



## AGENDA REPORT

**Meeting Date:** March 1, 2016  
**Item Number:** F-1  
**To:** Honorable Mayor & City Council  
**From:** Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services  
**Subject:** REQUEST FOR DIRECTION REGARDING DESIGN, BUDGET, AND FUNDRAISING FOR THE DOG PARK

**Attachments:** 1. Drawing of base dog park design

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the base option for the dog park with an associated budget of \$565,000. Additionally, staff requests City Council feedback on fundraising efforts for enhancements to the dog park.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Over the last few months, various tests have been performed on the conditions at the site of the dog park. As additional information has come in from these tests, staff has worked to finalize the design and budget for the dog park. The City Council is asked to approve the design and associated budget so that the project can move into the construction phase.

Additionally, a grassroots fundraising effort has developed with the goal of raising funds for enhancements to the dog park. The City Council is asked to provide any feedback regarding these efforts.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Base Option Studies and Recommendations**

As was discussed at the October 20, 2015 City Council meeting, additional testing of the dog park site needed to be done to determine final design and costs. At that time, it was not clear whether the existing walls and fencing could be retained at the site. Also, light level testing needed to be done to determine whether the existing lights and poles could remain or whether new lights would need to be added.

At the site, there are concrete masonry (i.e. cinderblock) walls on the north, west and south side, and there is chain link on the east side. Once these walls were thoroughly studied, it became clear that the cinderblock walls on the west, north and south are not thoroughly reinforced with concrete, nor do they appear to have substantial amounts of rebar. Additionally, as they have been in place for decades, they show signs of wear, and in some cases, of having been hit by motor vehicles.

Additionally, over the last few months, various technical studies have been performed to survey the site, analyze the soil, examine the lighting levels, etc. These studies have informed the drainage plan for the site and have further honed the remediation plan. As has been discussed previously, the environmental plan recommends the removal of the asphalt cap and 12" of contaminated soil. It further recommends the import of 6" of clean dirt, followed by a mesh barrier, and topped with another 6" of clean soil.

Proper drainage of the site is important since stormwater that is potentially contaminated with dog waste should be collected and treated before it is sent into the stormdrain. To properly slope the site for this process to occur, some additional soil needs to be imported and contoured, and catch basins, lined with appropriate filters need to be added. The site will then be capped with decomposed granite to provide the surface for the dog park.

Because of these measures, the level of the site will be raised approximately 2'3" above the current grade at the highest point, and as a result, the walls at the site will need to retain some soil. Because the three current concrete block walls are not reinforced, do not have substantial rebar, likely do not have footings designed to retain soil and are substantially degraded, staff is recommending that the north and west walls be replaced entirely. Additionally, staff recommends that a portion of the south wall be replaced and that the remainder be substantially refurbished. Because of the need to retain soil for the drainage plan, staff is recommending that the chain link fence on the east side of the site be removed and be replaced with a low retaining wall, topped by fencing in order to provide the most cost effective solution to retain the necessary soil.

The replacement of the walls and associated costs were contemplated in the October report to the City Council and will be discussed further in the Fiscal Impact section below.

As City Council will recall, the hours for the dog park are recommended to be 8 am – 8 pm. As a result, lighting of the site is important for the evening hours. The light poles and lights as well as the nighttime lighting levels have been studied. It has been determined that the three current poles and lights can be retained and will provide adequate lighting, with the exception of the east quadrant of the park where the light levels are substantially lower. As a result, staff is recommending the addition of a fourth, solar powered light pole in the east section. The addition and cost of light pole(s) was also contemplated at the October meeting, and the cost impact will be discussed below.

One of the enhancements that was prioritized by the Recreation and Parks Commission was the addition of CCTV cameras to the dog park. The Commission considered the use of these cameras both for security purposes and as "doggie cams" where potential park patrons could view the park to see if there was heavy usage. The Commission felt that CCTV cameras should be added for security purposes in the same way they have been added at some of the parks in the City. In this case, cameras are primarily used for playback capability in the event that an incident occurs, and the cameras are only

available to the police and certain trained City staff members. The Commission did not feel that the cameras should be used for the “doggie cam” purposes at this time.

Staff has talked with the Information Technology (IT) department regarding the CCTV cameras. IT already has capital improvement funds that are designated to be used for CCTV cameras. As there are funds available, and since cameras were a high priority of the Commission, CCTV cameras have been added to the base scope of the dog park project.

Finally, staff notes that the two trees on the site have been studied in relation to the soil work that needs to be done. It is expected that the large tree on the site will survive. Unfortunately, the smaller second tree is not a strong, healthy specimen. With the unearthing of 12” of soil for remediation purposes, it is expected that the roots of this tree will be substantially disturbed and that it will likely not survive. As a result, staff is recommending the removal of this tree.

In summary, staff recommends that the City Council approve the base design option for the dog park. This approval will allow staff to bid the project to the various trades and to begin the construction process with the goal of opening the base dog park in late summer.

#### Enhanced Options and Fundraising

Various enhancements to the base option of the dog park were discussed with the Recreation and Parks Commission and presented at the October City Council meeting. These enhancements included items such as shade structures, keycard access equipment and software, additional benches, etc. Staff has costs for these items, should City Council be interested in discussing them. However, since this time, additional desired enhancements have been discussed such as adding trees, agility equipment, artwork, etc.

At the same time, a grassroots fundraising effort has grown out of the desire to add these amenities to the dog park. As City Council may recall from the October meeting, there were individuals and businesses who wanted to donate funds or equipment to the dog park. In fact, the Charitable Foundation has already received two donations toward enhancements to the park.

At the last Recreation and Parks Commission meeting, there was a discussion of formalizing these fundraising efforts and holding a kickoff at the upcoming Woofstock event. Beverly Hills Courier Publisher Marcia Hobbs and Councilmember Bosse have volunteered to help spearhead the efforts, and the Beverly Hills Pet Care Foundation has offered to staff a booth at the upcoming Woofstock event to raise funds for the Beverly Hills Charitable Foundation, with the goal of supporting the enhancements to the dog park.

As a result of these efforts, staff recommends that the Recreation and Parks Commission develop recommendations for the fundraising campaign, including a final list of possible enhancements and a donor recognition program. These recommendations can then be brought back to the City Council at an upcoming meeting for further feedback and direction.

Depending on the amount of funds that are raised and when they are received, it is possible that some enhancements, such as additional trees, can be incorporated into the dog park before or as it is being constructed. Other standalone enhancements, such as the addition of artwork, can be incorporated at any time.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

When the dog park item was discussed at the City Council meeting in October, the base project was expected to be in the range of \$400,000 - \$450,000. This includes the cost of adding utilities to the site; soil remediation (currently estimated to be approximately \$187,000); construction (currently estimated to be \$111,000); the various studies and consultation that have been required (architectural; mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering; civil engineering; soil studies; and site surveying); and project contingency.

However, as was indicated in the report at that time, it was unclear whether the walls would need to be replaced, and whether additional light poles would need to be added. At that time, it was estimated that the total budget with new walls and a new light pole could be \$563,000 (\$98,000 for walls and \$15,000 for a light pole). Now that the analysis of the walls, geotechnical, lighting and drainage have been complete, the projected budget for the base dog park is \$565,000.

Currently there is \$400,000 budgeted in Fund 160 for the dog park. Fund 160 is a fund reserved for expenditures related only to Recreation and Park capital projects.

Staff recommends that the additional \$165,000 be taken from the park facilities maintenance and improvements project account which is also in Fund 160. There is currently an unallocated balance of \$242,174 in this project account. Staff has analyzed this account and believes that, based on past usage history, the \$165,000 can be moved to the dog park fund without impact to park maintenance and improvements.

Don Rhoads  
Approved By



Nancy Hunt-Coffey  
Approved By



# **Attachment 1**

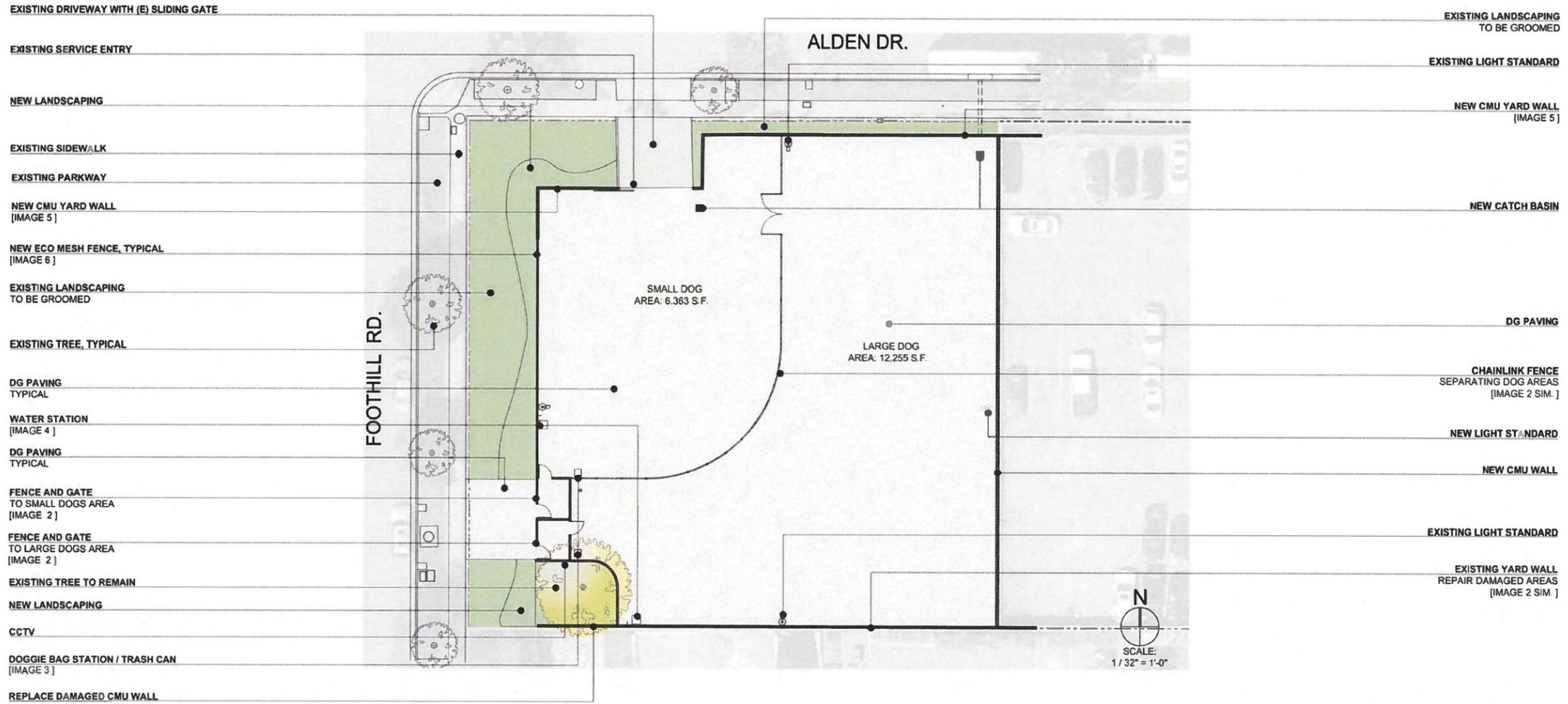


IMAGE 1



IMAGE 2



IMAGE 3



IMAGE 4



IMAGE 5



IMAGE 6