

Communication "A" August 5, 2008 Calistoga City Council Meeting
Item # 11: The Proposed Dog Park

SCOTT ATKINSON
2103 Oat Hill Court
Calistoga, CA 94515-1171
(707) 942-6670 fax: (707) 942-1423
E-mail: ATKI@sonic.net

CITY OF CALISTOGA
City Clerk

AUG 4 2008

RECEIVED

August 3, 2008

Honorable Mayor & Members of the Council

RE: Dog Park Proposal

Mr. Mayor:

After receiving direction from the Council that the property below the little league field would be a suitable site to explore, we met with City staff on the site. Staff, namely our City Engineer had a laundry list of reasons (a couple of them even possibly valid), why it is impossible for this site to work as a dog park. While I do not agree with the vast majority of his concerns, and I believe there is a bigger picture to this site than what was being disclosed, I feel that we may be trying to push floodwaters up a hillside. I also did not appreciate that his standard answer to many of our positive ideas and comments was "it is a very complex issue". I thought we were all at the same meeting where the Council expressed a desire to clean up that area, keep a dog park on City owned property, work within a reasonable cost and attempt to locate the facility away from existing residential properties. You can only imagine what a great tourism photo the existing Public Works dump site would do to promote our community.

All of that said, I continue to support the creation of the dog park wherever it may be feasible within the community. I just want it to happen sooner rather than later. The new proposed site is about half the square footage recommended in previous staff reports but it is probably workable. I would also like to see Staff be held answerable to why the original site will not work and see if the answers hold water to Council scrutiny, but I am willing to let it go if we can move forward. I would hope that staff may be able to be listen to your direction that this is an important issue to members of the community and not fight us tooth and nail. All I am asking is that Staff do their part to better the community, by working with members of this and other groups & organizations within the City.

Best Regards,

Scott Atkinson