



## West County D.O.G.S.

Dogparks of Greater St. Louis—  
West County Chapter

### Mission

Our mission is to contribute to the health and well-being of people and domestic dogs by advocating for the inclusion, design, construction, maintenance, and safe operation of legal, enclosed, off-leash recreation areas in West County St. Louis.

### Vision

We envision a system of dog parks, with a range of sizes and features, serving the needs of a diverse population.

## Meeting minutes

### Opening business

The regular meeting of West County D.O.G.S. was called to order at 7:10 PM on April 6, 2005, at the Thornhill Branch of the St. Louis County Public Library, by Diane M. Thomas, chairperson. Other members present were Carol Panter (CP) and Amy Lile (AL). The agenda for the current meeting was approved. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### Chairperson report

DT reported on the following:

- Exhibit board—DT showed a photo of the exhibit and discussed additional requirements for a fundraiser exhibit.
- Fundraising inventory loan—DT described the purpose of the loan, the members present discussed the nature and cost of the proposed inventory.
- Gumbo Flats Dog Park for a Day proposal—DT reported on the email exchanges with Steve Anderson from County Business Development, lack of response from Garry Earls, St. Louis County Director of Public Works, and a plan for soliciting response. Members present offered suggestions for how to solicit responses.

### Community reports

DT reported on an email exchange with Mike Casey, Chesterfield City Councilmember, reminding him to support off-leash recreation. Mr. Casey responded with a report on the recommendations from the Parks, Recreation, and Arts Citizens Action Commission in Chesterfield, saying that it was included as a recommended amenity, but it didn't receive as high a priority as he had hoped. He suggested that West County D.O.G.S. contact Public Works to request a place on their agenda in order to give a presentation on off-leash recreation.

DT reported that she has emailed Darren Dunkle, but has gotten no response so far. In addition, she is continuing to work on a West County position paper and has started working on an accompanying PowerPoint presentation. She mentioned that the format of the Peer Training presentation this month is what she plans to use for the OLRA presentation.

### Peer-to-peer training time

The presentation on *Making Personal Contact with Potential Participants* went smoothly and generated informative discussion.

### Old business

- AL reviewed requirements for acquiring an inventory of Pet Alert window static decals for fundraising. DT will add these to the proposal for a loan to the board.
- DT asked for suggestions or reminders of missing features to make the Bark in the Park exhibit better. AL offered suggestions for displaying the Pet Alert stickers
- DT reported that she is continuing with the strategic plan and has made progress on individual logic models for the member recruitment, advocacy, and fundraising components. No examples were available.

### ***New business***

CP reported that the landscape architecture firm of Corban and Goode, on behalf of the New Town Development in St. Charles County, has proposed that D.O.G.S. consult with them to consider where and how an OLRA will fit into the development.

Also, CP reported that Andrea James, St. Charles County Marketing Director, stated that the County is planning another three-acre OLRA with access to a lake in Broemmelsiek Park, an undeveloped park currently not open to the public.

In addition, she reported that the information given to us about a new head of Parks and Recreation in St. Charles County is erroneous, that Bettie Yahn-Kramer is still the Director. DT will change the website ASAP.

### ***Open forum/brainstorming***

- Members present discussed and critiqued the text of the proposed online petition for Chesterfield, to be published on [www.petitionsonline.com](http://www.petitionsonline.com). Some comments included that it was too long and implied more involvement with park maintenance by volunteers than was actually intended.
- DT reported she had a small announcement placed in the Town and Country Town Crier about West County D.O.G.S.

### ***Closing business***

DT reviewed the upcoming events/volunteer opportunities including:

- Canine Freestyle class—April 13-June 1
- DOGS board meeting—April 13
- Pet Expo—April 16-17
- Kids 'n' K9s—April 17
- Bark in the Park—May 15
- Petropolis Pet Carnival—May 21

No action items were assigned for next month. The date and location for the next meeting will be announced later in the month because no rooms were available at the library in May.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 P.M. by Diane Thomas.

Minutes submitted by Diane M. Thomas