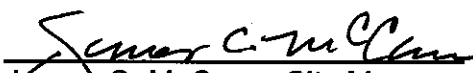


City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Mary Cahill, Community Resources Director
DATE: May 6, 2008
SUBJECT: Community Resources Commission Report Regarding Dog Park

APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:


James C. McCann, City Manager

1
2 **ISSUE:**

3 The community of Calistoga does not have a defined dog park within the city limits or
4 immediate surroundings. Many community members have expressed an interest in an
5 area that could be defined for this purpose.
6

7 **RECOMMENDATION:**

8 Receive report and offer direction as appropriate.
9

10 **BACKGROUND:**

11 On August 21, 2007, the City Council placed the Dog Park Project on the Community
12 Resources Commission (CRC) 2007-2008 work program. The purpose was to explore
13 areas in the community where dogs could exercise off leash and define the elements
14 that would go into a dog park.
15

16 **DISCUSSION**

17
18 The discussion that occurred at the CRC meetings, defined the benefits of a dog park
19 as place to socialize and exercise dogs in a safe environment, promote responsible pet
20 ownership, provide elderly and disabled owners with an accessible place to exercise
21 their canine companions promote public health and safety and provide a tool for realistic
22 enforcement of dog control laws.
23

24 Generally the term dog park, is used where the design of the park and its amenities
25 make it clear that dogs are invited, not just permitted. It is a place where dogs can play
26 off leash in a safe environment.

27 Most dog parks are public and others are private. Public dog parks are typically on
28 public land and may be using public resources such as land, money, equipment
29 supplies and labor. To offset these costs most dog parks have an active user group.
30 Some organize as a non-profit while others are more informal.

31
32 The Community Resources Commission conducted an extensive review of various
33 criteria which define a dog park and looked to both public property and private property
34 options. The CRC developed the following as considerations and criterion for a dog
35 park in Calistoga.

36
37 The property criterion that was defined for a dog park in Calistoga:

- 38
39
 - Size minimum of ½ acre of property
 - Safe location, not isolated
 - Accessible by automobile, biking or walking
 - Accessible to potable water
 - Parking

44
45 Based on discussions at the CRC and with various interested community members,
46 recommendations for elements of the dog park were as follows:

- 47
48
 - Entry – double gated
 - Fencing – 4' high and gates. Deer fencing should be sufficient.
 - Shade (phased in at a later time)
 - Water fixtures – for dogs and people
 - Pet waste removal bags
 - Safe parking area close to site
 - Picnic tables and/or benches (phased in at a later time)
 - Covered Garbage Cans
 - Signage (dog and people rules)
 - Regular maintenance

58
59
60 A group of dog owners in the community (Cal DOG), spearheaded by David Johnston
61 and Rose LeClerc discussed the responsibilities that they would entertain including but
62 not limited to:

- 63
 - Creating Dog Park rules
 - Animal control issues (strays and abandoned animals)
 - Dog obedience classes
 - Promote neutering/spaying clinics

67 Supervision of Dog Park
68 Daily clean up
69 Signage in town and at the Dog Park
70 Discussion of funding issues
71

72 At the conclusion of their research, the CRC determined that public lands are not readily
73 available for use as a dog park without significant expense. Consequently, the CRC
74 explored potential privately owned sites. The vacant property at the Calistoga Beverage
75 Company was identified and the owner has indicated their support for the venture (see
76 attached letter from Mr. Chris Canning).
77

78 At this point, staff believes that interest exists within the community for establishment of
79 a dog park. Further, suitable public and private sites exist within Calistoga for the use.
80 Staff requests Council input and direction regarding proceeding with the establishment
81 of a dog park. Should sufficient Council interest exist, staff will evaluate in detail the site
82 options available, the costs to create a suitable park, the options and associated costs
83 for on-going maintenance and operation and will return to Council for action.
84

85 **FISCAL IMPACT:**
86

87 The fiscal impact is unknown at this time. The costs will be determined by the selected
88 site and would correspond to the improvements needed at the site and any costs
89 associated such as labor, equipment, ongoing maintenance, utilities and other potential
90 resources.
91

92 The revenue sources are unknown at this time. However, there is a group of dog
93 owners in the community who have expressed an interest in being involved in both the
94 fundraising, in kind donations and ongoing volunteer efforts to improve and monitor a
95 site in order to make a dog park become a reality.
96

97
98 **ATTACHMENTS**
99

- 100 1. Letter from Chris Canning, Calistoga Beverage company
101 2. Communication from David Johnston and Rose LeClerc
102 3. CRC staff report January 16, 2008



April 30, 2008

Charlene Gallina
Planning & Building Director
City of Calistoga
1232 Washington Street
Calistoga, CA 94515

Dear Charlene:

I am sending this letter as confirmation of our offer to support the desire for a dog park within the Calistoga community. We have expressed our interest in providing the property temporarily on which to build this park, subject to the conditions listed below. The portion of our property that we are considering is adjacent to Lincoln Avenue between the Stevenson Manor Inn and Rainbow Agriculture Supply.

As you are aware, it is our desire to utilize this property for an expansion of our warehouse operations in the near future. We have owned this property for more than 25 years and our intentions have been very clear and open for that entire period of time. In the interim, we feel that providing a park for the use of our neighbors is a worth while endeavor.

Some of the conditions that I have previously discussed with the CRC are as follows:

- Legal Liability: We must receive total and complete indemnification from the City
- Temporary Use: Maximum of three (3) years
- Property Size: Maximum of one half (1/2) acre
- Location of Park: Maximum allowable distance from our current warehouse
- Construction: Responsibility of the City of Calistoga
- Maintenance: Responsibility of the City of Calistoga
- Potable Water: City must seek a source. CBC can not provide a qualified source

Other conditions may be developed if and when discussions proceed.

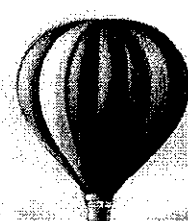
Should agreement be reached, we still reserve the right to use the remaining portion of our property for authorized development.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

Chris Canning

Chris Canning
Director
Calistoga Beverage Company



365 Silverado Trail
Calistoga, California 94515
707-299-2800

Su Sneddon

From: Mary Cahill
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2008 3:42 PM
To: Su Sneddon; Jim McCann
Subject: FW: Copy Of CalDOG Letter to Planning

From: David Johnston [mailto:blackmountaininstr@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, May 01, 2008 3:10 PM
To: Mary Cahill
Subject: Copy Of CalDOG Letter to Planning

Mary - Here's a copy of the letter I emailed to the Planning Director:

Ms. Gallina -

The Calistoga Dog Owners Group (CalDOG), voted at its March 13th meeting to endorse the findings of the Community Resources Commission Report of Jan. 16, 2008 on the subject of a Calistoga Dog Park. (See attachment)

We would be glad to help in any way with the planning, implementation, and operation of a future Dog Park, and look forward to working with the Planning Dept. on this project.

Thank you,

David Johnston
Rose LeClerc

Co-Chairs, CalDOG

City of Calistoga

Staff Report

TO: Building and Planning Department
Department of Public Works
Economic Vitality Group

FROM: Community Resources Commission

DATE: January 16, 2008

SUBJECT: Dog Park Recommendation

1 **ISSUE:**

2 The City of Calistoga lacks an area where dogs can exercise off-leash (a "dog
3 run"). Creating an area for this purpose would enhance the community by
4 providing dog owners and friends a place to socialize while their dogs play. It
5 would also provide an area for elderly and disabled owners with an accessible
6 place to exercise their companions. On August 21, 2007 City Council placed the
7 Dog Park project on the 2007-2008 Work Program for the Community Resources
8 Commission.

9
10 **BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

11 Calistoga is fortunate to be surrounded by open space, but very little of this land
12 is open to the public. The city's park system provides many recreation options,
13 and the development of Logvy Community Park will provide many more.
14 However, there is no place in town where dog owners can safely and legally
15 provide needed exercise for their pets by letting them run free.

16
17 What is a dog park? Generally is used where the design of the park, and its
18 amenities make it clear that dogs are invited, not just permitted. It is a place
19 where dogs can play off leash.

20
21 Some dog parks are public others are private. Public dog parks must be aware
22 that they are using public resources (money, land, equipment, supplies and
23 labor). To offset some of these costs most dog parks have an active user group.
24

25 A dog owner group is needed to spend time to educate other dog owners, help
26 with maintenance, monitor use, clean-up, enforcement of rules and fundraising.
27
28
29

Subject:

Date:

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30 The community benefits of a Dog Park are:

- 31 • Socializes and exercised dogs in a safe environment
- 32 • Promotes responsible pet ownership
- 33 • Provides elderly and disabled owners with an accessible place to exercise
- 34 their companions.
- 35 • Promotes public health and safety.
- 36 • Provides a tool for realistic enforcement of dog control laws.

37

38 The property criteria for potential dog park are:

- 39 • Size 1/2 acre of property.
- 40 • Accessibility by automobile, bike or walking.
- 41 • Accessibility to potable water
- 42 • Parking

43

44 Once a site is chosen for the proposed Dog Park an ideal Dog Park should
45 include:

- 46 • Entry – double gated
- 47 • Fencing – 4' high and gates. Deer Fencing should be sufficient.
- 48 • Shade and Water fixtures – for dogs and people
- 49 • Pet-waste removal bags
- 50 • Safe parking area close to site
- 51 • Picnic tables and/or benches
- 52 • Covered Garbage Cans
- 53 • Signage
- 54 • Safe location, not isolated
- 55 • Regular maintenance

56

57 The Calistoga Building and Planning Department is being asked to consider the
58 recommended location for the proposed Dog Park. Determine if an
59 environmental review is needed for a use permit and if a design review process
60 should be done. Your review may include the following:

- 61 • Regulating of dogs and dog owners (i.e. Municipal Code Dog Rules)
- 62 • Napa County Environmental Management Division review and approval as
- 63 the Animal Control Officer (CMC Chapter 6:04)
- 64 • Habitat and agricultural preservation
- 65 • Review and preservation of Archaeological Resources
- 66 • Providing parking at or near the site
- 67 • Reducing drainage, erosion and sedimentation
- 68 • Handicap Accessibility
- 69 • Compatibility with adjoining land uses
- 70 • Consistency with Urban Design Plan
- 71 • Traffic
- 72 • Noise

73

74 The Calistoga Department of Public Works will be asked to consider the Dog
75 Park recommendation to determine what City support would cost for:

- 76 • Construction
- 77 • Garbage removal
- 78 • Mowing
- 79 • Property clean-up
- 80 • Pet waste bags

81

82 A Dog Owners Group will need to be formed and will be responsible for:

- 83 • Animal control issues (strays, abandoned animals)
- 84 • Code enforcement
- 85 • Supervision of Dog Park
- 86 • Daily clean-up
- 87 • Funding issues

88

89 A set of rules will need to be created to avoid problems at the dog park.

90

91 The dog park could be used to enhance public awareness of animal control
92 issues, hold dog obedience classes and promote neutering / spaying clinics.

93

94 Location of Dog Park:

95

96 The proposed Dog Park would be located in a vacant field owned by Calistoga
97 Mineral Water. The size of the field is approximately 10 acres and is located
98 behind the Calistoga Mineral Water plant towards Brannan Street.

99

100 Talks with property owner - November 8, 2007, CRC meeting:

101

102 Chris Canning, Director of Calistoga Brands for Calistoga Mineral Water listened
103 to the presentation of a conceptual plan for a Dog Park to be located on property
104 owned by Calistoga Mineral Water. Mr. Canning said the vacant field is available
105 3 to 5 years for an interim use while Calistoga Mineral Water is negotiating with
106 the City for expansion of their present facility. Additionally if located in the proper
107 area of the vacant field that the planned expansion may not impact the Dog Park.

108

109 He also brought up that the entry to the vacant park would probably have to be
110 from the driveway area closest to downtown off of Lincoln Ave. That area would
111 also allow for 10 or 12 cars to park and had already been reinforced with some
112 gravel. The rest of the vacant field is planted in field grasses and is mowed
113 regularly by Calistoga Mineral Water.

114

115 Calistoga Mineral Water would do their own Environmental study on the effects
116 of the Dog Park above their water source. The concern would be that dog waste

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117 could leach into that water source. However the geothermal water source is 250
118 feet below and is superheated.

119
120 Mr. Canning said that Calistoga Mineral Water would support use of it's vacant
121 property for an interim Dog Park. They would also allow the Dog Park to tap into
122 existing water sources at their facility for use at the Dog Park.

123
124 Calistoga Mineral Water has two major concerns, regarding the Dog Park:

- 125 • Indemnity
- 126 • Maintenance of Dog Park by City and/or Dog Park group

127
128 They would also like to see the Planning and Building Department review the
129 project to make sure there are no zoning or environmental issues.

130
131 Discussion with stakeholders (Dog Owners) – December 5, 2007, CRC meeting

132
133 Stakeholders were surveyed to ensure that the location, size and other elements
134 of the project are acceptable. The consensus from the Dog Owners was:

- 135 1. Calistoga Mineral Water site should be recommended for the location of a
136 dog park.
- 137 2. The dog park should be ½ acre in size.
- 138 3. The dog park should be accessible by auto, bike and walking. Wheelchair
139 access was discussed.
- 140 4. There should be parking at dog park site.
- 141 5. There should be potable water at dog park site.
- 142 6. Fencing should be 4 ft. high and be deer fencing not chain link.
- 143 7. Entry gate should be a double gated entry design.
- 144 8. There should be benches and maybe picnic tables.
- 145 9. Dog Park surface should be wood chips or decomposed granite.
- 146 10. There will need to be a set of rules and signage at the dog park.

147
148 Additional discussion:

149 It was agreed that an effort would be made to organize a Dog Owners Group in
150 the next few months.

151
152 Recommendation:

153 The Community Resources Commission recommends that the Calistoga
154 Planning and Building Department, the Economic Vitality Group and the
155 Department of Public Works study the conceptual plan and location of a Dog
156 Park at the Calistoga Mineral Water site. The CRC would like your input and
157 approval of the project before going to City Council.

158
159 ATTACHMENTS:

160
161 Parcel map of Calistoga Mineral Water property.