

# Southwest City Dog Park General Membership Meeting

March 9, 2010

Buder Public Library





# Agenda

- Introductions
- Organizational Structure
- 2009 – The Year in Review
- Membership Data
- Issues/Rules
- Financial Reports 2009 / Budget 2010
- Plans for 2010
- Member Committees
- Member Questions, Feedback, Ideas, etc.

# Introductions - SW City Dog Park Committee 2009 / 2010



Sunny

Cara Baker - President



Casey & Rusty

Joan Lange - Secretary

Annette Cantori – Vice President

Chris McKenzie – Treasurer



# Introductions

- Sub Committees – 2009 / 2010
  - Incident Review Process and Committee – Margaret Koening, Ray
  - Beautification Committee – Carol Dixon
  - Social Committee – Megan Sullivant
  - Landscaping Committee – Open Head



# Organizational Structure

- The SW City Dog Park Committee is made up of volunteers, we do this on top of our normal jobs and family activities - we are not paid and we work on the park during our free time.
- The Committee meets monthly to discuss current issues with the park.
  - Additional monthly meetings with the Southampton Neighborhood Association (SNA) Executive Board and bi-monthly general SNA membership meetings.
- All financials are incorporated into the SNA accounts and taxes are filed as 501(c)4, and SNA is responsible for tax filings.



# Organizational Structure

- Services provided by the City of St. Louis:
  - Tree trimming and pickup from the storms
  - Electricity for lighting
  - Water line
  - Ordinance 66595
- This does not include the following:
  - Grounds keeping for the site, including reseeding and landscaping company services.
  - Trash Pickup within the park - thank you to Ron (Elvis' dad) and others who help to empty the trash cans within the dog park! **But we can use more individuals to help with this!**
  - Membership issuance & tracking



# Dog Park Milestones

- May 2005 – Board of Alderman passes ordinance allowing fenced off-leash dog play areas
- November 2005 – Southampton Neighborhood Association agrees to sponsor SW City Dog Park Committee
- May – June 2006 – Fundraising activities including Pet Photo Contest, Garage Sale, Trivia Night with Stray Rescue
- September 2006 – Dog Park officially opens
- December 2008 – Expansion of Park



# 2009 - Year in Review

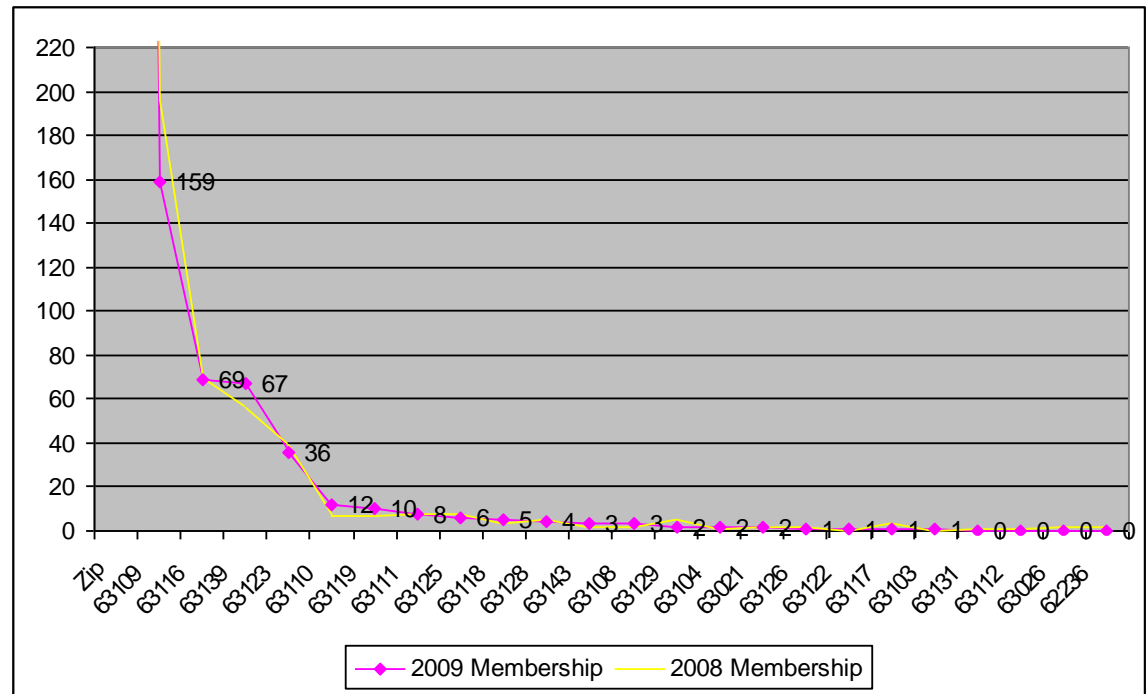
- Accomplishments / Activities Completed
  - 4th Membership Period / Renewals
  - Three dog behavior training sessions offered free to members; 2 in the summer for existing members and 1 in the fall for new members to the park
  - Increase resting periods for sections of the park to maintain grass throughout the summer/fall
  - Met with Parks Department and received approval to commence with sprinkler system project





# 2009 - 2010 Memberships

- YTD 2009/10
  - 392 Households  
(-7% from 2008)
    - 160 New members
    - 232 Prior members
  - 546 Dogs  
(-6% from 2008)
- Breakdown by Residence
  - 334 St. Louis City
    - 29 SNA
  - 58 Outside City





# Issues / Rules

- Continued Issues with Non-Member Access
  - Periodic issues with main gate.
  - Risks: No evidence that the dog is vaccinated, traceability if incident occurs, and insurance requirements.
- Aggressive behavior (members & dogs)
  - Respect others' wishes in terms of dog interaction!
  - Report issues to Incident Review Committee they need dog's name & tags numbers involved in issue, description of incident, any witnesses. Based on the severity of the incident and history of dogs/owners an action plan will be presented to the Board for consideration and action.
  - If no one reports it, Committee and Board can not respond.



# Financials - Actual 2009

## Revenue

Memberships	\$	13,735
Donations	\$	-
<i>Total 2009 Revenue</i>	\$	<u>13,735</u>

## Expenses

Landscaping	\$	8,708
Membership (Insurance, Mailings, Tags)	\$	3,331
Misc. (Consumables, Construction, etc)	\$	2,086
<i>Total 2009 Expenses</i>	\$	<u>14,125</u>

## Net Income

\$ (390)



# Financials - Budget 2010

## Revenue

Memberships	\$	13,750
Donations	\$	-
<i>Est. 2010 Revenue</i>	\$	<u><u>13,750</u></u>

## Expenses

Landscaping	\$	8,800
Membership (Insurance, Mailings, Tags)	\$	3,336
Misc. (Consumables, Construction, etc)*	\$	1,255
<i>Est. 2010 Expenses</i>	\$	<u><u>13,391</u></u>

## Net Income

\$ 359

\* Does not include capital project for Sprinkler System



# 2010 Planned Projects

- Grounds keeping
  - Ordinance 66595 requires that the dog park surface be either stone dust or grass, and that *"If grass, it must be irrigated and reseeded in the fall and spring – understanding that some of the area will have to be cordoned off during the reseeding process."*
  - Receive bids for waterline and sprinkler system based on RFP, based on project cost will either start project in spring or determine fund raising needs. Project being led by Don Huber – thank you Don!
  - In the April / May timeframe we will be closing the park for 5-6 weeks to re-seed and plant additionally ornamental grasses.
    - Ornamental grass (Pampas, etc) will be scattered to encourage dogs & people to move around the park, also reduce "line of sight" aggressive behavior between dogs.
- Events
  - Yappy Hour during spring closure – events for 2 legged only and/or with dogs
  - New Member Training (Sept/Oct)

# Open Dog Park Committee Positions 2010

## ● Landscaping Chair

- After 4 years organizing, Annette has stepped down. Activities this position are responsible for include:
  - Coordinating spring closure for re-seeding
  - Working with lawn service on activities
  - Coordinating sectioning off & closing portions of the park for watering and re-seeding
  - Organize hay purchase and spreading throughout the park
  - Have a couple of volunteers to assist the chair that are already in place

**We need this position filled ASAP –  
since it seems spring is here!**



# Opportunities to Help / Committees

- We need volunteers!
  - Web Site Designer – our site desperately needs an update
  - Incident Review Committee - handle and address issues / incidents between members & their dogs
  - Landscaping / Maintenance - oversee maintenance needs, including trash pick-up
  - Social / Events- organize future events at the park and membership activities, fundraising if project identified beyond current financial abilities
  - Mailings / Newsletter - organize and design mailings/newsletters for the membership





# Member Feedback

- Questions?
- Feedback?
- Comments?
- Concerns?
- Ideas to improve the dog park?

THANK YOU !!