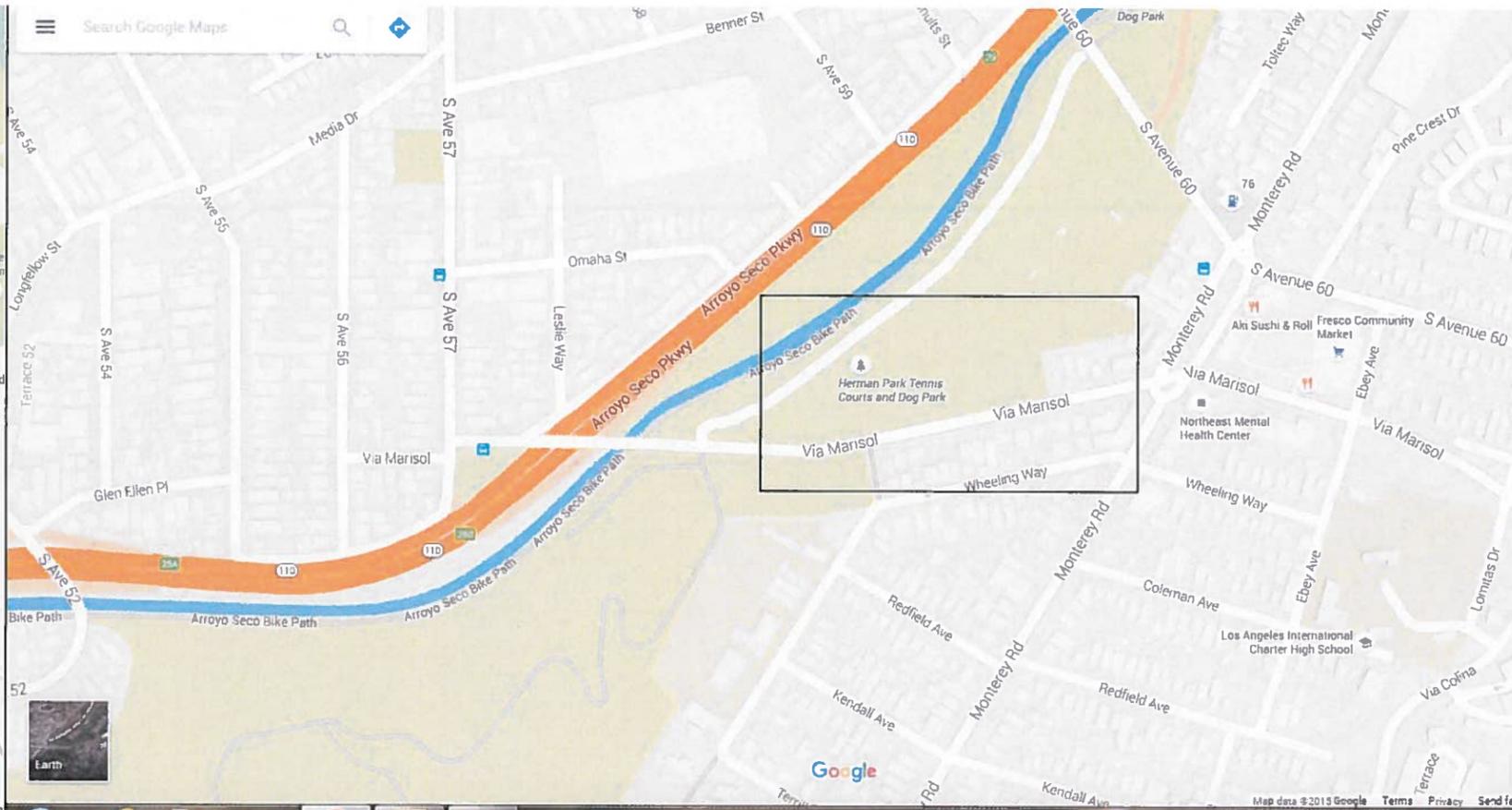
Many become bored, lonely and overweight. They have excess energy and no way to expend it, so it's not surprising that they often come up with activities on their own, like unstuffing couches, raiding trash, cans and gnawing on shoes. This is, also, an opportunity for dogs to maintain social skills.

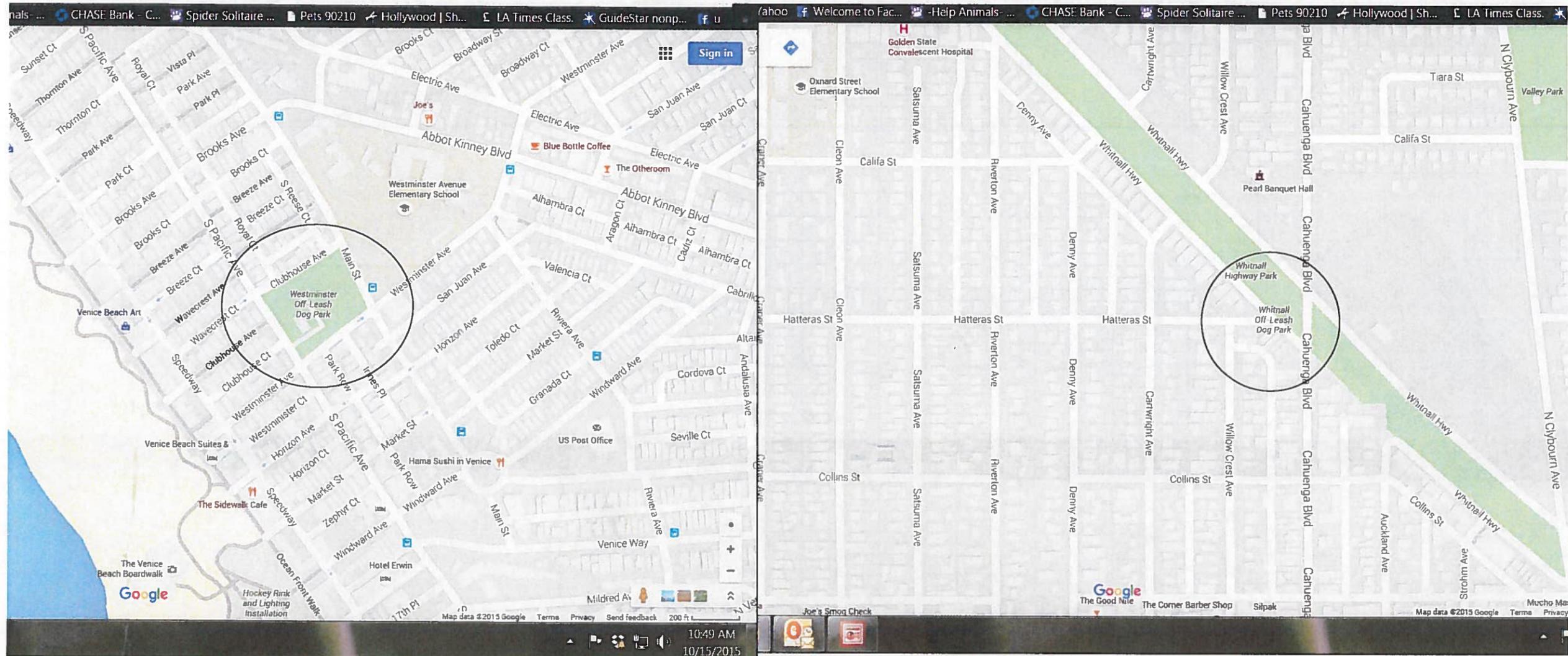
Sherry Tedeschi

Comments compiled as of October 15, 2015



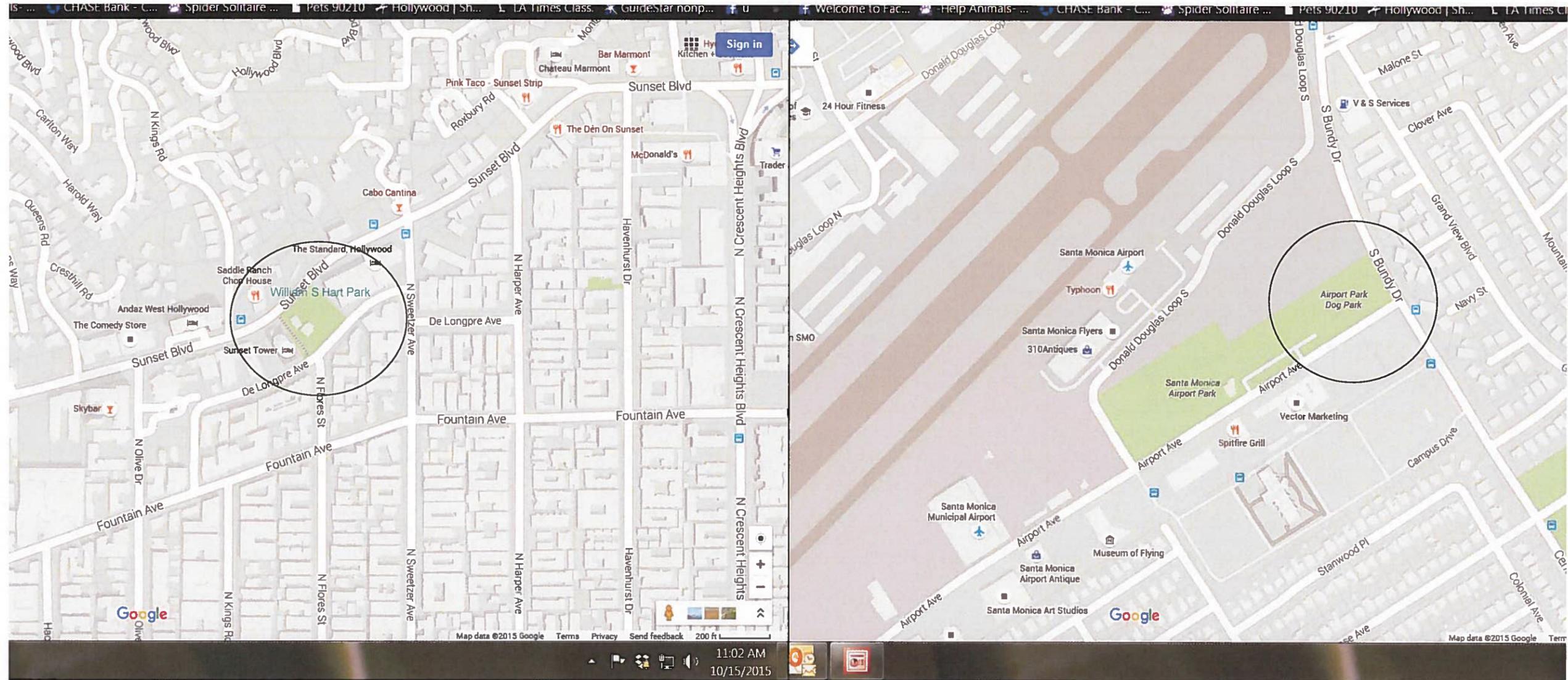
Directions from here
Directions to here
What's here?
Search nearby
Print
Measure distance





**Off-Leash Dog Park Facilities
in Los Angeles**

Name	Address
<u>BARRINGTON DOG PARK</u>	333 S Barrington Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90049
<u>GRIFFITH PARK DOG PARK</u>	Located at north end of the John Ferraro <u>SOCCER FIELD</u> on North Zoo Drive Los Angeles, CA 90027
<u>HERMON PARK IN THE ARROYO SECO DOG PARK</u>	5566 Via Marisol, Los Angeles, CA 90042
<u>LAUREL CANYON DOG PARK</u>	8260 Mulholland Drive, Studio City, CA 90046
<u>RUNYON CANYON DOG PARK</u>	2000 North Fuller, Los Angeles, CA 90046
<u>SEPULVEDA BASIN OFF-LEASH DOG PARK</u>	17550 Victory Boulevard, Encino, CA 91406
<u>SILVERLAKE DOG PARK</u>	1850 W Silver Lake Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90026
<u>WESTMINSTER DOG PARK</u>	1234 Pacific Avenue, Venice, CA 90291
<u>WHITNALL OFF-LEASH DOG PARK</u>	5801 1/2 Whitnall Hwy., North Hollywood, CA 91601



West Hollywood Dog Park
William S Hart Park
8341 De Longpre Ave
West Hollywood, CA, US

Santa Monica Dog Park
3201 Airport Ave.
Santa Monica, CA 90405



Photo taken by Mr. Thompson

Correspondence submitted by
Mr. Thompson.

Nancy Hunt-Coffey

From: David Weissberg
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 11:27 AM
To: Nancy Hunt-Coffey

To Whom this may concern:

Please read this into the record for Tuesday night. I have been a Beverly Hills resident for 52 years and am in total support of a formal dog park in the city of Beverly Hills. This is a project that will be extremely positive for all residents 5-95 and a clean, safe place for our dogs to play. I cannot think of any negatives to having this as long as it is maintained properly and everyone follows the rules that are set up by the committee that will run the park. Again, I applaud our council for looking at this project and completely endorse it.

Thank you,
David Weissberg

On Oct 16, 2015, at 2:44 PM, Beny Alagem wrote:

Dear Mahdi-

I hope you are well.

Just wanted to write you a quick note I hope you share with City Council about the dog park. I support the dog park and would like our hotel guests at The Beverly Hilton and their dogs to be able to access it when it's available.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Warmest regards,

Beny (Alagem)