

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

The Public Works Committee of the City of Raleigh met in a special called session on Monday, December 1, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Leesville Road Park site on Country Trail, Raleigh, North Carolina with the following present:

Committee

Mr. Stephenson, Presiding
Mr. Baldwin
Mr. Koopman

Staff

Public Works Director Dawson
Deputy City Attorney Botvinick
Parks and Recreation Director Sauer
Parks Design/Development Administrator Bailey
Senior Project Engineer Raynor
Park Planner [Schumacher-Georgopoulos](#)

These are summary minutes unless otherwise indicated.

Mr. Stevenson called the meeting to order and the following item was discussed:

Item #07-44 – Strickland Road Park Master Plan. During the November 11, 2008 Public Works Committee Meeting this item was discussed and held over for further discussion. Mr. Stephenson stated the purpose of today’s meeting was to gather information with regard to the proposed Leesville Road Park location for a dog park, and indicated no decision will be made at this time but will be discussed further at the next regularly scheduled Public Works Committee meeting.

Parks Planner Cassey Schumacher-Georgopoulos outlined the proposed layout of the dog park along with the associated parking area and driveway access pointing out blue ribbons are tied around trees to mark the boundaries. She stated the proposed parking lot will contain 9 spaces including spaces for handicap access adding that the lot could be made larger depending on use. She talked about the possibility of trail connections to the rest of Leesville Road Park and the Greenway.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed dog park’s proximity to the neighbors and whether the layout or size of the dog park could be changed.

Joseph Dudeck 2909 Silver Maple Place, questioned the reason for locating a dog park at Leesville Road at all noting the area is in its natural conditions and dogs play here anyway with Mr. Stephenson responding Raleigh citizens expressed the need for dog parks pointing out there are 3 such dog parks in the City at this time and there is a need for to place one in the northwest section of the City.

Discussion took place regarding City leash laws and the reasons for placing a dog park at the Leesville Road site.

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Parks and Recreation Director Diane Sauer pointed out dog parks are located at Millbrook Exchange Park, Oakwood Park, and Carolina Pines Park noting as soon as the Millbrook Exchange dog park opened, citizens in northwest Raleigh expressed interest in having a dog park located in their area.

The committee members and members of the public walked the area of the proposed dog park to get a better perspective of the park's size and location with it being pointed out by staff that the dog park's nearest neighbor would be approximately 200 feet to the west and includes right-of-way for the proposed Hilburn Drive extension.

Discussion took place regarding the construction timeline for the Leesville Road Park walking trails and whether the proposed dog park would be part of Phase 1 or 2 of the park's construction with Parks Design Administrator Dick Bailey noting funds are in place for the dog park's construction with the cost being approximately \$200,000.

Discussion took place as to when and if the Hilburn Drive extension will be built with Mr. Stephenson pointing out the City Council has the authority to postpone the project for an indefinite period with Ms. Baldwin pointing out the project is not a priority at this time.

A woman in the group questioned if the Strickland Road site had been ruled out for a dog park with Mr. Stephenson responding in the negative. Discussion took place regarding the differences between the classification of the Strickland Road site as a neighborhood park and Leesville Road Park as a community park including the kind of facilities available at each site and the size of the area served by each park.

A gentleman in the group pointed out the Strickland Road site is much flatter with better site lines for access to/from Strickland Road and stated the Hilburn Drive extension will add more traffic and congestion to the area. He suggested the Strickland Road location would make more sense from a budgetary perspective.

The responsibility of dog park users and how volunteer groups will aid in overseeing the use of the dog park was discussed.

Discussion took place regarding the park's hours of operation with Parks Director Sauer stating the hours will be dawn to dusk and the park will not have lights for night use. When questioned regarding efforts to control access to the park after hours Ms. Sauer stated staff is looking at installing a gate at the driveway entrance.

Mr. Stephenson questioned if water facilities will be brought to the dog park with Mr. Bailey stating that was included in the cost estimate.

A gentlemen in the crowd question if the Council considered locating a dog park at Lake Lynn Park with Mr. Bailey responding the majority of the park is owned by Wake County and that staff plans on using the City's portion of the property to build additional tennis courts.

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Ms. Schumacher-Georgopoulos noted information regarding the proposed parks is available on the City's website.

Following further discussion it was agreed to hold the item for further discussion.

Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Ralph L. Puccini
Assistant Deputy Clerk