

CITY CLERK MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 8, 2012

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk

SUBJECT: ADDITION TO THE JUNE 11, 2012 CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Attached is one item that is proposed for addition to the agenda for the June 11, 2012 City Council meeting. It is:

For addition under Resolutions:

Adoption of a resolution expressing City Council support for the submittal of a grant application to Pet Safe, Inc. and making land available for the dog park project if selected.

The staff recommends that this item be added to the agenda as indicated.

Copies of this memo and attachments have also been placed in your mailboxes in the Municipal Building.


City Clerk

Attachments

RECREATION AND PARKS MEMORANDUM
12-07

DATE: June 8, 2012
TO: Mark S. Watson, City Manager
FROM: Josh Collins, Recreation and Parks Director
SUBJECT: DOG PARK

The accompanying Resolution demonstrates City Council's support for a citizen effort to establish a dog park in Oak Ridge, pledges to set aside a portion of Big Turtle Park for its construction and allocate funds for maintenance and operation of the Park.

In 2006, the Recreation and Parks staff was approached by the Chamber of Commerce and was asked to consider building a Dog Park. The Chamber and the City had sponsored a Housing Summit to discuss ways to make Oak Ridge a more attractive city for new families. The presence of a Dog Park was one of the top amenities requested. As a result, City staff began collecting information on area dog parks and their operation. Staff also began evaluating potential sites for a park. After an extensive evaluation of potential sites, an area at Big Turtle Park was selected.

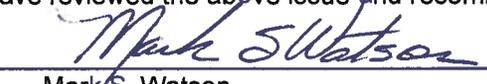
Since that time, the establishment of a dog park in Oak Ridge has been the goal of a growing segment of the population. The dog park would be an off-leash area where dogs could enjoy the outdoors, exercise and socialize. A citizen's group has again organized a grass-root effort to bring a dog park to Oak Ridge. The group hopes to energize the community and is seeking support from the City of Oak Ridge for a Pet Safe grant to fund construction of an Oak Ridge Dog Park. Pet Safe is awarding three grants to deserving communities for construction of a dog park. One community will receive \$100,000 and two communities will receive \$25,000 each. Awards will be made based on community support by going on-line and voting at <http://www.petsafe.net/barkforyourpark/city/search>.

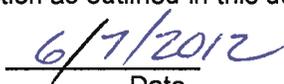
Staff recommends approval of the accompanying resolution as submitted.

Attachment

City Manager's Comments:

I have reviewed the above issue and recommend Council action as outlined in this document.


Mark S. Watson


Date

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CITIZEN EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A DOG PARK AND OBTAIN A PETS SAFE GRANT FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND IF OAK RIDGE WINS A GRANT WILL DEDICATE A PORTION OF BIG TURTLE PARK AND ALLOCATE OTHER RESOURCES TO SUPPORT A DOG PARK THERE.

WHEREAS, a dog park is an enclosed area where dogs can exercise and play off-leash under the supervision of their owners; and

WHEREAS, dog parks bring benefits not only to dogs and their owners, but also to entire communities by promoting responsible dog ownership and creating bonds among park users and other dog lovers; and

WHEREAS, dog parks are increasing in popularity around the country; and

WHEREAS, there has been considerable citizen interest in establishing a dog park in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, the City Recreation and Parks Department has identified an area in Big Turtle Park that could be used for a dog park and would be suitable for development of separate areas for large and small dogs; and

WHEREAS, a citizen committee working with the Oak Ridge Parks Board has been studying the dog park concept; and

WHEREAS, the first-ever Dock Dogs competition in our area was held as part of Oak Ridge's commemoration of Earth Day 2012 to celebrate dogs and support the campaign for a local dog park; and

WHEREAS, PetSafe, a supplier of pet products, is currently conducting its second annual "Bark for Your Park" contest among U.S. cities, and will award one city \$100,000 to build a local dog park and two other cities \$25,000 each; and

WHEREAS, supporters of an Oak Ridge dog park have obtained enough evidence of local support via social media, including the PetSafe.net website and Facebook, to qualify Oak Ridge as a nominee in the "Bark for Your Park" contest; and

WHEREAS, fifteen contest finalists will be announced on June 15, 2012, and the winners will be determined by the number of online votes each finalist city receives between the announcement and July 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, in order to qualify to become a contest finalist, Oak Ridge must submit evidence of both the availability of suitable land and support by civic leaders to PetSafe by June 13, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE:

That the City Council supports and encourages citizen efforts to establish a dog park and obtain a PetSafe grant for its development, and if Oak Ridge wins a grant, will dedicate a portion of Big Turtle Park and allocate other resources to support a dog park there.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council strongly supports the submittal of an application to PetSafe and if Oak Ridge wins, to receive a PetSafe grant and use that grant for the purpose of constructing and equipping a dog park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the appropriate legal instruments to accomplish the same.

This the 11th day of June 2012.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



Kenneth R. Krushenski, City Attorney

Thomas L. Beehan, Mayor

Diana R. Stanley, City Clerk