

August 2, 2011



City Council Committee Report

To: Mayor & Council

**Fr: Richard Perchuk, Operations Manager
Barbara A. Manson, Parks Supervisor**

Re: Off-Leash Dog Parks

Recommendation:

That Council of the City of Kenora approves the mandate of the Dog Park Committee which includes upgrading the current Off-Leash Dog Park at Kenora Central Rink (seasonal); and further

That approval be granted for the Committee to investigate and promote the development of future off-leash dog parks within the City of Kenora.

Background:

The Beaches, Parks & Trails Report (2010) has identified the need for Dog Parks in Kenora. A petition with 600+ names has been gathered by Patrick Lessard in support of off-leash dog parks in Kenora.

In 2011, a Dog Park Committee was formed to investigate and promote the development of future off-leash Dog Parks within the City of Kenora and to upgrade the existing dog park at Kenora Central Park. The Committee consists of Councilor Sharon Smith, Barb Manson, Parks Supervisor (City resource) and five members at large – Patrick Lessard, Chris Madison, Mike LeMaistre, Alana Brown and Sandra Ivanowich.

Off-leash recreation areas contribute to urban animal management and the urban environment. Designated spaces for dogs reduces the likelihood of dogs being let loose in other recreational areas where they infringe on the rights of other park users. Designated off-leash areas reduce the resources of law-enforcement and animal control officers. Off-leash areas allow dogs to socialize and provides an opportunity for dog owners to enjoy the outside and participate in physical activities with their canine friends.

Kenora Central Park is in its second year of use as an off-leash dog park, with a letter of approval from the Kenora Central Park Community Club. This is for seasonal summer use only. Upgrades that are required are a gated door to the rink area, some minor repairs to the other gate so the dogs cannot crawl under

it, some other gaps under the fencing and one broken board. Currently there is a dog waste dispenser at this location. Signage (with rules for the dog park) is to be added this year.

The Dog Park Committee plans to investigate other off-leash locations, have public meetings, research funding opportunities and then submit to Council for final approval on future dog park locations.

Budget:

Central Park upgrades – Operational Budget

Signage – Operational Budget

Future Dog Park Development – Granting/Capital Projects

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements:

Resolution only.

Distribution: Richard Perchuk, Operations Manager, Barbara A. Manson, Parks Supervisor, Jeff Simpkins, By-law Officer