

MEETING MINUTES



Wednesday February 20, 2019 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Mississauga Valley Community Centre Program Room 2

| Board Attendance | Board Member Regrets | Board Member No Regrets or Vacancy | Guests |
|---|--|--|------------------------------|
| Gayle Laws- President/Acting Secretary Kevin Pullis - VP Hugo Reinoso - Webmaster Carolyn Taylor- Fundraising and Events Mary Smith – Garnetwood Carol Mitchell - Parkway Belt Jill Sellar – Q Park Jessica Baker – Director at large Steve Dombey- JD Small Dog Lead | Jeff Meiusi-JD Ellen Lockley- Lakeside Kim Miedema Dave Carty- Past President | Secretary Treasurer Angela Puliyodil— Board Director | Jamie Ferguson- City Liaison |

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10. Introductions were made. January 9, 2019 meeting minutes were reviewed.

Moved by Steve and seconded by Jill, that the minutes be approved and posted on the LFM website. Carried

Note: meeting minutes for the past year have now been posted on the website.

2. Report from City of Mississauga—Jamie Ferguson
 - a) Cheque for \$750 was received from the City for the Toto container.
 - b) Unauthorized JD website- with legal department
 - c) Sukura - still working on a schedule for poop pick up. Looking at JD for installation and identifying a suitable location.
 - d) Small dog park display board—Steve will provide him more information as to where it should be moved and why it needs to be moved. Jamie will then provide a cost estimate.
 - e) Monthly site inspection form. To be distributed to park reps for monthly reporting and submitted all at once at the beginning of each month. Kevin will cover EV and Sami will cover Q Park. Gayle will distribute and collect them at the March meeting. Need to develop a process so LFM has a copy as well.

- f) Tree planting. Prefer to plant outside LF parks to provide shade because the trees are small and would not do well with dogs. Trees planted inside a LF area would need to be bigger and have protection. LFM must request to 311 if a park wants trees. Can plant evenings or weekends. A minimum of 12 volunteers must commit to 2 hours. Spring planting occurs mid April to first week in June.
 - g) Seeding for grass. Carol asked about it. Hard to grow grass in LF areas. Other ground covering can be considered such as certain green weeds.
 - h) Sheds and benches will be installed in the Spring once weather permits. This project is on the workplan.
 - i) Cannabis prohibited in the parks. Call security if you want to complain. The smoking bylaw is under review. Smoking cigarettes is allowed under current bylaw.
 - j) Updating the signs for all parks will be done. Will make sure Garnetwood and Lakeside will have full number, not just 311
 - k) Parkway Belt trail to be raised in one area—on the workplan.
 - l) LFM parks can be used as well as LFM zones—language is interchangeable. The city uses LF zones because the leash-free areas are within parks.
 - m) Garbage bins still at Parkway Belt and Lakeside
 - n) Sand bins just delivered for only LF areas. Not to use salt as not good for dogs. We can spread sand in the parks. If icy and no sand in LF areas, call 311. The city tracks when salt is put down, by whom—ie the parking areas.
 - o) New parks—status of the 6 new parks as noted in the 2016 City Report. Jamie will look into this.
 - p) Dog bites—will pull the statistics together.
 - q) Dog memorial via a park bench—can arrange privately through the City. Cost is between \$750 to \$3000.
 - r) Will find out how many dogs there are in Mississauga and guess of how many are licensed.
 - s) Lighting services are done through facilities management. Q-Park and Toto were told that they need the lighting numbers but instead provide the location of the light. Need to call 311. Note the ticket number to Jamie. For Parkway Belt, take a picture of the light and send to Jamie with a map of where the light is located. LFM would pay for light and the city will install it.
 - t) Carol to send a copy of the signs to Jamie and he will look into having them designed in-house and installed at all parks. The signs are humorous to remind park users to pick up poop.
 - u) Affiliated status. Gayle to do by this weekend and submit to the City.
 - v) Bylaw reviews by the City undertaken for children in the parks and dog walkers.
3. Consultation about children in the parks.

LFM conducted a survey and sent it to approximately 700 email addresses. About 343 opened the email and of that, 235 responded to the LFM survey. Results were shared with the Board on February 5. Summary: The majority said yes to children in the parks. Babies should not be in the parks, and no strollers due to safety.

The board members had a general discuss with the following comments made in no particular order:

Children less than 12 years old should not be allowed in the parks.

The parent must be responsible for their children.

Children should be allowed but parents must supervise. It can be a good opportunity to teach kids about dogs.

If the child gets hurt but it's on the parents. We need parents to understand the risk.

Interacting with the dogs can be a learning experience for kids. Interaction can be positive.

But who will police it if there is a ban on children?

Concern that if a dog hurts a child due to child's inappropriate behaviour or just by being knocked over through play, the dog will be punished

We must respect that dogs be allowed to run and play—they may be rumbustious. Kids can be knocked over.

LF has a bad reputation for not being safe for dogs. If something bad happens to a child, then LF is blamed, or the dog is blamed when they are simply being a dog.

Not everyone is a good parent or supervises.

50% of other city's leash-free parks ban children.

Enforcement is a complaint driven system.

No consensus amongst the Board members—4 in favour of restricting children, 4 against and one undecided. Feedback was provided to Jamie.

4. Consultation about dog walkers—

LFM sent out a survey and 239 (70%) responded. The results were provided to the Board Feb 5. Summary: 51% felt 8 dogs were too many. 53% felt dog walkers were doing a good job; 47% felt they did not do a good job

The Board members had a general conversation and the following comments were made:

Leash-free parks were not established for dog walkers

No problem as long as the dogs are supervised

8 dogs are too many to keep an eye on

5 may be a good number

Dog walkers not able to adequately pick up the poop and supervise

They are very good at picking up poop when it is drawn to their attention.

The dogs are well behaved.

The majority of dog walkers are very responsible. There are some who are not.

Can be hard to watch 8 dogs but professional dog walkers can supervise 8 dogs.

Dog walkers pick up extra poop. Don't feel dog walkers are the real problem with poop not picked up.

No issues with dog walkers because they know dog behaviour.

Toronto allows 6 dogs, Hamilton 4 dogs per dog walker.

City will set up consultation meetings and advise LFM.

5. Park Representative Updates :

- Etobicoke Valley: No report
- Garnetwood: Mary Need a better bigger sign by Garnetwood because people do not see it.
- Jack Darling: Jeff One of the gate parks broken—advised it would be fixed in 10 days. Has been like a skating rink.
- JD Small Dog Park Lead: Steve The display board needs to be moved. Jamie will provide a cost to move.
- Lakeside: Ellen No report
- Parkway Belt: Carol The location of the light and a photo will be sent to Jamie who will investigate this lighting option since it was done at Lakeside. Very icy. Carol would like the membership list to be posted on the display board which should be possible now that the list is updated.
- Quenippenon: Jill No report (Jessica called in to 311 re broken lock)
- Totoredaca: No report

Board reports:

1. President. Letters sent to all city councillors introducing them to LFM and advising the need for more leash-free parks. Four responses were received and request for two meetings. First meeting today which Kevin and I attended. For new dog parks, we have to show community support. There is the possibility of generating support via social media.
2. Finance— LFM's financial records have been revised and updated for last fiscal year and updated reports have been done since October. Financial statements will be provided in March. LFM has over \$41,000 and the Board needs to identify projects to spend the money on. To be discussed at future meeting.
3. Membership -- LFM has 272 members. With over 80,000 dogs in Mississauga, of which if only 10% use our parks, that is 8,000 dogs. Steve suggested hosting a membership blitz in April which needs the support of all Board members and volunteers. Pick one or two parks per weekend. The goal is 1000 members. Give out bandana or branded poop bags. Need to set up a schedule and target both weekday and weekend.

Kevin has set up the Square. 2.65% service fee for the swipe, and 2.75% service fee for the tap.

Next steps:

Make up a schedule starting April. Maybe tie this event to a park clean up and give park users a bag and gloves to pick up poop so they are involved.

Parkway Belt does a membership drive on Earth Day.

Ask Jamie about poop bag containers as swag from Animal Services.

Jessica will get a price for branded poop bags.

We have baseball hats for sale/donation.

Advertisement on FB and social media. "A day at the park with your dog".

For bandanas: Ordering the whole inventory will cost about \$2000. To either sell or give away with a membership. Can be various colours, with the LFM logo

ACTION: Set up a calendar for April for what park and what times. Determine how to advertise this.

ACTION: Decide at March meeting whether to purchase bandanas, branded poop bags or both.

4. Fundraising and Events. Carolyn printed and laminated numerous items to be posted on all the display boards. Park reps will put up the designated materials on the display boards. (Package will be available for Toto for March) The policy for Display Boards was distributed (it had been previously emailed for Board review). It is the responsibility of the park reps to ensure the display boards are attractive with relevant material.

Carolyn reminded everyone to promote Flip Give to family, friends and part users, as our on-going fundraiser. The poster will be on the display board and she provided copies of the poster to hand out (with membership form on the back).

6. Website – Hugo—will be entering into a maintenance agreement for the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

7. Other business

- a) Pet wash machines. The vendor has arranged a meeting with the City to put in 5 pet wash machines at their cost. LFM will see if we can attend the meeting on March 4
- b) GetLeashed e-magazine. A really innovative publication with a huge circulation. There may be opportunities to promote leash-free parks through this. Consideration to loop in Eric Code from Toronto leash-free parks.
- c) Pet Expo in Mississauga in April. Steve arranged for special pricing for a booth. LFM had a booth for two years at no cost however it was deemed not be to worthwhile as most people who attend come from outside Mississauga. Also it's hard to get volunteers to staff the booth as it is during the Easter weekend. Jill offered about handing out business cards from the booth she will be working.
- d) Private dog parks. It was reported that there are three—Paris Ontario, Toronto and Nova Scotia. Private lock and only registered people can attend. (we should investigate the Paris one, as it could be a model for future leash-free parks)

- e) Education sessions—need to develop a plan for the Spring, to teach people about dog behaviour.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday March 6, 2019 at 7 pm.

Minutes taken by Gayle Laws