Oakland City Planning Commission STAFF REPORT

Case File Number CU11-208 **May 2, 2012**

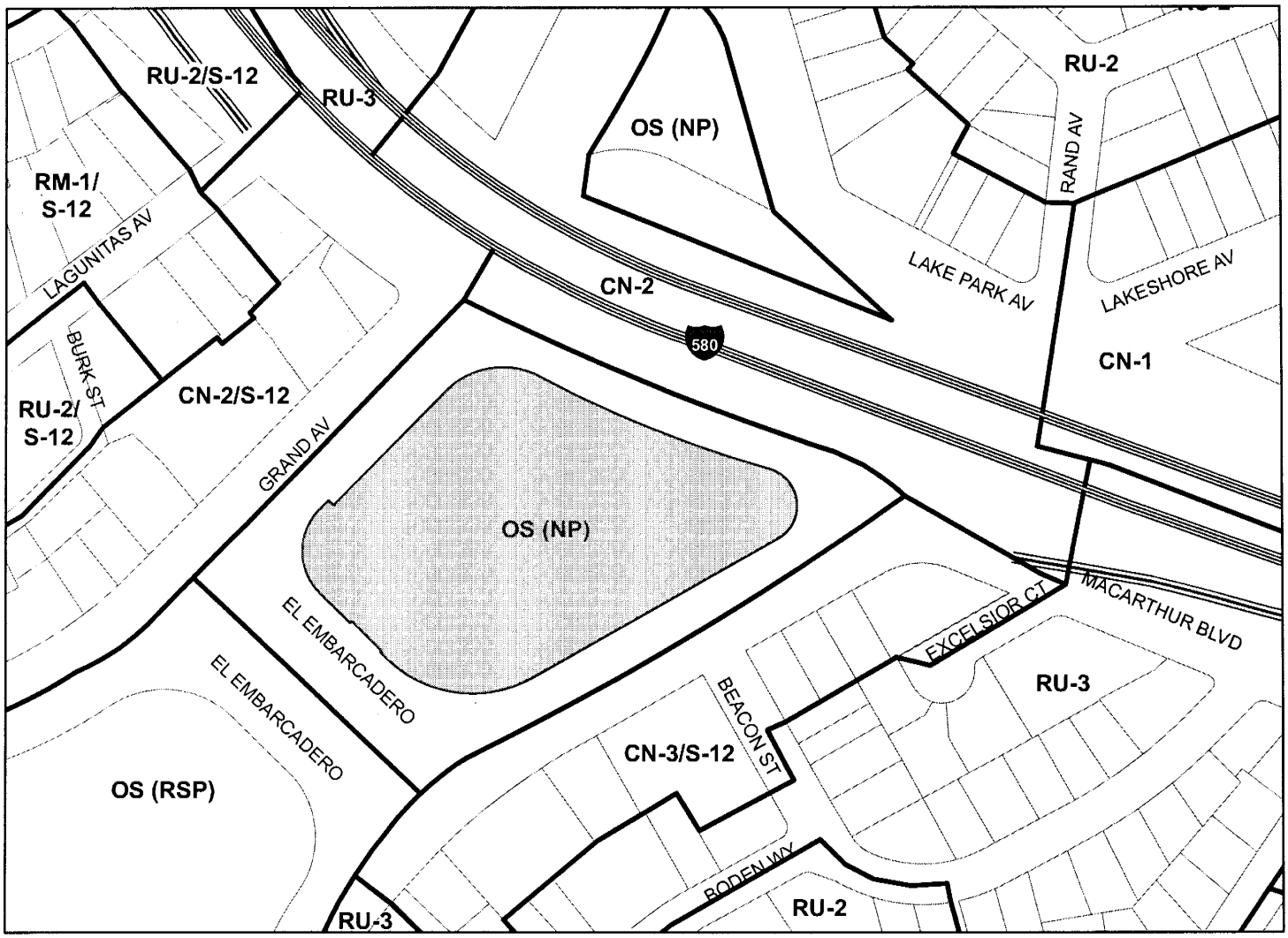
Location:	**Lakeview Park, northeast corner at MacArthur Blvd. and Lake Shore Ave. (APN: 011 -0836-041-04)** **(see map on reverse)**
Proposal:	To establish an off-leash Dog Play Area.
Applicant:	City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation
Contact Person/ Phone Number:	Mark Hall (510) 238-3817
Case File Number:	**CU11-208**
Planning Permits Required:	A Conditional Use Permit is required to establish a dog play area at an existing neighborhood park.
General Plan:	Urban Open Space
Zoning:	OS (NP) - Open Space (Neighborhood Park)
Environmental Determination:	Exempt, Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines: Existing Public Facilities; Section 15332 of the State CEQA Guidelines: Infill Development Projects; Section 15183 of the State CEQA Guidelines: Projects consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan or Zoning
Historic Status:	Not a Potential Designated Historic Property (Note: The Lakeview Library building is in the LM1:Lake Merritt Historic District; Lakeview Park is not)
Service Delivery District:	3
City Council District:	3
Date Filed:	November 9, 2011 (complete on February 23, 2012)
Action to be Taken:	Decision on Application
Finality of Decision:	*Appealable to City Council within 10 days of decision*
For Further Information:	Contact case planner **Ann Clevenger, Planner III** at **(510) 238-6980** or aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

SUMMARY

The Applicant, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), requests approval of a Conditional Use Permit to establish a Dog Play Area at the northeast corner of Lakeview Park, an existing public park located at MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave., near Lake Merritt (see Plans, including Photographs, Attachment "C"). The project is sponsored by the Oakland Dog Owners' Group (ODOG) and the OPR. The Dog Play Area would provide a fenced area for dog owners to exercise their dogs off-leash, would be approximately 20,778 s.f. in area (including a 17,286 s.f. section for large dogs and a 3,492 s.f. section for small dogs), and would be subject to park rules regarding access hours (6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.), and other rules as identified in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and ODOG (Attachment "D"). Pursuant to Planning Code Section 17.134.040(B)(1), the Planning Director has referred this application to the City Planning Commission for a decision due to the prominence of its location as well as the intense public comment (Attachment "J").

Staff recommends approval of the Conditional Use Permit, subject to the Findings and Conditions of Approval (Attachments "A" and "B", respectively). Staff has included Alternate Findings for Denial should the Planning Commission decide to deny the project (Attachment "I").

CITY OF OAKLAND PLANNING COMMISSION



Case File: CU11-208
Applicant: City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation
Address: Lakeview Park, northeast corner at MacArthur Blvd and Lake Shore Ave
Zone: OS (NP)

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The project site is at Lakeview Park (also sometimes referred to as "Astro Park" and "Eastshore Park"), which is an existing City of Oakland Neighborhood Park consisting of a total area of 158,994 s.f. (3.66 acres). The park is located east of Lake Merritt, and bounded by MacArthur Blvd., Lake Shore Ave., Grand Ave. and El Embarcadero. The Park contains the Lakeview Public Library, and is bisected by the library parking lot which has access to Grand Avenue and Lakeshore Drive. The Park is surrounded by residential and retail uses in the Grand Lake Neighborhood and Lake Merritt area. Interstate 580 is located directly across MacArthur Blvd., approximately 100 feet to the east of the park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

General

The proposed Dog Play Area would be located at the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Lake Shore Ave. at Lakeview Park, a City of Oakland Neighborhood Park. It would provide a fenced off-leash Dog Play Area for dog owners to exercise their dogs. The project is sponsored by the Oakland Dog Owners' Group (ODOG) in conjunction with the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation. The Dog Play Area would be subject to Lakeview Park rules regarding hours of use, and rules signs would be posted for dog owners. Maintenance responsibilities are addressed in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and ODOG.

Physical Description

The project would consist of approximately 20,778 s.f. in total area (approximately .5 acres), including a 17,286 s.f. section for large dogs and a 3,492 s.f. section for small dogs. The Dog Play Area would be enclosed by a 4-foot tall fence of ornamental iron at the perimeter, and screened or partially screened by flowering vines. The perimeter fence would be located a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of the sidewalk along MacArthur Blvd., 25 feet from the edge of the sidewalk at Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from the closest edge of the Astro Park Children's Play Area. There would be an internal fence subdividing the large dog and small dog areas. The Dog Play Area would feature a double-gated safety entrance/exit, ADA accessibility, water, signage, seating, re-purposed wood chip ground cover, perimeter landscaping and sprinklers, and multiple dispensers for waste clean up bags, and an underground waste management system.

History

Since 1998, various proposals have been made to develop a dog park which was identified as an unmet community need. Originally the area known as Splash Pad, east of the 580 Freeway, was under consideration but this location was rejected based on neighborhood concerns. The Lake Merritt Master Plan was approved by the City Council in 2002, which identifies a special area for dogs at the currently proposed site along MacArthur Blvd. The same year, the Adams Point Neighborhood Plan was approved that includes a dog park at the corner of Lakeshore Ave. and MacArthur Blvd. In 2006, in accordance with Planning Code requirements, the Lakeview site was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), which voted to recommend approval of the Dog Play Area with a one-year probationary period (Attachment "E"). No Conditional Use Permit application was filed, however, after the PRAC meeting. In 2009 and 2010, the project was presented at the Adams Point Action Council and Grand Lake Neighborhood Group. In December of 2010, the PRAC unanimously voted to recommend approval of the project (Attachment "F"), and preparations were begun to assemble application materials for submission to the Planning Department. Due to new opposition to the proposed location, the project was taken back to PRAC in July of 2011, where presentations for an alternative location were made by a group who opposed the Lakeview Park site, and the Committee ended in a split vote (3-3) (Attachment "G"). The Applicant submitted their Planning application on November 9, 2011 (it was complete on February 23, 2012).

GENERAL PLAN ANALYSIS

General Plan Land Use & Transportation Element (LUTE)
The project site is located in the "Urban Open Space" Land Use area per the General Plan's Land Use & Transportation Element (LUTE). The Intent of the classification is: *"to identify, enhance and maintain land for parks and open space. Its purpose is to maintain an urban park, schoolyard and garden system which provides open space for outdoor recreation, psychological and physical well-being, and relief from the urban environment."* The desired character and uses for this Land Use area include, *"urban parks, schoolyards, cemeteries, and other active outdoor recreation areas."*

The General Plan LUTE further identifies the site as located in the Downtown area, which is a Showcase District, (see City Structure Diagram, page 6). Oakland has five Showcase Districts: Downtown, the Mixed Use Waterfront, the Coliseum Area, and the Airport/Gateway. These form a crescent framing the bay, and are the districts where activities will *"link Oakland with the region, the nation and the Pacific Rim. Far reaching economic activities will be complements by the cultural, recreational and commercial choices that make a world-class city."* The General Plan recognizes the Downtown area as both an employment area and a collection of neighborhoods. Its goals include *"promoting the downtown areas as a dynamic economic center and a premier location for urban residential living, building upon existing neighborhoods and promoting and expanding a pedestrian-friendly, diverse an exciting range of housing, social, cultural, and arts opportunities."*

The General Plan LUTE Strategy Objective for this area is one of 'Maintain and Enhance' (see Strategy Diagram, page 122). This designation is used in areas *"where the predominant established uses and densities will continue – changes in use and density will be small. Implementation actions will emphasize enhancement and improvement, and where needed, strategies to discourage or prohibit intensification."*

Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR)
The Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR), was adopted by the City Council in 1996 as an element of the Oakland General Plan. The Introduction to Chapter 4, Recreation, states that this chapter *"...is comprehensive in scope but not intended to be a 'Park Master Plan.' The City still needs to prepare a plan which specifically addresses capital improvements, funding sources, park administration and program changes. The OSCAR Element sets a policy framework for such a plan but stops short of making detailed recommendations for service delivery and capital improvements."*

Table 16, page 4-43 of OSCAR lists 20 items that are identified as "Major Unmet Capital Needs in Oakland Parks (not necessarily in priority order). Item #12 on the list states: *"'Dog park', providing exercise/play areas and possibly providing obedience training, veterinary and vaccination services, and a kennel (citywide)."*

OSCAR classifies Lakeview Park as a Neighborhood Park. It states that these are parks generally ranging from 2-10 acres in size and located in a residential area within walking distance of its primary uses, and should contain: landscaped picnic areas and lawn; childrens' play areas/tot lots; hard court area for basketball; multi-purpose turf area (ballfield); restrooms (where the park supports major athletic events); picnic tables and sitting areas.

Lake Merritt Park Master Plan
The Lake Merritt Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2002 as a Master Plan document providing a comprehensive set of recommendations for future development and activity around Lake Merritt.

The Plan includes the following references to a dog park along MacArthur Blvd., at the currently proposed site:

The Plan's Park Programming Map (Figure 3.2) includes a reference to a "Potential Off-Leash Dog Area" within Lakeview Park, in approximately the same location as the proposed Dog Play Area. Reference is again made to a special area for dogs along MacArthur Boulevard; off-leash status pursuant to City of Oakland regulations with low fencing required in off –leash area.

Table V.1 of the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan lists Project Descriptions for numerous recommended projects for which corresponding locations are illustrated on Figure V.1. Among them include "LKSH 9", with a title of Eastshore Park Renovation and describes *"Renovation of park area including parking lot; library sitework; open lawn areas; dog area enclosure; sports facilities; lighting; planting; irrigation."*

Staff finds that the project, to establish a Dog Play Area at an existing public park which fills an identified and unmet need to the community, conforms to the goals and objectives of the General Plan and specific recommendations contained in Lake Merritt Park Master Plan.

ZONING ANALYSIS

The project site is located within the Open Space/Neighborhood Park (OS/NP) Zone. The intent of the OS/NP Zone is, *"to create, preserve, and enhance land for permanent open space to meet the active and passive recreational needs of Oakland residents and to promote park uses which are compatible with surrounding land uses and the city's natural environment."*

Lakeview Park is considered a "Recreational Assembly Civic Activity" (Planning Code Section 17.10.170, Use Classifications), and the table found in Planning Code Section 17.11.060 (OS Open Space Zoning Regulations) lists a fenced Dog Play Area as a "Community Assembly Civic Activity", and further indicates that it requires a Minor Conditional Use Permit (Planning Code Section 17.134.050). Further, applications for conditional use permits in the OS zone shall be subject to the special use permit review procedure for the OS zone established in Chapter 17.135.

The purpose of the Conditional Use Permit is to evaluate uses with special site or design requirements, operating characteristics, or potential adverse effects on surroundings, through review and, where necessary, impose special conditions of approval. Pursuant to Planning Code Section 17.134.040(B)(1), the Planning Director has referred this application to the City Planning Commission for a decision due to the prominence of the location as well as the intense public comment on the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines categorically exempts specific types of projects from environmental review.

Section 15301 of the State CEQA Guidelines categorically exempts projects involving *operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.."*

As a separate and independent basis, the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15332 of the State CEQA Guidelines, which categorically exempts In-Fill Development Projects, may also apply.

The proposal is to establish a 20,778 s.f. Dog Play Area at Lakeview Park, which is an existing City of Oakland public park consisting of a total area of 158,994 s.f., and which is located within the Oakland city limits and is substantially surrounded by urban uses. The construction of the dog park will be relatively minor, consisting of a 4' tall metal perimeter fence, landscaping and a permeable surface of wood chips. Such minor construction should pose no environmental impacts under normal circumstances. The site has no value as habitat for any category of protected species, and would not affect air quality or water quality. The Dog Play Area would operate under an MOU between the City Parks and Recreation and the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) to ensure that installation of landscaping and maintenance is carried out as appropriate to ensure no adverse impacts will result on the neighborhood or the City of Oakland. The project is not expected to generate any substantial vehicular traffic; therefore, traffic impacts are not expected to occur.

As a separate and independent basis, the project is exempt under Section 15183 of the State CEQA Guidelines (projects that are *consistent with a community plan, general plan or zoning.*)

Staff finds that the project is therefore exempt from Environmental Review.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Dogs in Parks:
The Oakland Municipal Code, 6.04.080 prohibits dogs in public parks, leashed or unleashed, with very few exceptions. Subsection (C) states that, "Dogs are permitted to be off-leash when authorized in a writing or resolution by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and then as amended therein. The permitted off-leash areas currently include: Hardy Park, Mosswood Park, Martin Luther King, Jr. (a.k.a. Grove Shafter) Park, Joaquin Miller, and Jefferson Park dog play areas. Currently, the nearest Oakland dog park is in Mosswood Park, about two miles away from the proposed site. Should the Planning Commission approve the project, the project would still need specific approval from PRAC and the City Council would still need to amend the municipal code to incorporate Lakeview Park into the list of dog-permitted parks prior to the activity beginning operation (see Condition #17).

In accordance with City of Oakland requirements, the project was been presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC) for public review and recommendations. The PRAC voted unanimously to approve the design for the proposal in December of 2010. In July of 2011, PRAC considered a recommendation on the CUP for the proposal. At that meeting, a group that had organized in opposition to the project made a presentation, and the PRAC ended in a split vote (3-3). Although the motion did not succeed, PRAC's action fulfilled its advisory obligation to make a recommendation such that the CUP application could proceed to the Planning Commission.

Maintenance/Landscaping
Maintenance of the park and the plantings would be shared by the City and the Lakeview Park Dog Owners Group, under an MOU using the guidelines in place at other Oakland dog runs (Attachment "D").

Plantings would be selected by OPR for appearance and easy long-term maintenance by volunteers. Vines and flowers would be maintained as needed by the Paw and Prune Club at Lakeview Dog Park. Irrigation would be installed and maintained by the City. The fence would be maintained as needed, and the wood chip surface, donated by The Professional Tree Care Company, would be maintained approximately 3 times per year. Dog

owners would do all of the day-to-day maintenance; Public Works will remove waste as needed using the Magic Can Underground Waste Management System (per the Applicant, this system keeps waste cool and odor free and requires less frequent pick up than traditional waste removal systems; only needs staff attention about once a month). Per the Applicant, dog owners have already formed their own maintenance group and have agreed to the terms of the MOU.

Safety/Security

Issues of Safety and Security have been raised by those concerned with the Dog Play Area's presence, particularly given its proximity to the Astro Park, a children's play area. The Applicant has proposed to address this as follows: The Dog Play Area would be subject to the existing park rules regarding access hours. Dogs must be on leash to approach the dog run and will not need to get in the way of activities on the field or in the Astro Park "tot lot" area. Children would be protected from the dogs and dog run by a four foot fence around the dog area, by 35 foot distance from the play equipment (25 feet from the playground buffer zone) and by the requirement that dogs stay leashed until they are within the dog enclosure.

Funding

Per the Applicant, funding for the project is by the City (approximately 40%) in partnership with the dog owners (approximately 60%) with a total budget of about $70,000. The Applicant notes that City funds have been earmarked for this project since before 2006 by Public Works and the City Council office. In addition, dog owners have raised $10,000 in private and corporate funding and will bring in additional funds for the initial construction (Stage 1) of the Dog Play Area for the fence, planting (except perimeter trees) and irrigation, and all safety and access features such as ADA access, Magic Can Waste System, truck access, and basic rules signage. Stage two funding will be developed from actual users of the Dog Play Area and will fund perimeter trees, furniture, decorative entrance signage, decorative metal dog silhouettes on the fence and amenities in the dog run.

Other Dog Play Areas located in Oakland include:

- Hardy Park (14,942 s.f.)
- Jefferson Park (6,636 s.f.)
- Joaquin Miller (26,704 s.f.)
- Martin Luther King, Jr., a.k.a., Grove-Shafter (23,565 s.f.)
- Mosswood (14,073 s.f.)

The designs for the existing dog areas include: in-ground trash receptacles, spigots for animal drinking, and separate areas for large and small dogs. The Applicant, the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation, states that other than complaints regarding the proximity of dogs to active tennis play at Mosswood Park, dog play areas in Oakland have not resulted in many direct complaints.

As of this writing, the Applicant has taken this item to PRAC on two occasions: in December, 2010 when PRAC voted unanimously to recommend approval of the project, and in July, 2011, when an organized group opposing the project attended and there was a split vote.

Since the PRAC meetings, up to and including the issuance of Public Notices for this Conditional Use Permit application, hundreds of comments, and some petitions, have been submitted to the Planning Department and other City offices expressing both support and opposition. (Attachment "J").

While the majority of the community members do not question the merits of a dog play area project in concept, a number of issues have been raised regarding the proposed location, among other concerns. Staff has received comments on both sides. The major issues raised (in **bold**), followed by Staff's responses, are:

(a) Loss of multi-purpose field area

Concerns were raised asserting that the field area is used frequently, e.g., for pick-up soccer games, etc., and this area should be reserved for use by people rather than dogs. Supporters state that the field is not frequently used, and since dogs are not currently permitted in the Lake Merritt area on or off-leash, (which is the case in almost all Oakland parks not mentioned above) there is an unmet need for a dog play area here. The City has to consider a diverse range of end users when considering what uses are allowed in a City park, hence the CUP process.

(b) Parking / traffic–related impacts

Concerns were raised that more people would be driving their dogs to the park and taking up more of the parking areas. Supporters of the project state that there should not be parking or traffic impacts since more people will be walking their dogs to the park from within the neighborhood, rather than driving to parks in other cities.

(c) Noise (barking), odors and health-related impacts

Concerns were raised about noise, odors and health issues resulting from dog feces and urine in a park with children and adults nearby, and that there are no assurances that individual dog owners will pick up after their dogs. Supporters of the project point out that noise would be managed by posted rules, and odors would not be an issue because dog owners would pick up after their dogs; multiple dispensers for waste clean-up bags will be installed, and an underground waste management system would be used and serviced on a regular basis.

(d) Ongoing maintenance / funding

Concerns were raised that since a good portion of the project relies on volunteers and donations, there are no guarantees that funding will be available to ensure its ongoing maintenance. Supporters point out that much of the funding has already been raised, and the MOU/Maintenance Plan developed between OPR and ODOG ensures the project will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

(e) Safety (e.g., dogs could get loose and harm children nearby)

Concerns were raised that dogs could get loose and scare or injure children or other park users. Proponents do not believe this to be the case; rather, they argue the Dog Play Area would feature a double-gated safety entrance/exit, and that and the Dog Play Area would actually be a benefit for children in that it would give them an opportunity to socialize with dogs in a safe setting. Dogs would be on-leash as they go to and from the Play Area so that at no time would other park users be forced to encounter dogs off-leash.

(f) Aesthetics of the fence and other improvements, replacing grass with wood chips

Concerns regarding the physical appearance of the Dog Play Area; that it would be unattractive, and even possibly and eyesore, and that green lawn areas should not be removed in favor of wood chips.

Plans filed for the Dog Play Area should that it would be enclosed by a 4-foot tall fence of ornamental iron at the perimeter, and screened or partially screened by flowering vines. The perimeter fence would be set back a minimum of 10 feet from the edge of the sidewalk along MacArthur Blvd., 25 feet from the edge of the sidewalk at Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from the closest edge of the Astro Park Children's Play Area. Re-purposed wood chip ground cover would be used and replaced periodically. Landscaping including vines at the perimeter fence and sprinklers would be installed, and trees would be added as part of the second phase of the project once funds are available.

Summary Comments by Staff:
Parking and traffic impacts should not be substantial since more people are likely to be walking their dogs to the park from within the neighborhood, rather than driving to parks farther away in Oakland or in other cities.

The Applicant has provided information showing that much of the funding has already been raised, and the MOU/Maintenance Plan developed between OPR and ODOG ensures the project will be maintained on an ongoing basis.

Staff believes that, on balance, this is an appropriate use in this location. It is accessible to many of the denser urban neighborhoods near Lake Merritt. It is of reasonable size while still preserving the majority of the park for existing uses. The proposed Dog Play Area would in fact take up approximately 23% of the 3.66 acres park area leaving the remaining 77% for the Astro Park tot lot and open spaces available for other uses. While Lakeview Park is in the small end of the size range for Neighborhood Parks (2-10 acres, per the definition in OSCAR), Lakeview Park is adjacent to the much larger Lakeside Park surrounding Lake Merritt, and the Dog Play Area takes up less than 1% of the green space in the overall Lake Merritt area and less than 25% of Lakeview Park.

The quality of design and materials is demonstrated through a 4-foot tall ornamental iron perimeter fence, planted with flowering vines (with irrigation system) along its outside that would grow up and into the fence creating a visually pleasing appearance, quality signage and gates, and a commitment to replace the wood chip groundcover within the Dog Play Area periodically.

There are no outstanding issues associated with the request. In conclusion, staff recommends approval of the request for a Conditional Use Permit to establish a Dog Play Area at Lakeview Park.

The Planning Commission may, as an alternative, find the project should be denied. Findings for denial are included herein (see Attachment "I").

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Affirm staff's environmental determination.
2. Approve the Conditional Use Permit subject to the attached findings and conditions in Attachments "A" and "B".

ALTERNATIVE PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION (should the Planning Commission determine that the proposal is not appropriate at this location):

1. Find that the project is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines section 15270, Projects Which are Disapproved.
2. Deny the Conditional Use Permit, subject to the attached findings in Attachment "I".

Prepared by:

ANN CLEVENGER, Planner III

Approved by:

ROBERT MERKAMP, Acting Zoning Manager

Approved for forwarding to the
City Planning Commission:

SCOTT MILLER, Interim Planning & Zoning Director

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Findings for Approval
B. Conditions of Approval
C. Plans, including Photographs
D. Memorandum of Understanding between OPR and ODOG
E. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (July, 2006)
F. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (December, 2010)
G. PRAC Meeting Report/Minutes (July, 2011)
H. Project Summary / History & Timeline of Public Processes
I. Alternative Findings (Findings for Denial)
J. Comment Letters and Petitions

Attachment A: Findings for Approval

This proposal meets the required findings under General Use Permit Criteria (OMC Sec. 17.134.050) as follows:

SECTION 17.134.050 – GENERAL USE PERMIT CRITERIA:

A. That the location, size, design, and operating characteristics of the proposed development will be compatible with and will not adversely affect the livability or appropriate development of abutting properties and the surrounding neighborhood, with consideration to be given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage, and density; to the availability of civic facilities and utilities; to harmful effect, if any, upon desirable neighborhood character; to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets; and to any other relevant impact of the development.

The Dog Play Area would be located in Lakeview Park, a 3.66 acre park bounded by Grand Avenue, MacArthur Blvd , Lakeshore Avenue and El Embarcadero. Currently there is a library (Lakeview Library), a children's play area (Astro Park), and a multi-purpose field. The Dog Play Area would be located at the corner of the field area at MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave.

Lakeview Park is adjacent to Lakeside Park (a much larger region-serving park), which surrounds Lake Merritt (approx. 75 acres). The two parks together provide children's playgrounds (including Astro Park in Lakeview Park near the proposed dog play area) and more than 75 acres of green space around the Lake available for multiple types of uses, including picnicking, informal sports games, exercise classes, jogging, boating, etc.

At 20,778 s.f., the dog run would take up about 23% of Lakeview Park; the Astro Park children's playground takes up about 11% of the field, and the remaining 66% is available for soccer, picnics, etc. Again, when viewed together, the Dog Play Area takes up less than 1% of the green space in the overall Lake Merritt Area and less than 25% of Lakeview Park.

Lakeview Dog Play Area is designed with attention to aesthetic quality (using a 4' high ornamental iron fence with flowering vines to be planted along its perimeter), a maintenance component (MOU between the City and the Oakland Dog Owners Group), and would be the only dog play area located in Central Oakland.

Since dogs are banned from all City parks, including Lake Merritt, except for a few locations that received special approval (the nearest Oakland dog park to this neighborhood is in Mosswood Park, about two miles away), the area meets most outdoor recreational needs of its residents with the exception of a dog play area. The proposed dog run improves the livability of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt community by providing a safe and legal gathering place for people of all ages and backgrounds to meet, share their interest in dogs and get to know their neighbors.

This public amenity leaves space for all the current activities at the park including the Lakeview Library, the Astro Park tot lot and the exercise bars on Grand Avenue which are used year round, as well as the field which is used for occasional pick-up soccer, kids' softball, volleyball and picnics.

From a safety standpoint, the Dog Play Area would provide a safe place in the park for people to watch their dogs play off-leash. Dogs would be on-leash as they go to and from the Play Area so that at no time would other park users be forced to encounter dogs off-leash.

Families at the Astro Park children's playground will be more than 25 feet away from the dog run fence and parents will have the choice of whether or not to let their children interact with the dogs. The area of the dog

run closest to the tot lot is reserved for small dogs. The Applicant asserts that more than a decade of experience at Hardy Park, with the fenced dog run adjacent to the children's playground, demonstrates that both uses function well in close proximity and may even help some children become less fearful of dogs.

Low Visual Impact - The dog play area is designed to have minimum visual impact on the park and the neighborhood and the fence would be setback a minimum of 10 feet from the sidewalk and bus stops along MacArthur Blvd., 25' minimum from the sidewalk and bus stop along Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from Astro Park.

B. That the location, design, and site planning of the proposed development will provide a convenient and functional living, working, shopping, or civic environment, and will be as attractive as the nature of the use and its location and setting warrant.

This location is convenient to serve the densely-populated downtown neighborhoods of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt areas. It is reasonable to expect that a growing population of residents in the area's homes, apartments and condominiums will include more dog owners and further increase the demand for such community amenities as a dog play area.

The establishment of this Dog Play Area, as proposed, fills a significant unmet need. Currently dogs are banned from all parks in Oakland except by vote of City Council. With more than 1000 acres of park space and more than 100 City parks, Oakland has less than five acres of off-leash space (fenced dog runs from 1/3 acre to about one acre in the following City parks: Hardy Park, Mosswood Park, Jefferson Park, Joaquin Miller Park, Grove Shafter Park). None of these are convenient to residents of the Grand Lake and Lake Merritt neighborhoods. A Dog Play Area would add another amenity that would keep neighborhood residents "local", as well as attracting other people to the area's parks, shops and restaurants.

As described in the findings under "A" above, the design would be attractive, using a 4' high ornamental iron fence with flowering vines to be planted along its perimeter. No structures will be erected other than this fence. The 4' fence height would allow for minimal disruption of the visual openness of the park area, while containing the dogs adequately. The flowering vines would be selected in consultation with the Office of Parks and Recreation, based on appropriateness and ease of maintenance.

C. That the proposed development will enhance the successful operation of the surrounding area in its basic community functions, or will provide an essential service to the community or region.

A Dog Play Area would add another amenity that would keep neighborhood residents "local", as well as attracting other people to the area's parks, shops and restaurants. Many people move to Lake Merritt for a "greener" lifestyle and want to be able to walk to their community amenities. This specific location near Lake Merritt is planned so that its accessibility, design and site planning will best serve the needs of the greatest array of potential users. The site was selected after years of study and community input.

The Dog Play Area would provide an essential service to the neighborhood because dogs are currently prohibited, even on-leash, in Lakeview Park, Lakeside Park and most other Oakland parks. The nearest park where people can take their dog is more than a mile away. Dog owning families can't legally bring their dogs with them while their children play in Astro Park or other parts of Lakeview or Lakeside Park. Elderly people who have had to limit or eliminate their driving will be able to exercise their dogs near home. Walking to the Dog Play Area would become a daily ritual for many people which gives them exercise, a sense of community

and brings foot traffic to the shopping areas. Dog owners now must drive to their dogs to parks in Piedmont, Alameda and Berkeley.

D. That the proposal conforms to all applicable design review criteria set forth in the Design Review Procedure at Section 17.136.050.

Exterior changes related to the Dog Play Area include: Perimeter and interior fences and gates; informational and decorative signage; landscaping and irrigation, water and waste facilities. Staff believes that the fence design will be reasonably attractive, landscaped to provide a visual buffer with the rest of the park. See findings in Design Review Findings section.

E. That the proposal conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland Comprehensive Plan and with any other applicable plan or development control map which has been adopted by the City Council.

Oakland General Plan
The Oakland General Plan Land Use and Transportation Element (LUTE) was updated in 1998 and designates this site as "Urban Open Space". The dog run maintains open space and does not create any new enclosed structures at the site.

Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR)
The Open Space Conservation and Recreation Plan (OSCAR), was adopted in 1996 as an element of the Oakland General Plan. The Introduction to Chapter 4, Recreation, states that this chapter *"...is comprehensive in scope but not intended to be a 'Park Master Plan.' The City still needs to prepare a plan which specifically addresses capital improvements, funding sources, park administration and program changes. The OSCAR Element sets a policy framework for such a plan but stops short of making detailed recommendations for service delivery and capital improvements."*

Table 16, page 4-43 of OSCAR lists 20 items that are identified as "Major Unmet Capital Needs in Oakland Parks (not necessarily in priority order). Item #12 on the list states: *"'Dog park', providing exercise/play areas and possibly providing obedience training, veterinary and vaccination services, and a kennel (citywide)."*

OSCAR classifies Lakeview Park as a Neighborhood Park. It states that these are parks generally ranging from 2-10 acres in size and located in a residential area within walking distance of its primary uses, and should contain: landscaped picnic areas and lawn; childrens' play areas/tot lots; hard court area for basketball; multi-purpose turf area (ballfield); restrooms (where the park supports major athletic events); picnic tables and sitting areas.

Lake Merritt Park Master Plan
The Lake Merritt Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council in 2002 as a Master Plan document providing a comprehensive set of recommendations for future development and activity around Lake Merritt.

The Plan includes the following references to a dog park along MacArthur Blvd., at the currently proposed site:

The Plan's Park Programming Map (Figure 3.2) includes a reference to a "Potential Off-Leash Dog Area" within Lakeview Park, in approximately the same location as the proposed Dog Play Area. Reference is again

made to a special area for dogs along MacArthur Boulevard; off-leash status pursuant to City of Oakland regulations with low fencing required in off –leash area.

Table V.1 of the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan lists Project Descriptions for numerous recommended projects for which corresponding locations are illustrated on Figure V.1. Among them include "LKSH 9", with a title of Eastshore Park Renovation and describes *"Renovation of park area including parking lot; library sitework; open lawn areas; dog area enclosure; sports facilities; lighting; planting; irrigation."*

An off-leash dog area at Lakeview Park was recommended in the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan and the Adams Point Neighborhood Plan, both approved and adopted by City Council in 2002.

Staff finds that this proposal, as designed and at this location conforms with the Oakland General Plan, Open Space Element, Zoning regulations, District Plans and Area Master Plans.

Findings for Approval

This proposal meets the required findings under Regular Design Review Criteria (Oakland Planning Code Section 17.136.050) for Non-Residential Facilities as follows:

SECTION 17.136.050 – REGULAR DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA:

B. For Nonresidential Facilities and Signs.

1. **That the proposal will help achieve or maintain a group of facilities which are well related to one another and which, when taken together, will result in a well-composed design, with consideration given to site, landscape, bulk, height, arrangement, texture, materials, colors, and appurtenances; the relation of these factors to other facilities in the vicinity; and the relation of the proposal to the total setting as seen from key points in the surrounding area. Only elements of design which have some significant relationship to outside appearance shall be considered, except as otherwise provided in Section 17.136.060.**

The addition of a Dog Play Area within the existing Lakeview Park will establish a new civic amenity that is not currently available in Lakeview Park adjacent to Lake Merritt, or Lakeside Park surrounding Lake Merritt. It will be designed in a manner that is well-integrated and visually unobtrusive with the existing amenities (library, children's play area, and open multi-purpose field), with a low (4' tall) black ornamental iron fence planted with flowering vines, and will be setback substantially (10'-25') from the surrounding sidewalks streets and the Astro Park children's play area. The siting, at the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave., allows for a usable open field and creates a safe enclosure for dogs and their owners near a busy intersection.

2. **That the proposed design will be of a quality and character which harmonizes with, and serves to protect the value of private and public investments in the area.**

The quality of design and materials is demonstrated through a 4-foot tall ornamental iron perimeter fence, planted with flowering vines (with irrigation system) along its outside that would grow up and into the fence creating a visually pleasing appearance, quality signage and gates. The low (4-foot) height of the fence will preserve a sense of openness in the park area. In addition, the fenced area will be setback a minimum of 10' from the sidewalks and bus stops along MacArthur Boulevard, 25 feet along Lakeshore Ave., and 25 feet from Astro Park children's play area so that it will not appear visually crowded. An MOU will be in place to ensure the area is maintained to a high standard, including but not limited to maintaining landscaping and a commitment to replace the wood chip groundcover within the Dog Play Area as needed.

3. **That the proposed design conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland General Plan and with any applicable design review guidelines or criteria, district plan, or development control map which have been adopted by the Planning Commission or City Council.**

See Staff's findings under General Use Permit Criteria, finding "E" above.

Attachment B: Conditions of Approval

1. **Approved Use**
   Ongoing
   a) The project shall be constructed and operated in accordance with the authorized use as described in the application materials, staff report, and the plans dated **December 12, 2011** and submitted on **February 2, 2012,** and as amended by the following conditions. Any additional uses or facilities other than those approved with this permit, as described in the project description and the approved plans, will require a separate application and approval. Any deviation from the approved drawings, Conditions of Approval or use shall required prior written approval from the Director of City Planning or designee.

   b) This action by the **City Planning Commission** ("this Approval") includes the approvals set forth below. This Approval includes:
   A Conditional Use Permit to establish a Dog Play Area within (a fenced area where dog owners can exercise their dogs off-leash), consisting of a total of 20,778 s.f. and located within the existing Lakeview Park, a City of Oakland neighborhood park, and operating under park rules regarding hours and other regulations in the OS (NP) "Open Space (Neighborhood Park) Zone.

2. **Effective Date, Expiration, Extensions and Extinguishment**
   Ongoing
   Unless a different termination date is prescribed, this Approval shall expire **two calendar years** from the approval date, unless within such period all necessary permits for construction or alteration have been issued, or the authorized activities have commenced in the case of a permit not involving construction or alteration. Upon written request and payment of appropriate fees submitted no later than the expiration date of this permit, the Director of City Planning or designee may grant a one-year extension of this date, with additional extensions subject to approval by the approving body. Expiration of any necessary building permit for this project may invalidate this Approval if the said extension period has also expired.

3. **Scope of This Approval; Major and Minor Changes**
   Ongoing
   The project is approved pursuant to the **Planning Code** only. Minor changes to approved plans may be approved administratively by the Director of City Planning or designee. Major changes to the approved plans shall be reviewed by the Director of City Planning or designee to determine whether such changes require submittal and approval of a revision to the approved project by the approving body or a new, completely independent permit.

4. **Conformance with other Requirements**
   Prior to issuance of a demolition, grading, P-job, or other construction related permit
   a) The project applicant shall comply with all other applicable federal, state, regional and/or local laws/codes, requirements, regulations, and guidelines, including but not limited to those imposed by the City's Building Services Division, the City's Fire Marshal, and the City's Public Works Agency. Compliance with other applicable requirements may require changes to the approved use and/or plans. These changes shall be processed in accordance with the procedures contained in Condition of Approval 3.

b) The applicant shall submit approved building plans for project-specific needs related to fire protection to the Fire Services Division for review and approval, including, but not limited to automatic extinguishing systems, water supply improvements and hydrants, fire department access, and vegetation management for preventing fires and soil erosion.

5. Conformance to Approved Plans; Modification of Conditions or Revocation

Ongoing

a) Site shall be kept in a blight/nuisance-free condition. Any existing blight or nuisance shall be abated within 60-90 days of approval, unless an earlier date is specified elsewhere.

b) The City of Oakland reserves the right at any time during construction to require certification by a licensed professional that the as-built project conforms to all applicable zoning requirements, including but not limited to approved maximum heights and minimum setbacks. Failure to construct the project in accordance with approved plans may result in remedial reconstruction, permit revocation, permit modification, stop work, permit suspension or other corrective action.

c) Violation of any term, Conditions or project description relating to the Approvals is unlawful, prohibited, and a violation of the Oakland Municipal Code. The City of Oakland reserves the right to initiate civil and/or criminal enforcement and/or abatement proceedings, or after notice and public hearing, to revoke the Approvals or alter these Conditions if it is found that there is violation of any of the Conditions or the provisions of the Planning Code or Municipal Code, or the project operates as or causes a public nuisance. This provision is not intended to, nor does it, limit in any manner whatsoever the ability of the City to take appropriate enforcement actions. The project applicant shall be responsible for paying fees in accordance with the City's Master Fee Schedule for inspections conducted by the City or a City-designated third-party to investigate alleged violations of the Conditions of Approval.

6. Signed Copy of the Conditions

With submittal of a demolition, grading, and building permit

A copy of the approval letter and **Conditions** shall be signed by the property owner, notarized, and submitted with each set of permit plans to the appropriate City agency for this project.

7. Indemnification

Ongoing

a) To the maximum extent permitted by law, the applicant shall defend (with counsel acceptable to the City), indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Oakland, the Oakland City Council, the City of Oakland Redevelopment Agency, the Oakland City Planning Commission and its respective agents, officers, and employees (hereafter collectively called City) from any liability, damages, claim, judgment, loss (direct or indirect)action, causes of action, or proceeding (including legal costs, attorneys' fees, expert witness or consultant fees, City Attorney or staff time, expenses or costs) (collectively called "Action") against the City to attack, set aside, void or annul, (1) an approval by the City relating to a development-related application or subdivision or (2) implementation of an approved development-related project. The City may elect, in its sole discretion, to participate in the defense of said Action and the applicant shall reimburse the City for its reasonable legal costs and attorneys' fees.

b) Within ten (10) calendar days of the filing of any Action as specified in subsection A above, the applicant shall execute a Letter Agreement with the City, acceptable to the Office of the City Attorney, which memorializes the above obligations. These obligations and the Letter of Agreement shall survive termination, extinguishment or invalidation of the approval. Failure to timely execute the Letter of

Agreement does not relieve the applicant of any of the obligations contained in this condition or other requirements or conditions of approval that may be imposed by the City.

8. Compliance with Conditions of Approval

Ongoing

The project applicant shall be responsible for compliance with the recommendations in any submitted and approved technical report and all the Conditions of Approval set forth herein at its sole cost and expense, and subject to review and approval of the City of Oakland.

9. Severability

Ongoing

Approval of the project would not have been granted but for the applicability and validity of each and every one of the specified conditions, and if one or more of such conditions is found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction this Approval would not have been granted without requiring other valid conditions consistent with achieving the same purpose and intent of such Approval.

10. Job Site Plans

Ongoing throughout demolition, grading, and/or construction

At least one (1) copy of the stamped approved plans, along with the Approval Letter and Conditions of Approval, shall be available for review at the job site at all times.

11. Operational Noise-General

Ongoing.

Noise levels from the activity, property, or any mechanical equipment on site shall comply with the performance standards of Section 17.120 of the Oakland Planning Code and Section 8.18 of the Oakland Municipal Code. If noise levels exceed these standards, the activity causing the noise shall be abated until appropriate noise reduction measures have been installed and compliance verified by the Planning and Zoning Division and Building Services.

12. Lighting Plan

Prior to the issuance of an electrical or building permit

The lighting fixtures shall be adequately shielded to a point below the light bulb and reflector and that prevent unnecessary glare onto adjacent properties. Plans shall be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Division and the Electrical Services Division of the Public Works Agency for review and approval. All lighting shall be architecturally integrated into the site.

13. Signage

Prior to installation of any signage

The design for any exterior signage must be submitted to and approved by the Planning & Zoning Division prior to installation.

PROJECT-SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

14. Nuisances

Ongoing

Crime, litter, or disorderly conduct associated with the establishment may result in a revocation of the Conditional Use Permit or a public hearing to consider revocation.

15. Operational Project Conditions
Ongoing

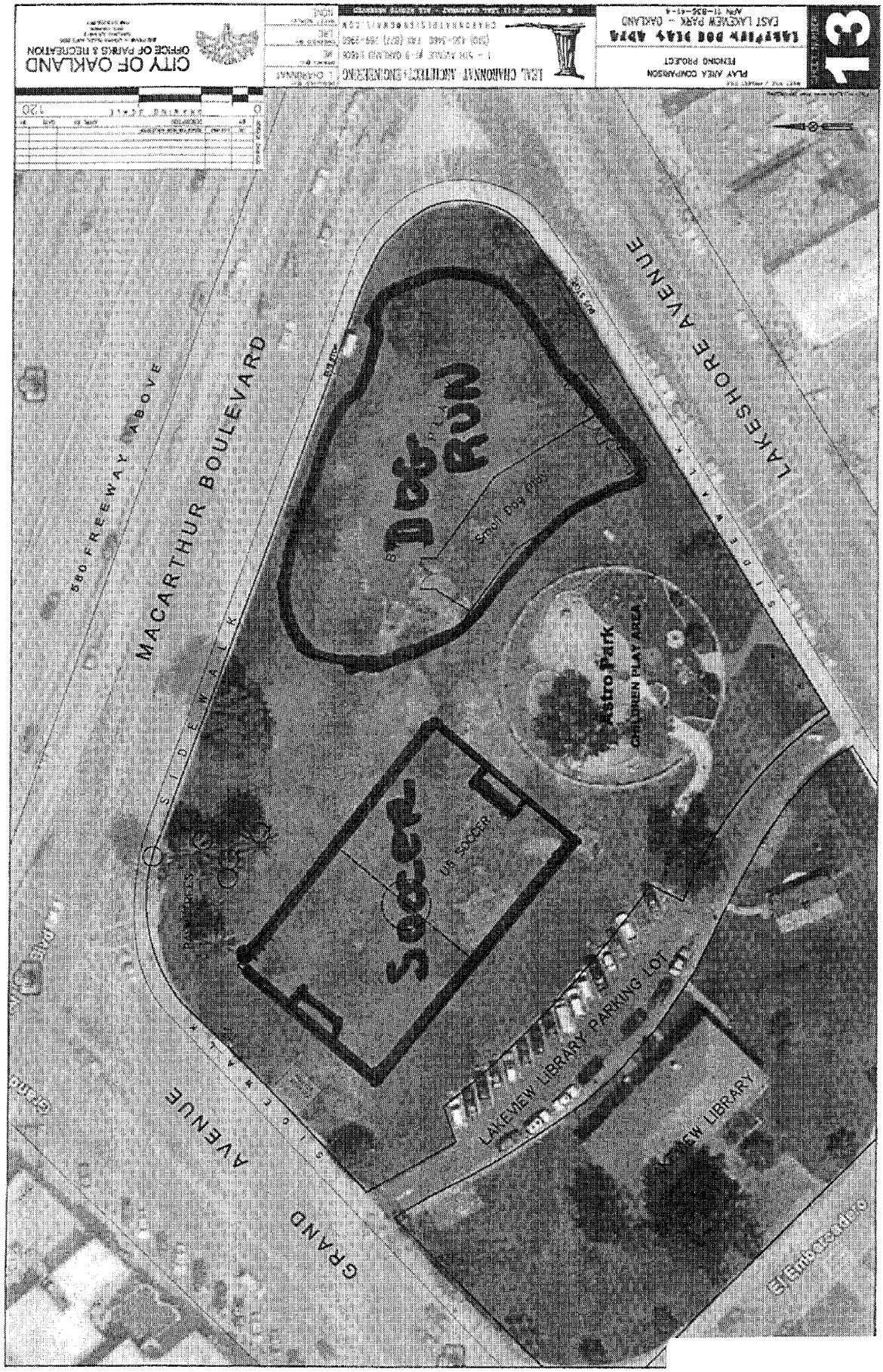
a. Landscaping shall be maintained in a healthy and thriving condition at all times to the satisfaction of the Planning Department. Such maintenance shall include regular watering, weeding, pruning and replacement of dead or dying plants.

b. A permanent location shall be provided for the trash enclosure prior to occupancy of the use and subject to Planning Department approval.

16. Compliance Review
(Within 12 months of commencement of operations)
The project shall be re-evaluated for compliance with conditions of approval and impacts by the Planning Commission within 12 months of commencement of operations. The Applicant shall initiate said Compliance Review by paying the Reconsideration/Revision fee to the City Planning and Zoning offices (currently $1,803.87).

17. Parks Allowing Dogs
Prior to development of the Lakeview Park Dog Play Area
The Applicant shall obtain authorization to add Lakeview Park to the list of "Permitted Off-Leash Areas" in accordance with Oakland Municipal Code (O.M.C.) 6.04.080(C). Municipal Code 6.04.080(C) requires authorization in a writing or resolution by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for dogs to be allowed off-leash.

APPROVED BY:
City Planning Commission:_____(date)_____(vote)

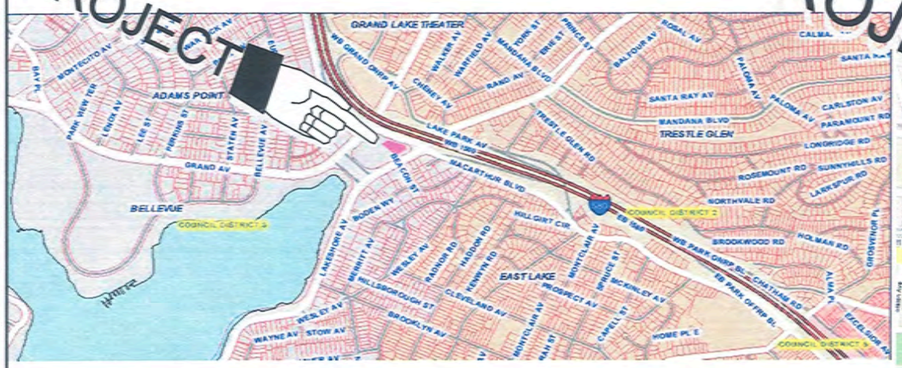


ATTACHMENT C

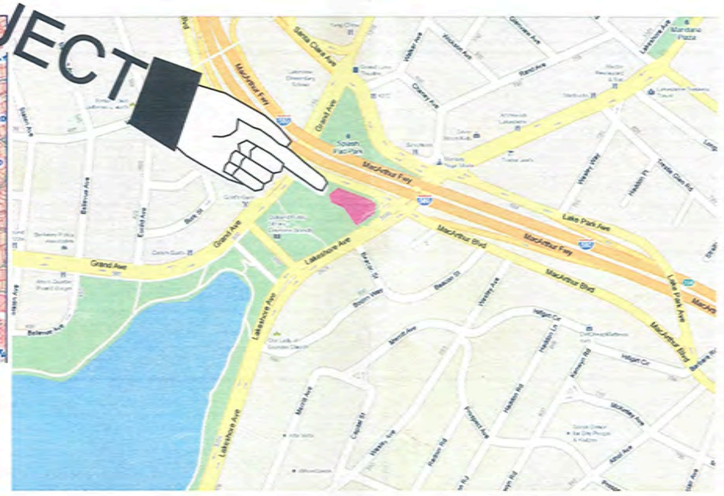

Similar Fence on
Lakeside Drive

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA





LOCAL PARCEL MAP



PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Drawing Index

SECTION	DRAWING NUMBER	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
GENERAL INFORMATION			
	00	COVER SHEET	Local Parcel Map, Project Location Map, Index
	01	NEIGHBORHOOD SITE PHOTOS	Adjacent properties of Project Area
	02	PHOTO MONTAGE MOCKUP	Views from adjacent streets
	03	LAKE MERRITT MASTER PLAN	General Details from Plan
	04	ADAMS PT URBAN DESIGN PLAN	General Details from Plan
	05	DOG PARK COMPARISONS	Area comparison of local dog parks
PLANS AND PLAN DETAILS			
	10	ASSESSOR PARCEL MAP	Parcel map with annotation of dog park outline
	11	PARCEL MAP AREA PLAN	Overall park area plan
	12	DOG PLAY AREA FENCE PLAN	Dog Play Area Fence plan
	13	ENTRANCE PLAN	Dog Play Area Entry Plan
	14	SIGN PLAN AND DETAILS	Entrance signs, street sign
ELEVATIONS AND DETAILS			
	21	FENCE ELEVATION & DETAILS	Entry fence elevations and details
	22	FENCING DETAILS	Standard fencing details
EQUIPMENT AND ACCESSORY DETAILS			
	31	IN-GROUND TRASH CONTAINER DETAILS	General Information sheet of trash container
	32	ACCESSORIES DETAILS'	Benches, Dispensers, Fountain, Bulletin Board
LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS			
	L1.0	PLANTING PLAN	Plant List, Vine images
	L2.0	IRRIGATION PLAN	Irrigation notes, Lateral Piping Sizing
	L3.0	IRRIGATION & PLANTING DETAILS	Pipping, valves, spray heads, bubbler, planting

PROJECT:
NEW FENCED ENCLOSURE FOR DOG PLAY AREA,
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

PLAN SPONSOR:
OAKLAND DOG OWNERS GROUP

LEAD AGENCY:
OFFICE OF PARKS & RECREATION,
CITY OF OAKLAND

DRAWINGS ISSUED FOR MCUP APPLICATION: DECEMBER 12, 2011

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

CITY OF OAKLAND
OFFICE OF PARKS & RECREATION
250 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA, SUITE 3330
OAKLAND, CA 94612
(510) 238-PARK
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(510) 436-3466 FAX (877) 769-9966
CHARONNATDESIGN@GMAIL.COM

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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: NONE

SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
COVER SHEET - LOCATION PLANS -INDEX
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK - OAKLAND
APN 11-836-41-4

SHEET NUMBER
00

FILE: lv_00 V1* COVER (04436).dwg







NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
LRC	07/12/2011	UPDATED AND RE-ISSUED FOR AGUP APPLICATION			

DRAWING VERSION 0

DRAWING SCALE 120

CITY OF OAKLAND
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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: NONE

SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
NEIGHBORHOOD SITE PHOTOS
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11-836-41-4

SHEET NUMBER
01

FILE: lv_01_vin Site Photos [R4X36]dwg

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA



NOTE - ALL PHOTOS SHOW MOCKUP OF VINE-COVERED FENCING. TREES AT MACARTHUR NOT SHOWN. SEE ELEVATION DETAILS.





NOTE - FENCING SHOWN IS SIMILAR IN TRANSPARENCY AS SPECIFIED 'ELITE' STYLE AS SHOWN ELSEWHERE

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

DRAWING VERSION	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
	LRC	4/11/2012	ISSUED FOR RCUP APPLICATION			

DRAWING SCALE

CITY OF OAKLAND
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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: NONE

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SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
PHOTO MONTAGE MOCKUP
FENCING PROJECT

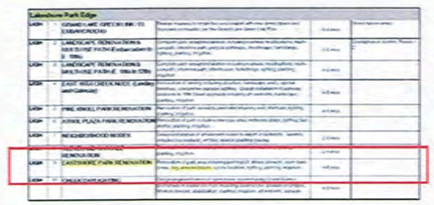
LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK - OAKLAND
APN 11-836-41-4

SHEET NUMBER
02

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PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS





PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

Table V2 Lake Merritt Park Master Plan Project Prioritization and Costs

Number	Zone	Project Title	Percentage of Construction for Design	Estimated Design Cost	Estimated Construction Cost	Additional Contingency @ 15%	Inflation to 2004 @ 5%	Estimated Total Project Cost
25	LKSH	LAKESHORE AVENUE, BOULEVARD, AND TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS (Lakeshore Avenue between 18th and 19th Streets)	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
26	LKSH	BOULEVARD, AVENUE, AND BIKEWAY IMPROVEMENTS (Lakeshore Avenue between 19th Street and Grand Avenue)	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
27	LKSH	LANDSCAPE RENOVATION & IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS (Lakeshore Avenue between Grand Avenue and Bellevue Avenue)	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
28	LKSH	LAKE SIDE PARK EDGE & IRRIGATION IMPROVEMENTS	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
29	LKSH	LAKE SIDE CHILDHOOD PLAY AREA (Lakeshore between Grand Avenue and Bellevue Avenue)	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
30	LKSH	LAKE SIDE PARK ENTRY (Lakeshore between Grand Avenue and Bellevue Avenue)	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
31	LKSH	GRAND LAKE GREEN LINK, ESTUARY PARK AND LAKE MERRITT BOULEVARD	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
32	LKSH	EAST LAKE PARK RENOVATION	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
33	LKSH	CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
34	LKSH	HANDICRAFT FACILITY (Relocation of Old Merritt Boathouse)	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
35	LKSH	ELECTRICAL RENOVATION	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000
36	LKSH	MEDITATION CENTER AND/OR Lakeside Arts and Wisdom (LAW) Center (Visitor and Conference Center, Relocation of Old Trolley)	10%	$60,000	$600,000	$90,000	$30,000	$780,000

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

CHAPTER V

- OVERVIEW
- A PARK CONSERVANCY
- FUNDING
- PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS
- PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

OVERVIEW

Implementation

The Lake Merritt Master Plan sets goals and makes specific recommendations for various improvements. This chapter presents how those goals and improvements can be realized in a timely and sensible manner. The plan prioritizes certain projects for immediate implementation based on community interest, consultant recommendation, and City staff guidance. Construction sequence and concept level cost estimates are provided to guide project planning. A description of funding opportunities is included as an additional resource to park management. A park conservancy is proposed as a means of implementing the master plan and advocating for the park's long term management.

Master Plan Improvement Projects

Improvement projects are categorized by zone in Table V1. Descriptions of the type of improvements to be completed are provided.

Project Prioritization

The community has weighed heavily on what types of improvements and specific projects are of greatest importance. Based on the public's survey responses and stakeholder input, several projects themes have consistently been highlighted as essential.

Water Quality: Projects that improve water quality in Lake Merritt such as storm drain and removal of mud flow business (12th Street culvert).

Pedestrian and Bicycle Circulation: Projects that improve circulation around the lake such as multi-use paths, class II bike lanes, soft surface jogging paths, and shoreline access at 12th Street.

Ecology and Wildlife Interaction: Projects that benefit the lake ecology such as habitat restoration, wildlife viewing areas, etc.

Park Maintenance: That basic care of landscape elements and park furnishings is considered by many to be the single most pressing deficiency at Lake Merritt. Repair and replacement of many park elements are chronically deferred, resulting in a lack of amenities.

Construction Sequence

The following table outlines the various projects recommended by the Master Plan and identifies a logical implementation sequence based on project priority, construction requirements, other parallel projects, and potential funding.

Projects Prioritized by the Public on March 13, 2002

(Numbers reflect ranking by numbers of responses)

39	Water Quality Improvements (ie. Storm Drain Filters)
35	Multi-Use Pathway around Lake
30	Widening of Park Borders
22	Balance Shoreline Naturalization, Wetlands, and Boardwalks
20	Creek Day-lighting
19	Cty Street Bike Lanes
18	Park Furnishings (Benches, Drinking Fountains, Trash Receptacles, Etc.)
13	Boat House Restoration and Site Improvements (1,522 Lakeside)
11	Signage Directions, Mile Markers, Location Names
10	Dock Restorations
10	Muliti-Cultural Enhancements (Creek Nodes)
10	New Park Flowering Trees
9	Restored Lawns
9	Arboretum/Botanical Plantings
9	Restoration of Perimeter Parks
7	Enhanced Flooring in Street Medians
6	Neighborhood Interpretive Markers and Mini-Plazas
5	Pergola Restoration
4	New Street Trees
3	Sailboat House Restoration and Site Improvements

Zones Prioritized by the Public on March 13, 2002

59	12th Street/San Antonio District and Estuary Connection
57	Grand Avenue Promenade
27	Lakeshore Avenue (Grand Lake Green Link/Eastshore Park)
22	Lakeside Park
18	Downtown Park Edge (13th to Grand, Snow Park Expansion)
16	Lakeshore Avenue (Embarcadero to E. 18th)
16	Lakeshore Avenue (E. 19th to 12th Street)
6	Lakeshore Avenue (Cleveland Cascade)



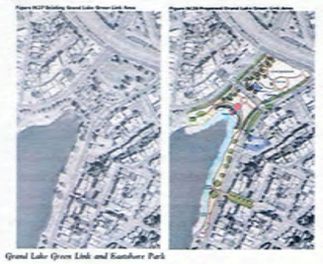
Project prioritization activity, Public open house, March 2002

DETAIL GUIDELINES

CHAPTER IV

- 12TH ST/CULTURAL DISTRICT
- DOWNTOWN PARK EDGE
- LAKESIDE PARK
- GRAND AVE. PROMENADE
- LAKESHORE AVE. EDGE
- IRRIGATION PLAN
- SITE FURNISHINGS

LAKESHORE AVE. EDGE



Grand Lake Green Link and Eastshore Park

This permanent park encompasses a significant open space area with lawns for the neighbors, local shoppers, and school children. The low circulation, and open lawn areas are recommended for enhancement. The plan recognizes the vulnerable creeks as significant elements of the lake's edge. Annual construction workbench encourages features of the plan.

Low fences could be used to designate and avoid sensitive adjacent to Muirlake Boulevard.

All features of the park are connected including furnishings, lawn, pathways, planting areas, fencing, parking, sidewalks, furnishings and lighting.

Future building renovations and programs associated with the Lakeside Group is supported by the plan. While no specific improvements projects were determined during the master plan process, the present use of the facility for children, teens, and adults is encouraged.

The modified parking lot should be accessed from Lakeshore Avenue. Green design principles should be implemented in the reconstruction. The quantity of spaces is maintained in the project.

Estuary Valley Creek (or Trash Glen Creek) should be uncovered or partially diverted to the surface from Muirlake and Bellevue Avenue. Pedestrian bridges should connect the Grand Avenue promenade to the park interior. Special riparian and tall wood-land plantings are proposed to line the restored creek.

Fire lanes should be maintained for use by the emergency road vehicles. Decorative paving should be used to reduce conflicts with passing cars.

The plan identifies a dog run area as a potential use in the park. Off-leash restrictions to remain in City of Oakland regulations. Low fencing should be required to control dogs in an off-leash condition.



DETAIL GUIDELINES

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND
02 JUN 27 PM 1:22

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. 77291 C.M.S.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE LAKE MERRITT PARK MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, Lake Merritt and its immediately surrounding parks, known collectively as Lake Merritt Park, are Oakland's "crown jewel," attracting thousands of people daily to its waterfront and open spaces for walking, jogging, biking, picnicking, nature watching and other healthful activities, and

WHEREAS, Oakland residents have consistently expressed a desire for a safer, cleaner, better maintained and more attractive and inviting Lake Merritt Park; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 a "community assistance team" (CAT) made up of volunteer landscape architects and other designers, and sponsored by the Northern California chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, produced a study recommending that a master plan be developed to coordinate a comprehensive vision for the future of Lake Merritt Park; and

WHEREAS, following the recommendation of the CAT study, and heeding the wishes of the larger Oakland community, the City Council in May 2001 authorized the City Manager to enter into an agreement with a consulting firm to develop a master plan for Lake Merritt Park; and

WHEREAS, over the past year the nationally recognized landscape architecture and urban design firm of Wallace Roberts & Todd, Inc. (WRT) led a multi-disciplinary consulting team in conducting a master planning process for Lake Merritt Park that involved a wide range of park users, local businesses, residents, issue-specific advocates and other members of the public as well as staff from many City agencies; and which included a community survey process, two "open houses" at which the general public was welcome to provide comments and feedback to master plan recommendations and alternatives, interviews with stakeholders, two "visioning" sessions, a series of roundtable discussions with organized constituencies, and monthly meetings of a technical advisory team; and

WHEREAS, at the end of the year-long master planning process, WRT has produced a Lake Merritt Park master plan document that contains well-thought-out recommendations in the areas of recreation, ecology, access and circulation, land uses, landscaping, water quality, historic preservation, and maintenance for Lake Merritt Park; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Merritt Park master plan is a planning and feasibility study for potential future actions that are not currently approved, adopted or funded, and which will inform future decision-making but does not have a legally binding effect on later activities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the City Council commends WRT and its subconsultants for the outstanding work involved in developing the Lake Merritt Park master plan; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council expresses its desire to see the master plan implemented in order to return the shine and lustre to Lake Merritt Park, Oakland's crown jewel.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, JUL 23 2002, 2002

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES – Brunner, Chang, Mayne, Nadel, Reid, Spees, Wan, and President De La Fuente – 8

NOES – Ø

ABSENT – Ø

ABSTENTION – Ø

ATTEST: CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of Oakland, California

BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
LRC	12/15/2001	UPDATE AND RE-ISSUED FOR RDP APPLICATION			

DRAWING VERSION 0

DRAWING SCALE 120

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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: NONE

SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
LAKE MERRITT MASTER PLAN
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER 03

FILE: lv_03_vIR LakeMerrit Master Planning

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

- I also give money to Piedmont for my off leash dog license.
- Oakland needs a dog park! I live in China Hill, own a giant Schnauzer and go nearly every day to the Alameda dog park at 8th and Central. I know lots and lots of the god park folks and many of them are from Oakland. Some come from East Oakland, Eastmont area, to go to the dog park. This is a lot of money that goes to Alameda. But more, dog parks are GREAT for dogs and people. Dogs learn to be good citizens, people make friends – a community develops and is enriched. The overall culture of the city of Oakland would be benefited from, perhaps, a series of small urban parks. Thank you in advance for the nice dog park.

giving money to Piedmont to use their off-leash parks? Oakland could use the revenue! Designated off-leash areas keep pedestrian areas cleaner and free of waste, as well as providing a healthy outlet for our dogs.

- A dog park would be cool.
- Dog area please – just a small spot without a huge NO DOG sign.
- Please don't give away any park land at Lake Merritt for dog park – YUCK: I'm a dog owner too. Parks at Lake for people only – thanks.
- We would love to have a dog park!!!
- Please give our dogs a park we find there is no place for dogs by the lake and dogs need other dogs!
- A dog park is excellent, not only for dogs but for people to socialize and feel a part of their community – Alexis Lagos Levesque
- This is the best plan yet for a dog park! Dog parks facilitate communities coming together and sharing dog-related information, and dogs in the park will help keep the undesirable element away.
- It's good to see a dog park as part of the plan. People and dogs use them.
- I like that the dog park can double as a long "ball barrier" for playfield. Big, lovely bushes can cover fences nicely. Having dog owners around will elevate public safety. Bad guys don't like dogs!
- Dog park could be enclosed with shrubbery as they always end up looking like thrash/mud areas. Also needed to maintain, repair and clean. Overall, total concept and design is great. Thanks you.
- The dog park rocks!
- I'm a dog owner and I vote for a dog park here so that my dog(s) and I have a place where we can play with each other and other dogs and owners. Yes! To the dog park woof woof.
- Place for dogs is long overdue.

- El Embarcadero. Avoid encroaching on library. Maintain a setback.
- As a former librarian at Lakeview, I like the reconfigured plan including tot lot and dog park. Great to have kids with sports, people of all ages with dogs, toddlers and a nice trip to the library.

L. Dog Park

- Dog park also, I have to leave the city just to exercise my dog – Piedmont, Alameda, Milpitas, think about it.
- I spend my money in Alameda and Piedmont because there are dog parks.
- Please don't delay on the dog park! And please include the following: drinking fountain, double security gates at each end, benches, paved path to protect shoes in inclement weather.
- Dog Park is desperately needed!!!
- Dog Parks! We use them daily in other cities but live here!
- Rational dog owners needed!
- The dog park is a great idea and sorely needed! It will encourage sense of community, foster local spending, etc.
- A dog park nearby would be great – needs shady areas, sturdy grass so it won't deteriorate into a muddy area (like the park in Alameda and Cesar Chavez) – also if you can figure out some way for there to be a track around it with something they can chase, that would get them tired faster! We've talked about something like that amongst dog owners at Point Isabel...
- As an Oakland resident in the Grand/Lakeshore neighborhood, my dog and I would love to have an off-leash dog park in our area. Why keep

ADAMS POINT URBAN DESIGN PLAN





SUBMITTED TO
THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
CITY OF OAKLAND

DECEMBER 2002

DESIGN, COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Adams Point Urban Design Plan
Conceptual Cost Estimate

	The Library Park			
	QTY	Unit	Unit Price	Cost
Demolition and Site Work				
Concrete Ribbon w/ Integral Color	380	SY	$27	$10,260
Sidewalk Removal and Replacement	3100	SF	$12	$37,200
Asphalt Parking Lot	7400	LF	$3	$22,200
Parking Lot Striping	40	LF	$6	$240
Driveway curbcut	1	ea	$1,680	$1,680
New Interior Sidewalk Construction	12,175	SF	$4	$46,996
Decomposed Granite Surface Treatment	27,000	SF	$10	$270,000
Bathroom/Field House	600	SF	$200	$120,000
Bathroom/Field House Demo	5,400	CF	$0.25	$1,350
Dog Park Mulch Surfacing	1,700	SY	$4	$6,800
Curb Removal Parking Lot/Road Demo	750	LF	$8	$6,000
Asphalt Removal Parking Lot/Road Demo	12,150	SF	$5	$60,750
Replace Driveway Curbcut	1	ea	$1,680	$1,680
Curbs, Gutters, and Streets				
Curb #1 (southwest)	200	Lf.	$16	$3,200
Existing Curb Removal	200	Lf.	$8	$1,600
Install Curb Ramp	1	ea.	$1,000	$1,000
Install Pipe	50	Lf.	$100	$5,000
Install Catch Basin	1	ea.	$2,500	$2,500
Site Furnishings				
Dog Park Fencing	700	LF	$7	$4,900
Picnic Tables	3	ea	$1,000	$3,000
Park Information Sign	3	ea	$300	$900
Benches	2	ea	$2,500	$5,000
Planter Benches	3	ea	$3,250	$9,750
Athletic Equipment	1	LS	$3,500	$3,500
Landscaping				
Trees with Irrigation	3	ea	$900	$2,700
Shrubs	85	ea	$75	$6,375
Grass Seed and Irrigation	30000	SY	$4	$105,000

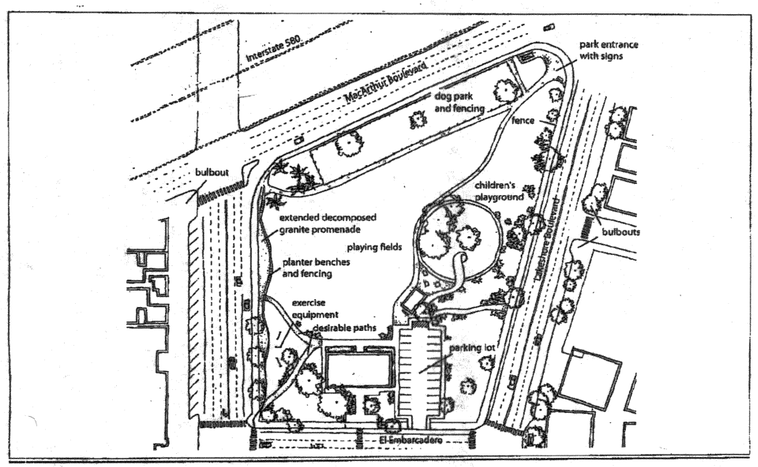


FIGURE 3-21

LIBRARY PARK RECONFIGURATION

ADAMS POINT URBAN DESIGN PLAN

DRAWING VERSION	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
	LRC	12/12/2001	UPDATED AND RE-ISSUED FOR RDP APPLICATION			

DRAWING SCALE

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SHEET SCALE: NONE

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SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
ADAMS POINT URBAN DESIGN PLAN
FENCING PROJECT

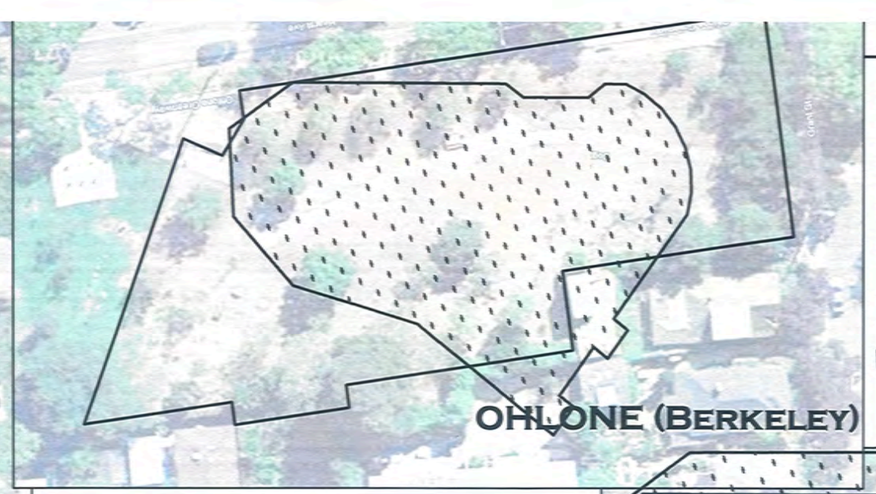
LAKEVIEW DOG DELY ADEA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER
04

FILE: lv_04_vlg Adams Pt Urban Plan.dwg

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")





DOG PARK COMPARISON CHART						
City	Dog Park	Large SF	Small SF	Total Area SF	Compare	Acre
Oakland	Lakeview	17,286	3,492	20,778	1.00	0.48
Oakland	Hardy	14,942	0	14,942	0.86	0.34
Oakland	Jefferson	4,483	2,153	6,636	0.26	0.10
Oakland	Joaquin Miller	20,769	5,935	26,704	1.20	0.48
Oakland	Martin Luther King Jr	21,362	2,204	23,565	1.24	0.49
Oakland	Mosswod	5,982	8,092	14,073	0.35	0.14
Sausalito	Remington	52,276	0	52,276	3.02	1.20
Berkeley	Ohlone	34,191	0	34,191	1.98	0.78
Piedmont	Linda	23,725	0	23,725	1.37	0.54
Alameda	Alameda @ CM	143,933	19,401	163,335	8.33	3.30

NOTES –
ALL PARKS DRAWN TO SAME SCALE: 1/32"=1'

REPRESENTS LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA FENCE OUTLINE FOR SIZE COMPARISON

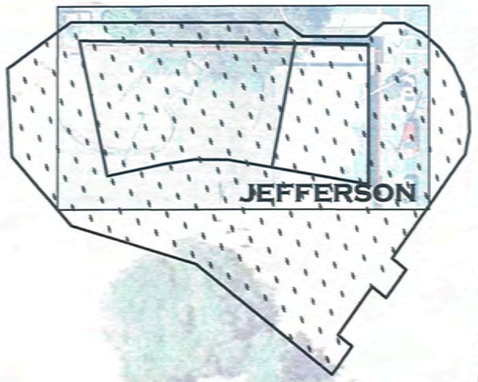
BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
LRC	1/31/2012	UPDATED AND RE-ISSUED FOR RDAP APPLICATION			

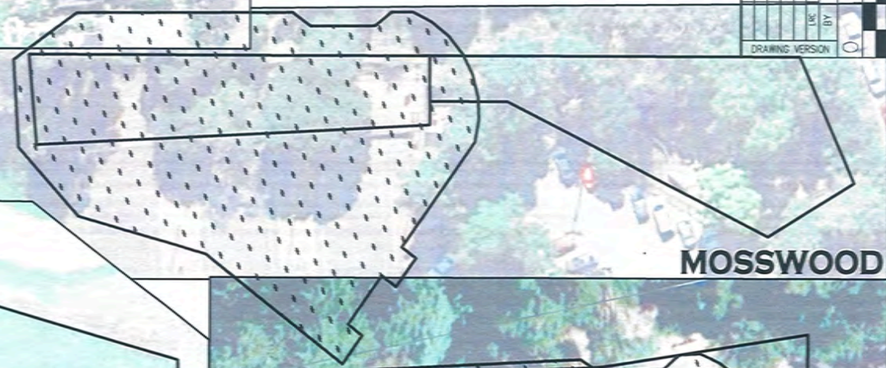
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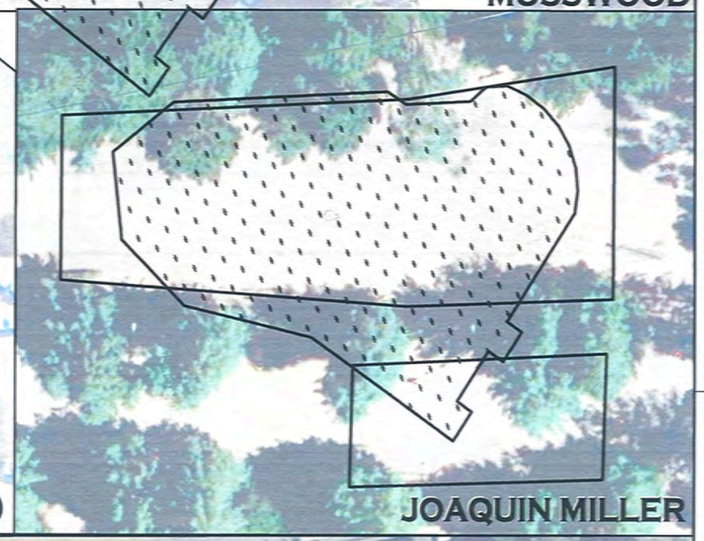
DRAWING SCALE 120

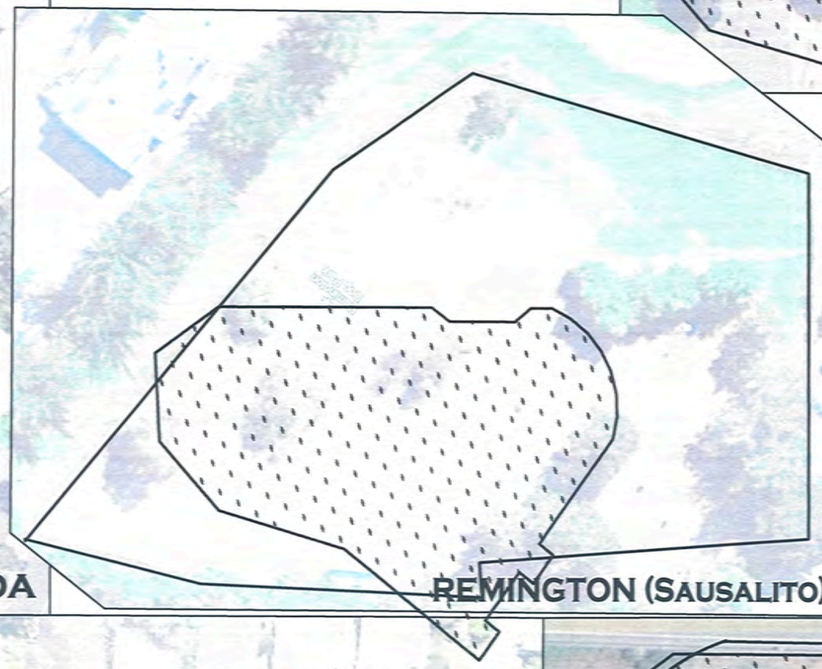
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SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
DOG PARK COMPARISONS
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

FILE: lv_05_vhig Comparison 24X36.dwg

SHEET NUMBER
05

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

LAKE PARK WAY

PROJECT

MACARTHUR

(CITY PARK)

FREEWAY

(OVERPASS)

(R-4)

BLVD.

MACARTHUR

BLVD.

MACARTHUR

S69°26'38"E 310.15

R=110

R=47

R=65

113

3408

EXCELSIOR CT.

AVE.

GRAND

119

110

CITY
41-4
(PARK)

BK. 23

S60°15'58"W

100

BEACON ST.

LAKEVIEW LIBRARY

LAKE SHORE

EL EMBARCADERO

ASSESSOR PARCEL MAP

SCALE – 1" = 40'

BK. 23

PARCEL AREA STATITICS

USE	AREA (SF)	PERCENT
TOTAL AREA	158,994	100 %
DOG PLAY	20,778	13 %

DRAWING VERSION 0

BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
LRC	12/12/2011	UPDATED AND RE-ISSUED FOR ROUP APPLICATION			

DRAWING SCALE 120

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SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
PARCEL MAP AREA PLAN
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER
10

FILE: lv_10_vle Parcel Map (24X36).dwg

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

Parcel Use Statistics With Dog Area Enclosed

USE	Area	Percent of Parcel (bordered by El Embarcadero / Lakeshore / MacArthur / Grand - 158,994 sf)	Percent of Field (bordered by Parking Lot/ Lakeshore/ MacArthur /Grand - 60,012 sf)
Parcel (*bordered by El Embarcadero / Lakeshore / MacArthur / Grand*)	158,994	100	NA
Library & parking lot	15,049	9	NA
Dog Area	20,778	13	23
Field facing Perogla	28,383	18	NA
Field (*bordered by Parking Lot / Lakeshore / MacArthur / Grand*)	60,012	38	100
Astro Park Playground	9,700	6	16
Dog Area	20,778	13	23
Field available for sports, etc	29,524	19	49

GRAND AVENUE

SIDEWALK

BUS STOP

EXERCISE STATION

PARK TREES

FIELD

MACARTHUR BOULEVARD

NEW TREES

DPA 20,778 SF

Big Dog Play Area

17,286 SF

Small Dog Play

3492 SF

25'

BUS STOP

LAKESHORE AVENUE

LAKEVIEW LIBRARY PARKING LOT

Astro Park

CHILDREN PLAY AREA

Drinking Fountain

9,700 SF

LIBRARY

El Embarcadero

PARCEL BOUNDARY

SIDEWALK

N

DRAWING VERSION 0

BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR.	BY
LRC	07/12/2011	RE-ISSUED FOR MUP APPLICATION		

120

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SHEET SCALE: NONE

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SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
PROJECT AREA PLAN
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER
11

FILE: Lakeview Area Plan (24x36).dwg

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

MACARTHUR BOULEVARD

SEE LANDSCAPE DRAWINGS
FOR NEW TREES, PLANTINGS, IRRIGATION

S I D E W A L K

BUS STOP

16'

10'

96'

10'

32'

135°

135°

135°

11'

CENTERLINE TREE

EXISTING TREE

EXISTING TREE

34'-6" CLEAR

32'

135°

6' FENCE
SEE SHT 21

31'±

TREE REMOVED
BY CITY

BIG DOG AREA

17,286 SF

SEE M.O.U. FOR SURFACE MAINTENANCE/TREATMENT

R55'-3" FENCE RADIUS

12" WIDE
MOW BAND
(NTS)

FENCE RADIUS CONTROL POINT

40'

205'-6" ±

DELIVERY TRUCK

140°

18' TRUCK GATE

134°

48'

72" X 96" GRAVEL BED
SEE DETAIL SHT 32

DOG WATER SUPPLY

NOTE – THIS FENCE LINE
PARALLEL WITH SIDEWALK

60" WIDE CONCRETE WALKS

WASTE BAG DISPENSERS

32'

149°

16'

137°

64'

64'

IN-GROUND
WASTE CONTAINER

44'

BUS STOP

25'

LAWN AREA

OD DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY LINE

OD DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY LINE

SMALL DOGS

3492 SF

INTERIOR PAD
8' X 23'

ENTRY AREA
8' X 16'

SIDEWALK
CONCRETE
325 SF

DRIVEWAY
CONCRETE
700 SF

GUTTER

BUS SIGN POST

37'-2"

IN-GROUND
WASTE CONTAINER

SLOPED 1" PER FOOT

18' TRUCK GATE

LEVEL CONCRETE PAD

SLOPE

SERVICE TRUCK
POSITIONS

25'±

64'

INTERIOR PAD
8' X 23'

ENTRY AREA
8' X 16'

SIDEWALK
CONCRETE
325 SF

17'

59'-4"

S I D E W A L K

SEE SHEET 13 FOR ENTRANCE DETAILS
SEE SHT 14 FOR SIGN PLAN

LAKESHORE AVENUE

" ASTRO PARK "
CHILDREN PLAY AREA

NOTE – STANDARD FENCE SPECS:
FENCE POST SPACING ~ 8'–0"
FENCE HEIGHT 48" NOMINAL EXCEPT AS NOTED
"MOW BAND" = 12" WIDE CONCRETE LAWN MOWER TRACK

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
LRC	12/12/2005	UPDATED AND RE-ISSUED FOR HCAP APPLICATION			
LRC	11/28/2006	UPDATED FENCING, CONCRETE, CURB CUT			
LRC	2/16/2009	REVISED ENTRY AREA			
LRC	7/16/2009	REVISED LAYOUT			
LRC	9/12/06	ISSUED FOR REVIEW			

DRAWING VERSION 0

DRAWING SCALE 60

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CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: 1" = 10'–0"

SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
DOG PLAY AREA FENCE LAYOUT PLAN
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER
12

FILE: lv_12_dog fence layout plan 12x36.dwg

SMALL DOG AREA

BIG DOG AREA

LAWN MOWER TRACK

FENCING, TYP.

BAG DISPENSERS, BACK–TO–BACK, SEE DETAILS

FENCING, TYP.

CONCRETE WALK (TO WATER SUPPLY)

GUARD POST

TRUCK GATE

IN-GROUND TRASH CONTAINER

IN-GROUND TRASH CONTAINER

MOW BAND

BULLETIN BOARD

PARK SIGN

GUARD POST

PARK SIGN

GUARD POST

BULLETIN BOARD

PARK SIGN

8'

8'

15'

SELF–CLOSING SWING GATES 48" WIDTH ADA HANDLE & KICK PLATES, TYPICAL

8'

FENCING, TYP.

PARK SIGN

PARK SIGN

SLOPE CONCRETE TO DRAIN 1/8"/FT

16'

27'–4"

16'

17'

59'–4"

L A W N

L A W N

CONCRETE PAVING, +2" ABOVE GRADE, TYP

18'

S I D E W A L K

18' CURB CUT

RELOCATE

10' SIDEWALK

LIGHT STANDARD

DRIVEWAY CUT

STREET SIGN (RELOCATED)

14'–7"

CURB STORM DRAIN

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

DRAWING VERSION	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
0	LRC	12/5/2011	UPDATED ENTRY CONCRETE DETAIL			

DRAWING SCALE

16

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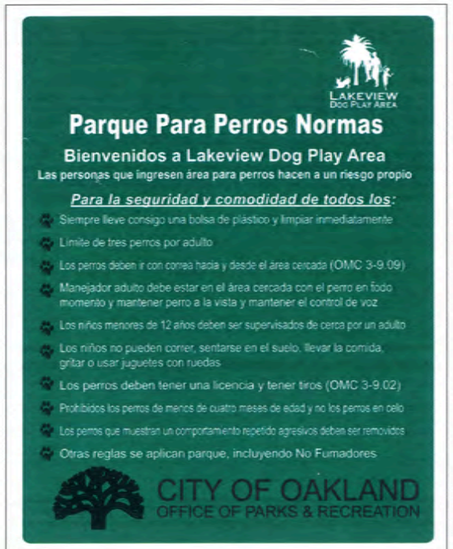
DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: 3/8" = 1'–0"

SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
ENTRANCE LAYOUT & SIGN PLAN
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER
13

FILE: lv_13.vip Entrance Layout (24X36).dwg



1 24" x 30"



2 24" x 30"



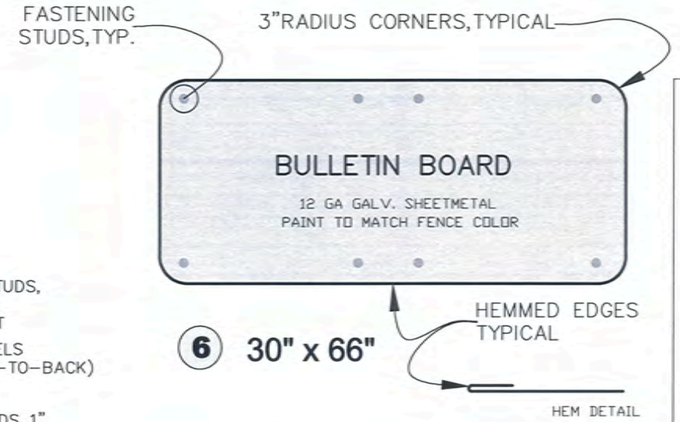
3 24" x 24"



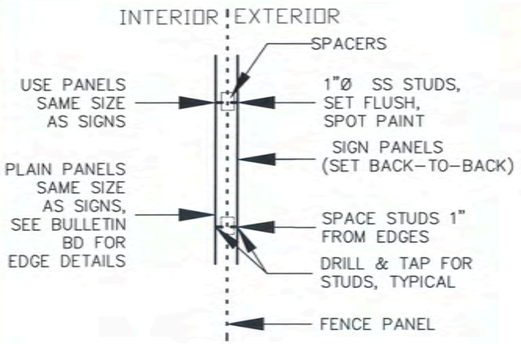
5 12" x 24"



4 12" x 24"



6 30" x 66"

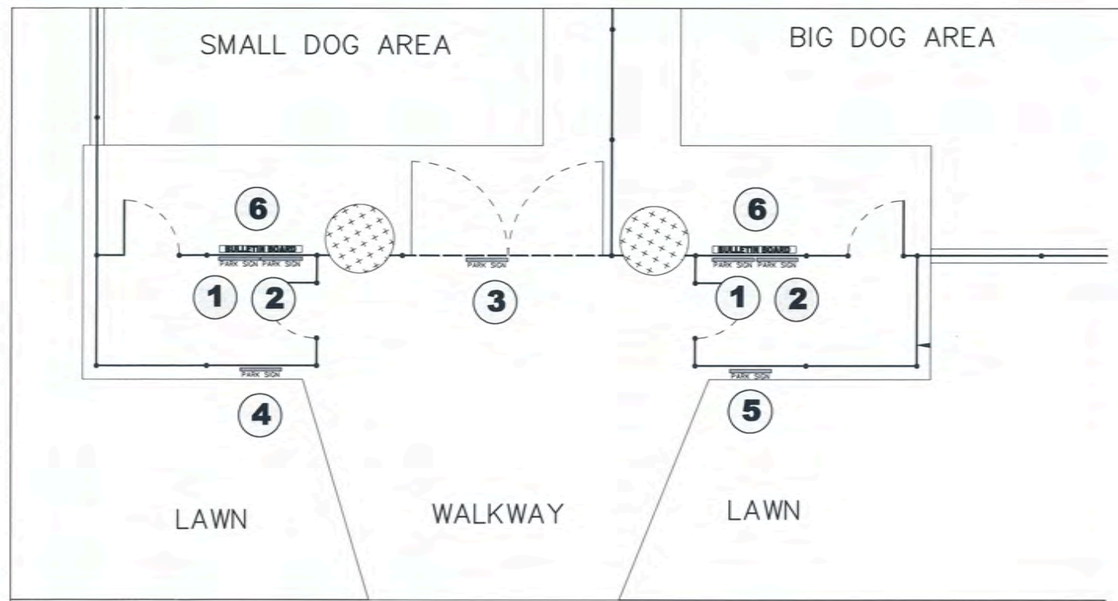


PANEL MOUNTING DETAIL

NO SCALE

NOTES–
MOUNT ALL SIGNS 2" BELOW TOP OF FENCE, TYPICAL

ALL SIGNS MADE TO CITY OF OAKLAND P&R STANDARDS



ENTRANCE SIGN PLAN

NO SCALE

BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
LRC	12/12/2011	UPDATED ENTRY CONCRETE DETAIL			

DRAWING VERSION 0

DRAWING SCALE

16

CITY OF OAKLAND
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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: no scale

SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
SIGN PLAN & DETAILS
FENCING PROJECT

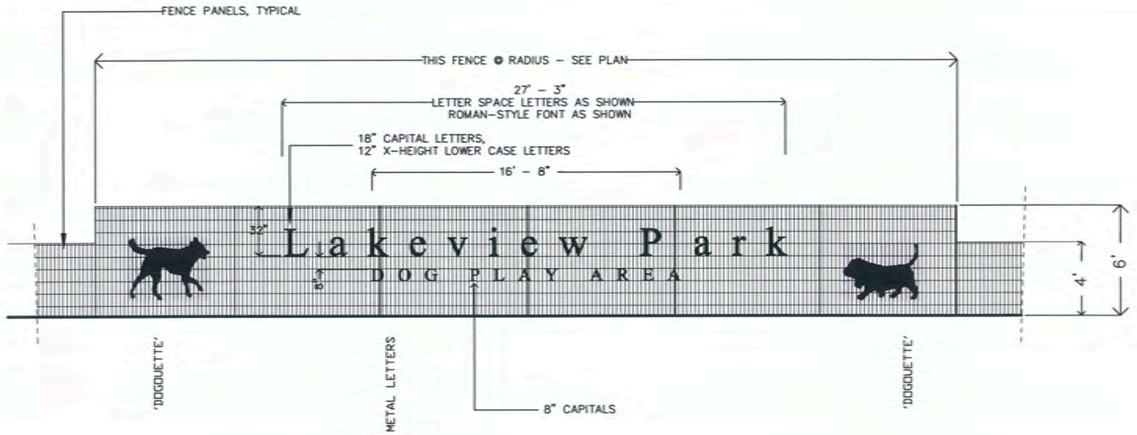
LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER
14

FILE: lv_14_vIN Sign Plan (24X36).dwg

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

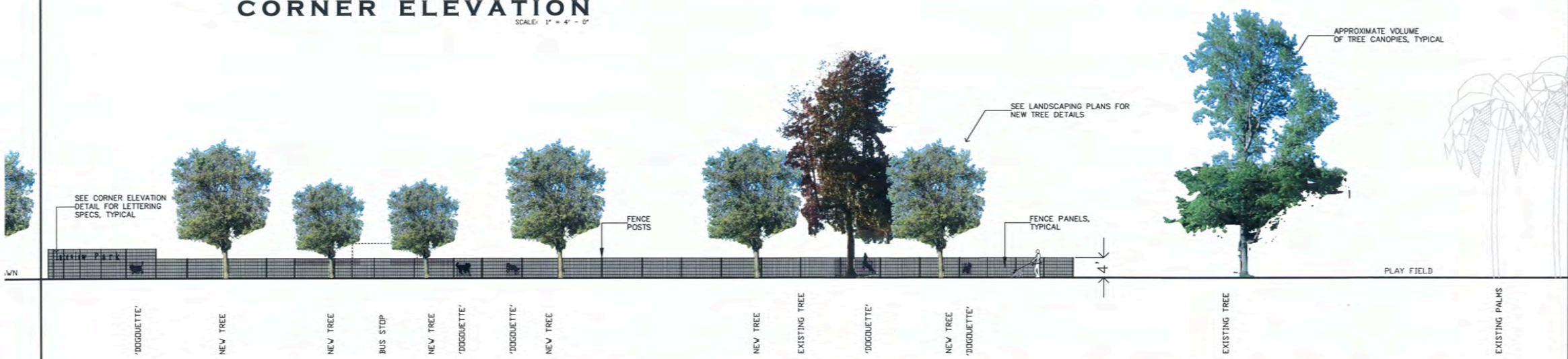
SEE SHEET 22 FOR FENCE DETAILS



LAKESHORE AVENUE AND MACARTHUR BOULEVARD

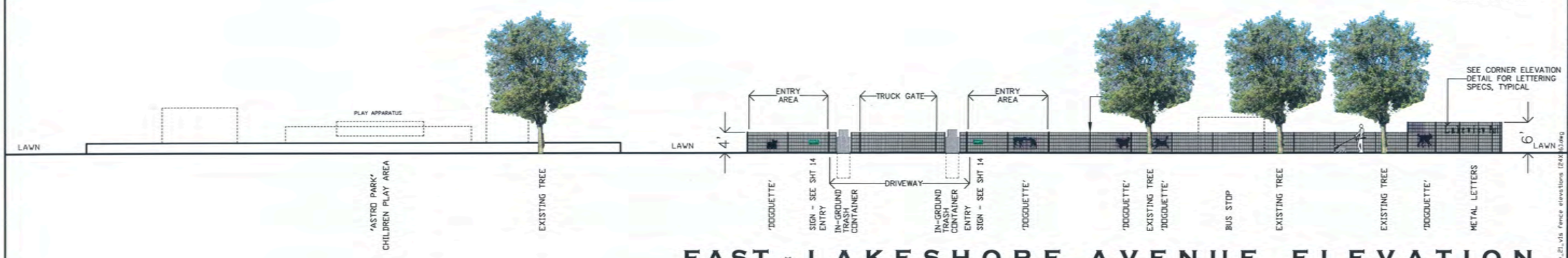
CORNER ELEVATION

SCALE: 1" = 4' – 0"



NORTH - MACARTHUR BOULEVARD ELEVATION

SCALE: 1" = 10' – 0"



EAST - LAKESHORE AVENUE ELEVATION

SCALE: 1" = 10' – 0"

BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
LRC	3/13/2001	UPDATED PAVE SC ISSUED FOR HCDP APPLICATION			
LRC	12/15/2000	UPDATED FENCING, CONCRETE, CURB CUT			
LRC	7/18/2000	REVISED ENTRY AREA			
LRC	7/7/2000	REVISED LAYOUT			
LRC	5/12/2000	ISSUED FOR REVIEW			

DRAWING VERSION 0 — DRAWING SCALE 60

CITY OF OAKLAND
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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: 1"=10' U.N.O.

SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
FENCE ELEVATIONS
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER
21

FILE: lv_21.vis fence elevations (24X36).dwg

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

Elite single swing gate

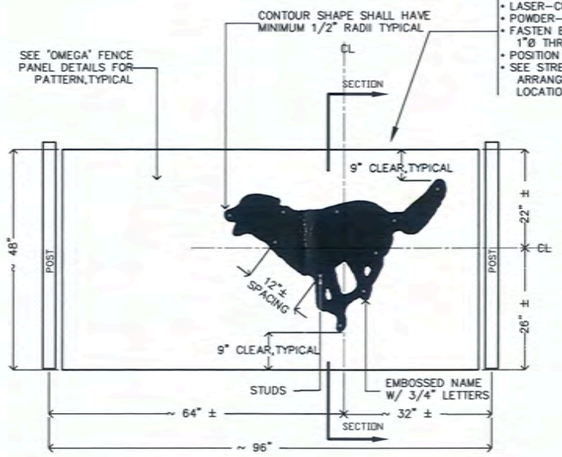


Horizontal dimensions		Gate posts	
Opening	G	Omega	Elite or Secur
3'-6"	37.5"	3" x 3"	3" x 3"
4'-0"	43.5"	3" x 3"	3" x 3"
6'-0"	67.5"	3" x 3"	3" x 3"
8'-0"	91.5"	3" x 3"	4" x 4"
10'-0"	115.5"	4" x 4"	4" x 4"
12'-0"	139.5"	4" x 4"	4" x 4"
14'-0"	163.5"	4" x 4"	6" x 6"
16'-0"	187.5"	4" x 4"	6" x 6"
Custom	Custom	Custom	Custom

Vertical dimensions			
Height	A	B	C
4'-$\frac{1}{2}$"	4'-3"	45°	46-$\frac{1}{2}$"
6'-0"	6'-2$\frac{1}{2}$"	68-$\frac{1}{2}$"	70"
7'-11$\frac{1}{2}$"	8'-2$\frac{1}{2}$"	92-$\frac{1}{2}$"	93-$\frac{1}{2}$"
Custom	H + 2$\frac{1}{2}$"	C-1$\frac{1}{2}$"	A - 4$\frac{1}{2}$"

GATE DETAILS

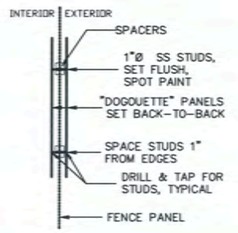
NO SCALE



"DOGOUETTE" PANEL SPECIFICATIONS:

- INDIVIDUAL DOG IMAGES AS TO BE SELECTED
- LASER-CUT STEEL PL 3/16" x ~30" x 48", DEMI-BULLNOSE EDGES
- POWDER-COATED FINISH TO MATCH FENCE MATERIAL
- FASTEN BACK-TO-BACK PANELS TO FENCE PANELS WITH 1"Ø THREADED SECURITY STUDS, (8) MINIMUM/PANEL
- POSITION IN FENCE PANEL APPROXIMATELY AS SHOWN
- SEE STREET ELEVATIONS FOR SUGGESTED LOCATION ARRANGEMENTS @ FENCE PERIMETER, ACTUAL FINAL LOCATION AND COUNT MAY VARY, TYPICAL

ELEVATION



DETAIL SECTION

'DOGOUETTE' PANELS

SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

DRAWING VERSION	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
0	LRC	12/12/2011	UPDATED AND RE-ISSUED FOR RFQ/P APPLICATION			

D R A W I N G S C A L E 60

CITY OF OAKLAND
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OAKLAND, CA 94612
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FAX (510) 238-3877

DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: AS NOTED

ELITE FENCE DETAILS

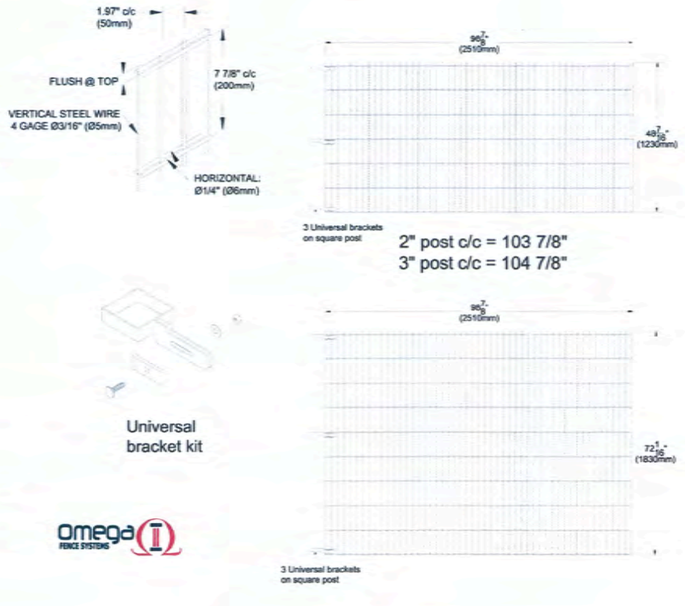
PHOTO SOURCE – OMEGA II FENCE COMPANY

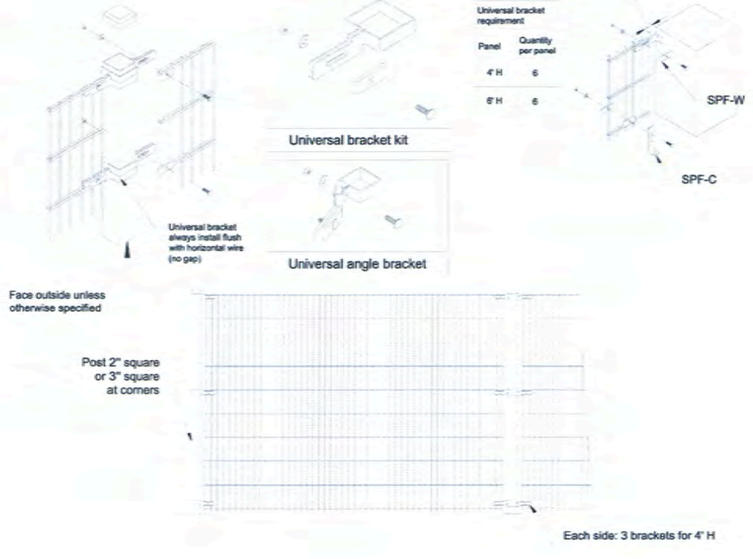
SAMPLE FENCE INSTALLATIONS

SEE SITE PLAN FOR SPECIFIC FENCE INFORMATION

Double wire panels mounted on square posts

All wires are welded at intersections, galvanized, then polyester powder coated, color as per sample.





FENCE PANELS DETAILS

NO SCALE

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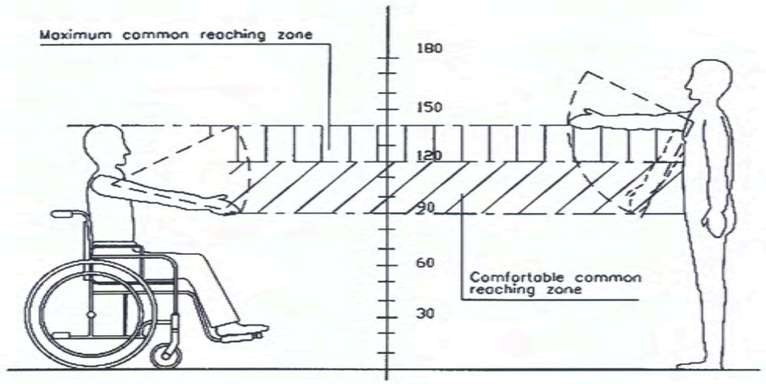
SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
FENCE DETAILS
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11-836-41-4

SHEET NUMBER
22

FILE: lv_28_vis fence details (24X36).dwg

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")



ADA ACCESS DETAILS



NOTE – TRASH CONTAINER IS BURIED ~5–FEET UNDERGROUND





Millennium 3000 Specifications

In-ground container

- 300 gallon capacity
- 8 feet tall and 30 inch diameter
- Sunk into ground 5 feet
- One piece polyethylene container – no leach in or out
- Container has odor fire flange
- Self – closing counterweighted lid with seal
- Support rack with web straps for lifting 10 foot waste bag
- Uses 10 foot waste bag 6mm – 1 use only
- Steel / poly skirt optional
- All stainless steel hardware. Standard colors and stone finishes available. Custom colors upon request
- Container has a bottom flange underground to assist with holding the one piece constructed container in ground, in frost and high water conditions
- Containers have a double locking system for two padlocks to prevent vandalism

MANUFACTURER DETAILS



IN SITU – UNIT AT JOAQUIN MILLER DOG PLAY AREA

DRAWING VERSION	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
	LRC	12/12/2011	UPDATE & RE-ISSUED FOR RCUP			
	LRC	6/28/2011	ISSUED FOR RCUP			

DRAWING SCALE

CITY OF OAKLAND
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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: NONE

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SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND
APN 11–836–41–4

SHEET NUMBER
31

FILE: lv_31_v10 Trash Container Details (24x36)

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

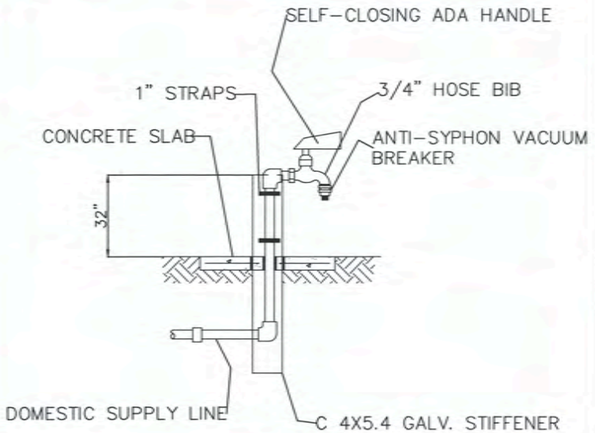
BIB FAUCETS



HOSE BIBB
SELF-CLOSING TYPE



Model Model 6250LF (RIGHT) bib faucet is designed with a self-closing lever action, extension nipple, and tee to precisely control water flow. Combining the constructed lead-free brass, with polished chrome-plated finish, this faucet is sure to last. (A special access plate is needed if used with 3511)



NO SCALE

BENCHES

Overall Bench Recommendations

- Use cast iron components in park benches.
- Do not use wood or recycled "plastic wood" in park site furnishings since they are susceptible to vandalism and have a short life cycle.
- Benches should have an arm in the middle so as to discourage sleeping on the benches.
- Benches shall be eight feet long and if more than one bench is installed, there should be a minimum of four feet left clear between the benches.
- Benches in Lake Merritt Park should be attached or anchored to the ground / sidewalk. Benches in the curb zone along sidewalks must be anchored to the sidewalk.
- Bench placement should not interfere with disabled access ramps, blue zone parking or loading areas, fire hydrants, or emergency vehicle access.
- Public benches should be placed in the curb street furniture area oriented towards the sidewalk and placed a minimum of two feet from the face of the curb.
- Benches must leave at least three feet clear on all sides from any standing objects including, but not limited to, parking meters and utility poles.
- Public benches along sidewalks should leave a minimum of six feet clearance for pedestrian traffic.

Lake Merritt Bench

The preferred, standard bench for Lake Merritt Park and perimeter parks should be an historically styled bench of cast iron and metal similar to as shown below. Plastic, wood, recycled material benches are not recommended.

Bench sponsorship should be sought after. Benches should be carefully placed to facilitate the needs of users and to accommodate particular views.

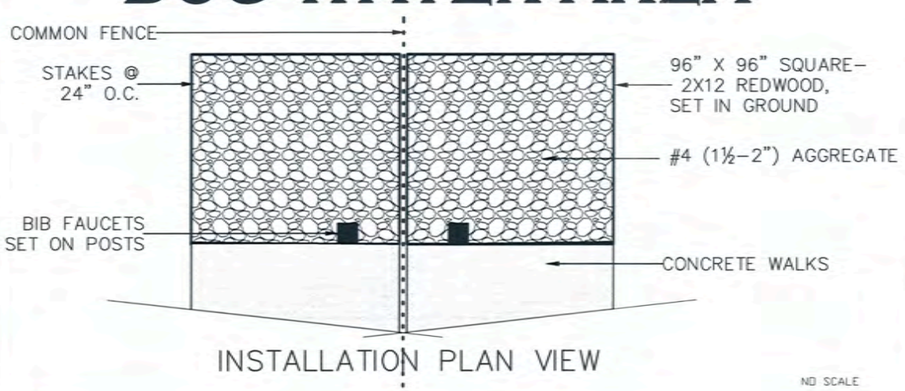


Proposed park bench style

DESIGN GUIDELINES

BENCHES SHALL CONFORM TO LAKE MERRITT MASTER PLAN DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR PARK BENCHES - CAST-IRON FRAME ONLY TO MATCH OTHER INSTALLED BENCHES, TYPICAL

DOG WATER AREA



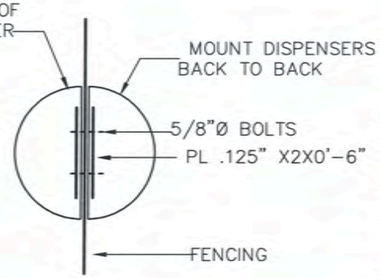
INSTALLATION PLAN VIEW

NO SCALE

BAG DISPENSER



IKEA 'RATIONELL VARIERA'



INSTALLATION PLAN VIEW

NO SCALE

BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPR. BY	DATE	BY
LRC	12/12/2011	UPDATED & RE-ISSUED FOR MUP APPLICATION			

DRAWING VERSION

DRAWING SCALE

CITY OF OAKLAND
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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: ME
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: NONE

SHEET TITLE / PROJECT TITLE
ACCESSORIES DETAILS
FENCING PROJECT

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK - OAKLAND
APN 11-836-41-4

SHEET NUMBER
32

FILE: lv_32_via Accessories Details (24X36).dwg

NOTE - SCALE FOR 11X17 PRINTS IS REDUCED BY HALF (EXAMPLE: 1/4" NOTED IS ACTUALLY 1/8")

EXHIBIT A

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

BETWEEN THE
CITY OF OAKLAND, OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION,
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
AND
LAKEVIEW PARK DOG OWNER GROUP (LPDOG)

The City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) and the Public Works Agency (PWA), hereinafter referred to as City, and Lakeview Park Dog Owner Group, hereinafter referred to as LPDOG, enter into an agreement on the _____ day of _____,2012.

A. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

1. This agreement establishes requirements, operating standards and expectations for LPDOG as well as clarifying the roles of the City in the operation of the Lakeview Dog Park.
2. The creation of the dog park is conditional upon approval by City Council to amend Municipal Code Chapter 6.04.080 A., "Dogs at large in parks", to include the Lakeview Dog Park in the exempted list of parks which allow dogs.

B. DESCRIPTION

1. The proposed Lakeview Dog Park is under the jurisdiction of the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation and is maintained by the Public Works Agency.
2. A preliminary plan of the dog park is shown as ATTACHMENT A.
3. The proposed Lakeview Dog Park is to be located adjacent to MacArthur Boulevard between Lakeshore Avenue and Grand Avenue.
4. The dog park will be enclosed by a continuous 4-foot-high fence and gates.
5. The main entrance will have a two-gate system separated by a fenced corridor to ensure the access and egress of dogs will be controlled. The gates will be self-closing.
6. Access to both entrance gates will be from the sidewalks
7. The dog park fence will be surrounded by plantings
8. The dog park will be divided into two areas; one area for large dogs and one area for small dogs. The small dog section will be reserved for the exclusive use of dogs that weigh 20 pounds or less.

C. HOURS OF OPERATION

The dog play area will be open during the same hours as Lake Merritt Park.

ATTACHMENT D

D. ADDITIONAL USE

1. LPDOG will have no other use of the property, except for the restricted use as a dog play area and limited to the following:
   a. Fundraising special events to raise money for dog park area improvements and maintenance, at no charge to the City and at no charge to LPDOG. One event to raise money for Lakeview dog park may be held each quarter in the dog park without going through PRAC or other procedures. Regular special permits will be required for each event using amplified sound for music or serving alcohol.
   b. Education and training events
   c. LPDOG may request other days and times for special events as outlined in the OPR Park Use Fees & Guidelines for Special Events and Rules & Procedures for Granting Park Use Permits for Special Events.
2. LPDOG may install, maintain and control the use of bulletin boards, benches and plantings at the dog park in conformance with City standards and regulations.

E. REGULATIONS

1. The dog park will be operated in compliance with Municipal Code Chapter 6.04, Oakland Animal Control Regulations. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs' behavior at all times and will be solely liable in the event of aggressive behavior.
2. A complete list of dog park rules which will be posted at the dog park site is shown in ATTACHMENT B.

F. CLEANUP

Dog owners utilizing the dog park will be responsible for maintaining a clean dog play area at all times. Users will be directed to use the trash receptacles at the site, or take their waste with them when leave the park. The dog play area must be free of dog waste, litter and debris from dog owners at all times.

G. LPDOG RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Maintenance of plantings installed for the dog play area.
2. Regular monitoring to ensure that the dog play is clean at all times
3. Educating dog owners about cleaning the dog park so that the play area is free from litter, debris and dog waste.
4. Providing dog waste bags for dog owners.
5. Insuring that the surface of the dog park is smooth and free of holes greater than six (6) inches in diameter and/or depth.

H. CITY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Removal of trash in receptacles at the site.
2. Complaints
   a. The City will determine the appropriate telephone number of OPR for concerns about the dog park. This telephone number will be incorporated as part of the signage shown in Attachment B.
   b. If the City receives complaints, each complaint will be dated and logged.
   c. If the City receives more than six (6) calls on the same issue within a four-hour period, OPR will investigate the complaint within the hour of the last complaint.
3. Providing Lakeview Dog Park signage
4. Removing graffiti on the dog park signs,fences and equipment. .
5. Listing the dog park as a public facility on city websites including the OPR sites
6. Inviting a representative of the dog park to serve on all organizations serving this park and on all neighborhood councils and similar bodies formed or supported by the City that represent the neighborhood of this dog play area.

Maintenance Program

The Lakeview Dog Park has been designed in a partnership by Oakland's Department of Public Works and the Oakland Dog Owners Group to provide a clean and healthy environment that makes few demands on city resources and benefits from volunteer commitment.

Key features

Cooperative maintenance program with DPW and dog owners group

MOU with city and Lakeview Dog Owners Group follows successful model at other Oakland do parks

Decrease in amount of grass needing to be mowed because wood chips will be used in the dog run

Donated wood chips to meet city's quality standards

Dog waste picked up daily by users

Magic Can underground waste system keeps waste cool and odor free and requires less frequent pick up by city than traditional waste removal systems. Very successful in other Oakland dog parks

Plantings specified by park staff for appearance and easy long term maintenance by volunteers

Irrigation installed and maintained by city

Application pending with Department of Public Works volunteer Adopt-A-Spot program.

Successful Maintenance Program at Joaquin Miller Dog Park- A Model for Lakeview

The Joaquin Miller Dog Park is decommissioned about a dozen times a year and becomes a parking lot for patrons of the Woodminster Amphitheater (summer musicals, Sundays in the Redwoods concerts and spring graduations).

This plan requires a pristine environment for theater patrons which the dog owners have maintained. In five years of operation there have never been complaints about noise, litter or odor at the dog park. Although there was a great deal of skepticism that a dog park could ever be cleaned up enough to be used by other park patrons, the President of the group producing the summer musicals has written a letter of praise to the dog park volunteers saying that the park is always clean and the volunteers have been easy to work with.

The success of the volunteer maintenance program is documented by letters from producer of Woodminster Summer Musicals and by park supervisor.

Maintenance Schedule at the Proposed Dog Park

Task	Frequency	City Responsibilities	Users Responsibilities	
Dog waste pick up	Daily	NO	Yes, absolutely	
Waste Can Emptied	As needed	Yes		
Fence Maintenance	As needed	Has not been needed at other Oakland dog parks		
Lawn	NA	NA	NA	
Wood Chip Surface	3x year	No	Donated by The Professional Tree Care Company (see letter attached)	
Graffiti Removal	As needed	Has not been needed at other dog parks. City will remove major graffiti	Minor Graffiti	
Vines and Flowers	As needed	City will repair irrigation if needed	The Paw & Prune Club at Lakeview Dog Park	

PRAC July 2006

Staff report
Project received approval but no minutes are available.

ATTACHMENT E

CITY OF OAKLAND

TO: Matthew Webb, Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Lyle Oehler, Capital Improvement Projects Coordinator, Public Works Agency
DATE: July 12, 2006
SUBJECT: Lakeview Dog Park Approval

SUMMARY

The Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) has been working with the Public Works Agency (PWA) and the Lakeview Park Dog Owners Group (LPDOG) to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Oakland and LPDOG to construct and operate an off-leash dog park at Lakeview Park as a probationary program that will last twelve (12) months. The creation of the Lakeview Dog Park is conditional upon approval by the City Council to accept the gift of services and materials to construct the dog park and to amend Oakland Municipal Code, Title 6, Chapter 6.04, Article 6.04.080, to include the Lakeview Dog Park as an off-leash dog play area in the exempted list of such parks. Construction of the dog park is currently scheduled to begin in October, 2006 and is to be completed by February, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The creation of a dog park in the Lake Merritt area was identified as an unmet community need by the Northlake Neighborhood Group (NLNG) in 1998.

In 1999, volunteers from the Oakland Dog Owners Group (O'DOG) and the NLNG collected 740 petition signatures of residents in the Lake Merritt area, supporting the creation of a dog park near Lake Merritt. Also in 1999, Nancy Rieser of O'DOG made an informational report to PRAC regarding the community's petition-gathering efforts, and discussed possible sites. Important factors in selecting a possible location for the dog park included adequate distance from the wildlife sanctuary and low impact on other park user groups and the surrounding community.

The Lakeview Dog Park was included in the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan, which was accepted by the Oakland City Council in July, 2002, and in the Adams Point Urban Design Plan, submitted to the City of Oakland Community and Economic Development Agency in December, 2002. The development of both these plans included extensive public review and comment. Both of the plans included graphic exhibits showing the dog park in the location adjacent to MacArthur Boulevard where it is currently proposed.

Public meetings for the Lakeview Dog Park were held on November 7, 2005, and on June 29, 2006, and community input from those meetings was incorporated into the design. The meetings were sponsored by Councilmember Nancy Nadel and community outreach was extensive. The needs of other user groups in Lakeview Park, including tot-lot users, volleyball players, and soccer players have been addressed in the plans.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total funding available for the Lakeview Dog Park is $36,000. The source of funding is from Pay-Go account contributions from Councilmember Nancy Nadel ($10,000) and Councilmember Henry Chang ($1,000) and funding from the Citywide Capital Allocation Pool ($25,000). This funding will cover City staff time and all items and services not donated to the project.

Apprenticeship programs from several labor union locals will donate labor and materials for building the fencing, paving and irrigation for the dog park as well as improvements for the entire Lakeview Park area. Improvements outside the dog park include supplemental fencing for the tot lot and ball barrier fencing for the soccer and volleyball use areas. A demolition construction company has indicated they will contribute clean fill to raise the grade in order to improve drainage of the soccer field. All donations will be made to the Friends of Parks and Recreation, of which O'DOG is a member.

Maintenance of the dog park by City staff will only include trash collection and graffiti abatement on dog park signage. All other maintenance services will be provided by LPDOG and users of the dog park.

KEY ISSUES

(1) Amendment of the Municipal Code.
The creation of the off-leash dog play area is conditional upon approval by the City Council to amend Oakland Municipal Code, Title 6, Chapter 6.04, Article 6.04.080, to include Lakeview Dog Park as an off-leash dog play area in the exempted list of such parks.

(2) Maintenance and Operation of the Dog Park.
A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), included as Exhibit A, between the City and LPDOG is being developed to define roles and responsibilities in the operation and maintenance of the dog park. Dog owners will be responsible for maintaining a clean dog play area at all times. A group of volunteers from LPDOG will be committed to maintaining the dog park, including all the related improvements.

(3) Drainage issue in the soccer field.
Installation of the dog park cannot occur until correction of the poor drainage in the lawn area near the library parking lot so that the soccer field can be relocated to that area. PWA will study how to correct this drainage problem and it is not within the scope of the dog park project to correct the drainage problem.

(4) Probationary period.
Continued operation of the Lakeview Dog Park after the twelve (12) month probationary period is subject to review by PRAC. The City will consider extending the operation of the Lakeview Dog Park for an additional two (2) years with a 2-year option to renew after review by the PRAC and public review.

CURRENT STATUS

The conceptual design phase of the project is complete. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in October, 2006 and the project is to be completed by February, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

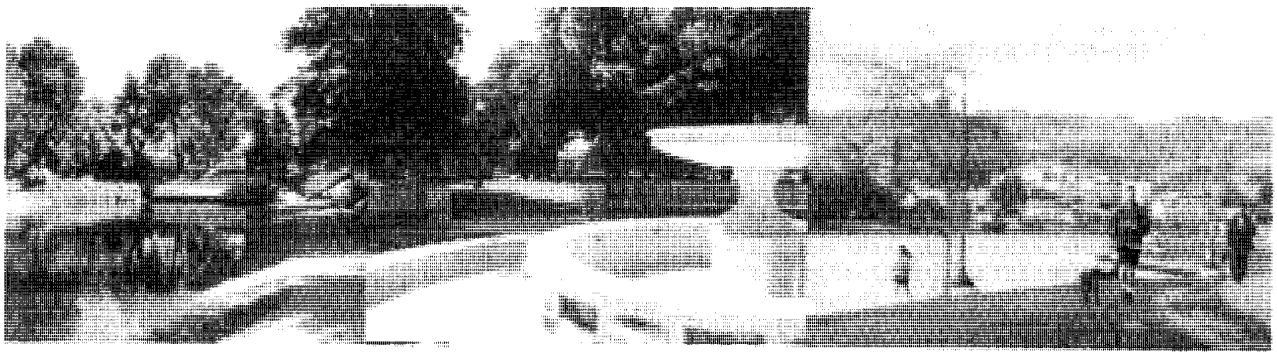
Staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the Lakeview Dog Park as a twelve month probationary project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lyle Oehler
Capital Improvement Project Coordinator
Public Works Agency

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Lakeshore Park Edge					
LKSH	1	GRAND LAKE GREEN LINK / EL EMBARCADERO	Realign roadway to single two way couplet with new green space and improved crosswalks per the Grand Lake Green Link Plan.	4-6 mos	Green space areas.
LKSH	2	LANDSCAPE RENOVATION & MULTI-USE PATH (Embarcadero to E. 18th)	Complete park design/installation including roadway modifications; multi-use path; shoreline path; pergola pathways; streetscape; furnishings, lighting; planting; irrigation	4-6 mos	Description of Interim, Phase 1, 2
LKSH	3	LANDSCAPE RENOVATION & MULTI-USE PATH (E. 18th to 12th)	Complete park design/installation including roadway modifications; multi-use path; shoreline path, streetscape; furnishings, lighting; planting; irrigation.	4-6 mos	
LKSH	4	EAST 18TH CREEK NODE (Landing and Gateway)	Renovation of landing including structure; hardscape; walls; special benches; interpretive signage; lighting. Design installation of gateway elements in 18th Street approach including art elements, hardscape, planting, irrigation	4-8 mos	
LKSH	5	PINE KNOLL PARK RENOVATION	Renovation of park including perimeter retaining wall, staircase, lighting, planting, irrigation.	4-6 mos	
LKSH	6	ATHOL PLAZA PARK RENOVATION	Renovation of park including new play area; restroom, plaza; lighting, bus shelter; planting, irrigation		
LKSH	7	NEIGHBORHOOD NODES	Design/installation of art element nodes to depict local history. Amenity includes low seatwall, art tiles; special planting, paving.	2-6 mos	
[illegible]	[illegible]	CLEVELAND CASCADE RENOVATION	Renovation of [illegible] including [illegible] planting, irrigation.	2-4 mos	
LKSH	9	EASTSHORE PARK RENOVATION	Renovation of park area including parking lot; library sitework; open lawn areas; dog area enclosure, sports facilities; lighting; planting; irrigation	4-6 mos	
LKSH	10	CREEK DAYLIGHTING	Design/engineer/construct open creek channel along Grand Avenue promenade in Eastshore Park including excavations; pedestrian bridges; filtration devices; stabilization; planting, irrigation, art element; signage	4-6 mos	



PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

Table V.2 Lake Merritt Park Master Plan Project Prioritization and Costs

Sequence	Zone	Project Title	Percentage of Construction for Design	Estimated Design Cost	Estimated Construction Cost	Additional Contingency @ 5% (permits, fees, etc)	Inflation to 2004 @ 5%	Estimated Total Project Cost
25	LKSH	LANDSCAPE RENOVATION, NODES, & MULTI-USE PATH (E. 18th to 12th)	18%	338,400	$ 1,880,000	$ 94,000	$ 94,000	$ 2,406,400
26	LKSD	BELLEVUE AVENUE, SHORELINE PARKING LOT & ENTRY	18%	484,758	$ 2,693,100	$ 134,655	$ 134,655	$ 3,447,168
27	LKSH	LANDSCAPE RENOVATION, NODES & MULTI-USE PATH (Embarcadero to E. 18th)	18%	280,728	$ 1,559,600	$ 77,980	$ 77,980	$ 1,996,288
28	LKSD	LAKESIDE PARK WEST & BANDSTAND	10%	485,250	$ 4,852,500	$ 242,625	$ 242,625	$ 5,823,000
29	LKSH	EAST 18TH CREEK NODE (Landing and Gateway)	10%	100,000	$ 1,000,000	$ 50,000	$ 50,000	$ 1,200,000
30	LKSD	LAKESIDE PARK ENTRY ENHANCEMENTS	12%	90,000	$ 750,000	$ 37,500	$ 37,500	$ 915,000
31	LKSH	GRAND LAKE GREEN LINK / EL EMBARCADERO	18%	248,616	$ 1,381,200	$ 69,060	$ 69,060	$ 1,767,936
32	LKSH	EASTSHORE PARK RENOVATION	10%	193,500	$ 1,935,000	$ 96,750	$ 96,750	$ 2,322,000
33	LKSH	CREEK DAYLIGHTING	20%	100,000	$ 500,000	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	$ 650,000
34	LKSD	MAINTENANCE FACILITY: Demo of Old Structure, New Shed, Renovation/Reuse of Existing Restroom Bldg.	15%	60,900	$ 406,000	$ 20,300	$ 20,300	$ 507,500
35	LKSD	MID PARK RENOVATION	10%	250,200	$ 2,502,000	$ 125,100	$ 125,100	$ 3,002,400
36	LKSD	MID PARK EDU CENTER: Junior Center for Arts and Science (JCAS), Ranger Station, and Maintenance Demonstration Center. Demo of Old Structure	15%	288,675	$ 1,924,500	$ 96,225	$ 96,225	$ 2,405,625

EXHIBIT A

DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN THE
CITY OF OAKLAND, OFFICE OF PARKS AND RECREATION,
PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
AND
LAKEVIEW PARK DOG OWNER GROUP (LPDOG)

The City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) and the Public Works Agency (PWA), hereinafter referred to as City, and Lakeview Park Dog Owner Group, hereinafter referred to as LPDOG, enter into an agreement on the _____ day of _____, 2006.

A. PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT

1. This agreement establishes requirements, operating standards and expectations for LPDOG as well as clarifying the roles of the City in the operation of the Lakeview Dog Park.
2. The creation of the dog park is conditional upon approval by City Council to amend Municipal Code Chapter 6.04.080 A., "Dogs at large in parks", to include the Lakeview Dog Park in the exempted list of parks which allow dogs.

B. DESCRIPTION

1. The proposed Lakeview Dog Park is under the jurisdiction of the City of Oakland Office of Parks and Recreation and is maintained by the Public Works Agency.
2. A preliminary plan of the dog park is shown as ATTACHMENT A.
3. The proposed Lakeview Dog Park is to be located adjacent to MacArthur Boulevard between Lakeshore Avenue and Grand Avenue.
4. The dog park will be enclosed by a continuous 4-foot-high wrought iron fence and gates.
5. Each entrance will have a two-gate system separated by a fenced corridor to ensure the access and egress of dogs will be controlled. The gates will be self-closing.
6. Access to both entrance gates will be from the sidewalks on MacArthur Boulevard.
7. The two entry ways to the dog park will have decorative pergola structures to provide visual interest to the park landscape.
8. The dog park fence will be surrounded by a landscaped boarder composed of plant material selected to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.
9. The dog park will be divided into two areas; one area for large dogs and one area for small dogs. The small dog section will be reserved for the exclusive use of dogs that weight 30 pounds or less.

C. HOURS OF OPERATION

The dog play area will be open during the same hours as Lake Merritt Park, which is from dawn to 10 PM.

D. ADDITIONAL USE

1. LPDOG will have no other use of the property, except for the restricted use as a dog play area and limited to the following:
   a. Fundraising special events to raise money for dog park area improvements and maintenance, at no charge to the City and at no charge to LPDOG.
   b. LPDOG may request other days and times for special events as outlined in the OPR Park Use Fees & Guidelines for Special Events and Rules & Procedures for Granting Park Use Permits for Special Events.
2. LPDOG may install, maintain and control the use of bulletin boards located inside each dog play area in conformance with City standards and regulations.

E. REGULATIONS

1. The dog park will be operated in compliance with Municipal Code Chapter 6.04, Oakland Animal Control Regulations. Dog owners are responsible for their dogs' behavior at all times and will be solely liable in the event of aggressive behavior.
2. A complete list of dog park rules which will be posted at the dog park site is shown in ATTACHMENT B.

F. CLEANUP

Dog owners, utilizing the dog park, will be responsible for maintaining a clean dog play area at all times. Users will be directed to use the trash receptacles at the site, or take their waste with them when leave the park. The dog play area must be free of dog waste, litter and debris at all times.

G. LPDOG RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Constructing the dog park to City specifications and standards.
2. Maintaining, in perpetuity, all the elements of the dog park, including, but not limited to, boarder landscaping and any interior landscaping, fencing, gates, drinking water fountain, added paving and pergola structures.
3. Regular monitoring to ensure that the dog play area meets cleanliness standards at all times.

4. Educating dog owners about cleaning the dog park so that the play area is free from litter, debris and dog waste.
5. Providing dog waste bags for dog owners.
6. Monitoring the dog park to ensure that it is odor free. If there are odor problems, LPDOG will take immediate steps to remedy odor problems, including applying water with a hose or irrigation system or replacing sand.
7. Insuring that the surface of the dog park is smooth and free of holes greater than six (6) inches in diameter and/or depth.

H. CITY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Removal of trash in receptacles at the site daily. Receptacles will be located adjacent to the MacArthur Boulevard sidewalk at the two park entrance locations.
2. Complaints
   a. The City will determine the appropriate telephone number of OPR for concerns about the dog park. This telephone number will be incorporated as part of the signage shown in Attachment B.
   b. If the City receives complaints, each complaint will be dated and logged.
   c. If the City receives more than six (6) calls on the same issue within a four-hour period, OPR will investigate the complaint within the hour of the last complaint.
3. Providing Lakeview Dog Park signage, including the design, manufacture and installation of signage at the site. Funding for the signs and their installation will be provided by the Lakeview Dog Park budget. Signs will be installed in collaboration with LPDOG.
4. Removing graffiti on the dog park signs.

ATTACHMENT B

LAKEVIEW DOG PARK SIGNAGE

1. The City will post signage notifying dog owners of dog park regulations at the entrances and inside each section of the dog play areas.
2. Lettering of text on signs shall be a minimum 1-inch tall lowercase letters.
3. The signs for the small dog play area will include the additional language: "SMALL DOG PLAY AREA – This area is for dogs weighing 30 pounds or less."

1. All signs will include the following information:

LAKEVIEW DOG PARK

HOURS OF USE
Daily - Dawn to 10:00 P.M.

Welcome to Lakeview Dog Park. This park gives dogs a healthy and safe environment for leash-free socialization and exercise. Please help us keep it that way by following these rules:

1. Visitors to the dog park are advised that their presence in the dog park is not without risk to their dog(s) or person.
2. Visitors are further advised that their dog(s) or person may be subject to injury from other dogs, natural and man-made hazards, or due to the strenuousness of the activities.
3. Dog owners are responsible for their dog's behavior at all times and will be solely liable in the event of aggressive behavior. Municipal Code Chapter 6.04, Oakland Animal Control Regulation.
4. Children visitors under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
5. There is a limit of 3 dogs per person.
6. Dog(s) must be on a leash until dog and handler have entered the first gate of the dog play area.
7. Dogs are not permitted in the rest of Lakeview Park.
8. All dogs must be licensed and must wear collars with license dog tags.
9. Dog owners are responsible for removing dog waste, litter and debris from the dog park and placing them in trash receptacles.
10. Female dogs in heat are not allowed.
11. Dogs must be under voice control at all times.
12. Dogs that bark persistently must be removed.
13. No unruly or aggressive dogs are allowed.
14. No unattended dogs.
15. Food is discouraged. If your food causes problems, please remove it.
16. No puppies under the age of four months are allowed.

Additional information on the signage includes the following:

1. This dog play area is under the jurisdiction of the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR) of the City of Oakland.
2. The Lakeview Park Dog Owners Group (LPDOG) is responsible for regular monitoring to ensure that the dog park meets cleanliness standards at all times.
3. To report a problem please call OPR: [determine OPR number to call]
4. To report a cleanliness problem or supply shortage contact LPDOG: [determine a number to call, and THE LPDOG website address]
   a. Emergency Numbers:
   b. Humane Society: [determine number to call]
   c. Oakland Police Department: [determine number to call]
   d. Emergency Vet Clinic: [determine number to call]

PRAC December 2010

Staff report
Project received unanimous approval

ATTACHMENT F

CITY OF OAKLAND

CITY HALL • 1 FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

City Council
Councilmember
District Three

(510) 238-7003
FAX (510) 238-6129
TTY (510) 238-7413

MEMORANDUM

TO: JEFFREY TAYLOR, CHAIR, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

FROM: NANCY NADEL, COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICT 3

DATE: DECEMBER 8, 2010

SUBJECT: REQUEST APPROVAL OF THE DESIGN OF AN OFF-LEASH DOG PLAY AREA AT LAKEVIEW PARK

SUMMARY

Since 2009, volunteers of the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) have been working on a redesign of an off-leash dog play area at Lakeview Park in conjunction with the Public Works Agency (PWA), the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), and my office (City Council, District 3). We are requesting Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) approval of the dog play area redesign, including a landscape and irrigation plans. The Lakeview Dog Play Area will enclose the corner of the park bordered by MacArthur Blvd to the north and Lakeshore Ave to the southeast. The long-awaited dog play area will contain separate off-leash areas for large and small dogs to exercise and socialize.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding is available for the Lakeview Dog Play Area in the amounts of $21,000 from the Public Works Agency's Capital Reserves Fund, $10,000 from Council District 3 carry-forward Pay-Go funds, $2,000 from Council District 2, and $2,000 from the At-Large Council office, for a total of $35,000. ODOG and my office will work together to seek additional resources, including gifts of services and materials for the construction of the dog play area. ODOG will also seek sustainable resources for operation and maintenance, including the organization of a volunteer program. With the addition of the dog play area, supplementary maintenance to the Lakeview Park by City staff will only include waste removal, application of wood chip cover, and graffiti abatement on dog park signage.

BACKGROUND

The Lakeview Dog Play Area was included in the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan, which was accepted by the Oakland City Council in July 2002, and in the Adams Point Urban Design Plan, submitted to the City of Oakland Community and Economic Development Agency in December 2002. The development of both these plans included extensive public review and comment. Both of the plans included graphic

exhibits showing the dog play area in the location adjacent to MacArthur Boulevard where it is currently proposed.

The creation of a dog play area in the Lake Merritt area was identified as an unmet community need by the Northlake Neighborhood Group (NLNG) in 1998. In 1999, volunteers from ODOG and the NLNG collected 740 petition signatures of residents in the Lake Merritt area, supporting the creation of a dog play area near Lake Merritt. Important factors in selecting a possible location for the dog park included adequate distance from the wildlife sanctuary and low impact on other park user groups and the surrounding community. NLNG met with my office to discuss the dog play area project in December 2001. Councilmembers Chang and Wan held a public meeting on behalf of the dog play area in February 2004. At that time Councilmember Chang offered $20,000 for the dog play area but the City was not able to commit to building it in time to accept the funds. Thus, Councilmember Chang's funds were used to create the Joaquin Miller dog play area.

Public meetings for the Lakeview Dog Park were also held on November 7, 2005, and on June 29, 2006, and community input from those meetings was incorporated into the design. The meetings were sponsored by Councilmember Nancy Nadel and community outreach was extensive. The needs of other user groups in Lakeview Park, including tot-lot users and soccer players have been addressed in the plans.

In July 2006, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission gave one-year probationary support for the construction of a dog play area at Lakeview Park. The creation of the dog play area was conditional upon approval by the City Council to amend the Oakland Municipal Code, Title 6, Chapter 6.04, Article 6.04.080 to include the Lakeview Dog Play Area as an off-leash dog play area in the exempted list of such parks. Unfortunately, the project stalled before the Public Works Department could approve the final design. The delay was in part due to the larger scope of the original dog play area project, which would have required several hundred thousand dollars to construct.

For the past 18 months, volunteers, including design and landscape architects, have worked diligently to scale back the project to meet the City's resource constraints while still fulfilling the design and maintenance requirements of the City. Extensive discussions took place between volunteers and City staff from PWA, OPR, and ADA programs. ODOG also presented to and received approval from the Adam's Point Action Council (APAC) in October 2009. Additionally, my office continues to receive frequent constituent calls and emails requesting a dog play area in this area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To enclose/fence a section of the Lakeview Park for use as an off-lease dog play area for dogs to exercise, and for both dogs and their guardians to socialize.

Specific elements of the project include:

- Separate play areas for large and small dogs
- Fencing to enclose the dog play area, which will be 21,300 sq. ft. total in area. The fence fully separates those on the inside from those on the outside without imposing unnecessary visual impact on the park
- Double gate entries that are ADA accessible with supply vehicle access
- Concrete mow-band around 2/3 of the fence to provide easy access for lawn maintenance
- Two in-ground waste receptacles
- Wood chips to provide the ground cover
- Tree planting between the fence line and MacArthur Blvd

To be determined is whether the project will incorporate Option A or Option B, as described below:

Option A:
Black 4' chain link fencing (waist height) and vine plantings at the fence line

Option B:
5' fencing product similar to Ameristar's Montage Plus Majestic fence recently installed at the Jefferson Square Park Dog Play Area and no vine planting at the fence line

The Lakeview Dog Play Area will enclose the corner of the park bordered by MacArthur Blvd to the north and Lakeshore Ave to the southeast. The dog play area will utilize an area of the park that is under-utilized and where no structures currently exist. Construction of the project will utilize approved on-call Public Works contractors when possible and will go out for bids if elements of the construction require contractors outside of the Public Works on-call list.

KEY ISSUES

We are excited that this project can now move forward with a scaled-down plan that is suitable for the limited financial resource of the City while meeting the design requirements of the Public Works Agency and the Office of Parks and Recreation. Our constituents have been persistent and vocal in advocating for a dog play area near Lake Merritt where many residents and their dogs live in apartments or condominiums with no yard space. Evidence at the City's other dog play areas also show that dog play areas provide a physical space for members of the community to socialize in addition to the benefit afforded to the dogs themselves in the form of exercise. Furthermore, dog play areas require minimum management and maintenance compared to other parks and recreation facilities.

Our office will submit a request to the City Council to amend the Oakland Municipal Code to include the Lakeview Dog Play Area as an off-leash dog play area. Operation of the Lakeview Dog Play Area will also require a stewardship agreement with ODOG for ongoing stewardship.

The following regulations will govern the use of the Lakeview Dog Play Area:

- Dog owners must clean up after their dogs immediately. Always bring a plastic bag
- Limit three dogs per adult
- Small dog area for dogs under 25 pounds and elderly dogs
- Dogs must be leashed to and from fenced area
- Adult handler must be in fenced area with dog at all times
- Keep dogs in sight and maintain voice control
- Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult
- Dogs must be licensed and have all required shots
- No dogs under four months of age
- No dogs in heat
- Dogs showing repeated aggressive behavior must be leave the park immediately
- No spiked or pinched collars
- No smoking or eating
- Excessive barking must be controlled
- Dog owners shall observe all rules posted in the dog play area

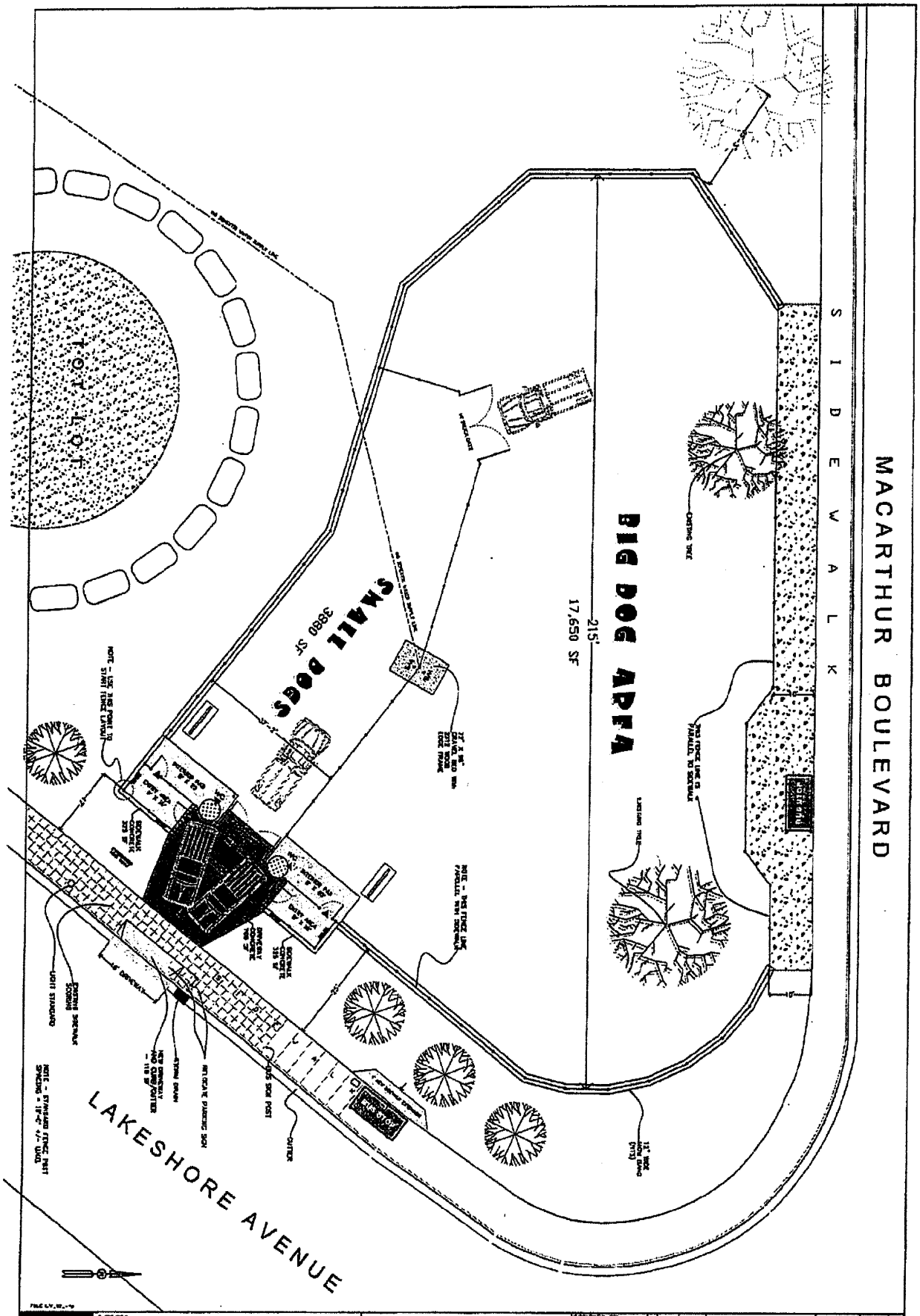
DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZEN ACCESS
The working group has included the City of Oakland's Association of Disabled Americans office to ensure the design for the facilities are accessible including accessible path of travel, and gate and landing access.

RECOMMENDATION
I recommend that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the revised Lakeview Park Dog Play Area design.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Nadel

Attachments: Dog Play Area Design
Landscape Design



SHEET NUMBER 2

SHEET TITLE: FENCE LAYOUT PLAN

PROJECT: LAKEVIEW DOG PARK
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK — OAKLAND

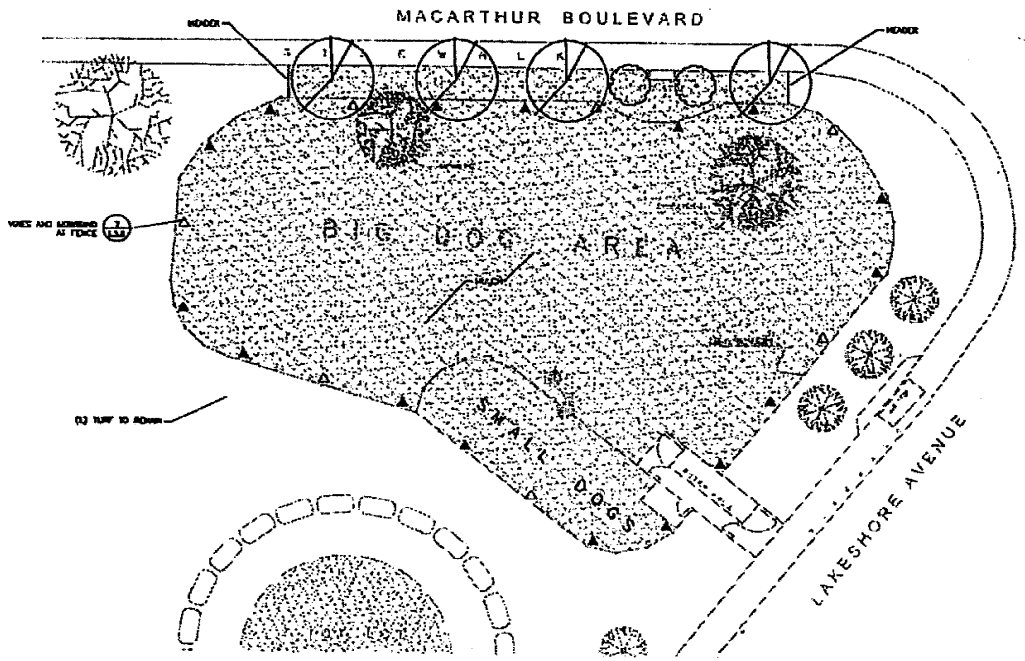
CHARONNAT-ARCHITECT+ENGINEERING
1 - 5TH AVENUE #1-9 OAKLAND 94606
(510) 436-3466 FAX (877) 769-9956
EMAIL: CHARONNATDESIGN@GMAIL.COM

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DESIGNED BY: L CHARONNAT
DRAWN BY: NE
CHECKED BY: LRC
SHEET SCALE: 1"=40' U.N.O.

NO.	BY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
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2			
3			
4			

0 DRAWING SCALE 120

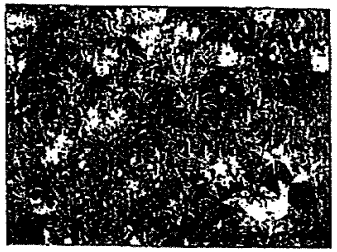


PLANTING NOTES

1. VERIFY LOCATION OF SUBSURFACE UTILITIES, PIPES AND STRUCTURES. SHOULD VALVES OR STRUCTURES NOT SHOWN OR NOT PLUMB BE FOUND DURING EXCAVATIONS, PROMPTLY NOTIFY OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL MAKE CONTRACTOR LIABLE FOR DAMAGE ARISING FROM HIS OPERATIONS SUBSEQUENT TO DISCOVERY OF VALVES NOT SHOWN OR PLUMB.
2. NO PLANT SPECIES SUBSTITUTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
3. ALL PLANTS AND LAYOUT TO BE APPROVED BY THE OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE PRIOR TO EXCAVATION OF PLANTING HOLES.
4. EXPRESS DARK TOPSOIL AREA WITH MULCH AFTER TURF REMAIN, AND GRADING. SEE GRADING PLAN BY OTHERS.
5. NOTIFY OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE 24 HOURS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK TO COORDINATE PROJECT OBSERVATION MEETINGS.
6. REPAIR EXISTING TURF AND IRRIGATION TO REMAIN IF DAMAGED BY CONSTRUCTION.
7. PROTECT EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN.
8. PLANT VINES AT FENCE POSTS OR CENTER OF FENCE PANEL.

PLANT LIST

ABBREVIATION	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SPACING OR AS SHOWN	SIZE	COMMENTS
	(E) TREE TO REMAIN				
	TREE: ACER RUBRUM, KOELREUTERIA PANICULATA, NYSSA SYLVATICA	RED MAPLE, GOLDEN RAIN TREE, TUPELO	AS SHOWN	24" BOX	ALL SHRUBS WITH SPECIES ARE DECIDUOUS, MEDIUM WATER USE, AND TRUE OTHER IS NATIVE.
	TREE: LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA, ARBUTUS MENZIESII	CRAPE MYRTLE, STRAWBERRY TREE	AS SHOWN	24" BOX	ALL SMALL TREE SPECIES ARE LOW WATER USE.
△	DISTICTIS BUCCINATORIA	BLOOD RED TRUMPET VINE	AS SHOWN	1 GAL.	INC TO FENCE
▲	SOLANUM JASMINOIDES	POTATO VINE	15' O.C. OR AS SHOWN	1 GAL.	INC TO FENCE
	WOOD MULCH, 4" DEEP				


SOLANUM JASMINOIDES


DISTICTIS BUCCINATORIA

1 VINE IMAGES
SCALE: NTS

FOR PLANTING DETAILS, SEE SHEET L3.0

DRAFT

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET

PGA design
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
444 17th Street
Oakland CA 94612
T 510 465 1284
F 510 465 1264

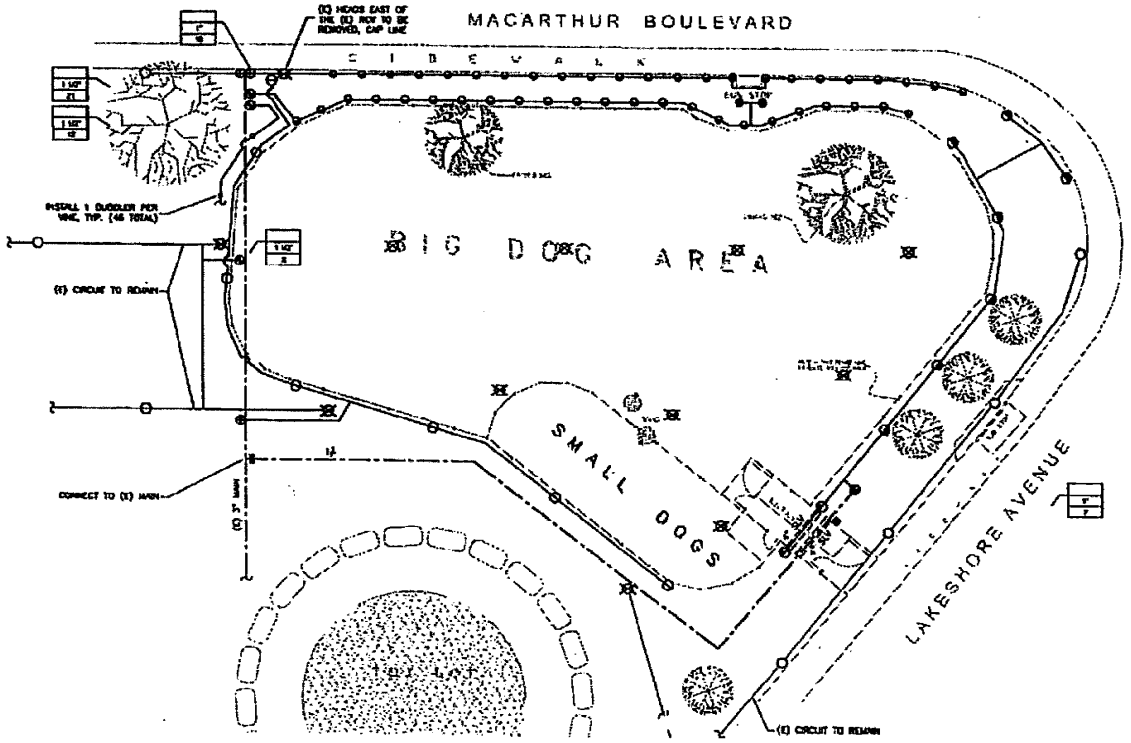
Lakeview Dog Park
at Lake Merritt
Oakland, CA

#	Date	Description

PLANTING PLAN

SCALE 1"=20'-0"
DATE 10/15/2010
DRAWN CLM
CHKD CP

L1.0



IRRIGATION NOTES

1. IRRIGATION DESIGN DEMAND IS 30 GPM AT 70 PSI MINIMUM STATIC PRESSURE AT THE EXISTING WATER METER. CONFIRM STATIC PRESSURE PRIOR TO START OF WORK. NOTIFY OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE IF STATIC PRESSURE IS LOWER THAN STATED DEMAND.
2. MAKE IRRIGATION POINT OF CONNECTION AS INDICATED ON PLAN. REVIEW PROPOSED CONNECTIONS TO AND FROM EXISTING MAINLINE WITH CITY'S REPRESENTATIVE PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.
3. COORDINATE WITH CITY REPRESENTATIVE TO RE-USE AVAILABLE CIRCUITS ON (E) CONTROLLER. MAKE ALL CONNECTIONS.
4. THE IRRIGATION PLAN IS DIAGRAMMATIC AND INDICATIVE OF THE WORK TO BE COMPLETED. IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT OR PIPING MAY BE SHOWN IN PAVED AREAS FOR GRAPHIC CLARITY. INSTALL ALL PIPING AND EQUIPMENT WITHIN PLANTING AREAS UNLESS OTHERWISE SHOWN ON PLANS.
5. FULL COVERAGE IS REQUIRED. MAKE MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO LAYOUT AS REQUIRED TO OBTAIN COMPLETE COVERAGE AND REVIEW WITH OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE.
6. SELECT SPRAY NOZZLES TO FIT AREA BEING IRRIGATED AND TO MINIMIZE OVERSPRAY.
7. INSTALL SHRUB SPRAY HEAD ON 6" POP-UP BODY. REVIEW WITH OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE.
8. INSTALL CHECK VALVES ON LATERAL LINES AS REQUIRED TO PREVENT LOW HEAD DRAINAGE.
9. VERIFY THAT PRESSURE REGULATING DEVICES ARE PROVIDED WITH ALL SPRAY NOZZLES. REFER TO MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL FILTER SCREENS FOR SHORT RADIUS SPRAY NOZZLES.
10. AVOID TRENCHING WITHIN DRIP LINE OF EXISTING TREES. WHERE TRENCHING WITHIN DRIP LINE IS UNAVOIDABLE REVIEW WITH OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE PRIOR TO START OF WORK. USE COMPRESSED AIR EXCAVATION ONLY, FOR MECHANICAL TRENCHING IN THESE AREAS.
11. INSTALL PIPE AND WIRE UNDER PAVING IN PVC SCH. 40 SLEEVE AS NOTED IN SPECIFICATIONS.
12. INSTALL (1) 1"HB2 BUBBLER ON FLEX RISER AT EACH NEW WMC ALONG FENCE.

IRRIGATION LEGEND

SYMBOL	MODEL	DESCRIPTION	PSI	GPM	RADIUS
⊖	I-20-ADS-07	HUNTER POP-UP ROTARY SPRINKLER	50	7.1	53'
⊕	MPR 40-08-MP3000-180,90	HUNTER POP-UP MP ROTATOR	40	1.83, 0.88	30'
○		EXISTING ROTARY SPRINKLER TO REMAIN			
⋈		REMOVE AND CAP EXISTING ROTARY SPRINKLER AND LATERAL			
●●●	1801-SAM-PRS-10'/H.O	RAIN BIRD POP-UP LAWN SPRAY	30	1.58, 0.75, 0.39	10'
▪	1401	RAIN BIRD PRESSURE COMPENSATING BUBBLER INSTALL ON FLEX PVC RISER	30	0.39	--
⋈	T-113-K	NIBCO GATE VALVE – LINE SIZE			
⊛	PEB/B SERIES	RAINBIRD REMOTE CONTROL VALVE			
⊖		EXISTING REMOTE CONTROL VALVE TO REMAIN			
■	.33 DNF	RAIN BIRD QUICK COUPLING VALVE			

MAINLINE: SCH 40 PVC SOLVENT WELD PIPE WITH SCH 40 PVC SOLVENT WELD FITTINGS. ALL MAINLINE TO BE PURPLE IN COLOR AND BEARING INDUSTRY STANDARD RECYCLED WATER WARNING LANGUAGE.

(E) MAINLINE

LATERAL LINE: CLASS 200 PVC SOLVENT WELD PIPE WITH SCH 40 PVC SOLVENT WELD FITTINGS. ALL LATERAL LINE TO BE PURPLE IN COLOR AND BEARING INDUSTRY STANDARD RECYCLED WATER WARNING LANGUAGE.

(E) LATERAL LINE

SLEEVE: SCH 40 PVC, SIZE AS NOTED ON PLAN.

CONTROLLER / STATION NUMBER–COORDINATE CIRCUIT NUMBERING WITH OPEN STATIONS ON (E) CONTROLLER
REMOTE CONTROL VALVE SIZE
APPROXIMATE GPM THROUGH VALVE

LATERAL PIPE SIZING

GALLONS PER MINUTE	PIPE SIZE (SCH. 40)
0 – 8 GPM	3/4" PIPE
9 – 13 GPM	1" PIPE
14 – 22 GPM	1-1/4" PIPE
23 – 30 GPM	1-1/2" PIPE
31 – 50 GPM	2" PIPE

SUPPLEMENTAL ABBREVIATIONS

GPM GALLONS PER MINUTE
RCV REMOTE CONTROL VALVE
SCH SCHEDULE
SLV SLEEVE

FOR IRRIGATION DETAILS, SEE SHEET L3.0

N

20' 0' 20' 40'
GRAPHIC SCALE IN FEET

USA 811 DIG ALERT — 800-227-2600

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

PGA design
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
T 510 465 1284
F 510 465 1256

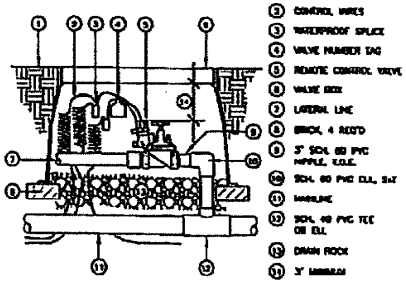
Lakeview Dog Park at Lake Merritt Oakland, CA

No.	Date	Description

IRRIGATION PLAN

SCALE 1"=20'-0"
DATE 7/21/2010
DRAWN CJMA
CHECKED CP

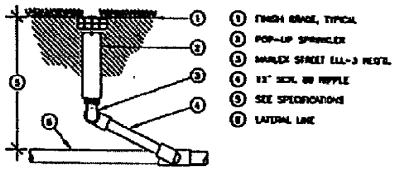
L2.0



1. FINISH GRADE
2. CONTROL WIRES
3. WATERPROOF SPLICE
4. VALVE NUMBER TAG
5. REMOTE CONTROL VALVE
6. VALVE BOX
7. LATERAL LINE
8. BRICK, 4 REQ'D
9. 3" SCH. 80 PVC NIPPLE, T.O.C.
10. SCH. 80 PVC ELL, S x T
11. MAINLINE
12. SCH. 40 PVC TEE OR ELL
13. DRAIN ROCK
14. 3" MINIMUM

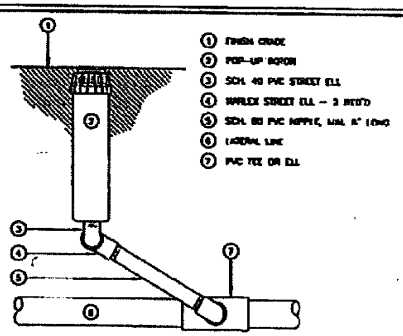
NOTE: WRAP FILTER FABRIC AROUND AND UNDER VALVE BOX PRIOR TO INSTALLATION OF DRAIN ROCK.

1 REMOTE CONTROL VALVE
SCALE: NTS



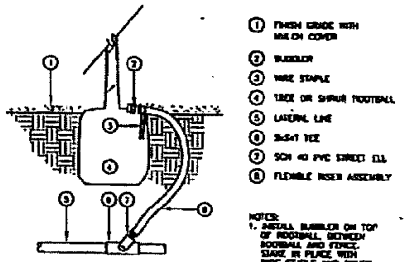
1. FINISH GRADE, TYPICAL
2. POP-UP SPRINKLER
3. MARLEX STREET ELL - 3 REQ'D.
4. 12" SCH. 80 NIPPLE
5. SEE SPECIFICATIONS
6. LATERAL LINE

2 SPRAY HEADS
SCALE: NTS



1. FINISH GRADE
2. POP-UP ROTOR
3. SCH. 40 PVC STREET ELL
4. MARLEX STREET ELL - 2 REQ'D.
5. SCH. 80 PVC NIPPLE, MIN. 6" LONG
6. LATERAL LINE
7. PVC TEE OR ELL

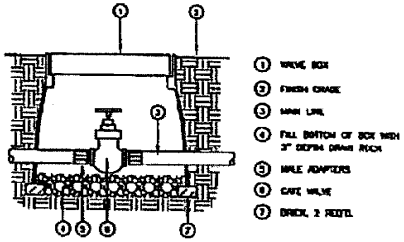
3 POP-UP ROTOR
SCALE: NTS



1. FINISH GRADE WITH MULCH COVER
2. BUBBLER
3. WIRE STAPLE
4. TREE OR SHRUB ROOTBALL
5. LATERAL LINE
6. 3x3x1 TEE
7. SCH. 40 PVC STREET ELL
8. FLEXIBLE RISER ASSEMBLY

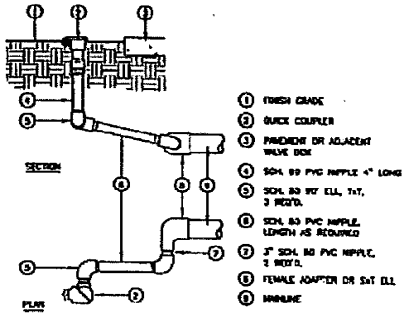
NOTES:
1. INSTALL BUBBLER ON TOP OF ROOTBALL BETWEEN ROOTBALL AND FENCE. STAKE IN PLACE WITH WIRE STAPLE AND COVER WITH MULCH.
2. INSTALL ONE BUBBLER PER TREE.

4 BUBBLER ON FLEX RISER
SCALE: NTS



1. VALVE BOX
2. FINISH GRADE
3. MAIN LINE
4. FILL BOTTOM OF BOX WITH 3" DEPTH DRAIN ROCK
5. MALE ADAPTERS
6. GATE VALVE
7. BRICK, 2 REQ'D.

5 GATE VALVE - 2 1/2" AND SMALLER
SCALE: NTS

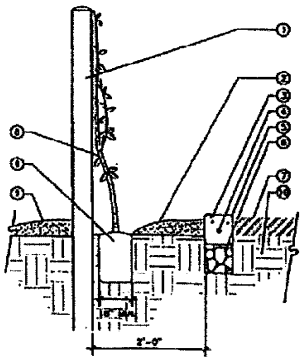


1. FINISH GRADE
2. QUICK COUPLER
3. PAVEMENT OR ADJACENT VALVE BOX
4. SCH. 80 PVC NIPPLE 4" LONG
5. SCH. 80 90° ELL, T x T, 3 REQ'D.
6. SCH. 80 PVC NIPPLE, LENGTH AS REQUIRED
7. 3" SCH. 80 PVC NIPPLE, 2 REQ'D.
8. FEMALE ADAPTER OR SxT ELL
9. MAINLINE

SECTION

PLAN

6 QUICK COUPLING VALVE
SCALE: NTS



1. FENCE POST
2. MULCH
3. 6" WIDE CAST-IN-PLACE MOWBAND
4. #4 REBAR, CONTINUOUS, 3" MIN CLEARANCE ALL SIDES
5. 1/4" TOOLED RADIUS AT ALL EXPOSED EDGES, TYP.
6. COMPACTED AGGREGATE BASE, CL. II, RSE
7. ADJACENT (E) TURF
8. VINE, TIE TO POST OR FENCE PANEL W/ PLASTIC TIE.
9. AMENDED SOIL
10. SUBGRADE

7 VINE PLANTING AND MOWBAND AT FENCE
SCALE: 1"=1'-0"

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

800-227-2600

PGA design
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS
464 19th Street
Oakland CA 94612
T 510 465 1284
F 510 465 1256

LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
CHRISTOPHER PHILLIPS
No. 5165
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Lakeview Dog Park
at Lake Merritt
Oakland, CA

No.	Date	Description

IRRIGATION & PLANTING DETAILS

Scale	AS SHOWN
Date	7/21/2010
Drawn	CLMA
Checked	CP

L3.0

PRAC July 13, 2011

Agenda Item 8B-
New Business- proposal for a different location for a dog park

Agenda Item 9A- Staff request for PRAC to recommendation a Minor Conditional Use Permit for the Lakeview Dog Play Area to the City Planning Department

ATTACHMENT G

CITY of OAKLAND
OFFICE of PARKS & RECREATION

MEETING NOTICE

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

PUBLIC HEARING

Seeking comment on

Lakeview Park
Dog Play Area
Minor Conditional Use Permit

Wednesday, July 13, 2011--- 4:30 PM
Lakeside Park Garden Center
666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
will issue an advisory opinion
to the Planning Commission

For more information contact the
Office of Parks and Recreation
(510) 238-7275
http://www.oaklandnet.com/parks/news/

CITY of OAKLAND
OFFICE of PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland
Wednesday, July 13, 2011 4:30 P.M.
Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA

Supplemental Agenda July 13, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER:

2. ROLL CALL:
BELCHER, FINLINSON, HAMMOCK, MATIS, MILLER, MONTAUK, PETERSON, RICARDS, TAYLOR, WONG, WU

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:
   A. Minutes of May 11, 2011
   B. Minutes of June 8, 2011

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:

5. PRAC PENDING LIST:
   A. Commissioners Report Update, Commissioner Taylor

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:
   A. **Request Approval For Permission to Collect Charitable Donations and to Allow Vendors to Sell Merchandise On-Site for the Playworks Oakland-Eastbay Community Recess on Saturday, October 29, 2011, at Eastshore Park:** Staff received a request from Playworks for permission to collect charitable donations and to allow vendors to sell merchandise on-site at Eastshore Park on Saturday, October 29, 2011.

   B. **Request Approval for Permission to Collect Registration Fees and Charitable Donations for the 27th Annual Walk for Education & Health Education Fair on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at Lakeside Park Bandstand and Surrounding Area:** Staff received a request from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) for permission to collect registration fees and charitable donations at the Lakeside Park Bandstand and surrounding area on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

C. **Request Approval For Permission to Collect Charitable Donations and Have Vendors On-Site Selling Food and Merchandise for the 2nd Annual Oakland Black and Brown LGBTQ Pride Celebration Sunday, August 7, 2011 at Lakeside Park Bandstand and Surrounding Area:** Staff received a request from the AIDS Project of the East Bay for permission to collect charitable donations and have vendors on-site selling food and merchandise at the Lakeside Park Bandstand and surrounding area on Sunday, August 7, 2011.

D. **Request Approval for Permission to Have Vendors Sell Items and to Collect Charitable Donations at the 10th Annual Native American Pow Wow Fair on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at Clinton Square Park:** Staff received a request from the American Indian Contemporary ARTS for permission to collect Charitable donations and to allow vendors to sell products and food at the Clinton Square Park on Saturday, September 10, 2011.

8. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **The Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association Requests Approval of Design and Implementation of a Landscaping Plan for the Torii Gate Area within the Gardens at Lake Merritt at Lakeside Park:** The Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association, a 501(c)(3) corporation, would like to complete the landscaping in the area surrounding the Torii Gate within the Gardens at Lake Merritt. The map and planting plan is attached (Exhibit A).

B. **Design of an Off-Leash Dog Area at the Former Police Horse Stables within Lakeside Park. (An Alternative to the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore Park):** In response to significant community concerns about the proposed change in use that would be needed to accommodate the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore Park, the following design for an alternative off-leash dog area is proposed. This alternative location will be considered by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) at its July 13, 2011 meeting, at which time the Commission will also be reviewing proposed changes to open space and recreation allowances for the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area project (Lakeview Dog Area).

C. **Request Approval of the Installation of Temporary and Removable Butterfly Murals at the Gardens at Lake Merritt and Wade Johnson Park:** Staff is requesting approval for the installation of butterfly murals to be placed at the Wade Johnson Park and the Gardens at Lake Merritt. Staff has worked with artist Kristi Holohan to create 14 temporary butterfly murals consisting of wood cutout butterflies painted on both sides in various cheerful colors and designs as pictured in at: http://acearts.blogspot.com/2009/12/native-butterflies-at-allendale-park.html.

D. **Review and Recommend Approval Of Request Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend Master Agreement Between City Of Oakland And The East Bay Zoological Society / Oakland Zoo Pursuant To Grant Requirements From Proposition 84 Funds From The California Department Of Parks And Recreation, Which Require 1) Extension Of The Agreement To 30 Years; And 2) Elimination Of The "At-Will" Termination Clause:** The request for amendment of the Master Agreement between the City of Oakland and the East Bay Zoological Society (**Exhibit A**) as described in the staff report and resolution (**Exhibit B**), including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, is before you for consideration as required by section 35 of the Master Agreement.

E. **Request from East Bay Children's Book Project to Rent Space at Mosswood Recreation Center for the Collection and Distribution of Donated Books for All Children and Teachers:** The Office of Parks and Recreation has received a request from the East Bay Children's Book Project to rent a space at Mosswood Recreation Center, the room known as the "Art Room and adjoining Office Space" for the purpose of collecting and donating new and used books to children and teachers throughout the bay area, from July 2011 through June 30, 2013, with an opportunity to renew for an additional two years. The address of the proposed site for the East Bay Children's Book Project is 3612 Webster Street (at MacArthur), Oakland 94609.

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

A. **Lakeview Dog Play Area Recommendation for Minor Conditional Use Permit:** Staff received a request from the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) to design and construct a dog play area within Lakeview Park. On December 8, 2010 the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the design of the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Staff requests the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) recommendation of the dog play area minor conditional use permit application to the City Planning Department. The Lakeview Dog Play Area will enclose the corner of Lakeview Park bordered by MacArthur Blvd to the north and Lakeshore Ave to the southeast. The Lakeview dog play area will contain separate off-leash areas for large and small dogs to exercise and socialize.

B. **Lake Chabot Golf Course AT&T Telecommunications Monopole Minor Conditional Use Permit Recommendation:** Trillium Consulting on behalf of AT&T, submitted an application the City of Oakland to install a new Telecommunication Facility (a "Monopine" to appear as a pine tree) with eight (8) antennas, two (2) microwave dishes, four (4) RRU's, and (1) one equipment shelter at the Lake Chabot Golf Course located at 11450 Golf Links Road, proposed location behind Golf Green #3. See exhibit A: Site Location Plan.

C. **Remember Them: Champions of Humanity Monument Recommendation of Minor Conditional Use Permit Application:** Staff received a request from the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Foundation (OMCCF) Board to support the minor conditional use permit application for the installation of the Remember Them: Champions of Humanity monument and associated lighting located at (HJK) Fox Square Park located at 1900 Rashida Muhammad Street. *See Exhibit A – monument design and lighting plan.*

10. COMMUNICATIONS:

11. PRAC COMMITTEE REPORT:

12. ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORTS:

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

14. COUNCIL REFERRALS:

15. OPEN FORUM:

16. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:
    A. Annual Dues

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

18. ADJOURNMENT:

This meeting is wheelchair accessible. To request materials in alternative formats, or to request an ASL interpreter, or assistive listening devise, please call the *Office of Parks and Recreation at (510) 238-7532* or TDD (510) 615-5883 at least three working days before the meeting. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting so attendees who may experience chemical sensitivities may attend. Thank you.

Next Meeting: ***Wednesday, July 17, 2011; 4:30 p.m.***
Lakeside Garden Center
666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland, CA

Proposal for a different location

CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum

Office of Parks and Recreation

New Business

TO:	Michael Hammock, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Susan Montauk, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM:	Submitted on behalf of Maria Alderete, Grace Webber and Brad McCrea
DATE:	June 27, 2011 for review at July 13, 2011 PRAC meeting.
SUBJECT:	Design of an off-leash dog area at the former Police Horse Stables within Lakeside Park. (An alternative to the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore Park.)

SUMMARY

In response to significant community concerns about the proposed change in use that would be needed to accommodate the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore Park, the following design for an alternative off-leash dog area is proposed. This alternative location will be considered by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) at its July 13, 2011 meeting, at which time the Commission will also be reviewing proposed changes to open space and recreation allowances for the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area project (Lakeview Dog Area).

The alternative site for an off-leash dog area is located at the former Police Horse Stables within Lakeside Park. Preliminary analysis indicates that the alternative location may raise significantly fewer zoning issues than would the proposed Lakeview Dog Area at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue. Specifically, the alternative location could likely be found consistent with the City of Oakland's *Open Space, Conservation and Recreation* (OSCAR) element of the General Plan, the Oakland Planning Code, and the City's Open Space zoning regulations.

The site of the Lakeview Dog Area at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue is the result of a well-intentioned effort to locate an off-leash dog area within the Lake Merritt area. The idea has been considered for many years. However, the Lakeview Dog Area is currently proposed within a highly visible and well-used recreational space and the proposal has divided the Lake Merritt community, particularly over the past six months. Hundreds of community members have spoken both for and against the idea. Until very recently, the Lake Merritt community was told that the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue was the only suitable location for a fenced, off-leash dog area.

Since the PRAC's approval of the design of the Lakeview Dog Area in December 2010, Councilmember Pat Kernighan and her staff have identified a potential alternative location for a dog park at the former Police Horse Stables within Lakeside Park. In preliminary discussions, the Oakland Police Department (OPD), the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), and the Public Works Agency have all expressed interest in pursuing this location as an alternative site if a conditional use permit is not approved for Eastshore Park.

FISCAL IMPACT

If the Lakeview Dog Area at Eastshore Park does not receive approval for zoning changes, the public funding commitments for that project may be transferred to the Police Horse Stables site. Current funding available for the Lakeview Dog Play Area is $21,000 from the Public Works Capital Reserves Fund, $10,000 from Council District 3 carry-forward Pay-Go funds, $2,000

from Council District 2, and $2,000 from At-Large Council for a total of $35,000. It is our hope that the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) would be involved in the project. Additionally, a group of Lake Merritt neighbors led by Maria Alderete (Owner of Luka's Taproom & Lounge in Oakland, California) are committed to this alternative site and would continue to be involved in project funding and the development of a maintenance and stewardship plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Alternative Location – Former Police Horse Stables

The alternative location for a dog play area is at the former Police Horse Stables located within Lakeside Park at Lake Merritt. The site is located on Bellevue Avenue, west of the Lakeside Park Garden Center. The site is accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists from the service road behind Children's Fairyland as well as from the parking lot on Bellevue Avenue. Until 2006, the Police Horse Stables, otherwise known as the mounted patrol stables, were used by the Oakland Police Department. Tucked discreetly behind Children's Fairyland, the site often goes unnoticed by visitors to Lake Merritt. The stables site has been unused for the past five years. The majority of the site is vacant, enclosed with a chain link fence and closed to the public. The site sits atop a small knoll that is bounded by Lake Merritt to the west and south, Children's Fairyland to the north and the Oakland Bandstand to the east. The site is slightly crowned, contains a variety of mature trees and is currently overgrown with weeds. Shipping containers and a former stable (barn structure) are found within the enclosed area. Outside of the enclosed area are picnic tables within a dirt area and grassy slopes facing the bandstand area to the east and Lake Merritt and downtown Oakland to the west.



The proposed dog play area at the Police Horse Stables (PHS) site would include the same amenities that the proposal at Eastshore Park includes.

Given the site's vacant condition, the dog area would not displace recreational uses. The primary change of use would involve relocating three picnic tables.

The PHS off-leash dog area would be comprised of the former horse area and an extension to the south into the dirt area on top of the knoll. The barn area would be retained by OPR and the Oakland Police Department for overflow storage and police dog training. The total dog park area would be approximately 20,000 square feet. The PHS Dog Park would be accessible for citizens with disabilities and seniors.

17.11 of the Zoning Code) and the General Plan Land Use Map were formally adopted by City Council.

The following points provide policy analysis regarding both the Lakeview and PHS sites.

1. **The OSCAR acknowledges that active recreation use is inadequately served in the Lake Merritt area.** The Lakeview Dog Area would remove 50% of the usable playfield, resulting in a loss of active recreation area. No such loss would occur at the alternative PHS site.*(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg 43)*
2. **The OSCAR states that open space preservation in the Lake Merritt community is a priority.** Preservation of Eastshore Park is needed due to higher density residential development and park demand. At Eastshore Park, the surrounding land use pattern and the presence of Interstate 580 create a need to preserve open space. The PHS site is currently vacant. *(OSCAR Chapter 2, pg 7)*
3. **The OSCAR identifies Eastshore Park as a "Gateway" to the Lake Merritt District.** The OSCAR explicitly recommends signage improvements, a monument or fountain at Eastshore Park. A fenced dog run is not identified as part of the open space vision for Eastshore Park.*(OSCAR Ch 5, pg. 10, 11 & OS 9.3)*
4. **The OSCAR recommends no more than 15% of neighborhood park for new uses.** Eastshore Park is too small to accommodate additional uses. Eastshore Park is a 2-acre neighborhood park and the Lakeview Dog Play Area is 21,000 square feet, or 24% of Eastshore Park. *(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 28)*

As was mentioned above, the OSCAR was adopted by the City of Oakland in 1996. Although it identifies dog parks as an unmet citywide need, it must be noted that four new dog parks have opened in Oakland since the OSCAR was adopted, for a total of five. The OSCAR requires that in built out areas, an emphasis should be on **underutilized resources***(OSCAR Chapter 2, pg. 2 &3)*. Consistent with this policy, development of Oakland dog parks has historically targeted underutilized park resources that, in several instances, harbored unwelcome activities. The Police Horse Stables site fits this underutilization requirement as does the following list of built dog parks.

- **Grove Shafter:** $55,000 budget w/ significant redevelopment grants. Park has history of underutilization and Commissioner Ricards expressed concerns about drug use and crime.
- **Jefferson Square:** Part of big redevelopment funded park restoration. After freeway construction in the 1970s, this historic park became increasingly neglected and one of the community's most underutilized parks.
- **Mosswood:** $24,000 NPI Grant. Dog Park Area is near freeway with history of blight and crime. Homeless encampment, drug dealing and needles present in park.
- **Joaquin Miller:** $30,000 budget funded from former Councilmembers Quan's & Chang's offices. Dog Park is located in overflow parking area of the park which was used only 30 days per year.
- **Hardy Park:** Park is under freeway overpass and was previously not utilized as public space.
- **Police Horse Stables Site (Pending):** $35,000 (potential) of public funding is described above in the Fiscal Impact section. Dog Park would be located in remote area of Lakeside Park where crime is reported.

Comparison – Eastshore and Police Horse Stables Sites
Many community members can agree that a dog park is needed near Lake Merritt. However, the proposed Lakeview Dog Park at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue has created a heated debate within the Lake Merritt Community, due primarily to Eastshore Park's active recreational use and its visibility in the neighborhood.

As proposed for PRAC review, there is concern the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore Park is not supported by the strategic vision for the area and is not suitable for what is currently the neighborhoods primary open space. When compared side by side, it appears that the underutilized, former Police Horse Stables site is a better fit for a fenced dog area than is the well-used Eastshore Park at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue.

Eastshore Park Site



Astro Park/Eastshore Park – central area heavily used.

Police Horse Stables Site



Former Police Horse Stables site.
Currently fenced and vacant. Five blocks from Eastshore Park.

Key details to consider for the Police Horse Stables(PHS) site:

- The PHS dog park would be located mostly in an underutilized portion of Lakeside Park.
- The Police Horse Stables site, located at the south end of Children's Fairyland, has a history of homeless residents and crime that would be deterred by greater use.
- The original need for a dog park came from Adams Point constituents. This high density, multi-family residential area has the greatest need for a dog area nearby. The PHS site would give the best access to the neighborhood with the greatest need.
- The PHS location has a history of animal use (horses and dogs) and is in the recommended "geese exclusion area" identified in the July 2007 Lake Merritt Canada Goose Management Study.
- The PHS site is a sound alternative because of planning considerations, City-wide budgetary concerns, and limited public agency resources, such as maintenance.
- The PHS site would be set back within Lakeside Park, in a peaceful, attractive setting, yet would not obstruct views from surrounding neighborhoods or roadways.
- The PHS site would preserve Eastshore Park, thereby allowing its improvement as a gateway to the Lake Merritt District.

Side-by-Side Comparison of the Two Sites

	Lakeview Dog Park	Alternative Location at PHS
Location	Within Eastshore Park (2 acres), bounded by Grand Ave., MacArthur Blvd. & Lakeshore Ave.	Within Lakeside Park (75 acres) south of Children's Fairyland, west of the Oakland Bandstand.
***Proposed* Dog Park Size**	21,000 square feet or 24% of the park. OSCAR mandates new uses in parks not exceed 15%.	20,000 square feet or less than 1% of park.
Community Access	Walking distance for many Grand Lake residents. ½ to 1-mile walk for Adam's Point and Cleveland Heights. Over 1 mile for Uptown.	Walking distance for Adam's Point & Uptown residents. Approx ½-mile walk for Grand Lake and just under 1 mile for Cleveland Heights.
Needs	Less need for dog park for Cleveland Heights & Trestle Glen due to home ownership and backyard space.	More need for dog park for Adam's Point due to apartment living with no backyard space.
Walking/ Parking	Best walking access for Grand Lake. With the exception of the Farmer's Market on Saturday, most of the surrounding neighborhoods drive to the area. Potential for big impact on retail areas.	Best walking access for Adam's Point & Uptown Paid parking at the park entrance, meter parking on Grand, free parking on Perkins and north side of Grand. No retail impact.
Zoning	OSCAR identifies Eastshore Park as "heavily-used "and "gateway" to Lake Merritt. Adding a fenced area would greatly impact open space and is not visually appealing for this central gateway. Open space protected due to high density and urban surrounding. Has the only large recreation field available in the Lake Merritt area for residents and local schools. This use is protected as it is identified as an unmet need by OSCAR. Proposal is for 24% of the park and 15% is the maximum allowed for neighborhood parks. The plan submitted to PRAC in Dec. 2010 had 10% of the budget of the original plan. No longer befitting of this prime location.	Formerly used as Police Horse Stables, currently unused. Already fenced, not eliminating community recreational use. OSCAR indicates new uses should focus on underutilized areas. New use would help to get rid of homeless and undesirable issues in the area.
Site	Poor drainage, issue due to fecal presence and would not be usable during wet season. *High visibility* and proximity to retail increase priority for city maintenance and additional costs for beautification of dog park, at a time when there is a budget crisis and pending layoffs. Proximity to tot lot biggest concern of community.	Area surrounded by trees and not visible on Harrison St. side, more appropriate for fenced area with dirt & wood chips. Safer for dogs due to higher fence and not close to extremely busy intersection. Not near a tot lot and will have higher fences.

Please Note: OSCAR is the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element of Oakland's General Plan.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
June 24, 2011

SCHEDULE
As described above, the former Police Horse Stables was used as a horse corral and a training area for police dogs. While the dog park project would not be a turn-key operation, in many ways the site is "ready-to-go." Improvements to and development of the stables as an off-leash dog area could occur relatively quickly following community buy-in. Therefore, it is expected that an off-leash facility could be constructed and opened within 12 to 18 months.

RECOMMENDATION
We recommend that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission approve the conceptual design proposal for an off-leash dog play area the former Police Horse Stable site, recognizing that additional scoping and community outreach is scheduled to occur. Specifically, the dog park at the Police Horse Stables site would be vetted with Adams Point neighborhood, Children's Fairyland and the broader Lake Merritt community.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Alderete
Grace Webber
Brad McCrea

Attachment: Exhibit A – Horse Stables Dog Park Context Map
Exhibit B – Horse Stables Dog Park Proposal Conceptual Plan

To: Oakland's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

From: Maria Alderete, Local Resident and Business Owner

Date: June 30, 2011

Re: The Conditional Use Permit for the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal

---

Dear Respected Commissioners,

With deep regret I will be unable to attend the July 13th PRAC meeting where you will be discussing the application for the conditional use permit for the Lakeview Dog Park at Astro Park (aka Eastshore Park), as well as the dog park design proposal for an alternative location at the former police horse stables. I have spent many hours reading our code and meeting with members of the community, council and ODOG. Please do not take my lack of attendance as an indication of my dedication to this project. It is my 20 year wedding anniversary and my husband and I are on a long planned vacation. In any other circumstance I would be at the meeting, but I do have a dedicated team I'm working with and I'm confident they will represent our position.

Therefore, these comments are respectfully submitted in writing to Oakland's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission related to considerations for the minor conditional use permit for the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal. I support Save Astro Park's perspective and oppose the current location, but have an alternative that will bridge the community.

I strongly oppose the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal for the following reasons:

Change of Use:

- Currently used as a neighborhood recreational field for residents and local schools.
- The proposal will take up 50% of the open field. The open field is protected by OSCAR, as it's the only large field in the area for active recreation, a use identified as an unmet need for the neighborhood.
- An unattractive fenced area with wood chips is not appropriate next to a central retail area.
- The prominent visibility in neighborhood requires a better maintenance plan and larger budget, at a time when funds and increased services are not available due to pending layoffs and budget crisis.
- Poor drainage will make this dog park unusable for parts of winter and spring, yet remain visually brown, fenced and uninviting.
- Community concerns include adverse impact on already stressed retail parking, discontinuation of youth programs due to reliance on space and child safety due to proximity to tot lot.

Principles for Open Space:

- Eastshore Park is designated by OSCAR as a "gateway" to Lake Merritt and not suitable for a fenced brown space.
- We need to preserve this park space for a time when the city has enough funds to add gateways, signage or other improvements befitting for this prime space.
- Key open space guidelines are not being followed, the proposal will take up 24% of the park and 15% is the maximum allowed in a neighborhood park.
- New enhancements like a dog park should be focused in underutilized spaces.
- Preserving this open space is a priority due to surrounding dense urban high rises and highway overpass.

The original dog park proposal followed appropriate process by being reviewed in 2004 and 2006 community meetings, but the proposal at the time was for a super deluxe $400,000 dog park. The current proposal's budget is $45,000, just over 10% of the original budget. No pre-development community meetings were held to get input even after concerns started surfacing in community email groups in mid 2009. If that's our budget, we need to find a less visible location.

Given the zoning opposition for the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal at Eastshore is so strong, and 70% of the community has issue with its location, this Commission must step back and consider this alternative location as a better solution for the Lake Merritt dog community. Please consider the design proposal for the alternative location at the former police horse stables. Preliminary approval of that design would help us get on a schedule that will enable us to build a dog park in the near future, something our community urgently needs. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Alderete
Owner: Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612
Resident: 438 Wayne Ave, Oakland, CA 94606

CITY OF OAKLAND
Interoffice Memorandum

Office of Parks and Recreation

TO: Michael Hammock, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Susan Montauk, Co-Chair, Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
FROM: Office of Parks and Recreation on behalf of Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG)
DATE: July 13, 2011
SUBJECT: Lakeview Dog Play Area Recommendation for Minor Conditional Use Permit

SUMMARY

Staff received a request from the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) to design and construct a dog play area within Lakeview Park. On December 8, 2010 the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the design of the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Staff requests the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) recommendation of the dog play area minor conditional use permit application to the City Planning Department. The Lakeview Dog Play Area will enclose the corner of Lakeview Park bordered by MacArthur Blvd to the north and Lakeshore Ave to the southeast. The Lakeview dog play area will contain separate off-leash areas for large and small dogs to exercise and socialize.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funding is available for the Lakeview Dog Play Area in the amounts of $21,000 from the Public Works Agency's Capital Reserves Fund, $10,000 from Council District 3 carry-forward Pay-Go funds, $2,000 from Council District 2, and $2,000 from the At-Large Council office, for a total of $35,000. ODOG will work together with project stakeholders to seek additional resources, including gifts of services and materials for the construction of the dog play area. ODOG will also seek sustainable resources for operation and maintenance, including the organization of a volunteer program. With the addition of the dog play area, maintenance to Lakeview Park by City staff will only include: mowing and on-call emergency service for graffiti abatement and irrigation breaks.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To enclose/fence a section of the Lakeview Park for use as an off-leash dog play area for dogs to exercise, and for both dogs and their guardians to socialize.

Specific elements of the project include:

- Separate play areas for large and small dogs with name signs
- Fencing to enclose the dog play area, which will be 21,300 sq. ft. total in area. The fence fully separates those on the inside from those on the outside without imposing unnecessary visual impact on the park
- Double gate entries that are ADA accessible with supply vehicle access
- ~~Concrete mow-band around 2/3 of the fence to provide easy access for lawn maintenance~~
- Two in-ground waste receptacles
- Wood chips to provide the ground cover
- Tree planting between the fence line and MacArthur Blvd

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
February 11, 2004

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, volunteers of ODOG have been working on a redesign of an off-leash dog play area at Lakeview Park in conjunction with the Community members, Public Works Agency (PWA), the Office of Parks and Recreation (OPR), and the Office of City Council, District 3, Nancy Nadel. On December 8, 2010 the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the design of the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

RECOMMENDATION

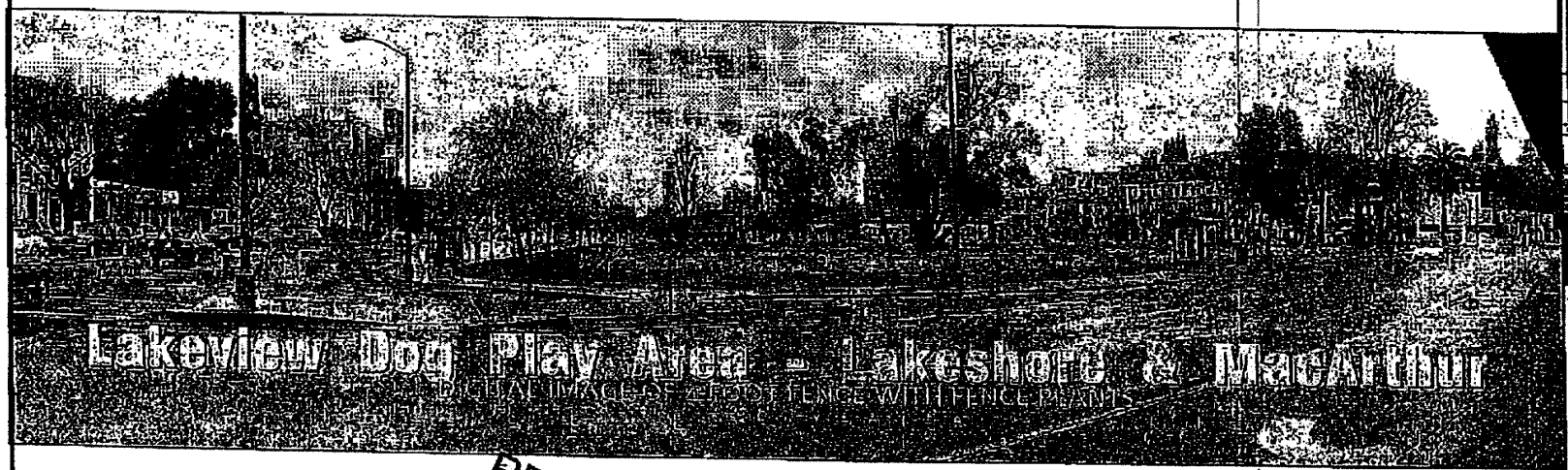
Staff received a request from the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) to design and construct a dog play area within Lakeview Park. Staff recommends the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) recommendation of the dog play area minor conditional use permit application.

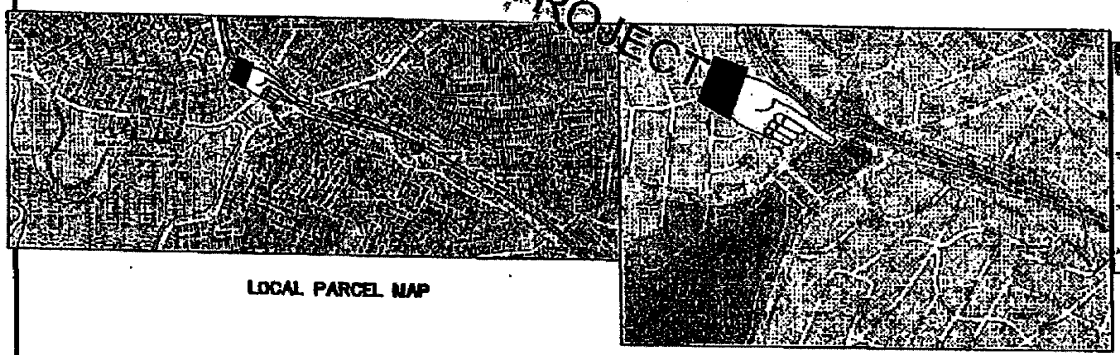
Respectfully submitted,

Mark Oliver Hall
Special Assistant to the Director on Capital Improvement Projects

Attachments: Exhibit A – *Site Design*
Exhibit B – *Site Photos*

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA



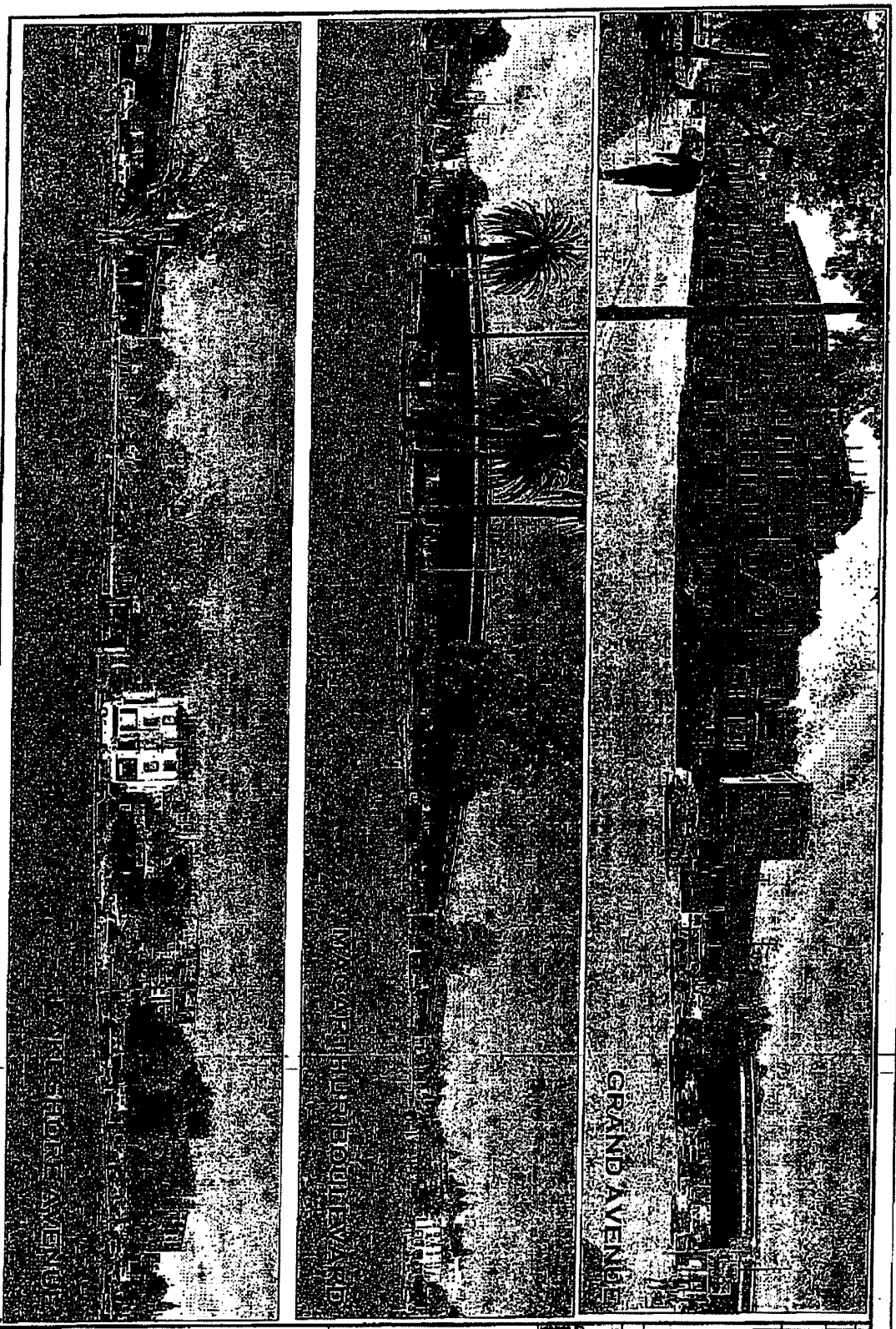


LOCAL PARCEL MAP

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

PROJECT – NEW FENCED ENCLOSURE FOR DOG PLAY AREA @ EAST LAKEVIEW PARK, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

00



10

NEIGHBORHOOD SITE PHOTOS

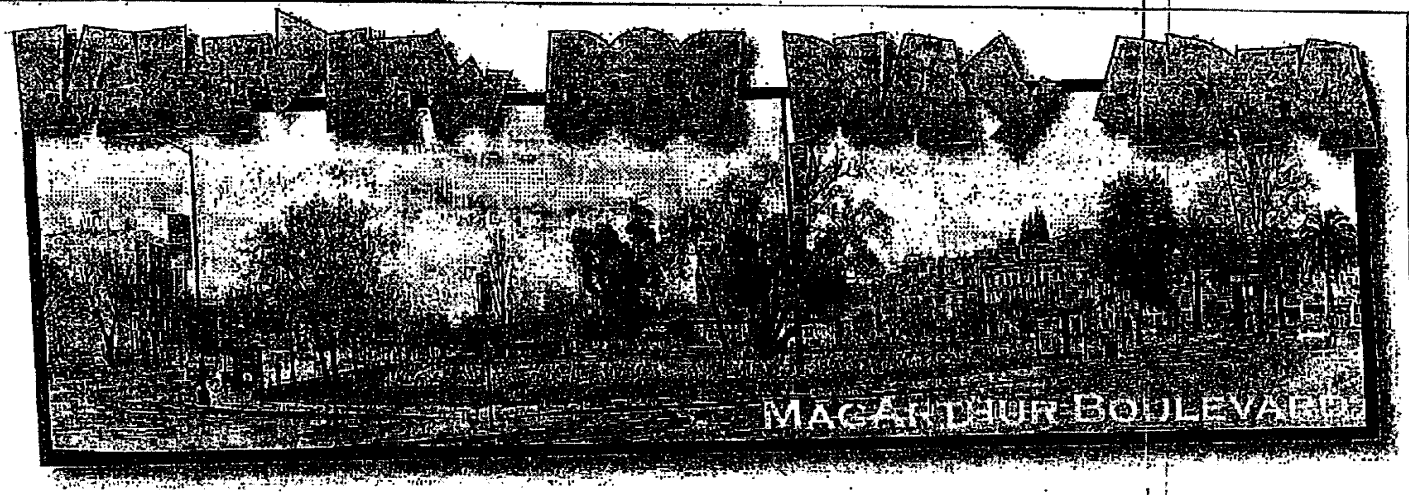
LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND

CHARONNAT-ARCHITECT+ENGINEERING
1 - 50th AVENUE #1-9 OAKLAND 94606
(510) 436-3466 FAX (877) 769-9965
EMAIL: CHARONNATDESIGN@GMAIL.COM

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L. CHARONNAT
NE
LAC
NONE

GRAPHIC SCALE
0 120







NOTE - ALL PHOTOS SHOW MOCKUP OF VINE-COVERED FENCING. TREES AT MACARTHUR NOT SHOWN. ENTRANCE STANCHIONS NOT SHOWN. SEE ELEVATION DETAILS.

MOCKUP PHOTOMONTAGE

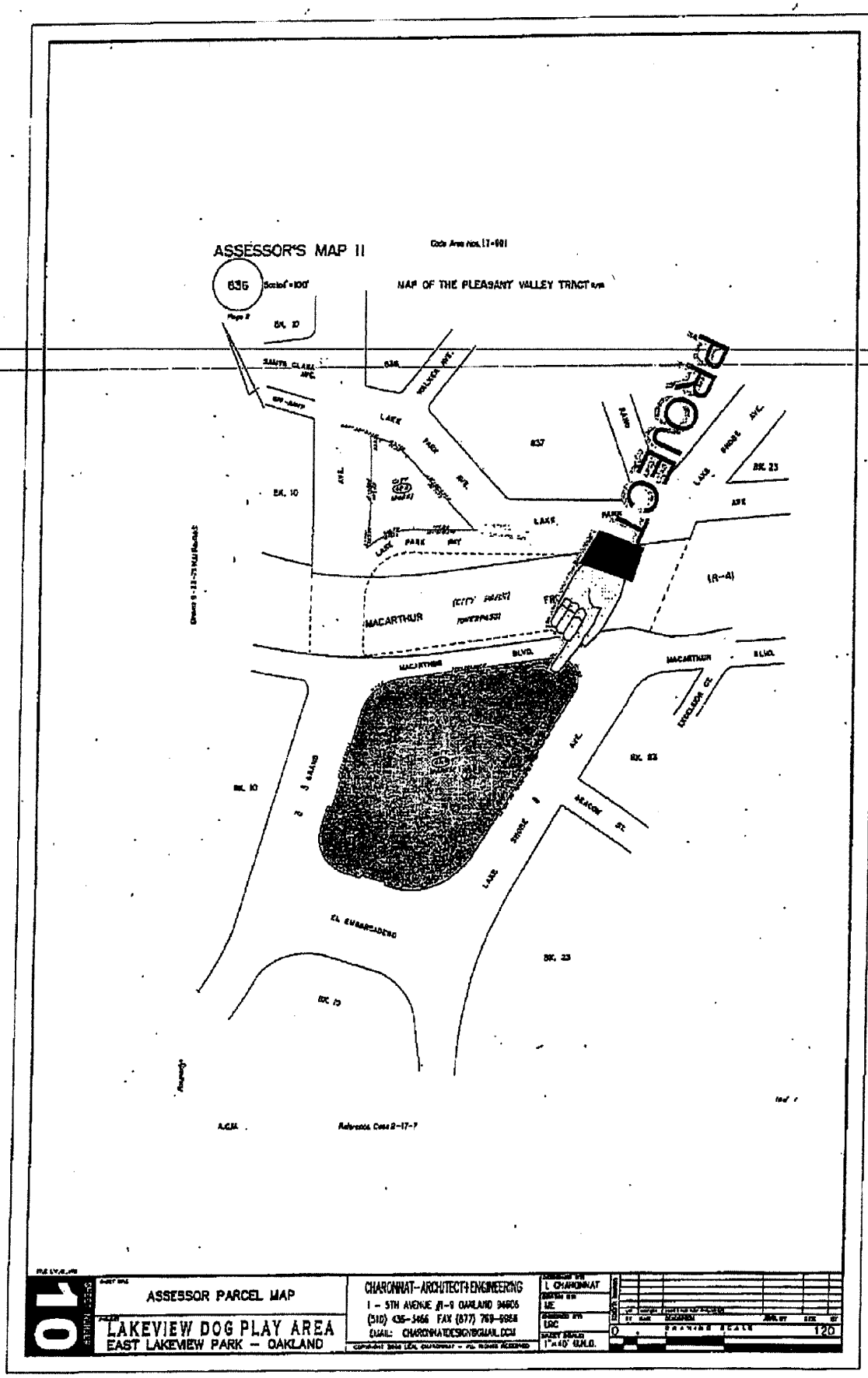
LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK – OAKLAND

SHEET NUMBER
02

CHARCHALIT-ARCHITECT+ENGINEERING
1 – 5th AVENUE // –9 OAKLAND 94606
(510) 436-2466 FAX (877) 783-2966
EMAIL: CHARCHALITDESIGN@GMAIL.COM

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ASSESSOR PARCEL MAP
SCALE - 1" = 100'
PARCEL AREA
AREA (APPROX.)
TOTAL AREA 156,161 100 %
PLAY FIELD 27,750 17.8 %
DOG PLAY 21,535 13.8 %
ASTRO PARK 6,000 3.8 %
TOTAL PLAY* 84,545 54 %
PLAY FIELD 27,750 18 %
DOG PLAY 21,535 14 %
ASTRO PARK 6,000 4 %
SIDEWALKS 30,260 19 %
LAKEVIEW PARK PLAY AREA PLAN
LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK — OAKLAND
CHARONNAT—ARCHITECT+ENGINEERING
1 - 5TH AVENUE #1-9 OAKLAND 94606
(510) 435-3486 FAX (877) 769-9365
EMAIL: CHARONNAT@DESIGNEQUAL.COM
L CHARONNAT
ME
LRC
1"=40' U.N.O.
DRAWING SCALE
120


ASSESSOR'S MAP II
Code Area nos. 17-001
635
Scale: 1"=100'
MAP OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY TRACT
PROJECT
MACARTHUR BLVD.
LAKE PARK AVE.
LAKE SHORE AVE.
EL EMBARCADERO
(R-4)
BK. 10
BK. 23
637
ASSESSOR PARCEL MAP
LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA
EAST LAKEVIEW PARK — OAKLAND
CHARONNAT - ARCHITECT + ENGINEERING
1 - 5TH AVENUE #1-9 OAKLAND 94606
(510) 435-3466 FAX (877) 769-9868
EMAIL: CHARONNATDESIGN@GMAIL.COM
L CHARONNAT
ME
LRC
1"=40' U.N.O.
SCALE
120

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
City of Oakland
Wednesday, July 13, 2011, 4:30 P.M.
Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland, CA

Minutes from July 13, 2011

CITY of OAKLAND
OFFICE of PARKS & RECREATION

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:
A meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland. Co-Chair Commissioner Montauk convened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Audree V. Jones-Taylor, OPR Director, conducted the roll call.

2. ROLL CALL:
Present: Judy Belcher, Wade Finlinson, Michael Hammock, Howard Matis, Barry Miller, Susan Montauk, Marsha Peterson, Brad Ricards, Jeffrey Taylor, Ellen Wu

Excused: Brad Ricards, Jeffrey Taylor, Calvin Wong

Staff Present: Audree V. Jones-Taylor, Gail McMillon, Dana Riley, Diane Boyd, Mark Hall and Stephanie Benavidez

3. DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:
A. Minutes of May 11, 2011
B. Minutes of June 8, 2011

There was a correction made to June 8th Minutes regarding Item 8B, page 3, paragraph 4, change $560.00 to $560,000.00.

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to approve the May 11, 2011 meeting minutes and the June 8th meeting minutes with modifications.
Moved by: Commissioner Montauk **Seconded by:** Commissioner Miller **Motion: Passed Unanimous**

4. SPECIAL ORDERS:
None

5. PRAC PENDING LIST:
None

6. MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA:

There was a motion to move Items 9B and 9C in front of Item 9A.

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to move Items 9B and 9C before item 9A on the agenda.
Moved by: Commissioner Miller **Seconded by:** Commissioner Montauk: **Motion: Passed Unanimous**

7. CONSENT NEW BUSINESS:
A. Request Approval for Permission to Collect Charitable Donations and to Allow Vendors to Sell Merchandise On-Site for the Playworks Oakland-Eastbay Community Recess on Saturday, October 29, 2011, at Eastshore Park: Staff received a request from Playworks for permission to collect charitable donations and to allow vendors to sell merchandise on-site at Eastshore Park on Saturday, October 29, 2011.

B. **Request Approval for Permission to Collect Registration Fees and Charitable Donations for the 27th Annual Walk for Education & Health Education Fair on Saturday, September 17, 2011 at Lakeside Park Bandstand and Surrounding Area:** Staff received a request from the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) for permission to collect registration fees and charitable donations at the Lakeside Park Bandstand and surrounding area on Saturday, September 17, 2011.

C. **Request Approval for Permission to Collect Charitable Donations and Have Vendors On-Site Selling Food and Merchandise for the 2nd Annual Oakland Black and Brown LGBTQ Pride Celebration Sunday, August 7, 2011 at Lakeside Park Bandstand and Surrounding Area:** Staff received a request from the AIDS Project of the East Bay for permission to collect charitable donations and to allow vendors to sell food and merchandise on-site at the Lakeside Park Bandstand and the surrounding area on Sunday, August 7, 2011.

D. **Request Approval for Permission to Have Vendors Sell Items and to Collect Charitable Donations at the 10th Annual Native American Pow Wow Fair on Saturday, September 10, 2011 at Clinton Square Park:** Staff received a request from the American Indian Contemporary ARTS for permission to collect Charitable donations and to allow vendors to sell products and food at the Clinton Square Park on Saturday, September 10, 2011.

Regarding Item 7 C, Commissioners requested that the event organizers submit the Post Event Report immediately following the scheduled event.

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to give consent for approval for Items 7A-7D as requested by staff.
Moved by: Commissioner Matis: **Seconded by:** Commissioner Montauk: **Motion:** Passed – Unanimous

8. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **The Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association Requests Approval of Design and Implementation of a Landscaping Plan for the Torii Gate Area Within the Gardens at Lake Merritt at Lakeside Park:** The staff report was presented by Victoria Rocha with the Public Works Agency - PWA and Mark Hall with the Office of Parks and Recreation – OPR. The Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association, a 501(c)(3) corporation, would like to complete the landscaping in the area surrounding the Torii Gate within the Gardens at Lake Merritt. The map and planting plan is attached (Exhibit A). This is not a new design but an upgrade to what is currently at the site. Staff recommended that the PRAC approve the design and implementation of the Torii Gate project. Overall, more plants and new irrigation heads will be included. Staff provided observers an overview of the changes via an enlarged drawing of the site. The project will be funded by volunteers. The City will make the final decision regarding if any trees will be removed as some were planted over 50 years and are in failing health.

Competing Dog Park Plan

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to approve the Design and implementation of the landscaping plans for the Torii Gate area in the Gardens at Lake Merritt at Lakeside Park.
Moved by: Commissioner Wu: **Seconded by:** Commissioner Finlinson: **Motion:** Passed – Unanimous

B. **Design of an Off-Leash Dog Area at the Former Police Horse Stables Within Lakeside Park, (An Alternative to the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore Park):** This was an informational report presented by the community as an alternative site for the dog park at Lake Merritt. In response to significant community concerns about the proposed change in use that would be needed to accommodate the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Eastshore Park, the design for an alternative off-leash dog area was proposed. Supporters of this proposal suggested that the former police horse stables are ready for use as a dog park and that the expansion of 100 feet would accommodate the needs of the dogs and dog owners. Maintenance of the site would be minimal. Shipping containers weeds and barbed wire will need to be removed. The existing chain linked fence will be retained and separate area for large and small dogs would be established including doubled gated entries. It was asserted that leashed dogs need to have access to paths through Lakeside Park

and that the interface between children and dogs needs to be considered given the location of Children's Fairyland. Supporters believe selection of this site allows for the preservation of the alternatively proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area.

Commissioners' /Comments and Public Responses:
The lack of a dedicated path to the site was raised as an issue. Supporters suggested that dog park users could work within the existing ordinance by posting regulatory signs at various point throughout the park in order to orientate dog owners and require them to use the assigned paths for their animals. Commissioners briefly discussed the possibility of congested parking which may cause dog owners to park too near the bird sanctuary. It was determined that the expansion of the chain link fence would not have an adverse impact on existing trees. Community members encouraged the Commission to take in to consideration conservation and future development of the area while making plans for the dog park. Commissioners learned that the Lakeview site sits on a creek which called in to question the issue of water quality. It was further suggested that Placement of the dog park in this area would be contributing factor for public safety.

Speakers' comments in opposition of the off leash dog area:
It was asserted that community members would seek the implementation of an EIR. Speaker's stress that the current regulation forbidding dogs in the park would be more challenging to enforce and feared would cause more adverse dog intrusions than what currently exists. Speakers launched concerns regarding the safety of the young patrons of Children's Fairyland. It was announced that Children's Fairyland will host a meeting on August 25 at 4:30pm to determine if organization will support the Lakeside Park location. The community suggested that the area is considered to be remote and inaccessible for dog owners and that the park in general is over used with too many activities. The opposition expressed concern regarding the lack of a dedicated City Liaison to contact in case of injury to dog or person. Others expressed concern regarding the ongoing permeating odor of urine as was alleged in other parks.

This was a non action item.

C. Request Approval of the Installation of Temporary and Removable Butterfly Murals at the Gardens at Lake Merritt and Wade Johnson Park: The staff report was presented by Dana Riley. Staff requesting approval for the installation of butterfly murals to be placed at the Wade Johnson Park and the Gardens at Lake Merritt. Staff worked with artist Kristi Holohan to create 14 temporary butterfly murals consisting of wood cutout butterflies painted on both sides in various cheerful colors and designs as pictured in at: http://acearts.blogspot.com/2009/12/native-butterflies-at-allendale-park.html. There was no fiscal impact to the City of Oakland. Staff will remove the mural when staff determines they are deteriorated beyond reasonable repair. Depending on the location, some will be in sun and others in the shade. The life span of the mural was determined to be between 5 to 6 years.

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to approve the installation of temporary and removable butterfly murals at the gardens at Lake Merritt and Wads Johnson Park.
Moved by: Commissioner Wu: Seconded by: Commissioner Peterson: Motion: Passed – Unanimous

D. Review and Recommend Approval Of Request Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend Master Agreement Between City Of Oakland And The East Bay Zoological Society / Oakland Zoo Pursuant To Grant Requirements From Proposition 84 Funds From The California Department Of Parks And Recreation, Which Require 1) Extension Of The Agreement To 30 Years; And 2) Elimination Of The "At-Will" Termination Clause: Dana Riley provided the staff report for this item. The request for an amendment of the Master Agreement between the City of Oakland and the East Bay Zoological Society (Exhibit A) as described in the staff report and resolution (Exhibit B), including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, was placed before the Commission for consideration as required by section 35 of the Master Agreement. The item in the process of being approved by City Council and has been heard by the Life Enrichment Committee. The PRAC's recommendation will be included in the report when it goes before the City Council.

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to review and recommend the approval for request authorizing the City Administrator to amend the Master Agreement between the City Of Oakland and the East Bay Zoological Society / Oakland Zoo pursuant to grant requirements from Proposition 84 funds from the California Department of Parks and Recreation, which require 1) extension of the agreement to 30 years; and 2) elimination of the "At-Will" termination clause.
Moved by: Commissioner Belcher: **Seconded by:** Commissioner Montauk: **Motion:** Passed –Unanimous.

E. **Request from East Bay Children's Book Project to Rent Space at Mosswood Recreation Center for the Collection and Distribution of Donated Books for All Children and Teachers:** Karis Griffin, with the Office of Parks and Recreation provided the staff report for Item 8E. The Office of Parks and Recreation received a request from the East Bay Children's Book Project to rent a space at Mosswood Recreation Center or the room known as the "Art Room and adjoining Office Space. The purpose of which is to collect and donate new and used books to children and teachers throughout the bay area from July 2011 through June 30, 2013. The organization would like the opportunity to renew the agreement for an additional two years. The address of the proposed site for the East Bay Children's Book Project is 3612 Webster Street (at MacArthur), Oakland 94609. The organization has donated over 500 books to Oakland children and teachers. Both programs are expanding and need the additional space.

Commissioners' Comments:
It was determined that the program serves people and schools throughout the Bay Area including local pediatric clinics, social service programs homeless shelters and non profit organizations. The volunteer driven organization has provided services to the community for over 5 years. The Commission learned that no adverse impact of displacement of current programs taking place at the Mosswood Recreation Center is to be expected.

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to approve the East Bay Children's Book Project's request to operate their free book program from the Mosswood Recreation Center.
Moved by: Commissioner Belcher: **Seconded by:** Commissioner Wu: **Motion:** Passed - Unanimous

9. CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS:

A. **Lakeview Dog Play Area Recommendation for Minor Conditional Use Permit:** The staff report for this item was presented by Mark Hall with the Office of Parks and Recreation. Staff received a request from the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) to design and construct a dog play area within Lakeview Park. On December 8, 2010 the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission approved the design of the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Staff requested the Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) approve recommendation of the dog play area minor conditional use permit application to the City Planning Department. The Lakeview Dog Play Area will enclose the corner of Lakeview Park bordered by MacArthur Blvd to the north and Lakeshore Ave. to the southeast. The Lakeview dog play area will contain separate off-leash areas for large and small dogs to exercise and socialize.

Presenter and Speakers' Comments:
All aspects of the details of the design of the park are the same as six months ago. The place and size of the proposed dog play area will acquire 25 % of the park field. The proposal leaves approximately one quarter of an acre for picnics, sports and other activities. Speaker's asserted that on-leash dog owners have nowhere to go. Supporters of this proposal support dog owners living in apartments who do not have private open space. Supporters suggested they have a very active volunteer program to support the dog park and sufficient support to fundraise. They also suggested that the dog park would boost the local business community and that space should be made for everyone and not tucked away as is he case with the alternative. Concerns were raised that the alternative location is tucked away and hidden. Supporters stated that the alternative proposed site is reasonable for a second location and that additional dog parks are needed.

Speaker Comments in Opposition to the Lakeview Dog Park Area:
Speakers mentioned that the neighborhood has changed since the original proposal which some asserted to be out dated. The Lakeview Dog Park area was considered to be a destination spot for movie and restaurant goers. It was feared that placement of a dog park in the proposed location would create blight on the local area and was considered to be an inappropriate location. Speakers declared the proposed spot will block off one of the City's natural open areas. It was stated that dog parks are important and necessary, but the chain link fence, woodchips and other dog park vestiges would eventually become an eyesore. Opponents of this proposed site suggested that discussion regarding the Lakeview Dog Park Area is a broader community issue as the location is the gateway to the gem of Oakland and the issues of drainage; safety; kids and odor are pertinent topics. The original plan approved by the PRAC in 2006 included a butterfly garden that was to be installed by volunteers and has yet to be implemented. Supporters also suggested that the City of Oakland should be responsible for cleaning the area and not volunteers. Many business owners are opposed to the plan and many did not know about it. The open space is considered the Central Park play of Oakland and is used for sports and other activities regardless of the periodic soggy conditions. Parking was described as being constrained and predicted to become worse and a possible detriment to local businesses. Concerns were raised that the area could become an off leash park given the current lack of enforcement. Several speakers in opposition to this location declared themselves to be dog owners. Many expressed concern that the run off from the dog run will leach into nearby creeks.

Commissioners' Comments:
The Commission learned that a Berkeley business owner has offered to provide free woodchips which would be delivered at the City's convenience throughout the year. It was not clear whether the woodchips would mitigate run off leaching into nearby creeks. Commissioner appreciated the depiction of the floral camouflage of the chain link fence. Public speakers offered that alternative sites considered, but denied included, Snow Park, Lakeside Park, Splash Pad Park and others. The Commission questioned the volume of opposition to the proposed location and received confirmation that from 2002 to present, several public meetings were held by City Council, neighborhood groups, and the City of Oakland from which the Master Plan was developed. Accordingly, it was determined that the 2002 Lake Merritt Master Plan showed that the dog park be located in the specified area. Measure DD funding did not include this area. Commissioners' were told the 4 ft fence was adequate to contain dogs attending the site. The Commissioner's were shown a 4ft x 15 ft (approx.) depiction of the location.

MOTION: Commissioner Hammock entertained a motion to send the Lakeview Dog Park Area minor conditional use permit to the Planning Commission.
Moved by: Commissioner Belcher; Seconded by: Commissioner Finlinson; Yes: Commissioner's Belcher, Finlinson and Hammock; No: Commissioner's Peterson, Matis and Miller; Abstain: Commissioner Wu;
Note: Commissioner Montauk left the meeting prior to the vote.

NOTE: The City Attorney's Office has evaluated the PRAC's vote and advised that the PRAC has complied with the requirements for consideration of a recommendation on the application and that the item may proceed to the Planning Commission without further action by the PRAC.

B. Lake Chabot Golf Course AT&T Telecommunications Monopole Minor Conditional Use Permit Recommendation: Mark Hall with the Office of Parks and Recreation presented the staff report. Trillium Consulting on behalf of AT&T, submitted an application for the City of Oakland to install a new Telecommunication Facility (a "Monopine" to appear as a pine tree) with eight (8) antennas, two (2) microwave dishes, four (4) Remote Receiver Unit - RRU, and (1) one equipment shelter at the Lake Chabot Golf Course located at 11450 Golf Links Road, the proposed site is located behind Golf Green #3.

Commissioners' Comments:
It was determined that the City's Planning Department posted notices and received no public comments. The installation of the equipment would improve wireless service including internet, GPS, cable and others. The range of service would cover approximately one half mile. There would be

Executive Summary - page 1

Lakeview Dog Owner Recreation Area – A New Community Space

Designed to be Oakland's premier recreation area for dog owners, the dog play area at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur will fill a need identified by the City more than ten years ago to provide people in the Lake Merritt area a place within walking distance where they can gather and let their dogs play. Dog are currently prohibited in all of Lake Merritt/Lakeside park and this will give owners a safe and legal place to enjoy Oakland's parks. The dog owner area meets all criteria for dog and human safety, ADA access and for long term operational success as a City facility.

The "park within a park" was designed by Department of Public Works and the Parks and Recreation Departments with the help of dog owners to be in inexpensive to operate, durable and attractive and to fit with and harmonize with existing uses of Lakeview Park.

Because of its gateway location, the enclosure was designed to meet a high aesthetic standard. Instead of the customary chain link fence, this plan calls for Omega Architectural fence similar to fencing recently installed in two other locations near the Lake and chosen for its durability and minimal visual impact. The fence will be set back 10-35 feet from sidewalks, bus stops and the playground. To add beauty to the park and preserve the feeling of green open space, the fence will be covered with flowering vines. The dog owners have already formed a garden club to care for the plantings. A MOU between the dog owners and the City outlines users' maintenance responsibilities and is part of the conditions of approval. The MOU is based on the successful dog owner clean up program which has been operating successfully at Joaquin Miller Park since 2007.

ATTACHMENT H

Project Summary

Note:

- The terms dog park, dog run and dog play area are used interchangeably. All refer to a legal, enclosed area where people may take their dogs off-leash.
- Park names are confusing in this area. LakeSIDE Park surrounds Lake Merritt. LakeVIEW park is the much smaller park where the dog run will be located. It is also commonly, and mistakenly, called Astro Park, Eastshore Park and Splash Pad .
- Grand Lake Neighborhood and Lake Merritt area include all of the locations surrounding the Lake and the residential and retails areas near Grand Avenue and Lakeshore Avenue.

This project will develop new Community Space by creating Oakland's Flagship Dog Run in the Grand Lake area. The dog run will be located outside of Lake Merritt's Lakeside Park, east of the Pergola and the little Lakeview Library. It is sited in Lakeview Park, located between the Farmers Market parking lot and the Lakeview Library at MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue. The Lake Merritt Master Plan placed a dog run in this location.

- The dog run will be a half acre in size and use 23% of the field area . The compact size leaves more than an acre of field for current users such as soccer and picnickers
- The size of the combined dog runs is well within the size indicated in best practices for city dog runs—large enough to be useable and prevent over-crowding but small enough to leave plenty of space for other users (see Size Comparison Chart) .
- The tot lot will be unchanged by the dog in terms of size, access and usability.
- The park features double gated safety entrance/exit, ADA accessibility, separate space for large and small dogs, water, signage, seating, re-purposed wood chip ground cover, multiple dispensers for waste clean up bags.
- The dog run is separated from the boundaries of the Wildlife Refuge area of Lake Merritt by the El Embarcadero Roadway, the new lawn and seating area and the Lakeview Library.
- Dogs are currently banned from all Oakland parks, except by vote of City Council and have no legal access to the park surrounding Lake Merritt, even on-leash.
- A dog run at this location meets a need identified more than ten years ago in the Lake Merritt Master Plan which was accepted by City Council in 2002.

Maintenance, Physical Appearance and Operations

- There are no special maintenance needs for dog runs. Users pick up after themselves and public works empties the trash.

- Maintenance of the park and the plantings will be shared by the city and the Lakeview Park Dog Owners Group, under a MOU using the guidelines successful at other Oakland dog runs. Dog owners will do all of the day to day maintenance; Public Works will remove waste as needed using the proven successful Magic Can Underground Waste Management System (needs staff attention about once a month)

- Dog owners have already formed their own maintenance group and have agreed to the terms of the MOU (see Letter of Intention in this application)

- The dog runs will be enclosed by a 4 foot fence of ornamental iron and screened or partially screened by flowering vines. Four feet is below the sight line of most adults, leaving the park view un-impaired.

- Park furnishings will complement those used in other parts of Lake Merritt or in other dog runs.

Funding

- The dog run is funded by the city (approximately 40%) in partnership with the dog owners (approximately 60%) with a total budget of about $70,000.

- Dog owners will bring almost $40,000 in park funds to the City.

- Funding Pre-Construction Phase -Dog owners have already raised $10,000 in private and corporate funding and will bring in additional funds for the initial construction of the dog run for fence and all safety and access features such as ADA access, Magic Can Waste System, truck access, and basic signage.

- Funding –Stage Two--Stage two funding will be developed from actual users of the dog runs and will fund planting, irrigation, furniture, decorative entrance signage, dog silhouettes on the fence and amenities within the dog run

- City funds have been earmarked for this project since before 2006 by Public Works and Council Member Nadel.

Safety

- Dogs must be on leash to approach the dog run and will not need to get in the way of activities on the field or in the tot lot.

- Children will be protected from the dogs and dog run by a four foot fence around the dog area, by 35 foot distance from the play equipment (25 feet from the playground buffer zone) and by the requirement that dogs stay leashed until they are within the dog enclosure.

- The fence is more than 20 feet from the bus stops and the sidewalks

Community

- The dog run will maximize use of the park for more people. While the playground and exercise bars are used daily, most of the field is seldom used by more than a dozen people at a time. There will always be room for current users and the dog run will be used throughout the day by more than a dozen people at any given time.
- The dog run will serve as a community gathering place.. Like the playground it will draw people of great diversity from multiple neighborhoods, ethnicities, economic situations. Unlike the playground which is for young families, the dog run will serve people across a very broad age span.
- A dog run gives people living in hundreds of condos and apartment buildings a place to come together and serves people in homes who want to use the park system with their entire family, including the dog.
- The dog run unites neighbors from above and below 580 in a safe, accessible park setting.
- People going to and from the dog run with their dogs makes the area safer for everyone especially in the dark morning and evening winter hours
- The dog run offers a new form of park access for Senior Citizens and disabled people who don't have kids or play sports.

History of Lake Merritt Dog Park

1998 Proposal is made to develop the neglected Splash Pad, east of the freeway, area by installing a dog park

1998 North Lake Neighborhood Group (NLNG) identifies a dog park as an unmet community need.

1999 More than 700 signatures are collected in support of a dog park at Splash Pad by NLNG and Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG).

1998-2002

- Green Link Coalition holds public meetings at which multiple requests for a dog park are made and documented in the Adams Point Plan approved by City Council in December 2002.
- Oakland landscape architect Walter Hood facilitates public meetings which identify a desire for a dog park in the neighborhood.
- Public meetings of neighborhood groups, including Adams Point and Grand Lake Neighbors, place the vision for a dog park on their agendas.
- A group of neighbors organize to defeat the dog park at Splash Pad
- Dog owners are told to find a place on the other side of the freeway
- Dog owners meet with City staff who tell them the only place they may attempt to develop the dog park is at Lakeview Park. All areas around Lake Merritt are reported to be off limits.

2001 Council Member Nadel meets with North Lake Neighborhood Group to discuss dog park proposal for Lakeview Park.

2002 Lake Merritt Master Plan approved by City Council July 2002. Plan includes a dog park along MacArthur at the current proposed site.

2002 Adams Point Neighborhood Plan, approved by City Council 2002 includes a dog park at the corner of Lakeshore Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard.

2001-2004 Council Member Nadel meets with ODOG.

2001-2004 North Lake Neighborhood Group holds public meetings to discuss the development of the dog park.

2004 Council Member Henry Chang and Council Member Danny Wan hold public meetings about dog park at Lakeview and other places in Oakland.

2004 Council Member Chang allocates $20,000 to building a dog park at Lake Merritt. However, the City does not have the capacity to build it in time to accept Council

Member Chang's funds, which instead are used to create the dog park at Joaquin Miller which was completed in late 2006.

2005-2006 Neighborhood meetings present dog park plans and solicit community input; this input is incorporated into the design of a the Lakeview dog run.

2006 The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) votes at July PRAC meeting to approve construction of a dog play area at Lakeview Park with a one year probationary period. No Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application is filed and no dog park is built.

2009 Dog park plans are simplified by agreement with the Department of Public Works (DPW, Oakland Parks and Recreation (OPR) and ODOG. Multiple meetings with DPW, OPR and the dog owners

2009 Dog park is presented at Adams Point Action Council and receives approval.

2010 Dog park is presented at Grand Lake Neighborhood Group for informational purposes.

2010 December---PRAC unanimously votes to approve a Lakeview dog park at its December meeting.

2011 January---Dog park presented at Lake Neighbors group for informational purposes.

OPR, CM Nadel's staff and ODOG meet to coordinate submission of application for dog park to the Planning Department.

2011 March—May Emerging opposition to dog park halts progress and stakeholders meet to reconsider the issues. CM Nadel and CM Kernighan hold a public meeting to discuss the dog park at the Lake. The meeting is not part of any formal process and is for inform

2011 July PRAC reviews dog park proposal from December 2010 and votes on whether to recommend approval to Planning Department. The vote is tied and no recommendation is made. Opponents to the dog park presented a proposal for putting a dog park near Fairyland. Competing proposal created confusion for the commissioners and the public. Confusion started with names of the parks. Lakeside (Fairyland Area) Lakeview (Lakeshore and MacArthur). New commissioners who had not visited both sites were particularly at a disadvantage in the discussion and vote.

2011 August Fairyland Board calls a special public meeting to review the proposal for the dog park near Fairyland. The Board votes to not support any future development of a dog park at this location.

©2011 Oakland Dog Owners Group

Public Input Meetings

1998-2000
Many large meetings, including some conducted for the City by consultant Walter Hood, about development in the Lake Merritt area. A group of neighbors squashed the idea of a dog park at the Splashpad long before there was a Farmers Market there. There was discussion about putting it "on the other side of the freeway".
July 2002
Dog park included in Lake Merritt Master Plan accepted by City Council (presumably this plan was built on public input)
December 2002
Dog park included Adams Point Urban Design Plan submitted to Community and Economic Development Agency (presumably this plan was built on public input)
2004 (approximately)
District 2 council member Danny Wan and At-Large member Henry Chang co-sponsored a dog park meeting
Council Member Nadel sponsored public meetings about the dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur
November 2005 CM Nadel sponsored public meeting
June 2006 CM Nadel sponsored meeting about the dog park
Early 2006 Dog park was on agenda of neighborhood meeting at Lutheran church off Euclid
July 2006 Public hearing and approval by PRAC (Parks and Recreation Commission)
October 2009 Dog park introduced at two Adams Point Neighborhood Meetings NCPC 14X
December 2010 Public hearing and approval by PRAC (Parks and Recreation Commission)
January 2011 Grand Lake Neighbors invited ODOG to present the dog park on their agenda
March 2011 Council Members Kernighan and Nadel sponsored a public discussion with no action items
July 2011 The Parks and Recreation Commission hearing and review of plan approved in December 2110 by PRAC

ALTERNATIVE FINDINGS

Attachment I: Findings for Denial

The Planning Commission determines that this proposal does not meet the required findings under General Use Permit Criteria (OMC Sec. 17.134.050) as follows:

SECTION 17.134.050 – GENERAL USE PERMIT CRITERIA:

A. That the location, size, design, and operating characteristics of the proposed development will be compatible with and will not adversely affect the livability or appropriate development of abutting properties and the surrounding neighborhood, with consideration to be given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage, and density; to the availability of civic facilities and utilities; to harmful effect, if any, upon desirable neighborhood character; to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets; and to any other relevant impact of the development.

Lakeview Park is classified in OSCAR as a Neighborhood Park. At 3.66 acres, Lakeview Park is at the smaller end of the size range (2-10 acres) for this type of park. The park contains an existing library, Astro Park children's play area, parking lot and an existing multi-purpose field area located between the parking lot and MacArthur Blvd. The field area is currently used by a variety individuals, families, and groups for various activities including picnicking, sports, and other activities. The addition of a 20,778 s.f. enclosed dog play area would take a substantial portion of the available open field area away from these general users and dedicate it to a special group (dog owners and their dogs). The desirable neighborhood character would be affected by physically fencing off part of the open field area with a dog play area of the proposed scale and coverage in a high profile location in downtown Oakland near Lake Merritt and the Grand Lake neighborhood. In addition, the proximity to Astro Park (25 feet away), a children's playground, where families gather with small children creates a potential for safety impacts if dogs were to get loose while arriving or leaving the dog play area, or jump over the fence, and there could be health-related impacts if dog waste is not diligently cleaned up and/or if the underground waste management system were not regularly maintained.

B. That the location, design, and site planning of the proposed development will provide a convenient and functional living, working, shopping, or civic environment, and will be as attractive as the nature of the use and its location and setting warrant.

The proposed fencing off of over 20,000 s.f. of grass field area and replacement of the grass with wood chips for the dog play area would adversely affect the visual attractiveness of this high-profile location (Lakeview Park) and setting (Lake Merritt and Grand Lake neighborhoods). Also, if it is not diligently maintained due to reliance on self-policing of the dog owners or if funding issues arose, the Dog Play Area could potentially become a visual blight within the park and community.

C. That the proposed development will enhance the successful operation of the surrounding area in its basic community functions, or will provide an essential service to the community or region.

In this dense downtown area, the existing field that is available to a variety of users for a variety of purposes would be compromised by the dedication of a large portion of its usable area to a specific group (dog owners

and their dogs). At 20,778 s.f. the Dog Play Area would be more than twice the size of Astro Park (9,700 s.f.) and about one-third of the existing open field area.

D. That the proposal conforms to all applicable design review criteria set forth in the design review procedure at Section 17.136.050.

The proposal does not conform to all applicable design review criteria (see findings in SECTION 17.136.050 – REGULAR DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA below).

E. That the proposal conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland Comprehensive Plan and with any other applicable plan or development control map which has been adopted by the City Council.

OSCAR generally describes Lakeview Park (a.k.a. "Eastshore Park") as a heavily used neighborhood park that serves as a gateway to the lake area. It further states that the park "is generally a better site for active recreation than nearby Lakeside Park due to the large open lawn area." (Chapter 5, page 5-12). The Dog Play Area as proposed would be would take away approximately 1/3 of that open lawn area within the park that is currently valued for active recreation by multiple users including: picnicking, informal sports games, private school gym classes, jogging, etc., and would therefore not conform with this element of the Oakland General Plan.

SECTION 17.136.050 – REGULAR DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA:

B. For Nonresidential Facilities and Signs.

1. **That the proposal will help achieve or maintain a group of facilities which are well related to one another and which, when taken together, will result in a well-composed design, with consideration given to site, landscape, bulk, height, arrangement, texture, materials, colors, and appurtenances; the relation of these factors to other facilities in the vicinity; and the relation of the proposal to the total setting as seen from key points in the surrounding area. Only elements of design which have some significant relationship to outside appearance shall be considered, except as otherwise provided in Section 17.136.060.**

2. **That the proposed design will be of a quality and character which harmonizes with, and serves to protect the value of, private and public investments in the area.**

3. **That the proposed design conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland General Plan and with any applicable design review guidelines or criteria, district plan, or development control map which have been adopted by the Planning Commission or City Council.**

The Planning Commission finds that the location, size and scale of the proposed Dog Play Area are not appropriate for this site. It is located in a relatively small Neighborhood Park (3.66 acres total) that is considered to be a gateway to Lake Merritt. A fenced off area at the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave. would be detrimental to the visual and aesthetic quality of the existing open field and children's play area. In addition, OSCAR states that the park "is generally a better site for active recreation than nearby Lakeside Park due to the large open lawn area." (Chapter 5, page 5-12). The Dog Play area would physically fence off and displace over 20,000 s.f. of open field area, i.e., about 1/3 of its usable area, whereas this field is currently used by a variety of people for a variety of purposes (picnicking, sports, group activities etc.). Potential safety and health issues could result if dogs were to get loose in the area, or if the area were not diligently maintained.

Community Support
Petition Signatures
Emails (submitted as a separate file)

ATTACHMENT J

(2) Lake Merritt Dog Park (a.k.a. Lakeview Dog Play Area) - Mozilla Firefox

File Edit View History Bookmarks Tools Help

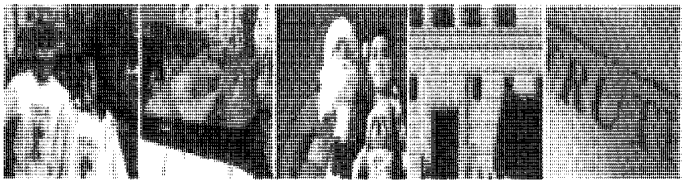
(2) Lake Merritt Dog Park (a.k.a. Lak...

facebook Search Kirby Murphy Find Friends Home

Lake Merritt Dog Park (a.k.a. Lakeview Dog Play Area)

Create a Page

Professional Services · Oakland, California



Wall | Lake Merritt Dog Park (a.... · Everyone (Most Recent)

Share: Post | Photo | Link | Video

Write something...

- Wall
- Info
- Friend Activity (1+)
- Events
- Poll
- Photos
- Notes
- Questions

About

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way...

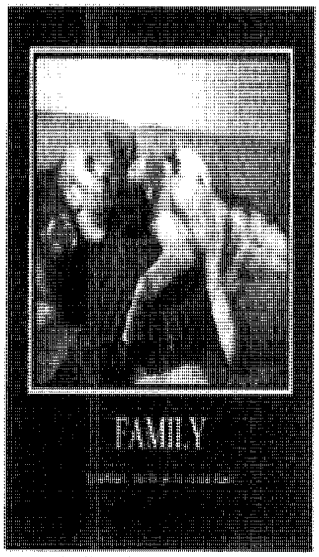
More

471 like this

37



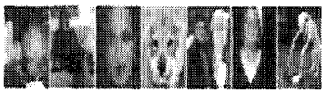
Paul Vidican



Wall Photos

So true!!!

You and Lake Merritt Dog Park (a.k.a. Lakeview Dog Play Area)



7 friends like this.

Oakland Local, Take Your Dog To Work Day, Little Spot Runs

Recommendations (16) See All



Sheila Donnelly The Lake Merritt area has 155 acres of parkland ---- all of it completely off-li...See More



William Johnson I've never seen this space used by anyone. I usually don't walk my dog around t...See More

1

Write a recommendation...

People You May Know See All



Rebecca Kaplan

3 mutual friends

Chat (2)

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Oakland-California/108636292521622



LAKESHORE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
Po Box 16268 Oakland, CA 94610

March 16, 2011

Council Member Kernighan
District 3
City Hall
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

The Lakeshore Business Improvement District is aware of the controversy surrounding the building of a dog park just beyond the freeway from our district. Initially, we had some concerns about the park. For instance, we had wondered how the swampy land there would handle the deposits by the dogs.

We have been reassured that this piece of the field has been filled in and that wood chips would be used to prevent a return to swamp-like conditions. We also understand that dog owners will maintain the park.

We are not opposed to a well-thought-out, well-maintained dog park near our commercial district. In fact, we believe that it may turn out to be an amenity that will draw more shoppers to our district as other dog parks have done. In addition, we believe that many local dog owners will walk to the park as they now do to the market.

Our neighborhood is home to a bursting Farmers' Market and a thriving retail mix. Neighbors throng to both areas and find many of their needs met by them. We strive to provide as many of the amenities that a successful urban area can offer and envision a well-maintained dog park as one of them.

Sincerely,

Pamela Drake,
Executive Director of the Lakeshore Avenue BID

700+ petition signatures

More than 700 petition signatures were submitted in support of the Lakeview dog park in July 2006 to The Parks and Recreation Commission. These signatures were gathered without the use of websites or email and represent a broad cross section of Grand Lake area stakeholders, both with and without dogs.

Additional signatures gathered in the past two years follow here.

14 names per page!

Brian Montenegro, 1057 Ires Thy Fleet Rd. 94610 bmonte55c@sbcglobal.net

_____ YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and LakeView Library!

Name	Address	Email	Phone
Jocelyn Sheppard	1 Merritt Ave #9, Oakland 94610	jossykai@inbox.com	(510) 835-2796
Lara Moore	47th St #107 Oakland 94610	lmumbibi@gmail.com	
BRIAN BERRY		brianjberry@gmail.com	
Justin Davis	Moss Ave. Oakland 94610	justin@justinedavis.com	
Jennifer Bennett	26 Beacon St Oakland 94610	jenniferfoxbennett@gmail.com	
Kelly Jensen	7 Beacon St. Oakland 94610	kellyejensen@hotmail.com	
Adam Klein	50 Brookpark Rd. Oakland CA 94619		
Robert Schwartz	1064 Everett Ave. Oakland, CA 94602	robertjschwartz@hotmail.com	
JOHN TORNATORE	2 A1ST AVE	OAKLAND 94601	jatfast2o@hotmail.com
Terry Rosson	45 Woodruff Ave Oakland 94602	trosson@sonic.net	
Sarah Cox	32 Lake Vista Ave	Oakland CA 94610	
PETER JAQUES	13 28TH ST	OAKLAND 94606	S_Shiple@yahoo.CLARINET@HUZZAH
JOSHUA SPEER	417 30TH ST	josh_speer@yahoo.com	510-601-5050

YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and Lakeview Library!

March 2010

Name	Address	Email	Phone
Stacy Hudnett	24 E Rustic		533-6609
Katy Brown	113 Ivy Dr	kbrown623@gmail.com	
Belinda Dolic	342 Grand, OAK 94610		
Toni Longley	9 Santa Clara Ave " "	Toni.Longley@gmail.com	
Steffi Zevitis	6251 Hillmont Drive Oakland, CA	SZARITS@MOSS.COM	
Chris Dixon	29 RAND AVE OAKLAND 94610		805-715-0028
Kirsten Bjorgar	Staten Ave Oakland 94610		
PAULA STEELE	194. KSON ST. OAKLAND 94612		
Molly Palmer	Euclid Ave 94610		
Jaci Kassmeier	1 Lakeside Dr 94612		
Nikki Jeg	Kittredge 94607		
Anna Bersakeev-Snider	Moss Ave oakland 9461		
St. Lawrence	3 McCauley Ave #3 Oakland 94610		blue9[illegible]@yahoo.com
BIANCA DESS AT	MUSCENT DR. #12 oakland CA 94610		javaisha@gmail.com
Scott Smith	Peterson st oakland CA 94601		Scottmarshallsmith@hotmail
JOHNNY B.C.			

WOOF

YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and Lakeview Library!

Name	Address	Email	Phone
Evan Hart	172 Valle Vista	Evan.hart@gmail.com	
Mike Singleta	1051 E. 33rd St	MSingletary@gmail.com	
Shawn Robert	4648 Dolores Ave.	SHAWN @ ENTROPORIUM.COM	
Susie Smith	"	SUSIE @ ENTROPORIUM.COM	
Jonah Lalas	122 Lakeshore Ave	jonahjlalas@	
Justin Goslino	405 E. 11th St, #21	thenexthour@hotmail.com.	
IAAN KNOTT C	1650 LOWER GRAND AVE		
Neeta Puthanveet.	Stock Ave #12	neetap213@hotmail.com	
Natalie [illegible]	ester Ave #1 94606	natelbugsa@yahoo.com	
Nicholas Whi.	Lester Ave #1 94606	nook0076@yahoo.com	
ACE Ehrke	25 Bellevue		
ERIK SADAUSKAS	3 WEBSTER ST. #A207	LIQUORNECK @ COMCAST.NET	
JOE BELL	25 West St.		
Abby Mather	WALKER AVE.	[illegible]	
Andrew Roissiges	73 Warfield Ave	aroissiges	
Chris Albo k	Perkins St.	Calbo	

YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and Lakeview Library!

Name	Address	Email	Phone
Rick Schiller	Lakeview	r-schiller@comcast.net	510.653.887[illegible]
Lea Gehringer	Via Cresta	lea1224@yahoo	—
[illegible]	75 Vernon St		5103952707
Jeff Urbens	0 Merritt Ave	Creativeminded@hotmail.	
Jen Kenealy	0 Merritt Ave	312-752-5209	
Jeff Winter	10 E. 22nd St	—	
James Kan	22 Warfield Ave	kanviction@yahoo.com	
Block	Vernon St Oakland	510 251-6213	
ADAM AL-HARBI	SAN PABLO OAKLAND	SAXFUNTAFTERMATH@GMAIL.COM	
David Jones	3 Valle Vista Ave #2	Oak, CA 94610	clayvid@cky[illegible]
Jasmine Hallcra	77 Santa Clara Ave #307	Oakland, CA 94610	
Mike Ricci	177 Santa Clara Ave #307	Oakland, CA 94610	(215) 370-72[illegible]
Jason Knight	5 Wickson Ave	Oakland CA 94610	jasonwknight@gmail.
Kevin Welch	0 Wellington	Oakland CA 94610	[illegible]
Jennifer Dion	18 Mauritania Ave	Oakland, Ca	genevieve8203@yahoo.com
Todd Gage	Brookwood Pl.	Oakland CA	510-427-6407

YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and Lakeview Library!

Name	Address	Email	Phone
ELLIE SWENSEN	GRAND #B OAKLAND		
Marie Stetson	1 Leonard Ave Upper Dimond		
Scott Adams	2 Bella Vista Ln Oakland		
Brad Watson	Jayne Ave, Oakland		
Kevin Taylor	54 Cole Street Oakland		
Heidi Kenney	427 Filbert St		
Carl carter	20 Duke Oak 94601		
CLYDE K. BARSH	1427 FILBERT ST OAKLAND		
JOHN RECHTENBACH	71 MACFELAN DR OAKLAND 94611		
Owen Vaughan	8 Pershing Dr 94611		
Adam Fads	25 Park View 94610		
Robert Dunning	10 lakeshore Pdslive@gmail.com		
Vu Long Trinh	3 14th Ave Oakland 94606		
Charley Touch	03 14th Ave, Oakland 94606		
Karyn Vereklasen	6 Sunyhills Rd, Oakland 94610		
Edward Anano	n Squat Hoohoodilly@live.com.		
Craig Henderson	1 40th st. way, Oakland CA 94619		

YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and Lakeview Library!

Name	Address	Email	Phone
ReillyGelb			510 333-3977
Mazu Byrd	9 Longridge RD 94610	mazubyrd@gmail.com	
Patricia RAMI	2 Ptr. RAMIREZ.com	gov	992/692-712
Ben Marcos	43 Longridge Road	bmarcos@cbre.com	
Jen Brasher	129 School St. 9460	jen_brasher@yahoo.c	
Amir Morelli	Euclid Ave Oakland 94610	morellilab@gmail.com	
Krin Morelli	58 Euclid ave Oakland 94610	Krinmf@gmail.com	
Ckromah	1358 Brdgeview 94607		510 5305998
Joanne Chang	2 9th Street 94607		
Ali Shotbolt	58 Genl Hve 94602		(510)207-1528
Blair Fiks	Carson Ave 94602		415/595-1777
Alan Nelson	5 39th St. 94609		(510)595-1972
Jean Johnston	17 Rosemont 94610	ej.jean@gmail.com	
Dave Hoiler	050 STANTON ST, 94702		510-665-5457
Carmen Rodriguez	9 Dyer Street nCity, CA 94587	cram1035@juno.com	475-0161 510 258-6627
Ethan Levy	695 Waring Cross Road, Oakland	ethanrol@gmail.com	

YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and Lakeview Library!

Name	Address	Email	Phone
DIMA HART	1 Grand Ave	Silvermoonkids@sbcglobal.net	510 8352229
Ian Billet	Grand Ave #1	mrbillet@yahoo.com	(510) 388-3666
Eric Schmi	30 E 15th St #1	ericschmidtenator@gmail.com	5203169437
Andrew Nelson	37 Webster Street	drewnelz@gmail.com	3103874549
Jaeda Reed	2 Chambers Rd	greedjie@lakechristian.org	510-251-9085
Captain Amc	Rafi Ranjitkar		510-384-4710
Dorian Young	23rd Ave	dYoung.bar@gmail.com	510.520.2263
Scott Jaz	5 22nd St	Oakland, CA 94612	510.595-8286
PALLO PENCOOK	4 E. 17th #114	OAKLAND CA 94606 PPOLAVE@GMAIL.COM	510 893.1098
IAN ROBERTSON	11e V.3te Ave. #3	OAKLAND, CA 94610	theian@mac.com
SEAN HOY	5th Ave.	OAKLAND, CA 94606	9258992591.
JAMIL SMIT	631 5th Ave	Oakland 94606	0255885542
Alex Martini	E36th St. #108	Oakland CA 94602	
Dave Alonzo	Vernon St	Oak	2016580818
Charlotte Rush	7 Athol Ave #1,	Oakland CA 94606	510 444-4922
Thomas Lavato	" "	" " "	charchar2day@gmail.com
Carroll Braxton	Valle Vista Ave	Oakland CA	@sbcglobal.net 510 754 1649

January 2010

YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and Lakeview Library!

Name	Address	Email	Phone
Jeremy Packman	1104 Dr #4	teachpack67@yahoo.com	510 282-855
Laura Lyons	560 E. 31st	laura@qqcatering.com	
Kathy Rissell	47th ST		6559410
Ed Jackson	27 Kansas St.	ed@[illegible]	510 887-52
Colleen Diaz	73 Arkansas St.	Colleenhope23@yahoo.com	(415) 810-2970
Brie Prasiott	Westline Dr. #A217	b4thru23@yahoo.com	
Jennifer Padilla	70 Warfield Ave	Oakland 94610	
Robert d'Imahe	400 Santa Clara Ave, Oakland, 94610		510-333-2671
Brigit Boyle	9 Rand Ave APT C	Oakland CA 94610	5104106713
Janet Lucas	3124 32nd Ave	Oakland 94605	wahine727@yah
Erin Stuppi	53 Ascot Drive	erin4golf@yahoo.com	925-337-7243
Patti Bennett	234 E 28th ST	hannabenn@att.net	510.2898875
Jude Fletcher	8 Campbell St. 94607		
Kevin Walt-	28th St.		
Krista Riley	108 Valle Vista Ave #3	Krsta.r.herbst@gmail.com	
Amaea John	54 E. 12th St.	amaea_the_bee@yahoo.com	510-834-0416
Travis Piev	SUITE 12	Humphrey.gok2[illegible]@yahoo	
[illegible] Newhou	er_abridge"	Jadegreenhouse@gmail.com	262 4963

YES! I support a Lake Merritt Dog Park between Splashpad Park and Lakeview Library!

Name	Addi	Email	Phone
Chris Bohnert	3	Woodruff!! bohnert@sonic.net	531-90
Alan Taylor	7	Brooklyn Ave altechorg@yahoo.co	
Susie Cohen	3	Raymond Ave Cohencowell@ymail.com	
Jess Richmond	34	Chmond Blvd #1 jar@berkeley.edu	735-05
James Haddan	7	Telegraph ave jhaddan@gmail.com	51.734-3676
[illegible]	4	Herbert Ave rogere@lafsh.state.ca.us	5.350 7141
Andy Kalin	5	Mira Vista Ave cyprus-candy@hotmail.com	
Katrina Wehmeyer		7040 Haverford kwehmeyer@mail.csuchico.edu	
Deeda Fan	7	77 Lenox Ave deedamarie@hotmail.com	
Katie Hendrickson		Estrella Ave. KHendrickson@berkeley.edu	
Shannon Band		58 Lakeshore ave Apt. 4 shannon.d.bard@gmail.com	
[redacted]			
Vanessa Sundin		3 Warfield ave Apt. 1, Oakland CA 94610	Vanessa.sundin@gmail.com 530.2.829
Patrick Bradley		Warfield Ave Apt 1 [illegible] CA 94610, patrickjbradley@gmail.com	
Ann Sacia	4	3 Lee St Oakland CA 94610 AMSacia@gmail.com	918 6 608395 594
DAN GALVIN	1	CALMAR AVE OAKLAND, CA, 94610 ham510@sbcglobal.net	
Colleen Schneider		1 E 23rd St Oakland, CA 94606 schneider.cm@gmail.com	
FRANK ZHO		1 E 22nd St OAKLAND CA 94[illegible]	

Give Us Our Dog Park At Lake Merritt

Email gabrianam @gmail.com Name Gabriana Street [redacted] Staten #301	Email irenet@gmail. @ com Name Irene Street 2500 block Ivy Dr
Email kaikokartavche @gmail Name Eva + Dave Street Grand Ave	Email mindiedodson @gmail Name Margaret Laws Street Glenview Ave
Email Onionanya @yahoo.com Name Anya Kasmierske Street Calmar Ave	Email nimrodomer @gmail.c Name Nimrod Omer Street Alice St.
Email jessalyn.bradley @gmail.com Name Jessalyn Bradley Street Linden St.	Email dlpepka@ @yahoo Name Dawn Pepka Street Alice St.
Email Staceyb.smith@gmail.com Name Stacey Smith Street Linden St.	Email Mike_Masher @ Yahoo. Name Michael Sandoval Street [redacted] 600 block E. 20th.

Give Us Our Dog Park At Lake Merritt

Email patrickjbradley @ gmail.com **Name** Patrick Bradley **Street** 743 Mayfield Ave. # 1	**Email** persianstar16 @ yahoo **Name** Esther Cader **Street** 1500 Lakeshore Ave
Email jbnp @ JMO.com **Name** Jennifer Norris **Street** 2122 Lakeshore	**Email** MIKEL ANTHONY @ YAHOO. **Name** MIKEL CIMINO **Street** 109 York Ave Kensington
Email sommer @ wildernessfarm.com **Name** Sommer Anton **Street** 2122 Lakeshore	**Email** egilliard @ comcast.n **Name** E. Gilliard **Street** Montclair Av.
Email Mercdina1 @ gmail.com **Name** Mercedes Medina **Street** 3516 Jayne Ave. Oakland CA 94610	**Email** westcoastwatters @ gmail.co **Name** Jule Watters **Street** 501 Scenic Ave Piedmont 94611
Email 636mjk@gmail.com **Name** Michael Hoenig **Street** Thornhill Dr. 94611	**Email** [redacted] @ aol.com **Name** Ben Lorenz **Street** 323 Alcatraz 94618

Give Us Our Dog Park At Lake Merritt

Email [illegible] @aol.com Name Queenegia Niles Street 1160 Hyde St. Apt. 409, San Francisco, CA, 94109	Email Mslater [illegible] @gmail.com Name Mark Slater Street 685 Valencia Ave Oakland
Email erinboyle5 @gmail.com Name Erin Boyle Street 77 pearl st apt A oakland, 94611	Email misslangslife@ @yahoo Name Erica Lang Street 2625 10th ave Apt D
Email edaan @yahoo.com Name Ebony Dáan Street Mandana	Email jenziebart @gmail.com Name JEN ZIEGART Street MERRITT AVE.
Email secretlee9 @yahoo Name Hana Lee Street Madonna	Email joao@ save the wave.org @ Name João De Maus Street 1480 Great Hwy SF CA
Email info @sgraubio solutions .com Name J. Gaccia Street E. 10th	Email Vanessa.sundin @gmail.com Name Vanessa Sundin Street 743 Warfield Ave #1

Give Us Our Dog Park At Lake Merritt

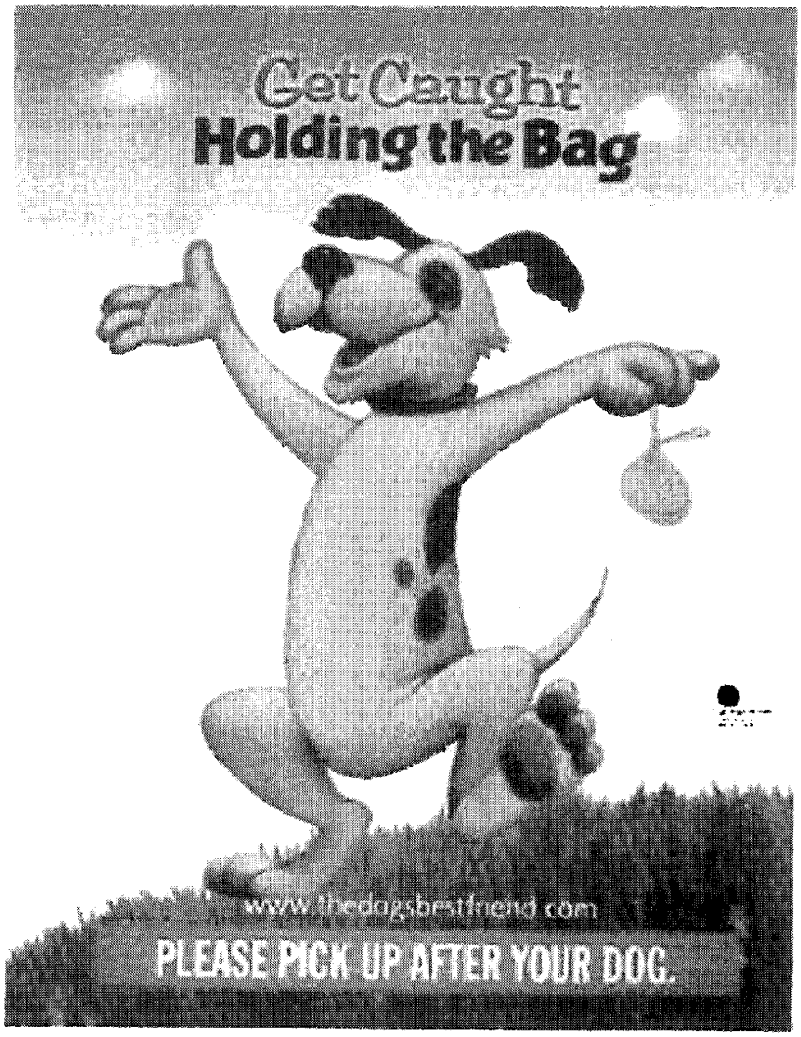
Email CupcakeLover @gmail.com Name Alison Hampton Street 4000 block Redwood	Email Sixelayane @gmail Name Alexis Johnson Street 500 Valle Vista
Email JADARLING @GMAIL Name JUSTIN DARLING Street 2400 8TH AVE	Email Albubank @hotmail.com Name Heidi Bobak Street 5434 Brann St.
Email klarre @hotmail.com Name Karl Spangler Street 421 Perkins #201	Email bicycleKidOHolaAK@ Name Rob King Street 761 10-2 St. OAKLAND
Email TTCSharrey21@Yahoo.com Name Tanesha Cartwright Street 2158 Tashon Dr South Chas	Email jeff @sibleyrestoration.com Name jeff sibley Street 1448 5th Ave. OAK
Email Mel_Swandly @hotmail.com Name Mel Swandly Street Athol Ave	Email KungFuSuzy @Gmail Name Tony Tofugh Street 4151 Emerald St OAK

Give Us Our Dog Park At Lake Merritt

Email SWrocks1@yahoo@	Email Glenn.Mangrove@gmail.com
Name Sarah Parmise	Name Glenn
Street CHENEY AV	Street Lee St.
Email WW.W.gja.23@yahoo@	Email ROCUGGA @AVENUE
Name Aja Harrison	Name DOE
Street 320 Euclid 300 Block Emerald	Street LEE
Email SarahLewis001@gmail	Email JOHNJOE@HOTMAIL
Name SARAH Lewis	Name JOHN
Street 1400 Linden St	Street EUCLID
Email LingolayneC1@AOL.com	Email KSwanson@art.net
Name Elaine Lingo	Name Kris Swanson
Street 400 Lake Park # Oak. 94610	Street 56th St
Email hnelson30@yahoo.com	Email jtmcbroom@gmail.com
Name Nate Nelson	Name Jen McBroom
Street 700 Hillgirt	Street 27th Ave.

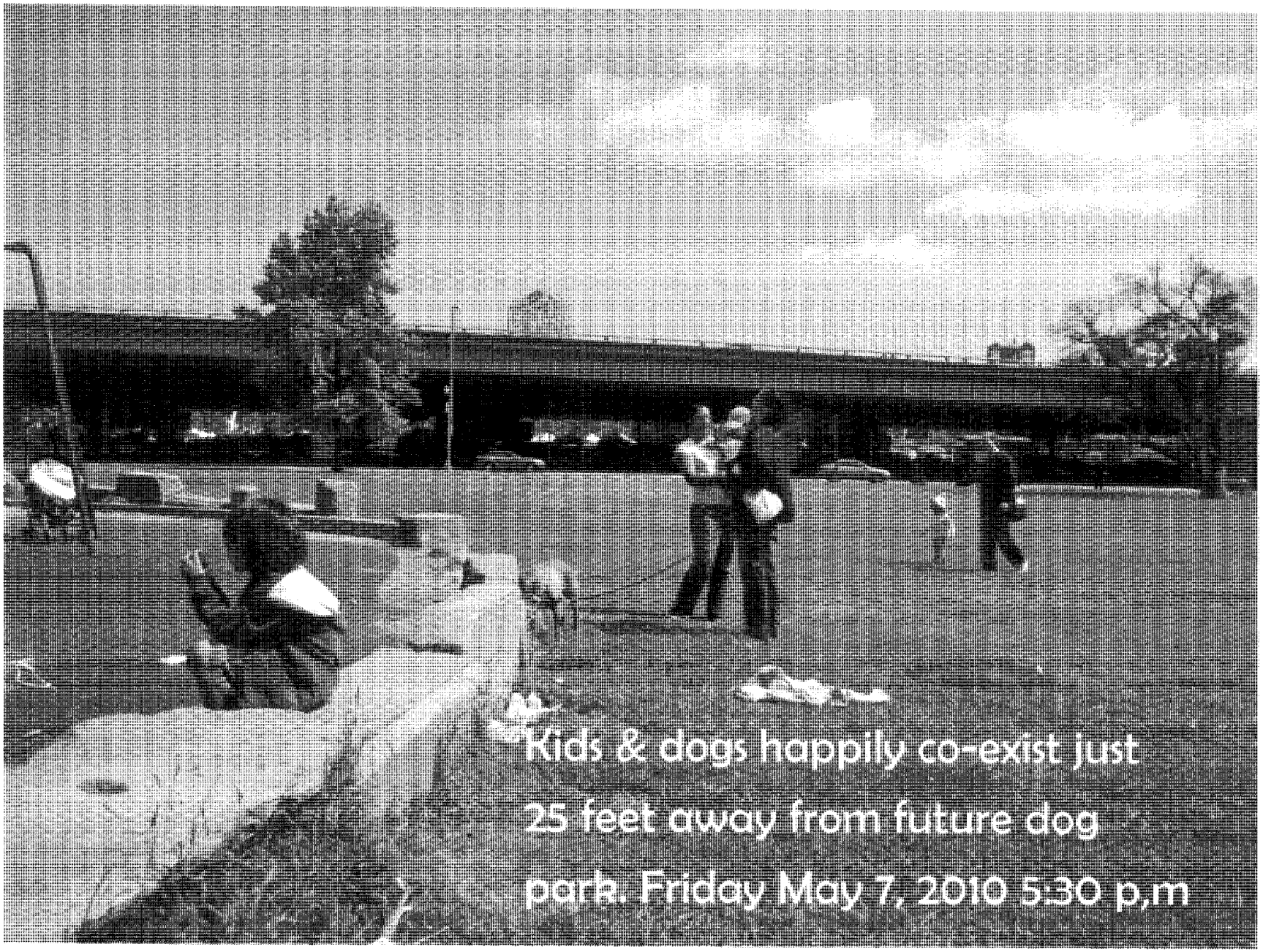
Give Us Our Dog Park At Lake Merritt

Email ronzeno @ aol.com Name Ron Zeno Street 200 Grand Ave 94610	Email akhtr.nadia @ gmail.com Name Nadia Akhtar Street 700 Mandana Mandana Blvd 94610
Email dedrabarkus @ yahoo Name dedra barkus Street 1 Lakeside Drive 94612	Email Pinkglitterdebs @ gmail.com Name Debra Phillips Street 400 Cheney Cheney Ave 94610
Email andejan @ ymail.com Name Andrea Pich Street 4600 San Sebastian Ave	Email elanaabeles @ gmail Name Elana Abeles Street 500 E 22nd St #2
Email IndianFireprincess @ yahoo.com Name Melinda Rhodes Street 10th Ave.	Email bloeksquire @ hotmail.com Name Emmett Schkloven Street 400 Wayne Wayne Ave
Email carni@larsonshores @ .com Name Carni Shores Street 400 Cresent Cresent	Email a.stefani510 @ gmail Name Alysa Stefani Street 100 Pearl Pearl St. 94611


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Holding the Bag
www.thedogsbestfriend.com
PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

Photos

The dog play area will draw many spectators as well as participants and provide one more great reason for people to visit this park.


Kids & dogs happily co-exist just
25 feet away from future dog
park. Friday May 7, 2010 5:30 p.m



View from Astro Park Playground toward site of the future dog run. Note the number of peple on the field on a Sunday afternoon.

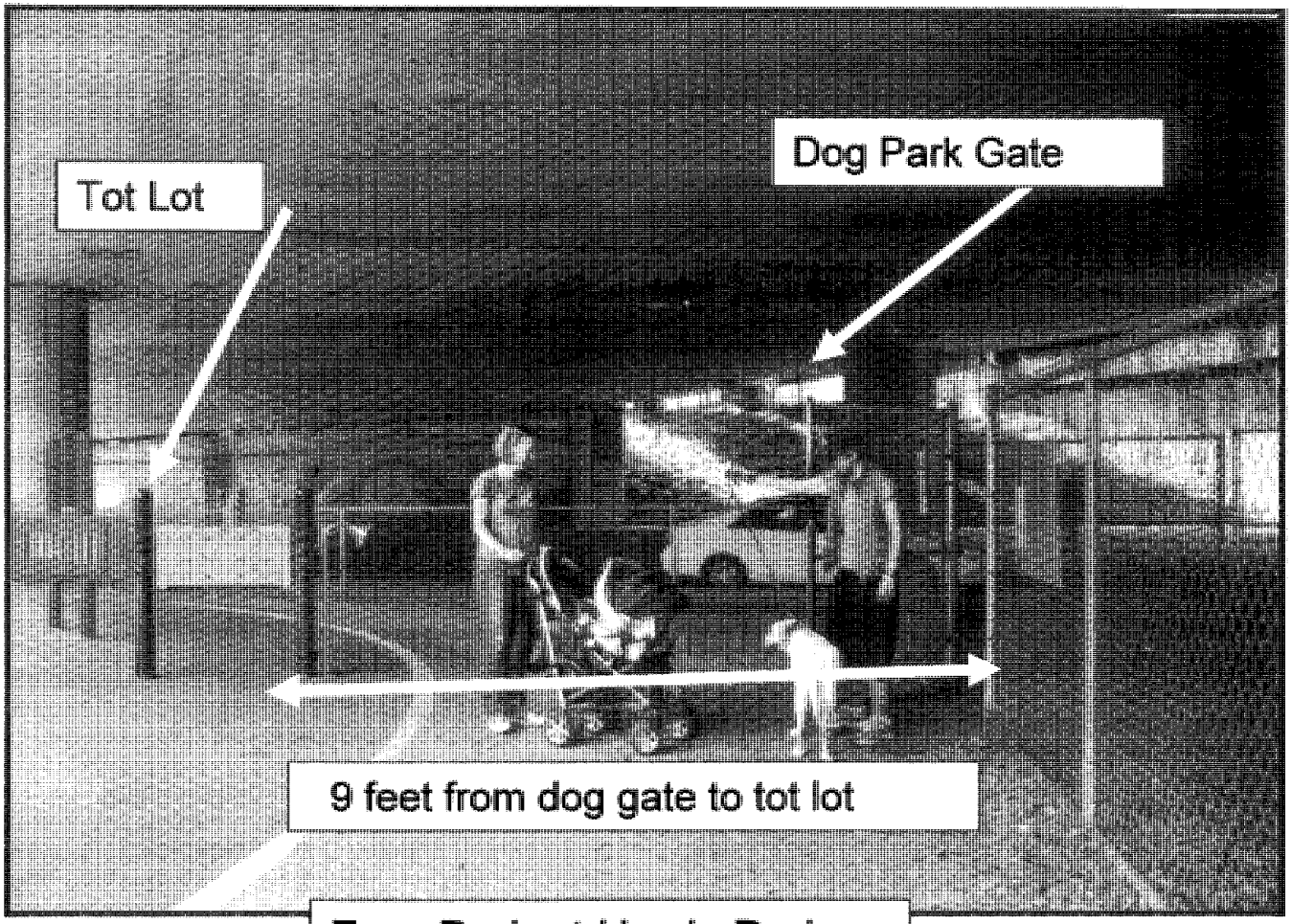


View from the dog park looking Across Lakeshore Avenue

LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FINDINGS

Example Of Existing Adjacent Children And Dog Play Areas -





Even the little ones want a turn with the doggies.



These kids just got off the plane from Africa They don't have a dog and begged to be photographed with this little character.

Copy Services

From: Victoria Wong [vwoakland@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 2:12 PM
To: Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Against Astro Park Dog Park

Dear Councilmembers Kaplan and Nadel and Ms. Clevenger:

I write to strongly oppose the placement of a dog park at Astro Park/Eastshore Park. This area is highly visible and heavily used and enjoyed by many neighborhood residents, including me and my family, who live within half a mile of the park. A dog park at this location would eliminate the open space that serves as a transition between SplashPad Park and the Lake, significantly harming the aesthetics of the park. I do not want a chain-link-fenced dirt area in that highly visible location. If the appearance of other dog parks, such as the one by FROG park, is any indication, this would be an unsightly and unwelcome area.

In addition, the neighbors of the park, like myself, should not be expected to rely on volunteers' promises to maintain the dog park. If it becomes dirty and smelly, the community will have no recourse for correcting the problem. Furthermore, I believe this dog park, if it is to be located anywhere, should, like most dog parks, be placed in an underutilized area, as the Linda Park dog park and the dog park near FROG Park are placed (on a steep hillside and under a freeway, respectively), rather than in a highly used, attractive and visible area.

Furthermore, deposite ODOG's promises that its volunteers will maintain the park, there is no guarantee it will happen, and the City will not have the resources to maintain the park. As it is, Oakland does not have the resources to maintain existing parks, even with volunteer assistance. For example, the Oakland Rose Garden's condition has deteriorated severely since gardening staff was reduced, despite regular volunteer efforts. I do not want to see a new dog park, in a highly visible and highly trafficked area, deteriorate into a blight on the neighborhood. In fact, I am opposed to even the capital expenditures proposed for the park, given Oakland's dire budget situation. That money would be far better spent maintaining existing parks than creating another park for which the City cannot afford maintenance.

Arguments that this location has been in the works for a long time and that the City should not spend additional money on planning a new park are not persuasive. As evidenced by the strong community opposition to the park, many, many local residents had no idea about the plans, and there are many valid objections to it, including children's safety, aesthetics, and the elimination of a significant open space, where Oakland has a shortage of open park space already. The fact that this not a suitable location for a dog park remains true regardless of how much it would cost to plan an alternative location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Wong

Copy Services

From: Victoria A. Barbero [vabarbero@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 11:18 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Against Dog Park

Ms. Clevenger:

Please note my husband, Reinaldo Barbero, and I are strongly opposed to the dog park. The children (who often have no yards to play in) enjoy this space and should be allowed to continue to do so.

Sincerely,
Victoria Barbero

Victoria A. Barbero
Barbero Communications, LLC.
vabarbero@comcast.net
510-387-3071

Copy Services

From: Esteban Sardera [esardera@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 02, 2011 11:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Against Lake Merritt Dog Park

Hello Ann,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the proposed dog run at Lake Merritt (Astro Park).

I'm a dog lover and hope to have my own dog when I move to my new home at 448 Sunnyslope from the Adams Point area of Lake Merritt, but I don't think it's a good use of space in that area, given the people that use it for recreation and I am concerned about aggressive dogs congregating in the area (Pit Bulls).

Thanks for listening and your time and happy holidays.

Esteban

302 Euclid Ave #204
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Remi Cohen [remicohen@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Against the Astro Park dog park

Dear Ann,
We are writing against the Astro Park dog park. Today we watched acrobats perform and several sports being practiced on the lawn, which there wouldn't be room for with the dog park. Not to mention that a chain link fence and removal of grass would de-beautify an area that has recently seen major improvements and increasing community use. We are in support of the creation of a dog park but not in he middle of a park that is already being used for various forms of recreation.
Best regards,
Remi Cohen
Lake Merritt resident

McElroy, Darryl

From: eric mullen [emullen55@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 5:25 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Against the dog park

April 3rd, 2012

Dear Commissioners,

Please keep Astro Park open, green and clean, not fenced, brown and stinky.

i strongly prefer that this area NOT be converted to use for dogs.

Keeping this entire area open and green is *FAR* more important to my quality of life than a dog park.

I respectfully ask that the Planning Commission deny the conditional use permit application for a fenced dog park at this site.

Thank you,

Eric Mullen
438 Staten Ave., # 307
Oakland, CA 94610








FROM:
ME
TO:
YOU


A M







McElroy, Darryl

From: monica cervantes [hairslave_cervantes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 26, 2011 4:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Approve dog park

We are a family with 2 children and a dog. Our oldest child is disabled and we would like to be able to play at lake merrit. There is plenty of room for soccer and more at lakview park.

Thank you,
Monica cervantes
3ooo block of madera ave.
Oakland ca 94619

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ann Noriega [anorie@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2011 1:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Approve dog park

It's time to move ahead our dogs need space. Brings humans together Oakland need so badly

Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: Keith McAllister [keithzmca@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 12, 2011 12:59 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Approve Lakeview Dog Play Area

December 12, 2011

Oakland Planning Commission,

Please proceed with approval of the Lakeview Dog Play Area at Lake Merced.

For many Oakland residents, dogs are a central part of daily life. Yet Oakland bans people with dogs from virtually all Oakland parkland, including all parkland near Lake Merced. We can't even walk around Lake Merced with a dog on leash.

Oakland lags in amenities provided to citizens in city parks. The nonprofit Trust for Public Lands just reported that, among the 100 largest cities in the US, there has been a 34% increase in off-leash dog parks in the last 5 years. Portland has 5.7 off-leash dog parks per 100,000 residents; San Francisco has 3.3 per 100,000 residents. Oakland doesn't register in their count.

Oakland just collects our taxes, while banning us from the parks paid for by those taxes. The Lakeview Dog Play Area is a small amenity to provide for the many thousands of dog-owning citizens who pay for Oakland parks. Please end the delay and stalling; build the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

Best regards,
Keith McAllister
Mary McAllister
Oakland, CA 94611

McElroy, Darryl

From: mejonathan@netzero.net
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 8:24 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro dog park proposal

Hello -

I live on Haddon Hill and have resided there since 2005. In that time I have seen welcomed changes - Trader Joe's being one.

I could write so much on this topic but will be brief. I am not against change. I am not against sharing common areas.

A fenced-off dog park is a taking of common property for an exclusive use - a use that, by definition, _excludes_ other uses. It also removes open green space that has an aesthetic appeal, as well as utility.

It is taking. Not sharing.

This is change that I am _against_. Let me be clear: I am _not_ against household pets. People love their cats and dogs and other domestic friends. That is fine by me. I encourage responsible human-pet relationships. I do not believe that denying an exclusive use dog park will deny people the ability to continue to have such in their lives. By contrast, allowing an exclusive use dog park will deny _all_ residents a precious swath of rare shared green space.

Jonathan

P.S. My thanks to those who are taking an active role in monitoring this situation so that us "regular citizens" are kept apprised.

<><><><><><><><><><><>

E-mailing you from a browser.

_____
60-Year-Old Mom Looks 27
Mom Reveals Free Wrinkle Trick That Has Angered Doctors!
http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3241/4f66a6e0a67422ae0101st05duc

McElroy, Darryl

From: carol shepherd [carolsheph@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:43 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Ms Clevenger,

I am writing to ask the Planning Commission to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park.

I have lived in the area for over 30 years. An off-leash dog run will destroy the current open-space provided by Astro Park for multiple human uses: volleyball, soccer, picnics, strolling, and others. If the proposed dog-run is approved, other uses of the designated space will be permanently lost. A unique Oakland attraction for all its residents will become the exclusive venue for a restricted number of dog--owners.

The area, as you know, represents a combined residential/commercial part of Oakland, with a lot of foot traffic (especially on Saturdays during the farmer's market next to the freeway overpass across the street). Dedicated off-leash dog runs should be located elsewhere, where people are less likely to be pursuing various daily activities.

Dog ownership means taking responsibility for your pet. Sometimes, it requires a bit of inconvenience, like taking your dog to an already existing site for exercise or making the effort to locate a suitable area that will not inconvenience other people or deny them access to public space in a densely-used public park in the heart of Oakland.

I urge you and your colleagues to stop any further planning for a dog run in Astro Park, a bad idea that should be abandoned now.

Thank you.

Carol Shepherd
620 Spruce St
Oakland CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ronna Benjamin [ronnabenjamin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please deny the permit for the fensed-off dog park within Astro Park. It is a wonderful green space in a busy, high-traffic area, and a highly-used extension of the public space--with library, playground, walkways and benches--connecting to Lake Merritt. Lake Merritt has recently been renovated into a beautiful area. This complex is an urban space that any city would be proud to have. Other cities have renovated river and lake-front spaces that attract residents and visitors alike. Oakland should treasure this, not destroy it.

I walk from my home in Adams Point to the farmers market every Saturday and take my granddaughter to the playground and Lakeshore library. I see young children playing soccer, young adults playing soccer and frisbee, families with children, tight-rope walkers, people working out on the bars--all in this green space. It is a wonderful mix of people and activities. It is the kind of public space that Oakland needs in every neighborhood.

On the other hand, I have seen dog parks in FORG park and on Linda Ave. which are chain-link fense, barren dirt, smelly eye-sores. We do not want this to happen in our neighborhood.

Please save our open space and strengthen our neighborhood.

Ronna Benjamin

McElroy, Darryl

From: Bill Wong [jackson_wong@msn.com]

Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2012 2:59 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Subject: astro park

please let astro park stay as it is - a green space to play and to have a picnic.
this is a very busy intersection - god forbid if a dog somehow escapes his/her owner and gets hit by a car. and who will bear the responsibility then?

thank you,
mary lew

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tiko Shah [tikoshah@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 1:40 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Hi, I wanted to write to tell you that I would love to keep Astro Park as it is, as a wide open, beautiful space, available for people to play in, and not have it become a dog park. I would like to request that the commission DENY the application to convert it to a dog park. Thank you!

Tiko

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elijah Pfister [elijah.pfister@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 9:08 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Hello,

Every week, without exception, I take my family to Astro Park to play in the playground and run in the grass. We play soccer, baseball and football for hours. Please, please deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off dog park. I love dogs but this area is used by people every day of the week. If anything find a way to eradicate the geese so we can enjoy the park further - find the money to improve the play area.

Thank you,
Elijah Pfister
Atlas Ave, Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: M. Rose [mrose@prodigy.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 6:15 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park
Attachments: mrose@prodigy.net.vcf

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This dog area takes up too much of the space, which is actively used by kids and adults. I am a dog owner myself, but do not believe this is a good use of space.

Marsha Rose
Haile Girma & Co.
phone 510.420.1626
fax 510.653.6450

McElroy, Darryl

From: JON STANLEY [jon.stanley@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 11:00 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please preserve Astro Park for multi use by Oaklanders. We do not want to see a designated dog park take over one of the few lovely green areas we can all enjoy.

Please DENY the conditional use permit for the fenced off-leash dog area in the park and keep it clean, green and open for use by children, families and anyone wanting to enjoy a nice urban outdoor space.

Jon Stanley

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alan L Lin [alan@zot.net]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 10:47 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Astro Park is a public area, and the use of this area should be subject to a vote by Oakland residents. Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in the park until it can be voted on as a ballot measure.

Thank you,
Alan Lin
Oakland resident

McElroy, Darryl

From: Susan Stanley [sstanley727@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 9:38 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; jon.stanley@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,
Please preserve Astro Park for multi use by Oaklanders. We do not want to see a designated dog part take over one of the few lovely green areas we can all enjoy. Please DENY the conditional use permit for the fenced off-leash dog area in the park and keep it clean, green and open for use by children, families and anyone wanting to enjoy a nice urban outdoor space.

Susan Stanley

McElroy, Darryl

From: Catherine Baumgartner [oakcab@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 2:24 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Astro Park

PLEASE DON'T BUILD A DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK!!!!!!! I have been living in Oakland for 26 years. Before coming here I lived in SF for 15 years. SF has it's massive Golden Gate Park. All Oakland has is the beautiful Lake Merritt and it's surrounding few parcels of grass. PLEASE DON'T COVER IT WITH BROWN DIRT AND WOOD CHIPS AND SMELLY LOUD BARKING DOGS. One of the nicest and smartest things Oakland has ever done for it's people is to beautify Lake Merritt and build up the neighborhood with it's fabulous Farmer's Market! KEEP THE DOGS AWAY AND LET THE PEOPLE PLAY PLAY PLAY PLAY PLAY. Thank you. Catherine

McElroy, Darryl

From: Martina I. Cucullu [mcucullu@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 12:45 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro park

I live a few blocks from the lake and am very much opposed to a dog run even though I just got a dog. There are so many dog parks in the nearby area that I just don't see any reason to add another in astro park. The area is always in use by people playing soccer, children and others looking to enjoy he park.

I also think its a bad idea given how much traffic there already is around the lake not to mention all the children who play on the playground nearby. The only way to adequately protect them and the dogs would be to erect a number of fences that would make the area difficult to access and ugly. We've spent so much time and money into making the park pretty it is just counter-intuitive to do something that would defeat all the work that's been done.

Martina Cucullu Lim

Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: Stafford, Anne [stafford@smccd.edu]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

I am writing to say that I oppose plans for a new dog park at Astro Park, near Lake Merritt. I have a dog myself and use some of the other dog parks in Oakalnd, but I think a dog park in that particular location is a bad idea. That area is already crowded enough with people and cars; bringing in a lot of dogs will only add to the congestion. Also, based on personal experience with many different dog parks, the smaller the park, the more quickly it gets torn up and ratty looking. I have no doubt that any dog park in that location will quickly become an eyesore and will add unnecessary chaos to a busy part of the city.

Sincerely,

Anne Stafford

McElroy, Darryl

From: nancy smith [nsmith1717@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 11:33 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: astro park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please please keep Astro Park as is. This place is enjoyed by families with small children, as well as those of us older folks who just love the greenery in the Lake Merritt area. When moneyin Oakland is so tight, why would the city council decide to spend on such an unnecessary project?

Please consider the ramifications of this idea.

--
Nancy Smith
Educator

McElroy, Darryl

From: Peter Torsiello [Torsiello43@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 9:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: pkerninghan@oaklandnet.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Hello,

I am writing to protest any dog park use at Astro Park or anywhere in or around Lake Merritt. I especially dislike the idea of using Astro Park for that purpose as it is part of the Lake Merritt Waterfowl Reserve, the first park set aside for waterfowl in the nation back in the 1890s. It is also located on a heavily used plot of park that attracts toddlers, ducks by the dozens and children playing including the people at Clausen House where they use the open space for exercise and games on occasion. This is a really bad idea and I don't see why the planning commission and the City would even consider it. Not to mention all the people who walk around the lake and pause there to eat and socialize (10,000 people a week walk around that lake.) Not to mention that parking is totally lacking in the area already. This will bring even more cars into a totally congested road system that I don't think was helped by the new configuration since the roads were reworked two years ago. BAD, BAD, BAD. Don't do it!

The second suggested place is also not appropriate since it also is within the WaterFowl Reserve Area. We have a unique place here in Oakland for our dwindling Duck population and dogs are a natural enemy of Birds. And while you are at it, you should clearly mark the walking paths with correct signage for excluding Dogs anywhere near birds there and enforcing the leash laws which are so often ignored by dog owners. Fining dog owners who allow their dogs off leash around the park would generate a large income for the City (As a walker daily around the Park, I see unleashed dogs every day.) Wrong, Wrong, Wrong!!

Why doesn't the city use some open areas near the edge of the Estuary like they do in Richmond. There is a lot of unused space , Much more accessible for dogs romping unhindered by other users.

Peter Torsiello
1200 Lakeshore Ave. Apt 10c
Oakland, Ca. 94606

McElroy, Darryl

From: Art Springs [art51springs@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 10:34 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Peggy
Subject: Astro Park

While walking around Lake Merritt this past weekend, my companion and I approached Astro Park to find a large area cordoned off to represent, as we discovered from a group of concerned citizens of the neighborhood, a proposed fence designating an area to possibly be used for a dog park. I think dog parks, in general, are a good idea, particularly in dense urban areas as this, but I also feel they need to be weighed against what could be an even greater loss. Although I am but a three month long resident in the Lake Merritt district, I think it would not be wise to convert a park so widely used by the public as a popular gathering place for socializing and recreation when there are other places such as the park at the corner of Hanover and Lakeshore, for example, which is virtually barren when I pass it daily. Parks like this one do not serve the public for any recreational purposes like soccer, football, or family gatherings because of the uneven ground, but they would easily suffice as an area for dogs to run freely with their owners. I hope that the planning commission and city council take full consideration of the long standing importance of Astro Park to the people in our city before possibly making it a dog park when there are other options available around Lake Merritt. I truly feel it would be a grave mistake to deny us this center of activity and maintain its aesthetic value by not putting up a fence in a place so visible and appreciated for its openness.

With great concern,

Art Springs

McElroy, Darryl

From: Michael Sasso [michaelwsasso@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 3:33 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Please do not allow Astro Park to be converted into a dog park.

Thank you,

Michael Sasso
492 Staten Ave., Apt 501
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: C.C. Abdullah [cc1gel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 2:59 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

I as a resident of Oakland, California,do not want a fenced dog run at Lakeshore and MacArthur.
Please keep the Astro Park as it was originally planned as a park for the people of Oakland.

Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Christopher Flores [chrisf@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 11:29 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am a resident of the Grand Lake/Lakeshore Area. On getting back from vacation, I learnt over the weekend on visit to the Farmer's Market about the proposed plan to have a dog run in part of Astro Park. I want to let you know that I think that is a bad idea. Astropark is an green open space for multi-use activities and designating portion of it for specific use seems poor use of a scarce resource.

Thanks.
Christopher Flores

Christopher Flores
4114 Lakeshore Ave
Oakland, CA 94610
Tel: +1 (510) 834 4046
Cell: +1 (510) 599 7353
Email: chrisf@sbcglobal.net

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kelli Negro [kellinegro@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 10:39 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Hello,

I am writing to encourage each of you to think through plans for Astro Park, and to encourage you to KEEP this as a place that everyone can enjoy -- not just the dogs.

Astro Park is one of the only Parks that is accessible to parents and kids year around. It is fairly well lit and is a place where you can play soccer, enjoy time together etc year around. If you are to make this a place for dogs only, you will be once again taking things from our kids who have already been more than impacted by budget cuts etc. There are hundreds of acres in the Oakland hills where dogs can run and play. Lets keep this a park for everyone and find another place for the dogs. Our children deserve this!

Best,
Kelli Negro

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kelli Negro [kellinegro@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 10:37 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Hello,

I am writing to encourage each of you to think through plans for Astro Park, and to encourage you to KEEP this as a place that everyone can enjoy -- not just the dogs.

Astro Park is one of the only Parks that is accessible to parents and kids year around. It is fairly well lit and is a place where you can play soccer, enjoy time together etc year around. If you are to make this a place for dogs only, you will be once again taking things from our kids who have already been more than impacted by budget cuts etc. There are hundreds of acres in the Oakland hills where dogs can run and play. Lets keep this a park for everyone and find another place for the dogs. Our children deserve this!

Best,
Kelli Negro

McElroy, Darryl

From: M. Rose [mrose@prodigy.net]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 10:03 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park
Attachments: mrose@prodigy.net.vcf

Hi, I am a resident of Oakland, and a lover of dogs. I've had dogs nearly all of my life, as many as 3 at one time (too many, I'm afraid). I believe dogs are an important part of our community and that they need the space to run free.

That being said, the proposed dog run at Astro Park is not appropriate, in my opinion. The space is used daily by people young and old, and I think they should have first priority over the space. **The proposed dog run is too large and will be unsightly**. I walk my dog around Lake Merritt and by this park almost every day, so am aware of the activity.

Please reconsider this proposal, and find another spot for the dog run.
Marsha Rose
phone 510.420.1626
fax 510.653.6450

McElroy, Darryl

From: anna schooley [annaschooley@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 08, 2012 7:01 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Astro Park

Hello all,
I am an Oakland resident, in the Lake Merritt area. I do not agree with the dog park at Astro Park. I think it is a poor location and will infringe on the general public's enjoyment of this open space.

Thank you for considering my opinion,

Anna Schooley

McElroy, Darryl

From: alankarls@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 11:21 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

Pat Kernighan, Rebecca Kaplan, Nancy Nadel; Ann Clevenger

I just heard that there are plans to put a dog park in Astro Park. I am against this plan. I have lived in the Lake Merritt area for over 30 years. My kids played in the park. I have seen hundreds of different groups use the park on a regular basis over the years. It is a successful and well-used park as it is.

The plan would call for hijacking a good portion of the park for a special interest minority of the public: only those who own dogs. I find this undemocratic and elitist. Why should one portion of the public---and a very small portion at that---have sole rites to any public space? Just because those people have decided that they need to keep an animal in the city does not mean that the city has to provide them with public space at public expense so that they can exercise their animal.

Where will those who use the park now go? How will the children get to the play areas when all parking in the area is filled with the gas guzzling SUVs preferred by dog owners?

I think that turning over a good portion of Astro Park to a small special interest group is a terrible idea that will ruin the park and do disservice to more people than it would serve. I hope that you are wise enough to oppose the idea.

Alan R Karls
365 Euclid Ave. #302
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: sally goodman [ssdgoodman@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2011 7:24 PM
To: Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

Decision-makers: Please do NOT support the efforts to turn part of Astro Park into a dog park. It is much too valuable resource for humans of all ages who enjoy having the area for recreation for themselves and their families. This type of open space is extremely valuable for non-structured recreation.

Sincerely,

Sally Goodman
2090 Manzanita Drive
Oakland CA 94611

McElroy, Darryl

From: Marit Sonstelie [maritsonstelie@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 10:10 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; pkernigan@oaklandnet.com; At Large
Subject: Astro Park

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Lake Merritt resident and a dog owner. While I welcome the addition of dog park to the neighborhood, I feel that Astro Park is the wrong location. I am at Astro Park many times every week with my daughter and niece. It is a well utilized park, with many families and sports. I feel that a dog park would discourage some of the positive neighborhood activities in a heavily utilized park.

In addition, there is no parking at Astro Park and this would only make congestion worse.

I would welcome the consideration of one of the less-utilized areas around the lake. Snow Park, Lakeside park at Euclid and Grand, the spaces on either side of the Lakeview library all sit empty most days. These would be great place for a dog park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Marit Sonstelie

McElroy, Darryl

From: nancy smith [nsmith1717@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 9:02 AM
To: Kaplan, Rebecca
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

Good Morning Everyone,

I would like to strongly urge you to save Astro Park from any changes. With all the budget issues facing Oakland, I am perplexed as to why anyone would consider changing a place that already works perfectly. As someone who walks by this park regularly, I am delighted to see so many families relaxing, dad's and kids playing ball, various sports groups and others winding down from their otherwise hectic lives.

For me, this park represents all that is right with Oakland. Introducing dogs, some of which are vicious, to an area so highly used by youngsters and others, lacks common sense. Let's use our limited resources to make needed changes.

To quote an article I recently read, " Bert Lance believes he can save Uncle Sam billions if he can get the government to adopt a simple motto: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." He explains: "That's the trouble with government: Fixing things that aren't broken and not fixing things that are broken."

Please consider using time and resources to continue to improve the safety and qualify of life for Oakland citizens.
Thanks for your consideration and for your time spent in public service,

Nancy Smith

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ronna Benjamin [ronnabenjamin@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Ann Clevenger,

Please save Astro Park for all the families and friends and children who play soccer and frisbee and run and sit and drum. It is a wonderful green spot in our community for people to use and enjoy in a variety of ways. We do not want a chain link fense and wood chips and dirt and multiple odorous trash recepticals.

I live in Adams Point and walk to Astro Park regularly as I go to the library and the farmers market and take my granddaughter to the tot lot. Please preserve it for the entire community.

Ronna Benjamin
325 Vernon St. #305
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: PY [ybanela@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 2:06 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

Hello,

I live in Lake Merritt and recently learned about the desire to convert Astro Park (a good portion of it) into a fenced dog park area. This idea is very unappealing to me and would really limit the use of the park from its myriad of activities that serves many different communities currently.

Please provide me with information as to when the meeting will be held at City Hall to discuss this possibility, I would like to attend and make sure my voice is heard.

Thanks kindly,
Pamela Ybañez

--
pamelaybanez.com
thenewhall.blogspot.com

"...an eye for an eye and the whole world goes blind" - Gandhi

McElroy, Darryl

From: HARDYIC@aol.com

Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 3:01 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Subject: Astro Park

I have been a resident of the Grand Lake area for 28 years.
I am opposed to a dog park in Astro Park. I am not opposed to the concept of a dog park, but just not at this location.
The present use of this green space is not broken, why change it or try to fix it? The installation of a dog park would not be a "fix", it would be a blight to the area.

Thank you

Jana Hardy
444-2913

McElroy, Darryl

From: alankarls@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:47 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

I am totally against placing a dog park in Astro Park. I do not see the logic of taking a park that is well used by all the citizens of Oakland, and taking a good chunk of it and making it a place for a small minority of Oaklanders. Why should the majority have to lose a resource for a minority's needs? Dog owners do not have to own dogs.

I am also concerned about the added traffic and the loss of parking: dog owners are notoriously addicted to large vehicles: where do you plan to put the SUVs? I am also concerned about mixing small children and dogs who are not well trained. The reason a dog park is needed is because the owners ignore the dogs all week and when the dogs finally get out, they are very excited and ill controlled.

I believe that this is a terrible idea and one that should be stopped. Leave the entire park available to all residents, not just to a minority. Prevent dog bites on little children. Avoid the traffic and parking problems that will ensue. Leave the park an attractive part of Lake Merritt: don't give the park a section in which the grass is beaten into earth and covered with feces and urine. Leave the park a place to play soccer, play catch, have a picnic, and just relax. Putting a dog park in that tight but well used park will destroy it.

Please, please, please do not put a dog park in Astro Park.

Alan R Karls
365 Euclid Ave. #302
Oakland CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Shah Smoak [shahsmoak@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:15 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Ann Clevenger,
Astro Park contributes so much to my community. The proposed plan to restructure the park is short sighted at best. There really is no need to "push aside the many park goers who have enjoyed the park for years.
Thank you.
Shah E. Smoak RN BSN

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mr Steve A [srabeyta@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:51 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park - concern over dog park

Dear Commisioners,

I would like to encourage you to deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park.

I am writing on behalf of myself and my family. My wife and I lived near Lake Merritt for 5 years and grew familiar with this neighborhood. We have spent many weekends at Astro park either playing pickup soccer, or just enjoying the large expanse of grass. Now that we have kids we use the park for Saturday soccer camp and the nearby playground.

What I love about this open space is its proximity to the neighborhood just East of the freeway. We lived in this neighborhood and Astro Park was the closest and best open grass field. It serves as an open and inviting space to the hundreds of households that live on or around Grand Ave East of 580. Additionally, it serves as a convenient area for farmer's market patrons on the weekend.

By fencing off a dog park area, we would lose a rarity in this area: A close, convenient space to the East Grand Ave neighborhood, and a beautiful, very large, open and unobstructed green area seen from the freeway, farmers market, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Steve Abeyta

McElroy, Darryl

From: michael.nasif@mni.com
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 2:07 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park - No to Dog Run

I was stunned to learn last weekend that a plan to carve out a significant portion of Astro Park for a dog run was actually being considered! I cannot imagine how such a costly and unnecessary plan could even make it onto your council meeting agenda, much less be considered as viable. Have any of you spent an hour or two in this park, any day of the week, any time of day? It is always actively used by people from all around the neighborhood. My daughter plays soccer every Saturday on the very patch of grass you are considering removing. She could play in Montclair or Alameda or Piedmont but we choose to play here, in our neighborhood, so that we can meet and mingle with our neighbors. As a dog owner, I appreciate the need for a dog to have space to run. But I certainly do not believe it should come at the expense of land used actively and happily by tax-paying humans. Please do not allow this plan to go through. Do not bow down to the organized but limited support of the few dog owners who want this. Instead, support the masses who happily use this park every day. And guess what, it will save you tens of thousands of dollars because you can scrap this foolish dog run project and simply do nothing…and leave Astro Park exactly as it is. Please do not ruin this park!

Michael Nasif
1181 Holman Road
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Olga Milosavljevic [olgamilosavl@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 8:42 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park - please deny dog park motion

Dear Ms. Clevenger,
I am dog lover who would really like to see Astro Park remain a wide open green space. I understand the desire to have a place near by for dogs to run free however, with 580 and major roads around I feel like the splash of greenery at Astro Park makes this neighborhood awesome...

Please deny the motion to open a dog park at Astro Park. There are spaces at the adjacent Lake Merritt or other places that have been offered as alternatives. There's no need to take this particularly prominent and open space away.

Thank you,
Olga

--
Olga Milosavljevic
olgamilosavl@gmail.com

What we have before us are some breathtaking opportunities disguised as insoluble problems -- John W. Gardner 1965

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jay [jamesetjackson@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 2:51 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed dog run project at Astor Park.

I am a 47 year resident of Oakland, and my earliest memories include activities at Astro park. I have now had the pleasure of bringing my own children to Astro to play, and that would be severely compromised by the plan that has been put forward.

There is a shortage of grass play areas in the City, and it would be a disservice to the community to take more away and make this a dog run. I am confident that there are underutilized areas elsewhere that would better lend to the proposed use.

I respectfully request that you deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park, our neighborhood park.

Sincerely,

James Jackson
2069 Braemar Rd.
Oakland, CA 94602

McElroy, Darryl

From: DJ Gorman [djgorman@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 1:25 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Subject: astro park and dogs

Ms. Clevenger - I am an Oakland resident and big user of the Lake and its environs, also attending the farmers market regularly.

I oppose the dog park at Astro Park. I understand the Planning Commission will be considering this issue in an early May meeting.

Just today, I was at the Lake and farmers market, and the congestion was tremendous... and within that mess of people and cars was and is this great little green city park, some of the remaining limited open space available anywhere in the area for sports and stretching out. Taking a huge chunk of that for a dog park, when there certainly must be better locations for such a use, just isn't right in my opinion. More thought needs to go into finding alternative locations for a place where dogs can run and defecate.

And by the way, I think there ought to be numerous such dog parks/dog runs that dog owners can make use of. They just need to be in the right locations.

Thank you for considering my position.

Douglas Gorman
2674 Las Aromas
Oakland, CA 94611
djgorman@sbcglobal.net

McElroy, Darryl

From: karenengel09@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 10:04 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.net; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park Dog Area

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

I am a Grand Lake area resident and a volunteer at the Lakeview Branch of the Oakland Public Library. The library branch adjoins Astro Park, part of which is being considered by the Planning Commission to become a dog park.

After years of observing how the park is used by adults and children in our neighborhood, I feel that there isn't enough space available for a dog park there without cutting into current uses.

I hope the Planning Commission will look into other spaces for a dog park.

Sincerely,

Karen Engel
811 York St #114
Oakland CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: HARDYIC@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 1:20 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park Dog Park

Dear Commissioners

Please deny the conditional use permit application for the fences off-lease dog area at Astro Park.

I have lived in the Grand Lake District for 28 years as a home owner and have come to enjoy the one and only open green space proximal to my home. It is a multi use space used by many on a daily basis. The space if used as a dog park would be far too small. Other dog park encompass acres of land, wherein, this space is far less than one acre.

The location is adjacent to a freeway. It is also sandwiched between one of the busiest Muni stops in all of Oakland and a toddler park. The safety of children is at risk as well as the safety of Muni riders.

I am opposed to a dog park in that location.

Jana Hardy
441 Elwood Avenue
Oakland, Ca

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sam Markewich [shmullyop@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 3:18 PM

To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann

Subject: Astro Park dog park

Please know that a dog park in Astro Park is morally wrong and a city planning disaster. My partner and I both think so. It is the wrong place for such a park. Period. Too many people use it for important things that have very positive effects on the community. Further, dog parks smell bad, there is too high a risk of children playing on the playground of being bitten by a dog, a dog park will look terrible in this location, and there is no good alternative space for those displaced by the dog park who have been using the park regularly to go. Plus, the city should NOT be spending money right now on a dog park while people in East and West Oakland need more police and deserve more money spent in their neighborhoods, period.

- Sam Markewich
378 Jayne Avenue
Oakland, 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Fidel Nwamu [fdnwamu@msn.com]

Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 1:17 PM

To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann

Subject: Astro Park Dog Park

I wanted to voice my strong opposition to the proposed Astro Park Dog Run. As you know, the park is in use for baseball, frisbee, picnickers, sunbathers, the drumming circle and flag football games. Is importar

Fidel D. Nwamu, Esq.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sam Markewich [shmullyop@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 4:39 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park dog park proposal

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park (Astro Park). Both me and my partner, Tess Ouellette, believe this is simply and absolutely not only the wrong location for a dog park but also a complete affront to the many people who now FREQUENTLY use the park for neighborhood-invigorating activities such as team sports and group fitness activities.

Additionally, this is a chunk of beautiful OPEN green space in the middle of an otherwise busy and high car traffic area. Closing that space off for dog owners would have a substantially deleterious effect on the look and feel of the area.

Also, placing a dog park so close to an area set out for a young children's playground is a recipe for constriction on the kids' freedom to play and could also result in young children having scary interactions with dogs.

I do not think that a dog park so close to a small library makes any sense at all. Noises and smells associated with the dog park will easily make their way into the library. As well, it is likely that many of the dog owners will go to the library with their dogs, it being so close to the dog park, and tie their dogs outside the library creating a chaos of dogs in a very small place.

Finally, those of us who do not enjoy interacting with dogs but do enjoy the library, the farmer's market, and the freedom to walk in the area will also of a sudden be forced to interact with many dogs as the owners walk them to and from the park. In that area, the sidewalks will become likely WAY overcrowded with dogs and dog owners blocking pedestrians as the dog owners and dogs schmooze as they often like to do. This is already too much of an issue for those of us who cycle and jog around the Lake. Don't make it worse.

This is simply not the right space. Nor, for that matter, should the city in these hard times spend a dime on anything less than urgent.

Sincerely,
Sam Markewich and Tess Ouellette
378 Jayne Ave
Oakland 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: brian gangelhoff [brianthebigred@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park dog park proposal

Dear Ann Clevenger
Im writing you regarding the proposed dog park at Astro Park on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur blvd in Oakland. I love dogs and think they deserve a dog park in the Lake Merrit area but this site seems an incredibly poor location. It would be stuck between a very popular and unfenced children's play ground and a very busy motor traffic, bicycle and pedestrian intersection. It would use up and turn a already used green space brown not to mention the smell of constant urination and feces. I walk by regularly to the shops and farmers market in the Grand Lake area and always see people playing soccer, volleyball and many more activities.
Please vote against this proposal.
Thank You.
Brian Gangelhoff
brianthebigred@yahoo.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jack Ricci [jack.ricci@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 5:18 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park Dog Park

Please do not put a dog park on part of Astro Park. Both kids and adults use the space for there recreation. Outting a dog park there would decrease the already small area our residences have for their outdoor enjoyment. People have the entire Lake Merritt to walk their dogs why take away OUR park space. Make the right decesion for everyone.

Thank you,

Jack Ricci

McElroy, Darryl

From: tyson schwarten [tysonschwarten@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, November 04, 2011 6:53 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park dog run

Dear Mrs. Clevenger,

Please do not follow through with plans to construct a fenced off dog park in Astro Park. I walk and/or drive by the park almost every day and I am always impressed by how popular it is. Many different groups and individuals already use this space regularly for a wide variety of individual and group activities at all times of the day and week.

I feel that a fenced of dog run will adversely affect the use of the park in several negative ways. First, it will physically impinge on the space used regularly for organized activities like, soccer games and fitness classes, driving those groups away. Second, the odor from the dog run will deter people. This will certainly compromise the success of the large and popular playground at the park. Personally, knowing that I will have to pass the stench of dog feces on the way to and from the Farmers Market on Saturdays will keep me from going. And I will frequent the business on Lakeshore Avenue less for the same reason.

Astro Park is a very well utilized public space. Please do not jeopardize its success. I am sure there are underutilized sites in the vicinity that could benefit from the installation of a dog run. However, Astro Park will not.

Thank you,

Tyson Schwarten

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kira Dulaney [kira_dulaney@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:41 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; kaplan@oaklandnet.com; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park dog run

To Whom it may Concern,

I wish to voice my opposition to the proposed dog run at Astro Park near Mac Arthur Boulevard and Lakeshore.

As a resident in the area (Palm Ave @ Bellevue) since 2006, I was surprised to hear of the project only recently from the group Save Astro Park. I have serious concerns about the changes proposed. The Save Astro Park group (www.saveastropark.org) enumerates several that I see as valid:
-poor drainage in that area of the park exposing dogs and people to increased health hazards
-high vehicle traffic in very close proximity
-cutting the usable recreation space of the already small park in half
-detracting from the beauty of the current open green field
-proximity to children's play area
-already overburdened city maintenance department would be unable to devote adequate resources to upkeep and slipshod and impermanent volunteer groups are no substitute.

Furthermore, I would encourage investigating the option of a dog run site at the old horse stables as described on at http://www.saveastropark.org/alternative-location. This location is nearby, walkable yet off the main artery roads, disused, and has firmer drier ground.

When the idea for a dog run in the area was first put forth in 1998, it may have had more support because there was a dearth of available off leash runs in Oakland. However, the implementation of the plan took many years to move forward, as with many bureaucratic processes, and in the interim other locations for off leash dog use have become available (find a list here).
While I appreciate that the plan for the Mac Arthur/ Lakeshore site has been in the works for years, I still do not find that that expense and effort put into it thus far is just cause for implementing a flawed plan for the park. It would be a costly mistake, and would no doubt meet with overwhelming community opposition if more people were aware of the plan.

I look forward to hearing discussion on this topic at the Planning Commission meeting.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kira Dulaney
Adams Point
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Pat Hea [patheaphy47@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 5:48 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: astro park dog take over

Ann,
Now that the date has been set for the hearing about the Astro Park dog run I want to state my feelings again. Because I will be out of town during the hearing on Nov 2.

I am apposed to taking so much well used space in the park for a dog run.
The field is beautiful, green and well used by many people.
Large expanses of green grass is such a wonderful site for us city dwellers.
we need it for our soul and spirit.
Please have the dog run people find a less in your face place for the dogs to run.
Again I am a local resident only a 10 minute walk from this site and
do not want it used as a dog run.

Thanks so much helping with this
Patrick Heaphy
614 Alma Ave
Oakland, 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jeanne Brown [jeannemab@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:32 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: ASTRO Park is NOT a Dog Park!!

It's TOO SMALL to be a run.

It would be unsanitary and a EXPENSE to control the situation, monitor and clean it!!!!

I do NOT want my TAX DOLLARS used for that purpose on that spot!!!

JMBrown

McElroy, Darryl

From: Eleanor Hanson Wise [eleanor@thepresentgroup.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 10:16 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park isn't the place for a dog park

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to voice my concern over the proposal to create a fenced dog park taking up over half of Astro Park. While I am a dog lover myself, and agree that there is a desperate need for some dog friendly park space in this area, I don't believe Astro Park is the place to do it. The thing about dog parks is that they don't need to be flat. There are plenty of hilly little parks in the area that would work for this purpose. The thing about playing fields is that they *do* need to be flat. And un-programmed, open, flat, fields are something that we need to preserve as it is incredibly hard to ever get them back once they're gone.

I am aware that it is always hard to find a space for dog parks as no one wants them in their backyard, however please consider re-focusing your efforts into finding a location that is not flat, and therefore not used by all sorts of people playing sports and games. In addition, it would make more sense to look for a location under trees, where grass already does not grow, rather than mulching or paving over a large swath of grass. Dogs love running around and peeing on trees anyway!

I would encourage you to deny this permit application for a fenced dog park in Astro Park, however would strongly encourage you to continue your efforts to finding a suitable location for a dog park in the Grand Lake area.

Thank you,
Eleanor Hanson
33 Excelsior Ct.

The Present Group
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Art Micro Patronage
An experimental exhibition platform showcasing and funding work ideally viewed online

McElroy, Darryl

From: Matthew Tanner [aacdebo@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park Off-leash Area

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park, as it is already a long-established family and recreational park in a very central area of town. I love having dog parks, and I know there are a lot of dogs around Lake Merritt that need a place to go; I just don't think Astro Park is the right choice for reasons like safety and sanitation. Maybe trying to decentralize it is the answer. There are parks and locations around that would be better suited for this use.

Thank you,

Matthew Tanner

McElroy, Darryl

From: Peter Torsiello [Torsiello43@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 5:54 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park permit

Hello,
I am writing this email to protest the placing of a dog park in Astro Park. Please deny the use permit when this item comes before you in April.

I have written to the City Council members in the past to protest this misguided idea. There are many reasons why this location is inappropriate.

1) This is a totally congested area in the first place. With the movement of people in the area for use of the playground by toddlers, use of the parkland as a recreational area for the Clausen House clients, Soccer and baseball, volleyball, exercisers, runners, and as a staging area for meetings and gatherings, The Christmas Tree lot in Nov. and Dec., and the Saturday market, more congestion cannot be a healthy thing for this area.

2) After walking the lake every day for the past 30 years (that's right every day) and observing the traffic patterns that result from the movement of cars coming off the highway, traversing the Lake from one side to the other, parking to reach the shopping areas on Grand and Lakeshore, and the numerous buses that take people through that area, to add more cars bringing dogs to the site is an obvious burden to the neighborhood.

3) I know that the streets around the Arbor and in front of the library (another place that brings cars to the area) were reconfigured to help in traffic flow, but It is my opinion that they impede car movement even during non commute hours; it has not been an improvement and creates even more congestion.

4) Putting dogs next to little children using the playground is asking for trouble, fenced or not.
5) Noise at this location is terrible as it is. To add barking to this cacophony of sounds is ludicrous.

6) AND MOST IMPORTANT - This area is part of the Lake Merritt Waterfowl Reserve, The first such Reserve ever set aside for birds in America.
Dogs are a natural enemy of Waterfowl and other birds. They have no business being in the same area designated for waterfowl.
7) Everyday, I see owners and their dogs around the park off leach. Every day - Off Leach. This is a misdemeanor going completely unticketed. If owners are ignoring this law, how can we rely on their obeying any dogpark rules. Who would enforce these new rules? Nobody!

Why don't you use the parkland out by the estuary where the port and the bay come

together. It is far enough away from the waterfowl and almost unused since it was put out there some years ago.

This is a BAD BAD BAD idea and I am surprised that our Planning Commission would even consider such a thing. Why don't you walk around the Astrto Park area and do a survey of the numbers of cars and people using that area right now. We do not need more congestion at this location. Find another spot!!!!!!!.

Peter Torsiello
1200 Lakeshore 10C
Oakland, Ca 94606

McElroy, Darryl

From: Miss Rootes [missrootes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 10:09 AM
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park Planning

Dear City Official,

It has been pointed out to me by a group of concerned citizens that Astro Park may be turned into a dog park. I have been a Lake Merritt resident for over 7 years and I would vote no for a dog park in this area. I often marvel at all the different groups of people that share that space for sports and recreation, from toddlers learning their first soccer moves to co-ed adult groups who need a physical release from stress on weekends. I hope that you will see the logic and humanity of prioritizing human use of the playing field over animal recreation. People who chose to have dogs in the city should be conscious of the fact that they will have to take their animals to more remote locations to let them run off leash. I am also concerned that the space will not be cared for and will become another part of the lake that is spoiled by animal waste. Please **do not** turn Astro Park into a dog park.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Rootes

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elizabeth James [elizabeth.james82@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2011 8:17 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann; Brunner, Jane
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park Proposal

Dear Ms. Kernighan, Ms. Kaplan, Ms. Nadel, Ms. Clevenger, and Ms. Brunner,

I write to request that you please reconsider the proposal to add a dog run in Astro Park. This is a beautiful patch of green space in an otherwise busy, urban setting. My sixteen-month-old daughter loves to play on the playground adjacent to there and then run through the large grassy patch unimpeded by sidewalks, bicyclists, and other hazards. We live in Upper Rockridge (near College and Broadway), an area surprisingly lacking in toddler-friendly playgrounds and green space, and her favorite activity in the world is to visit Astro Park and run wild. My husband and I have picnicked there with friends and played football, and when we used to live in Adams Point, the grass along Astro Park was a lovely counterpoint to the 580 as I walked daily to the stores on Lakeshore.

Please do not allow this park to be spoiled. Oakland is such a beautiful city. It would be a shame to allow over-development to wreak havoc through a beautiful part of town.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth James

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tom Elke [tom.elke@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:08 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Subject: Astro Park Proposed Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

I am an Oakland resident writing you in fervent opposition to the proposed dog park in Astro Park, approximately 5 blocks from my family's home. I come from a long-line of dog-lovers. Indeed, over the holidays there were no less than five dogs in my home. From childhood, dogs have played a very important role in my life. Nevertheless, my family and I adamantly oppose any proposed dog park in Astro Park. I have never in my life attended a city council meeting nor contacted an elected official, but this so potentially damaging to my community I felt compelled to express my opposition.

I love dogs. But this dog park is a bad idea that will hurt my community. My family and I oppose this proposal completely.

Sincerely,
Tom Elke
704 Calmar Ave.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jennifer Schulte [jennifer.schulte@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 8:16 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park Proposed Dog Park

Ms Ann Clevenger,

I understand that consideration of a conditional use permit regarding a proposed dog park at astro park is planned on May 2nd. I would appreciate if you can send to me as soon as possible the proposed language of the permit, previous staff reports, environmental documents, plans, policies, MOUs and previous planning commission or other city departments decisions regarding this issue. It is acceptable to direct me to links where I can look at these online.

This will assist me in preparation of my written response to the planning commission regarding this issue.

Thanks in advance for your timely response.

Jennifer Schulte

McElroy, Darryl

From: Christopher Flores [chrisf@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:50 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: '"saveastropark@gmail.com."'@smtp104.sbc.mail.mud.yahoo.com
Subject: Astro Park Usage

Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident of Lakeshore Ave and make regular use of Lake Merritt and the adjoining spaces to walk, read, relax, and enjoy the beautiful vistas. All the improvements ongoing under Measure DD are only making the area more beautiful and attractive.

Hence, I am somewhat dismayed about the proposal to have a dog run build at AstroPark. It seems totally inappropriate since the area is used for picnics, pickup games, children and relaxing. Plus it seems an awfully small area for a reasonable dog run. I do believe there are other areas for dog runs in the city more suited to those activities - longer distances, more varied landscaping (e.g., off Oakland Ave). Dogs need space not vistas.

I request you deny any application to build a dog run in Astro Park.

Regards.
Christopher Flores

Christopher Flores
4114 Lakeshore Ave
Oakland, CA 94610
Tel: +1 (510) 834 4046
Cell: +1 (510) 599 7353
Email: chrisf@sbcglobal.net

McElroy, Darryl

From: C.C. Abdullah [cc1gel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 11:04 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park Vote

Dear Representative:

Save Astro Park.

from a local citizen

Sincerria Abdullah
1925 10th Avenue #301
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mirabai Deranja [morticia.atoms@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park! Please keep it green.

Please keep our park green!!! Don't let the Dog park ruin it. Please keep it the way it is.

Thank you
Mirabai

--
Aspire to inspire before you expire.
www.miratango.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Helen Lee [hlee33@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 3:13 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park: Request to DENY conditional use permit application for dog area

Dear Commissioners,

I am a new homeowner in the Grand Lake district and live right across the neighborhood Astro Park. I love the neighborhood and am extremely upset about the poposed conditional use permit application for a dog area. I commute from Oakland to San Francisco and take the local transit bus and on my commute back home, I stop by the Astro park several times a week to sit on the grass after a long work day to reflect. The splash of green in the middle fo our neighborhood is uplifting for the mind and body as I aslo play frisbee and volleyball during the weekend.

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Very best,

Helen Lee
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mary Anne Brady [dr_management@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Mary Anne
Subject: Astro Park

Greetings,
As a resident of Oakland and a walker of Oakland, I truly enjoy having some green space (especially close to freeways and lots of cars). I walk the Lake, I walk to farmer's market, I walk to Grand Lake theater, etc... I think you get it... I walk Oakland and I truly enjoy having a PEOPLE Park to walk by. I am sensitive to animals and prefer that they are not up close and personal. Astro Park is a small piece of green that is enjoyed by PEOPLE. I believe that WE (PEOPLE) deserve to have a park for us. I know more and more people have animals and I don't think the animals should push the PEOPLE away. Thus, I strongly advocate that you leave the small piece of green at the intersection of MacArthur and Lakeshore as a place for PEOPLE. PLEASE & Thanks you

Mary Anne
Dr. Mary Anne R. Brady

McElroy, Darryl

From: MNM [yellowgreeneyes@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 12:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park

"Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. Just last weekend I was at the park enjoying the community and the scenery. This is one of the few places where so many people can convene and enjoy the grass, the serenity and the diverse community. Sectioning off a dog run area will be obtuse, ugly, and morph that area into a danger zone with more feces, urine, contamination and danger of unfriendly dogs. Please direct dog owners to a space that doesn't take from the Lake Merritt park community.
Thanks,
Marisa Musso

McElroy, Darryl

From: Milton Andersen [budandersen@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:05 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astropark should not become an ugly dog-run

To the Commissioners of the Planning Commission:

Please DENY the conditional use permit that would allow the beautiful and much used Astropark to become an ugly dog run. THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO DENY THE PERMIT. You have probably heard about or read about most of the reasons. So I will mention just one reason that shouldn't be neglected. It is the issue of possible health hazards of a dog run with wood chips, and the possibility of dog poop being mixed up with the wood chips, and the difficulty of a person to quickly identify a piece of dog poop mixed up with the wood chips.

Dogs are carnivores, and carnivores have in their feces high levels of pathogens. There is a kiddie playground very close to the proposed dog run. Will dust, containing small particles of dog feces, drift over to be breathed by children in the kiddie playground? This is a possibility.

So, for the above reason, and many other reasons, PLEASE DENY THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT.

Sincerely,
Milton(Bud) Andersen

budandersen@gmal,com
510 625-0831

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tye Reichle [tyereichle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 2:59 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astropark

Please deny the use of the corner of Astropark for 'dog run'. Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: amy bell [amyk.bell@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Citizen opposing Dog Park in beautiful Astro Park

Dear Commissioners and Council members,

I am a citizen of Oakland (Glenview/Trestle Glen) who, like so many of my neighbors and my husband, loves the Lake Merritt and Grand/Lake area. I am there nearly every day to shop, run errands, eat, exercise, take out Library books, and enjoy the land.

It would be a tragedy to introduce a dog run to Astro Park, for many reasons. I believe the most compelling argument here is the disruption a dog run would cause in the way the community uses the space.

A dog run would seriously impact the social and visual experience of the entire Embarcadero landscape. Many people travel some miles to get to the Lake Merritt area in order to enjoy its open spaces. The proposed brown dog run, surrounded by a fence, would disrupt and detract from that open space experience and seriously hinder the sense of community - whole community - that the space currently promotes in its simple, easily maintained way.

No one who does not own a dog wants to participate or take any personal responsibility for a dog park. A dog park is an off-limits area to them. It is negated space. Many people including small children are afraid of gathered dogs. Gathered dogs snarl and nip and become agitated, as is their nature. Many dislike their smell and open defecation. Many have to live with barking dogs in their neighborhoods and seek the tranquility of public parks to be free of that.

Do we really want to build off-limits areas in such a wonderfully open and communal city space? Does fencing off a small, dusty or muddy area for dog owners and their pets truly serve the community at large? How much benefit is given to those dogs, and at what expense to the whole community?

The design of urban spaces has a subtle but profound way of influencing a community of people. Putting up fences, replacing green grass with dirt, and making space off-limits to certain community members will have a divisive and scornful effect on the way people treat Astro Park. A park shouldn't have privileged areas, and that is essentially what a dog run creates.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Best regards,
Amy K. Bell
Oakland Citizen against Astro Park Dog Run

McElroy, Darryl

From: Casey Law [caseyjlaw@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:00 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Jessica Law
Subject: comment on Astro park dog area

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to express our opposition to the conditional use permit for a fenced off-leash dog area near Astro park (a.k.a. Lakeview dog play area). As a resident of the neighborhood, we ask that you deny this permit.

The park is a valuable green space available for many uses, from soccer to fitness to enjoying the sun. The plan for a fenced area will lock up half of the green space in the park for a smaller number of users. While we are sympathetic to the needs of dog owners, we feel this is not the best use of our limited open space.

As a free, open space, the park creates a green "heart" for the Grand/Lake neighborhood. Being able to see and walk freely through that space is necessary for it to serve that function. This is especially important given that the freeway already cuts our neighborhood in two.

For these reasons, we hope that you will reject the conditional use permit. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Casey and Jessica Law
570 Boden Way
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rachel Broadwin [chezrachel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 11:23 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Deny conditional use application for dog area

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. As homeowners we have enjoyed this neighborhood. The grassy, verdant space should remain just that. A dog park would be an eyesore.

Thank you for considering our opinion.

Rachel Broadwin & Lary Heath
934 MacArthur Blvd

======
Greetings from Rachel B.
chezrachel@yahoo.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: mark kraitchman [kraitch@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 12:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: DENY conditional use permit application for dog play area in Lakeview Park

Dear Commissioners:

I have previously taken note of the size and location of the proposed dog play area at Lakeview Park by the Lakeview Branch Library at the corner of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd. The proposed dog play area takes up a lot of space. The proposed dog play area is too close to the kid's playground. The proposed dog play area would ruin that precious green space.

Please deny the conditional use permit application for this proposed dog play area.

Sincerely,

Mark Kraitchman (home owner and dog owner)
772 Mandana Blvd
Oakland CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Peter Lundberg [lundberggroup@mindspring.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:25 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Subject: Deny Dog run near Astro Park

Please deny the proposed Dog run near Astro Park. The current play field is used frequently. Please move the dog run to the area between the library and Lake Shore, near the public rest rooms, and landscape the fence extensively.

Peter Lundberg
565 Bellevue Avenue #1403
Oakland CA 94610
H: 510-763-6323
C: 415-566-4100



McElroy, Darryl

From: Kathleen M Harris [kathalini@comcast.net]

Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 2:49 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann

Cc: odogparks@comcast.net

Subject: Dimond and Lakeview Dog Park

Hello,
I am in favor of a dog park at Dimond Park and Lakeview.
-Dog owners police each other when they are together, so less non-compliant poop-leavers
-There's really no place around these two locations where dogs can be off-leash
-Dog owners create communities around dog parks, and feel more responsible to the city when they feel the city understands them
Thanks,
Kathleen Harris
kathalini@comcast.net

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ytzhack Heber [ytzhack@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 2:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dimond Dog Park

Dear City of oakland planner

It was brought to my attention that there is a plan to assign a section of the Dimond Park for a "dog park".

I strongly oppose this idea.

I live in the neighborhood. I own 2 dogs. I'm an active Search And Rescue member with CARDA and very familiar with "dog culture".

The suggested area for the park is very valuable in its unique shape and appearance. People are walking through it from the neighborhood to the child center. Kids are playing by the trees. Placing fences around will completely prevent people from walking there. Fences will change the environment of open free space.

Please do not support this idea. Very few people might benefit from this dog park. Many more residents will be very uncomfortable because of it.

There is already a dog park in Joaquin Miller park - five minutes drive.

Ytzhack Heber

please consider the environment before printing this email

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kevin Mitchell [shoelessone@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2012 12:14 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog "play area" in Lake Merritt area - I'd love it!

Hello Ann!

I just wanted to write a quick note to let you know that I personally am a HUGE supporter of the dog park in the Lake Merritt area.

My wife and I have been in Oakland (we live near Alice & 14th) for about a year now and love the area. We actually both work in the city, but moved to Oakland because we love Lake Merritt and because of the more cost effective housing.

If I could say one thing that would absolutely keep us in the Lake Merritt permanently it would be a dog park close by. It would (and I'm not exaggerating) totally change my life for the better. Having a dog is a huge stress for me personally because of a near constant feeling of guilt at not being able to provide quality daily exercise for the dog. Having a dog park close by would be such an incredible relief for me and my wife.

Currently, whenever we want to take the dog to a dog park/play area we need to rent a zipcar and drive to Alameda. because of our schedules, this happens at most once a week.

I don't have a "case" for the dog park I suppose, I just wanted to let you know how much of an improvement it would make in my life. Additionally, if such a dog park/"play area" were to be created I would be happy to volunteer to help keep the park clean (or whatever else might be needed).

Thanks for your time, please let me know if I can do anything to help make this happen (and the sooner the better!)!!

-Kev

McElroy, Darryl

From: ouija@spaz.org
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2011 10:39 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: dog park ?

a dog park park ? sounds like a lousy idea to me. how about a skateboarding bowl somewhere? and dog people can take their dogs to alameda navy base. in oakland, folks on bicycles have no bike lane ,or if they do ,they are dangerous .the area in question is a big hazard for bikes as road raging motorists push them off the road. people want to think their city is progressive , but oakland seems backwards. art projects, skateboarding facilities ,bike lanes. we need it. we dont need things for dogs when the people are hurting. id rather see a homeless outreach or somthing for the humans.
the library and toilets are also fully 3rd world in that same park. just some paint and a few books wouldnt hurt. why not start at the begining?

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sunnye Lauren [sunnkissed914@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 2:00 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog park

I fully support a fenced dog park by the lake Merritt as I have a dog and so does my mother we live in the same household and I enjoy taking my dog to different dog Parks not just the same one. Thank you

Sincerely,
Sunnye Lauren
(510)387-4693

Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: Martin Rosson [mrosson@pacbell.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 7:04 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: dog park

"Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park near the Grand Lake theater. Among other things, it is to massive and restricts land use for people that play sports and create a health hazard with the dog feces dust that will be created next to a children play area.
Martin M. Rosson, P.E.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Leigh McDougall [leighnan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 9:57 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Park

To: Ann Clevenger:
Regarding the proposed Dog Park now under consideration by the planning commission. As I stated in my previous e-mails, I am concerned about this proposal and encourage the Commissioners to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Sincerely,
Leigh McDougall
377 Santa Clara Ave #103
Oakland, Ca.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Leigh McDougall [leighnan@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 9:50 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Ann Clevenger,
I wanted to express to you my opposition to the proposed placement of a dog park currently under consideration. I feel it would be a detriment to the open green space we all enjoy- while I am sympathetic to the need for a dog park, I feel a better location would be at the old stable area near the children's fairyland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leigh McDougall
377 Santa Clara Ave #103
Oakland, Ca. 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: David Hurty [dave.hurty@gmail.com] on behalf of David L. Hurty [dave@hurty.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 10:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I live near this park and pass it often. Many small children and parents use the area for soccer and other field games. It is one of few areas where it can be used for such play activities in this neighborhood.

Cordially,

David L. Hurty

Rev. David L. Hurty
565 Bellevue Avenue, Apt. 707
Oakland, CA 94610-5016
Home: 510.465.3301
Fax: 510.465.3301
Mobile: 510.435.1568
dave@hurty.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Emily Rosenberg [dogpeople@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 4:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park

Hi Ann,

1 Did you receive the application and findings from Audree Jones-Taylor, Director of Parks and Recreation?

2. Do we have a likely hearing date of April 18?

Thanks. Emily Rosenberg

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lane Parker [dukesnide@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 7:37 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: dog park

this is another vote against the proposed dog park in our neighborhood

bobby lane parker, spruce street, oakland 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Larry Hayden [lhayden3640@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 8:53 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Planners,

Please recommend approval of the dog owners' gathering space at Lakeview Park. As a retired couple we have decided not to get another dog. But we miss our dogs and would like nothing more than to have an energetic walk around the Lake, shop at the Farmers' Market and meet some nice dogs at the little dog park planned near the library. It seems it would benefit the entire neighborhood and, indeed, all of us in Oakland, to have a gathering space on that rather neglected corner of the park near the freeway entrance. With all the competition for space in our wonderful city I hope you will agree that making better use of this park makes a lot sense.

Sincerely

Larry Hayden
Valerie Mitchell

McElroy, Darryl

From: John Baumann [jbaumann@piconetwork.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 31, 2012 2:21 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: dog park

Dear Ann Clevenger,

I'm writing in support of a dog park at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

I walk daily around the lake and have become accustomed to the large dog population in the area. The dog park will be good for the neighborhood. Healthy community building will be formed when people gather at this corner for their daily dog visits. Like the playground nearby, it will bring together people from various neighborhoods, ethnicities and ages to share their love of dogs.

This project has been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission. It needs to move ahead and get built.

John Baumann

John A. Baumann, S.J.
PICO Founder & Director of Special Projects
171 Santa Rosa Ave
Oakland, CA 94610
510-655-2801 x 114
www.piconetwork.org
www.picointernational.org

McElroy, Darryl

From: lapetitefleur@juno.com
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 6:26 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: dog park

Hello, I am writting you to let you know there are many people that want the dog park at Merrit.
I have to drive so far to alameda when i like to shop in the grand lake and piedmont area.
thank you,
angela green

McElroy, Darryl

From: susan oldershaw [lottydah2002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2012 9:57 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: dog park

Dear Ann - I am a resident of the China Hill neighborhood and I have 2 dogs. I also happen to be a senior citizen with a mobility problem so walking is limited for me. I have been waiting (and so have my dogs) for a friendly place in Oakland to take my dogs since I moved here. Oakland turns out to be the most unfriendly dog city I have lived in. I currently take my dogs to the dog park in Alameda or to Point Isabel. What a pleasure it would be to be able to walk to a dog park and while they were playing and running off their energy to socialize with my neighbors. The proposed dog park would still leave space for other activities and I believe the proximity to the playground is perfect. It is a wonderful and health generating thing for children to be exposed to animals. Caring about other living creatures makes for better human beings. We have waited so long for this. I believe this will be an asset to our neighborhood and people's fears about it will turn out to be misguided. Please help make it happen. Thank you for taking the time to read this.
Susan Oldershaw

McElroy, Darryl

From: Leigh McDougall [leighnan@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2011 9:46 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Ann Clevenger,
I wanted to express to you my opposition to the proposed placement of a dog park currently under consideration. I feel it would be a detriment to the open green space we all enjoy- while I am sympathetic to the need for a dog park, I feel a better location would be at the old stable area near the children's fairyland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leigh McDougall
377 Santa Clara Ave #103
Oakland, Ca. 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: eric mullen [emullen55@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2011 12:45 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: dog park

hello,

please do not allow a dog park at the astro park location. This would create a smelly, messy, ugly area where it is now a nice, green, open space. Please do not destroy good green space in the city. We have very little left.

i am against a dog park in this location.

thank you,

eric mullen
438 Staten Ave., #307

McElroy, Darryl

From: Justin Fawsitt [fawsitt@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 5:37 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing to let you know that I'm opposed to the projected Dog Park at Lake Merritt's Astro Park. I have been a resident of this area for over 20 years and while I welcome the wonderful improvements recently implemented, I think a dog park would not be a good idea at all. Please preserve this open grassy lawn for everybody, children especially.

Thank you,

Justin B Fawsitt

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ralph Morewitz [rsmorew@pacbell.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 10:27 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; rkaplin@oaklandnet.com
Cc: dogpeople@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park - I support it.

Our son, Benjamin, would love to have a dog. We do not have one. We would welcome an opportunity to visit the dog park near the playground and the library.

Ralph Morewitz

McElroy, Darryl

From: holberding@aol.com

Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 2:04 PM

To: Kernighan, Pat; nnadel@oakllandnet.com; At Large; Clevenger, Ann

Cc: lakeviewdog@gmail.com

Subject: Dog Park - Oakland

Good afternoon,

Frankly, I am surprised that the issue of the Lakeview Dog Play area is still not resolved
Did we not vote on this some years back?
What was all the hoopla about a couple of months ago?
Oakland is way behind when it comes to pets and we are known for being non-pet friendly.
Let's change this, please

Many of us that live in the area, Adams point, etc are willing to take on the responsibility of maintaining the park
Perhaps it would even **b**enefit local merchants and stimulate growth? What a novel idea

Please move this project forward and get it done.
Thank you from a local tax payer

H W. Olberding

McElroy, Darryl

From: kristajean05@yahoo.com
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 9:43 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park - Yes

Hello,

Please approve the dog park for lake Merritt. As an Oakland native I have love the lake all my life and would love to be able to have a space to being my dog.

Thanks!
Krista

Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: Desiree Therianos [dtherianos@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 10:06 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park Approval

I am writing in request of the proposed dog park in the Lakeview/Grand Avenue area. Please approve the dog park being created. The area is very lively and I'd love a place where I can take my daughter and two dogs where they can enjoy playing together!

I reside in Oakland Jaoquin Miller area and we spent a lot of time by the lake.

Thank you!

Desiree Therianos

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tom Elke [tom.elke@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2012 4:45 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park at Astro Park Proposal Opposition

Dear All:

I am an Oakland resident writing you in fervent opposition to the proposed dog park in Astro Park approximately 4 blocks from my family's home. I come from a long-line of dog-lovers. Indeed, over the holidays there were no less than five dogs in my home. Dogs have played a very important role in my life from childhood. Nevertheless, my family and I adamantly oppose any proposed dog park in Astro Park. I have never attended a city council meeting nor contacted an elected official, but this is such a bad idea and so damaging to my community I am forced to express my opposition.

I love dogs. But this dog park is a horrible idea that will hurt my community. My family and I oppose this proposal completely.

Sincerely,
Tom Elke
704 Calmar Ave.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Peter Cole [peter.cole@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:32 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog park at Astro Park

Ms. Ann Clevenger:

Subject: Proposed dog park at Astro Park

Dear Ann:

I am resending a letter dated November 1, 2011 sent to the following persons by email.

Ms. Ann Clevenger
Ms. Pat Kernighan
Ms. Rebecca Kaplan
Ms. M. Nadele

Dear Ladies:

I urge you to drop plans to construct a dog park on the playfield at Astro Park.

I am a man in my seventies and was saddened to learn that you all propose to create a dog park in the middle of the playfield at Astro Park. I walk to the park almost every day and today was no exception. I saw no dogs or persons walking dogs in the area of Astro Park but I did notice that right where you propose to construct the dog park there were a meaningful number of young adults playing. This is often the case. So it seems to me that while persons of all ages use the proposed dog park area for recreation purposes, a dog park would substantially limit recreation space for persons. While on weekends the dog traffic is likely heavier there is ample area around the lake for persons to walk and exercise their dogs on leash. Worse still is the possibility that the dog park would not attract the number of dogs the proponents may argue but it certainly would deprive people use of the area for recreation. In effect the proposed dog park gives priority to dogs and/or dog owners, which I do not think is appropriate given that there are alternatives places for dogs.

Secondly, while it does not occur frequently there I have witness times when certain dogs became unruly and a threat particularly to small children who sometimes stray from their central play area. A dog park would presumably increase the number of dogs present and thus increase the chance of a dog attack.

For the reasons stated above I urge you to please deny the conditional use permit application for a fenced off-leash dog area at Astro Park.

Sincerely,

Peter Cole

CC: saveastropark@gmail.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Eduardo Portal [eportal@elword.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merrit Site: Terrible Idea.

Please let the Planning Commission now that I add my voice to oppose the use of the grassy area between the Lakeview Library and McArthur Blvd as a dog park.
The proposed dog park will be not only a nuisance, an eyesore and a liability to the city; it will endanger the children playing in the nearby play structure and the dogs themselves due to the high traffic intersection where it will be located.

Respectfully,

Eduardo Portal.
697 Calmar Av.
Oakland CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: joe contreras [jojosix@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merritt

Hi,

I have live two block from Lake Merritt for over 20 years and have two small dogs for five years now. when I moved to Oakland from Alameda in 1991 there were very few dogs in the area now there are so many dogs. I feel dog owners are being under served in the area. I frequently take my dogs to Alameda small dog park and occasionally to parks in Oakland that forbid dogs, I fell I don't have a choice in my neighborhood. I implore you to support a dog park at Lake Merritt.

Thank You!

Joe Contreras
1470 Alice st unit 301
Oakland, CA 94612
510.593.7925

McElroy, Darryl

From: Walter McDowell [walterm2@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Emily Rosenberg
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merritt

I am a home owner near Lakeshore and Mandana, and I'm in favor of the dog park. It seems quite ridiculous that there is no place for me and my dog in my own neighborhood, much less anywhere in a park near me. Oh gee I live near a huge park, but NO DOGS ALLOWED! COME ON!! People visiting from out of town seem very surprised by this, and tell me of all the dog friendly places they have in their cities. I go to the Alameda dog park at least 4 times a week. There I see first hand what a great place a dog park is for community, and just general good vibes! You may say that the ANTI dog park people are in the majority in Oakland, well duh, that's because the tradition here is inhospitable to dogs and people with dogs are not attracted to living here. But be assured their are plenty of dog owners in Oakland that are ready for a change. It can only be a good thing. I am so upset when I look at the "Save Astro park" propaganda, and I know from experience that it is truly propaganda. This is just another example of misguided, self righteous, people like the ones against gay marriage, and fair healthcare. I don't understand it. How can something so right be so wrong. Go figure.

Please make progress to make Oakland a better place for everyone!

Sincerely,
Walter McDowell

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mark Martin [mkmpp@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2011 8:57 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merritt

Many citizens of Oakland with dogs would like to share the beautiful space at Lake Merritt. Many of us don't have children and view our dogs as our children and we are tax paying citizens, just like everyone else. Since dogs are allowed only one space in all of the city (thanks to mayor Quan) in Joachim Miller Park, we would like a space downtown closer to Oakland shopping where are furry friends could enjoy themselves.

Since the dog park opened at Joachim Miller Park, the park has become a safer, more people friendly park. Gone are the criminal elements which is directly related to the increase in dogs and their responsible owners who frequent the park daily. Please do the right thing as San Franciscans have repeatedly done and help create more space for our furry friends.
Thanks for your ear.

Mark Martin
2110 Mastlands Drive
Oakland, Ca. 94611

Sent from my iPad

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jessica A. Knoblauch [jessica.knoblauch@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 8:40 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; jeanquan4@gmail.com
Subject: dog park at Lake Merritt

Dear Council member and Mayor Quan,

I live near the proposed dog play area at Lake Merritt, and I strongly support this project. It's been in planning for 11 years, and approved twice. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, and something that is badly needed. approve this project. There are so few places for dogs and their owners in Oakland. Together we change this.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica
--
Jessica A. Knoblauch
Freelance Writer/Editor
jessicaknoblauch.org

McElroy, Darryl

From: home [srbchem@pacbell.net]
Sent: Monday, January 02, 2012 6:42 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merritt Splash Pad

To Whom It May Concern,
As an Oakland resident and frequenter of Lake Merritt and its environs, the proposed dog park seems like a reasonable approach to enable dog owners to access this wonderful resource without compromising it for others.
Politics is the art of compromise.

Steve Rosenberg
2323 Bywood Drive
Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Pamela Blair [pamelab@synth.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 1:10 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merritt

I am a psychologist, working in Berkeley, CA. I have a client who lives very near Lake Merritt. She is quite isolated; she is nearly a shut-in. She loves dogs, and I've encouraged her to get one, but she cannot have one in her apartment building. If there were a dog park at Lake Merritt, this woman would have much more access to the animals she loves, and would be more motivated to go out regularly to enjoy the dogs of others.

Pamela Blair, Ph.D.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ariel Luckey [arielluckey@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 28, 2011 3:56 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; At Large
Subject: Dog park by Lake Merritt

Hello,

I am writing to emphatically urge you to vote AGAINST creating a dog park in Astro Park. I grew up in Adams Point and have lived and voted in Oakland all my life. I have spent a lot of time in Astro Park and now bring my kids to play in the tot area. A dog park would turn the green space brown, be noisy, smelly and scary for the kids who come to play (my boys are 5 and 2 and don't like being around stranger dogs), and totally change the quality of the park. I understand the need but I am very convinced that there are other more appropriate places to locate a dog park.

No dog park at Astro Park!!!

--
Ariel Luckey

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mari Kubota [mari.kubota@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2012 2:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: dogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park by Lake Merritt

Hi there,

I am a resident of Oakland:
328 Hanover Ave Apt 19
Oakland CA
94606

Myself and my partner have 2 dogs. There are sooooo.. many dogs in our neighborhood and no dog parks!
We walk around the lake and would walk frequently to a dog park if there were to be one built on the plot of land between Grand Ave., Macarthur Blvd, and Lakeshore Ave.

Each park in our neighborhood is posted with a "no dogs allowed" sign and it would be amazing to have a dog park so close by. I know many of my neighbors feel the same way.

The plot of land that folks are proposing for the "Lakeview Dog Play Area" is a highly under-utilized space and so many citizens would benefit from this addition!

Thank you for considering this! Our dogs need a place to play!

Mari Kubota

--
Mari Kubota, Licensed Community Acupuncturist & Masseuse
www.marikubota.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ricky Alperton [ealpe2004@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:23 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Park by the Lake

Dear Commissioner,

Please consider denying the conditional use permit for an off leash dog park near Lake Merritt. It is a wonderful spot already used by the community, I am sure some of whom pay taxes. There are children, soccer players, boot camp people, sun bathers and people like me who just like to walk and watch all the socializing and activities in my neighborhood.

The Lake is a beautiful open space. I do not consider fences, dusty soil and excrement smells to be an asset to our Jewel. This is one of the first places that visitors see when entering the Grand Lake area. Please do not allow for destruction.

It is unfortunate that Lakeshore is getting overrun by the homeless and you have to already walk around people's dogs. A dog park will only bring more dogs. I would like to see more shoppers!

I have been a home owner in Cleveland Heights for 13 years. I just sold my big home to downsize. I am strongly considering buying my next home in another city. Diversity is good but you have to choose what is better for all, not just a few.

Oakland has its troubles. We need to attract people who have money and can buy homes in this area and are invested in making neighborhoods better. Who are these people who want the Park. Are they homeowners? I know that homes usually come with some yard. Are they transient renters? Hmmmm? I can take a guess.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eleanor Alperton

McElroy, Darryl

From: Swetta Abeyta [swettabeyta@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:56 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog park concern

Dear Commissioners,

I have lived in the Grand ave area for 5 years. I encourage you to NOT approve the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Please consider that although there are many dog lovers in the world, there are also many people that don't share this enthusiasm. There are always a few owners that don't have control of their dogs and also don't pick up after their dogs. Astro park is not a good location for dogs due to the fact that the patrons using the kids park and remaining open grass will be forced into close proximity with these owners/dogs. In my opinion a dog park should be placed in an area that doesn't force a large amount of unintentional interaction between dogs and others.

Is seems as if there are better alternatives to the dog park location. Some, within the lake Merritt area. However, Astro Park has a steady user base of kids, athletes, and farmer's market patrons. It would be a shame to alter this beautiful green, family friendly space.

Thank you,
Swetta Abeyta

McElroy, Darryl

From: McCullen, Leigh
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2011 11:43 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park Emailed Comments
Attachments: Astro Park; Astro Park Proposed Dog Park; dog park; Astro Dog Park; Dog Park at Lakeshore/MacArthur; FW: dog park Neighbor comments that I've received thus far.

Copy Services

From: john nunes [jnunes@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2011 10:13 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: dog park for Oakland

Dear Ms Clevenger;

Please do the right thing for the city of Oakland and approve the small dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. Currently, I have to take my 2 dogs to either Piedmont or Alameda to get them out in the open with other dogs. It would be great if we could have something in our neighborhood. Thanks.

John Nunes
305 Perkins street, Oakland 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tea Ho [minitea25@gmail.com] on behalf of Tea Ho [hello.teaho@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 18, 2011 7:54 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park in Adams Point Area

To whom it may concern,

I moved to Oakland's Adam's Point neighborhood in August. I have a cheerful dog who loves to go out and meet other dogs. Unfortunately, at the moment, there is nowhere near my neighborhood for me to do that, so I continue to take him to a dog park I used to go to in Berkeley. That is quite a drive away. The dog park in Berkeley is well maintained by its community and I have a sense of community when I go there. Unfortunately, it is not *my* community. When I heard that ODOG is planning on building a dog park in Oakland, I got so excited! I would love to be able to get that sense of camaraderie and neighborhood from my own neighborhood.

Dog parks are a great way to socialize people as well as dogs. Dogs that frequent dog parks are less likely to be aggressive or destructive.

I hope this project will have your support.

Thank you!

Tea Ho
925.234.2369

McElroy, Darryl

From: cristele.lartigue@gmail.com on behalf of cristele Giath [cristele@altglobe.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2012 1:07 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; At Large
Subject: Dog park in AstroPark: great idea!`

Thank you for making a long time needed dog park in Astropark. This is probably one of the best place around Lake Merritt for it.
A proud dog owner and her family,
Cristele Lartigue.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Nelson Reeds [nelson.reeds@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2012 2:01 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog park in Lake Merritt park

Hello-
I'm writing to express my desire to have a dog park near Lake Merritt.
I am a resident of the area and would love a place to get together with fellow dog loving neighbors - it's not just for the dogs!

Thanks very much!
Nelson

--
Nelson Reeds
1565 Madison St
Suite 401
Oakland CA 94612

510-207-2131 cell
510-628-0710 home

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tonishia Martinson [queenofgreen2010@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2011 9:15 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; jeanquan4@gmail.com
Cc: ODOGPARKS@comcast.net
Subject: DOG PARK IN OAKLAND

hi City Hall: LOOK at SCZ Dog Parks, San Jose Dog Parks, Sacramento Dog Parks, San Fransico Dog Parks, Santa Rosa Dog Parks(NONE them have any lawsuit or fights over dogs that "jumps/attack people"..... and Dog Parks is Special park for ALL DOGS that gets along w other dogs/people. i went dog parks ALL my life, i am owner of my dog.... ITS RARE that dog would jump 5feet or 5 1/2feet fence(NOT EVEN Great Dane or Agility dogs) its VERY RARE. and, IF you dont accept this.... there is VERY GOOD chance for dogs to become aggressive toward people/animals DUE TO NO SOCIALIzing! i volunteered at many shelters, some dogs turned up with owners saying their hometown(Oakland) DIDNT have any parks for their dogs to play, get socialings.... and because that, they CANNOT take their dogs out anytime due to their dogs barkings, growlings at everyone!(all because no Socialings) TRM/AM, KM, S.Jr M(TRM=Tonishia R Minard(owner of three pets), AM=Aang Minard(my dog), KM=Katara Minard(my snake), S.Jr=Sokka Jr Minard(my rescued lizard))

i typed this in Facebook, i ought for YOU ALL to read this and check different dog parks. its TRUE. my dog Aang is in Agility Classes, he is 85 pounds dog(if stand, 5'8" tall) with ability to jump 3feet, but ALWAYS Fails 5feet. there is many champ Agility dogs but THEY ALL cant jump 5feet or 5 1/2 feet tall fence. and what i typed is TRUE. bring YOUR kids or grandkids to SJ dog park or SR dog patrk or SAC dog park and tell ur kids to walk past fence, YOU WILL SEE dogs being happy to see people, they might stand on fence or barking(in HAPPY way) but they NEVER jumps over fence. i am aunt of twins who is 5years old now, they LOVES to stand behind fence and petting dogs through fence holes, there is NONE harm done to them. in SJ dog park, there is KIDS playground RIGHT next to dog park..... NOT EVEN dog jumped over fence to fight w kids playing next part of park.

Tonishia, Aang, Katara, Sokka Jr Minards

McElroy, Darryl

From: Christopher Wike [chrisjwike@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 2:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Park near Astro Park

Ms. Clevenger

Good afternoon

I and my family are local to Astro Park and use the park on almost a daily basis.

I am writing this email in regards to the proposed off leash dog run near the Astro Park playground. Please DENY the approval of the conditional use permit, for the following reasons: as the enclosed area becomes over used the grass has no chance to recover, becomes hard and turns to none vegetative soil. The maintenance of the area increases because the wind and water erosion needs to be controlled so that the area sediment does not run into the drains and increase the turbidity of the surrounding water. The side affect of closing off the that much area is the proposed open space will also see a more concentrated use and may not have a chance to recover either. In turn this will produce the same result as the hard soiled dog park or the open space closes for a period of time to allow for the ground to recover and the dog park stays open. Which I believe is not an equitable solution seeming that the status-quo does not produce the negative results as adding a dog park. The park houses a multitude of uses,i.e. soccer, volleyball, baseball to name a few.These activities would not be able if the open space was decreased, because many of them occur at the same time. Lasty and probably most important is safety! Increased concentration of dogs means increased chances of dog fights, dogs biting children, increased dog defecation on public areas. This in-turn can lead to more lawsuits that the city has to deal with or is involved in.

I love dogs I have grown up with dogs most of my life. I think a local dog park could be a good idea, but the benefit of the few should not burden the many.

Regards,

Christopher Wike

McElroy, Darryl

From: Beth Morris-Wong [skyokwa2000@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 9:09 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Pattillo@pgadesign.com; Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca

Cc: odogparks@comcast.net; Quan, Jean

Subject: Dog park please

I would like to see a dog park in the Lake Merritt area. Dog owners have to drive to Alameda or Berkley. The space is used by soccer players already and would be a great place for the community to socialize. It will also help cut down on crime.

Beth Morris-Wong

McElroy, Darryl

From: Francis Upton [francisu@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Martha Lyman
Subject: dog park proposal for Astro Park

Dear Ms. Cleavenger:

I'm writing to oppose the proposal for the dog park at Astro Park. Our daughter regularly uses the park to play soccer, and we are there nearly every Saturday in conjunction with the Farmer's market where most of the time the park is fully used.

This tract of green space is very important both visually and functionally given its central location. To have an enclosed dog park would change it in a negative way.

My understanding is there are some alternative locations for the dog park that are possible and have not been fully investigated. I urge you to consider another location.

Kind regards,

Francis Upton IV
567 Walavista Ave
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Anna Hurty [anna@hurty.net] on behalf of anna hurty [anna@hurty.com]
Sent: Monday, October 31, 2011 8:55 PM
To: Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog park/run

Hi there - I'm writing just to say how much I am opposed to having a dog run in Astro Park. It is a delightful wide open space, of which there aren't very many in our busy neighborhood. Please don't allow it to turn in to a chain-link enclosure for a smelly, bark-filled place where adults and children can no longer enjoy a picnic or the chance to play and run in the sun.

Humans first...pets next.

Thanks in advance,
Anna Hurty

565 Bellevue Avenue
www.birthgarden.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: cram103@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 9:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park Support

I would hope that there is still some way that part of the Lake Merritt park area could be designated as for dogs and dog walking. Sincerely, Carmen Rodriguez, formerly of north San Leandro and now of union city, calif 94587.. ph 510 475-0161

53 Year Old Mom Looks 33
The Stunning Results of Her Wrinkle Trick Has Botox Doctors Worried
consumerproducts.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: lapetitefleur@juno.com
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 12:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park Support

Dear Ann,
Please give special consideration to the dog park issue. It is needed for those of us who wish to exercise our pets in a safe place, not only for the dogs but for peoples safety. Thank You for your time.
angela green

McElroy, Darryl

From: Raffe, Sydelle, SSA [DRaffe@acgov.org]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 10:24 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: 'ODOG -Emily Rosenberg'
Subject: Dog Park Support

Please share our parks and support the Lake Merrit dog park. It will be a much friendlier and welcoming city.

Sydelle Raffe
Management Analyst
Office of Data Management
Information Services Division
510-271-9174 (29174)

McElroy, Darryl

From: susan oldershaw [lottydah2002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 10:39 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park Support

Hi - I think the dog park would be such an asset for our Lake Merritt neighborhood. The image of dogs and their owners, alongside children playing in a playground would be a beautiful sight to behold. And, of course, it is a healthy thing for children to develop a love for other living things. The Lake Merritt dog park would be close enough to my China Hill neighborhood for me to walk. So, as a senior citizen this would give me incentive to go outside with my 2 dogs, get a little exercise and also socialize with people and their dogs. I have seen pictures of the proposed dog park and met some of the activists who have worked long and hard to make this happen. I am confident that these committed people would see to it that the park would be maintained. In spite of all the dogs I see, Oakland is not a very dog friendly city. At this time, I drive to Alameda or Point Isabel, using gas and adding to the pollution. Sometimes, I stop in Alameda and make purchases which takes away from Oakland revenues. I hope that the time I can take my dogs to my neighborhood dog park is nearing. Thank you, Susan Oldershaw

McElroy, Darryl

From: Julie Skoler [julieskoler@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 9:29 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: ODOG
Subject: Dog Park Support

i fully support a dog park at lake Merritt! please make it happen! i would walk there with my dog and enjoy the community.

julie skoler
657 capell street

McElroy, Darryl

From: lapetitefleur@juno.com
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 9:09 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog Park Support

Please take time to understand how very important this dog park will be for the community. I'll keep this short,
so you'll have the time to consider the needd.
angela green

McElroy, Darryl

From: Susan Fong [sfisher@pixar.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park Support

I am an Oakland homeowner and resident of 10 years. During this time, I have routinely had to drive out of city limits in order to get a place to allow my dog to play off leash. Some of the newer parks like Mosswood are frankly too frightening to visit alone (dwarfed by a freeway, no one would hear you scream). If the Lake Merritt dog park were approved, it would provide a place where I could walk to a dog park.

Note that my weekend routine of driving to Alameda's park means that I frequent Alameda's businesses like their grocery stores, and coffee shops. Approving the park means I would be spending my money and time in Oakland instead. I dream of being able to get to know my Oakland neighbors, instead of making friends out in Alameda.

To those that claim there is no open green space? I walk past MULTIPLE parks - like FM Smith - to even get near the lake. Parks are meant to be enjoyed by all residents; the current restriction of no dogs in Oakland parks is discrimination. But because that ordinance isn't going to disappear anytime soon, giving us a place to go is the only answer.

The proposed site is perfect - it'll bring more shoppers (like me!) to the area, and it is a busy enough area that I'll feel safe.

Please please approve the park -
s

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lisse.hooker [lisse.hooker@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 26, 2011 4:12 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog park yes

I live in the lake merritt area, on Walker Ave. And have been waiting for many years for the city to approve and build the dog park near the lake. I supported the 200 million bond measure and, as a responsible dog owner, have not gotten any benefit. I would love to have a park in my neighborhood as opposed to driving to the Alameda dog park every day.

Ann (Lisse) Hooker

McElroy, Darryl

From: Neek Boggz [piercingsbyneek@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 12:26 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog park YES

We should have a fair share of legal space for our dogs. Very important for rent paying apartment dwellers like myself. I live near grand ave and bellevue ave.
Sincerely. Nicholas Boggs

Love, Neek

McElroy, Darryl

From: gehry oatey [gehry@me.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 10:33 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Clevenger, Ann; At Large
Subject: dog park-???

Dear Council members-

I have lived here in Oakland since 99 and as a homeowner since 2007. I wanted to express my concerns over plans to make the under utilized park area near Lake Merritt into a dog park. Have you seen what these dog parks actually become-they quickly turn to a dust and poop infested areas.
Please take the time to do your research and see what these spaces become and what exists nearby. There are a handful of them in berkeley. Here in Oakland, we have one of the largest public dog friendly parks in the country right up the hill from the lake. Great for dogs and their owners.

Just wanted to express my concerns with you all.

Best

gehry oatey
MPH Candidate 2012
San Francisco State University
510.395.5525
gehry@me.com

Oakland Planning Dept
Ann Clevenger: aclevenger @oaklandnet.com

City Council,
Pat Kernighan, District 2- pkernighan@oaklandnet.come
236-7002

Rebecca Kaplan, At-Large- atlarge@oaklandnet.com
238-7008

McElroy, Darryl

From: CBColeman comcast [cbcoleman@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 8:43 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: dog park-yes please

To Whom It May Concern;

I favor the installation of a dog park near the Lakeview library. Although our children are grown up now we would have loved to have taken them to the playground,the dog park and the library all on one visit. Having more people using that park is an important thing for the neighborhood. We would enjoy seeing people and their dogs at play near the Lake.

Clarence B. Coleman

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mike March [mike.march613@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2012 9:59 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Parks are for People, Too!

This needs to be approved for the Lake Merritt area!

Dog Parks Are For People too!

-Michael G. March

Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mary Ann Huckabay [huckabay@synth.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:47 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog play area

Hello,

I'm writing in support of a dog play area at Lake Merritt-- I have run, walked, played in the Lake Merritt area for years, and I think a doggie play area is a welcome addition.

Thank you, Mary Ann Huckabay

McElroy, Darryl

From: Peter Cole [peter.cole@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2011 7:23 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; At Large; nnadele@oaklandnet.com
Subject: Dog playfield at Astro Park

Ms. Ann Clevenger
Ms. Pat Kernighan
Ms. Rebecca Kaplan
Ms. M. Nadele

Dear Ladies:

I urge you to drop plans to construct a dog park on the playfield at Astro Park.

I am a man in my seventies and was saddened to learn that you all propose to create a dog park in the middle of the playfield at Astro Park. I walk to the park almost every day and today was no exception. I saw no dogs or persons walking dogs in the area of Astro Park but I did notice that right where you propose to construct the dog park there were a meaningful number of young adults playing. This is often the case. So it seems to me that while persons of all ages use the proposed dog park area for recreation purposes, a dog park would substantially limit recreation space for persons. While on weekends the dog traffic is likely heavier there is ample area around the lake for persons to walk and otherwise exercise their dogs. Worse still is the possibility that the dog park would not attract the number of dogs the proponents may argue but it certainly would deprive people use of the area for recreation. In effect the proposed dog park gives priority to dogs and/or dog owners, which I do not think is appropriate given that there are alternatives places for dogs.

Secondly, while it does not occur frequently there I have witness times when certain dogs became unruly and a threat particularly to small child who sometimes stray from their central play area. A dog park would presumably increase the number of dogs present and thus increase the chance of a dog attack.

For the reasons stated above I urge to drop plans to construct a dog park.

Sincerely,

Peter Cole

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rufus L. Cole [rcole@rufuscole.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 1:00 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Run Near Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

I am sending this email to request that you DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. The rights of our children and other adults should have a higher priority than our four legged friends and while I respect the needs of dog owners, Astro Park is simply too small to accommodate a dog run. If anything, the Park should be expanded for the use of individuals who would like to picnic with family and friends. Please do not make this precious space more limiting than what it already is.

Rufus L. Cole
Rufus L. Cole & Associates
720 Market Street, 10th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
Telephone: 415-956-8800
Facsimile: 415-956-8811

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McElroy, Darryl

From: Lisa Cole [lisaryancole@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 2:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Run Near Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you DENY the temporary conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. The rights of our children and other adults should be a higher priority then our our four legged friends and while I respect the needs of dog owners, Astro Park is simply too small to accommodate a dog run. If anything the park should be expanded for the use of individuals who like to picnic with family and friends. Our granddaughter looks forward to playing on the play structure and running in the grass. She is afraid of dogs and having a dog run so close would discourage her from playing in area that she loves. Please do not make this precious space more limiting than what it is already.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ryan Cole
Resident of Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elia Racah [eracah@lmi.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:34 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dog run park at McArthur and Lakeshore

Please do not grant a permit for this blight on a nice green space.

Elia Racah,MD
775 Rosemount Rd
Oakland,CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ralph Zackheim [spen28@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 5:16 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Schaaf, Libby
Cc: Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dogs are fine, but not in the Astro Park

Hello Hard-working Public Servants - I've live and voted in Oakland (lower Fruitvale and Dimond districts) since the mid-1980s,
so of course, I've seen the good and the bad.

I ask you, for the sake of one of the very good things in Oakland, to not turn the Astro Park into a dog park (however, they
wish to name it). This is a wonderful space FOR PEOPLE..for soccer, as a tot lot, for baseball, frisbee, picnickers, sunbathers,
musicians, flag football games, or just being out in the open, free from
having to deal with all of the things dogs do (pun intended).

I and many other Oaklanders urge you to reject (do not "compromise" on this) a fenced dog run at Lakeshore
and MacArthur or else where near Lake Merritt.

thanks for your attention- R. Zackheim, Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ailian Chong [chongppr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 6:05 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: don´t fence off Astro Park

Please do NOT locate a dog park in the wonderful open space that we have on MacArthur between Lakeshore & Grand. Dog owners need to find a different location. Humans before mascotas.
Best wishes,
Oy-Lene Chong
Spruce St.
Oakland, CA
chongppr at yahoo dot com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarah Wilhelm [sarah3wilhelm@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 4:15 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: email in support of dog park

Hi Ann,

Please find my email below supporting the proposed dog park! Thanks for all of your efforts in making this park a reality!

Dear members of the Planning Commission,

I live right off of Grand and Lake Merritt with my husband and dog and we are in great need of a dog park! When we moved to this area we were shocked to learn that we were not allowed to take our well-behaved pet into any of the park space around the lake, even on leash! So when we heard about this proposed dog park we breathed a sigh of relief, but we see that there is still work to be done to make it a reality.

The very large community of local dog owners desperately need a place to take their dogs. In my opinion it's ridiculous to have all of this publicly funded park space that doesn't even include a place where we can take our pet, and the Lakeview dog play area would take a necessary step in the right direction. We would benefit greatly from having a space where our dog can run off leash and have fun fetching the ball and playing with other dogs, and meanwhile I can meet and greet my neighbors. It would be enhance the lives of our dogs but also our lives as members of this community! Please PLEASE bring this proposed park into reality!

Thank you,
Sarah Wilhelm

McElroy, Darryl

From: proofpoint-pps@oaklandnet.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 7:00 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: End User Digest: 2 New Messages

proofpoint

End User Digest: 2 New Messages
For Ann Clevenger (AClevenger@oaklandnet.com)

The emails listed below have been placed in your personal Quarantine since you received your last End User Digest. They will be deleted after 14 days. To deliver an e-mail to your inbox, click on Release. To deliver an e-mail to your inbox and add the e-mail sender to your Safe Senders List, click on Safelist. This ensures that no emails from that sender will be blocked in the future. To report messages that are not spam but are reported in the digest, click on Not Spam.

Request New End User Digest | Request Safe/Blocked Senders List | Manage My Account | Help

Quarantine

			Score	From	Subject
Release	Safelist	Not Spam	77	apache@emailmeform.com	I support the Lakeview Dog Park!
Release	Safelist	Not Spam	90	cleaning.services@marios-haven .com	Stop cleaning your home, hire someone for cheap.

For more information contact your System Administrator.

Powered by Proofpoint Protection Server

McElroy, Darryl

From: Andrew J. Nelson [ajnelson196@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 9:05 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Establishing a dog park at Lake Merritt

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

I am writing in support of establishing a dog park at Lake Merritt. I am a relatively new dog owner in Oakland, and have been both surprised and dismayed at how few parks are available nearby in which dogs can run free and socialize with other dogs. From my house in Upper Lakeshore, my main options are to drive up to Montclair (Redwood Park) or to the Albany "Bulb" or to Ohlone Park in Berkeley. But there's nothing near my house that I can walk to.

Surely, the vast size of Lake Merritt can accommodate at least one dog area, and the "Lakeview" area seems just right. Banning dogs from the entire park strikes me as extreme and unfair -- and does not seem to serve any public purpose.

I hope you will move to establish an appropriate area for dogs and rectify a critical shortage in Oakland.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew Nelson
693 Walavista Ave
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: john nolan [johndnolan@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 2:04 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Fenced off park

Hi Ms Clevinger,

If you could please help deny the proposal to fence off a dog park at Astro park, I would really appreciate it.

I feel it would detract from the beauty of, and the public use of Astro Park.

Thank you for considering my request!

John

Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: peter grube [pgru@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Fw: Dog Park At Astro

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing today to urge the Planning Commisioners to **deny** the conditional use permit for a fenced dog area in Eastshore Park (Astro Park). This small neighborhood park is well used and has been enjoyed by generations of Oaklanders. Many groups use the space for organized sports activities. Soccer, volleyball, flag football, frisbee, baseball (at the backstop), boot camps, Brazilian Martial Arts, circle rules football, hoolahoop, yoga and slack lining are just some of the groups recently using this marvelous open space. There are also adults and kids overflowing from the tot lot, people playing with their kids, and some folks who just like to walk across the grass. These activities are so varied that they require a large open space. The beauty is we already have this level open space at Astro Park.

Please don't allow a fence to be put up and subtract almost half of the open field. The proposed fence would not only compress all these activities into half the available space, but it would also ruin the impressive sight lines for those who are simply passing by. Where else in Oakland do we have an uninterrupted view of a large lawn in this type of urban area? Old google maps show that the open space, at one time extended all the way to Lake Park where the Kwikway and Grand Lake Theater are located. When the highway came through, that open space was cut back to what is now Astro Park. Astro Park is all that is left of our gateway to Lake Merritt. Let's not further divide this unique and valued space.

A fenced dog run at Astro Park would dominate the space and invite hazards and nuisances. Service trucks would be required to back in from busy Lakeshore Avenue and cross a congested sidewalk in very close proximity to toddlers. The fence line would run directly along the foul line of the baseball backstop and extend along the perimeter of the tot lot forcing users to adjust their play to avoid interference from the new structure. Freedom to participate in a variety of activities would be restricted due to new space constraints. All sports field users, pedestrians passing by, people waiting for buses and tot lot users would be subject to smell, noise and dust from the proposed dog park. Visually it would be a downgrade for everyone, even the thousands who pass by in cars and on bikes every day.

This neighborhood park and in fact the entire area is heavily used but at the same time enjoyed for its accessibility. Please don't place a limit on this enjoyment by overburdening the location with a dog run development. We don't need to cover every available space with fixtures. In this case the beauty is in the availability and openness provided to everyone.

Lastly, Oakland has been my home since 1981 and I have always had dogs. Oakland is a fabulous place for dog owners with no less than five fenced off leash dog runs and thousands of off leash acres available in the Oakland hills to take our pets along with many more options nearby. The notion that, as dog owners, we are somehow being discounted or denied access is ludicrous.

Please deny the conditional use permit for an enclosed off leash dog area in Eastshore (Astro) Park. Keep Astro Park open and available for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Peter Grube
Casterline Road
Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elizabeth Benhardt [benhardt@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2011 8:56 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Fw: Oakland Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

I would appreciate a response to my Oct. 23rd email. Thanks.

Elizabeth Benhardt

--- On **Sun, 10/23/11, Elizabeth Benhardt <*benhardt@sbcglobal.net*>** wrote:

> From: Elizabeth Benhardt <benhardt@sbcglobal.net>
> Subject: Oakland Dog Park
> To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
> Date: Sunday, October 23, 2011, 2:00 PM
>
> Dear Ms. Clevenger:
>
> I have just learned that a dog park/run will be built at the Astro park at MacArthur Blvd Lakeshore Avenue. I am not opposed to establishing an off -eash area for dogs, but why in heaven's name would it be planned at such a prominent and heavily utilized location.
>
> I pass that intersection daily. I see children in the playground. And groups of kids, teens and sometimes adults cavorting in the green fields, tossing a ball, playing volleyball or practicing sports or simply running around. It's a place where the community gathers to enjoy the green space. Astro Park is the gateway to Lake Merritt, the alleged "jewel" of Oakland. I cannot imagine why city planners would intentionally blight the area with a fenced in dog park.There are other more discreet areas bordering the lake which could be reserved for dogs.
>
> Please advise me if you are in favor of building the dog park in that location. Please explain the plans, i.e. how much of the current park would be diminished? How high would the fence be? How often would the dog area be cleaned and how would that be funded? Also let me know what other areas have been considered and why they are deemed inadequate.
>
> As a long time resident of the neighborhood, I appreciate your response.
>
> Sincerely,
>
> Elizabeth Benhardt

McElroy, Darryl

From: Clevenger, Ann
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 7:44 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Fwd: I support the Astro Park Dog Play Area, please support it with me.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** "Joshua Cox" <joshuajcox@gmail.com>
> **Date:** February 4, 2012 11:12:34 AM PST
> **To:** "Clevenger, Ann" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
> **Cc:** <odogparks@comast.net>, "Jeff Runey" <Jeffrouxster@gmail.com>
> **Subject: I support the Astro Park Dog Play Area, please support it with me.**
>
> Commissioner Clevenger,
>
> Please support the dog play area at Astro Park. Oakland's ordinances against dogs in public are in stark contrast to the incredible number of dogs I see walking my neighborhood every day. Dogs need an outlet, and people who own dogs need a responsible way to provide that to their animals. Well exercised dogs are quieter, better behaved, and better members of their communities. With so many dogs already walking the Lake, the community desperately needs this play area.
>
> Thank you for your support.
>
> Joshua Cox
> Jeffrey Runey
> 270 Wayne #102
> Oakland 94606

McElroy, Darryl

From: Save Astro Park Group [saveastropark@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 10:34 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Fwd: no dogs in ASTRO PARK!!

This went only to Save Astro Park but was intended for you...

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Jeanne Brown** <jeannemab@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 9:38 AM
Subject: no dogs in ASTRO PARK!!
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

This spot is WAY TOO SMALL!!!!

We need this space for People!!

It would be out-of-control and would be expensive to monitor and control the VOLUME of dogs and MESS!!!

THE CONVERGENCE OF DOGS THERE COULD BECOME A LIABILITY!!!

jmbrown

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mick Magill [mickm@cisco.com]
Sent: Monday, January 02, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: I STRONGLY support a Dog Park at Lake Merrit

I live at golflinks/880 in oakland, and have an 8 month old Malamute puppy. We bought our house here 3 years ago, in large part so we could ford a backyard large enough to have a large dog.

We are regular visitors to the Point Isobel dog park (in contra costa county) . A usual visit involves a stop at the cafe at the park, and (often) a visit to businesses in nearby Richmond (Joannes fabrics, various others).

We ALSO regularly go to Livermore, and the several off-leash areas there. If you take a visit to Livermore you can see a thriving walkable downtown on first street, filled with pet owners spending money at outside cafes, pubs, etc, with none of the alarmist issues dog haters bring up.

Let's face it, the folks who can afford to own dogs in this economy tend to have decent amounts of discretionary income, and I would prefer to see that money spent locally.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, at mickm@cisco.com. Please feel free to republish this missive in it's entirely.

Respectfully,
Mick Magill

McElroy, Darryl

From: Victor Weisser [oaktownvic@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:30 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: I support the new dog park near Lake Merritt

We have an insufficient number of dog parks in the area around the proposed park and their capacity is severely limited.

This park makes sense and will add to the value of the Lake Merritt area for Oaklanders.

Please expedite its approval and development.

Sincerely,

Victor Weisser
38 Bowles Place
Oakland, CA
94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Joshua Cox [joshuajcox@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 04, 2012 11:13 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comast.net; Jeff Runey
Subject: I support the Astro Park Dog Play Area, please support it with me.

Commissioner Clevenger,

Please support the dog play area at Astro Park. Oakland's ordinances against dogs in public are in stark contrast to the incredible number of dogs I see walking my neighborhood every day. Dogs need an outlet, and people who own dogs need a responsible way to provide that to their animals. Well exercised dogs are quieter, better behaved, and better members of their communities. With so many dogs already walking the Lake, the community desperately needs this play area.

Thank you for your support.

Joshua Cox
Jeffrey Runey
270 Wayne #102
Oakland 94606

McElroy, Darryl

From: Paul [pvidican@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2011 6:47 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: I Support the Dog Park at Lake Merritt

Dear Planning Commission,
I live near the proposed dog play area at Lake Merritt, and I strongly support this project. It's been in planning for 11 years, approved twice, and is part of the Lake Merritt Master Plan. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is something that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, and something that is badly needed. Please approve this project.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sunil Puthiyadam [sunilputhiyadam@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 02, 2012 7:33 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: I Support the Dog Park at Lake Merritt

Dear Planning Commission,
I strongly support this project. It's been in planning for 11 years, approved twice, and is part of the Lake Merritt Master Plan. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is something that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, and something that is badly needed. Please approve this project.

Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Virginia Palmer [VPalmer@fablaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2011 4:34 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: I support the dog park

I live and work in Oakland and would be delighted to see people use the park at Lakeshore and MacArthur with their dogs. I do not own a dog, but think it is critically important that the community provide access to parks for dog owners. Thanks, Virginia Palmer

VPalmer@fablaw.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ia Delphey [ia.delphey@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: I support the dogpark

Ia Delphey
Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: lindageo@earthlink.net
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 4:12 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: I support the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Oakland Planning Commission,

I have been a resident of District 2 in Oakland for 19 years. Recently I reviewed a schematic of the proposed Lake Merritt dog park. I strongly support the proposed plan that will provide a safe place for dogs to play in my neighborhood. I understand that a dog park is part of the Lake Merritt Master Plan. I hope the project will be approved soon.

Thank you,

Linda Spencer and Rusty
1135 Clarendon Cr.
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ellen Gierson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2012 3:44 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Ellen Gierson
Sender's Email*:	ellenrocs@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	4175 Opal Street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Larry Branquinho [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:43 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Larry Branquinho
Sender's Email*:	labranquinho@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1401 Jackson St
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Stephanie Le [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Stephanie Le
Sender's Email*:	stephkle@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	14th St and Jackson
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Janet Sessions [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:01 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Janet Sessions
Sender's Email*:	jrsessions@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	421 48th St
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Christine Stark [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Christine Stark
Sender's Email*:	cstark510@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	1434 Everett Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ellen Gierson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:35 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Ellen Gierson
Sender's Email*:	ellenrocs@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	4175 Opal Street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Teresa Jackson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Teresa Jackson
Sender's Email*:	tajackster@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	Uptown Apartments
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Barbara Garber [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:45 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Barbara Garber
Sender's Email*:	bagarber@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	423 Elwood Avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, We recently moved from San Francisco to Oakland, and were surprised to find how awkward it is to have a dog and live near Lake Merritt. I strongly support building a dog park at Lakeview Park. In San Francisco the dog park was a social hub of the neighborhood, bringing people together. The community atmosphere of a dog park like this promotes healthier dog ownership, allowing easy access to dog exercise which prevents attacks on both people and dogs. Dog parks in San Francisco typically safely share grounds with a children's play area as well, providing conveniences for many families who often own a dog and have a child. We visit the other dog parks in Oakland, in lieu of having one in our neighborhood, and have been surprised by how crowded they are. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Vanessa Jeschke [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:58 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Vanessa Jeschke
Sender's Email*:	vanessa.jeschke@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	404 Euclid Ave, Upper Unit
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: LESLIE HILFORD [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 7:26 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	LESLIE HILFORD
Sender's Email*:	LSHILFORD@HOTMAIL.COM
Sender's Address*:	3307 WILSON PLACE
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Wendy Parks [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 5:45 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Wendy Parks
Sender's Email*:	princesswendilynn@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	279 Lee St. #12, Oakland, CA 94610
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you. This would be a great addition to our community. Please make this happen!!!

McElroy, Darryl

From: terry lee [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:36 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	terry lee
Sender's Email*:	fleeranch@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	haddon road and Hillgirt Circle, Oakland
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ariana Brandon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 5:50 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Ariana Brandon
Sender's Email*:	a_brandon@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	90th Ave and Thermal St.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: ihxgct@yiqsql.com ihxgct@yiqsql.com [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:22 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	ihxgct@yiqsql.com ihxgct@yiqsql.com
Sender's Email*:	ihxgct@yiqsql.com
Sender's Address*:	ihxgct@yiqsql.com
City of Residence*:	ihxgct@yiqsql.com
Message*:	pYND5U dxstwjuokwpt, [url=http://mmotmyfhyaxi.com/]mmotmyfhyaxi[/url], [link=http://vkylpevlykve.com/]vkylpevlykve[/link], http://rhqegkxlxaej.com/

McElroy, Darryl

From: Michael Rucci [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 6:18 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Michael Rucci
Sender's Email*:	mikeinternet@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	Santa Clara and Valle Vista
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Natalie Reed [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:36 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Natalie Reed
Sender's Email*:	futurenataliereed@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	480 Crescent St
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Natalie Reed [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:35 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Natalie Reed
Sender's Email*:	futurenataliereed@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	480 Crescent St
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: karen eng [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 8:47 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	karen eng
Sender's Email*:	prayerdame@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	3976 greenwood avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park and ask that you move forward without further delay in implement the voter approved park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: jasmine Halloran [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 6:17 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	jasmine Halloran
Sender's Email*:	jhalloran25@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	Santa Clara and Valle Vista
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Julie Montoya [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:17 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Julie Montoya
Sender's Email*:	jules_m@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*:	3422 Elmwood Ave.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Julie Caffey [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:16 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Julie Caffey
Sender's Email*:	juliecaffey@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	4690 Tompkins, 3
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: joe contreras [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:11 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	joe contreras
Sender's Email*:	jojosix@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	1470 alice st #301
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Wayne Walker [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 3:40 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Wayne Walker
Sender's Email*:	ghostandthedarkness77@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	1231 16th Avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you. Not all people can get out where the dogs parks are. I live a few blocks from Lake Merritt and I think something like this is needed there. In this case if people want to cry about how it might stress a child out then the child has no business in public if a simple dark bark is going to stress them out. A crying child stresses me out but they are still allowed to! be in public. THIS IS NEEDED AND WANTED

McElroy, Darryl

From: Diane Tebault [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 11:00 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Diane Tebault
Sender's Email*:	goldengaterescue@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*:	4016 Canon Avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: elizabeth poore [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 10:55 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	elizabeth poore
Sender's Email*:	bepoore@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	8418 aster ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you. PS- I have read all the arguments against the dog park, and they are silly. I have been peed on, bitten, spit on, run into, and had things thrown at me by CHILDREN in oakland, but NEVER by a dog. It is absurd to ban dogs from any part of any park, especially on a leash. Dogs are a necessary part a healthy, wholesome and satisfying life, and banning them has no benefit. The few downsides of having canines around can be ameliorated with simple training, and enlisting dog owners in policing each other. If you won't bow to reason and allow dogs around the lake, at least grant dog owners this little piddly piece of ground. I drive past it several times a week, and I have NEVER seen anyone but kids dressed as thugs and bums laying on the ground use that piece of ground. The people arguing against the dog park have serious control issues, and would benefit from having canine company around. I don't even LIKE dogs, but I have eyes and a brain and therefore can see and recogniz! e their value to healthy communities.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Terry Boom [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 8:30 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Terry Boom
Sender's Email*:	terryboom@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*:	Haddon and Athol
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, Opponents to the proposed dog park would have you believe the park should not be approved because parks should be for "everyone." By their logic, there should be no tot lots, no basketball courts, tennis courts, soccer fields, or other activity-specific parks because they are not for "everyone." Please don't be swayed by them. The Lake Merritt area is one of the most densely populated areas of the city. It draws hundreds of recreational users, including dog owners, but provides no off leash space. Dogs on leash are relegated to the sidewalk only and banned from all nearby parks. Both the Adams Point and Lake Merritt plans identified Eastshore Park as the best park in the Lake Merritt area to address this inequity. Please approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elaine Wong [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 12:48 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Elaine Wong
Sender's Email*:	greatmstuff415@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	greatmstuff415@yahoo.com
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. A dog park like this is a great addition and invaluable to the people of Oakland. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Chris Frostad [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 9:11 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Chris Frostad
Sender's Email*:	frostad73@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	3045 Dakota Street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: reenie raschke [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 10:30 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	reenie raschke
Sender's Email*:	reenie@reenieimages.com
Sender's Address*:	6100 Snake Road
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mary Stark [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 12:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Mary Stark
Sender's Email*:	cstark510@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	1434 Everett Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rose Hammerman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Rose Hammerman
Sender's Email*:	hammermanrose@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	hammermanrose@gmail.com
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kerstin Haavimb [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:03 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Kerstin Haavimb
Sender's Email*:	kerstinhaav@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	960 45th st. Oakland 94608
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Albion Roberts [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:56 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Albion Roberts
Sender's Email*:	albioncloud@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	34th/Telegraph
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lisa Hanauer [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 1:57 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Lisa Hanauer
Sender's Email*:	Gemmama@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	1247 Holman Road
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jeamet Moore [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:08 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Jeamet Moore
Sender's Email*:	jeanet.moore@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	317 Lee St Apt F
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. The complaints that dogs would climb over the fence and attack children have no foundational basis, as there are dog park/children park combos in North Oakland and at Mosswood Park. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kirsten Cowan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 1:14 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Kirsten Cowan
Sender's Email*:	kirstencowan@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	261 Lester Ave. Apt. 3
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. I live right in this neighborhood, and although it would be nice to take my partner's dog there, I really want the park as a woman, frequently walking the lake, and by the proposed park, I wish there was a critical mass of dog owners frequenting the park and making the whole area safer and more populated, especially after dark! Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tiffany Wagner [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:43 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Tiffany Wagner
Sender's Email*:	tiffisalways@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	6348 Heather Ridge Way
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Margaret Laws [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:39 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Margaret Laws
Sender's Email*:	hazel_motes@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	550 Glen View Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Joanne Docena [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:22 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Joanne Docena
Sender's Email*:	Joville3@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	1531 4th Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project so it can start to be built asap. Enough of needless delays. Go yourself and sit there and watch the activity or lack there of, on this spot. Are any of the people against this plan actual dog owners? This is really an excleent spot, and much needed , so why keep debating it... It is time to take action and move forward.. There is NO real reason NOT to have this done.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Maria Lepe [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:04 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Maria Lepe
Sender's Email*:	changita4011@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1500 50th Ave Oakland, CA 94601
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you. -Maria Lepe

McElroy, Darryl

From: Betsy Block [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:59 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Betsy Block
Sender's Email*:	bets@bbaum.com
Sender's Address*:	742 Wesley Way Apt 2C
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Vanessa Jeschke [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:46 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Vanessa Jeschke
Sender's Email*:	vanessa.jeschke@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	404 Euclid Ave, Upper Unit
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: suzie rudloff [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:32 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	suzie rudloff
Sender's Email*:	suzierudloff@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	underhills rd and grosvenor st.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: mindie dodson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:31 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	mindie dodson
Sender's Email*:	mindiedodson@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	550 glenview ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Terry Kitagawa [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:31 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Terry Kitagawa
Sender's Email*:	mixture_terry@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	5855 horton street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ruth Busbee [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:28 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Ruth Busbee
Sender's Email*:	ruthbusbee@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	77 Fairmount Ave. Apt. 111
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kat Smith [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:55 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Kat Smith
Sender's Email*:	katisca@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	4026 Canon Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Leslie Walker [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:37 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Leslie Walker
Sender's Email*:	lwalker114@comcast.net
Sender's Address*:	7527 Sterling Drive
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alecia Kurey [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:33 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Alecia Kurey
Sender's Email*:	AleciaKurey@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	200 Caldecott Lane #219
City of Residence*:	Oakland, 94618
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project!!! Thank you. Alecia Kurey

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kira Belanger [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Kira Belanger
Sender's Email*:	Kirabelanger@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	715 Mandana Blvd
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Wenonah Elms [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 6:36 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Wenonah Elms
Sender's Email*:	wenonahelms@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	319 Lenox Avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rachel Gonzalez [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:20 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Rachel Gonzalez
Sender's Email*:	r.suzannegonzalez@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2122 Lakeshore Ave.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Nancy Rieser [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 1:55 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Nancy Rieser
Sender's Email*:	gofindnancy@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	444 Alhambra Street
City of Residence*:	Crockett

Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

My dog Cookie Scraps and are a Therapy Pet team and visit the Lakeview Library. We are part of the Paws to Read program, where children practice reading to non-judgemental dogs.

Personally, even though I now live in Crockett, I would love to have a place to take Cookie before or after her reading sessions at the far edge of Eastshore Park, the park along side of the Library. The kids would love it too. Often times I walk Cookie along the edge of tot lot play area (called Astro Park) on the way to my car. In an instant, becomes a one-animal petting zoo.

From what I have been able to glean from the anti-dog park communications is that their arguments boil down to 4 main complaints.

I will list the reasons with my observations/comments.

#1. "It is problematic that the dog park is near the children's tot lot."

The dog park under the freeway on Claremont Ave is less than 10 feet from a children's play area. It has happily co-existed for many years without incident for about two decades now.

The proof is in the pudding.

#2. "The space will take away the athetic field."

No, it won't. It basically would sit on the far edge of the park where soccar players prefer NOT to play because kicked balls roll into the traffic on Grand Avenue.

Before I moved from Oakland in 1999, I had lived in Adams Point for over 25 years. I witnessed that the far edge of the park along MacArthur was not only underutilized but, more often is not, sat empty.

Now, when I come to Oakland for the Paws to Read program at the Lakeview Library, it is clear that the usage pattern has not changed.

#3. "It's the last 'unprogrammed space' around Lake Merritt"

Nope. Plently parkland around Lake Merritt has no "program" or

restrictions.

#4. "Parks are for people and not dogs."

Dogs can only enter a park with its human owner. Owners do not loose their "human" status when they enter a dog park.

Yes, parks are wonderful places for people. We agree on that point! Dog OWNERS are people, and those PEOPLE who live in Oakland near the Lakeview park want some of their recreational tax dollars to be allocated for a dog park along this little edge of the park...just like tax dollars support other for people with special recreational interets or talents, like:

a. Fairyland (for small people with lovely imaginations)
b. the boat house (for people who like to go in the water in water vessels)
c. the Japanese garden and Garden building (for people who like plants)
d. the tot lots (for small people who like swings)
e. tennis courts, baseball diamonds, soccar fields and lawn bowling(peope who like to play with balls)

Dog owners play with balls too...to be sure they are covered with dog spit, but they ARE balls nonetheless. The only difference is that the balls are thrown by dog owners are just caught by dogs)

And when humans play/engage in ANY of the above recreational activites, it gets them outside and active AND they get to engage with others who enjoy similar activities. Dog parks are no different.

Message*:

Look, we all agree that recreational ammenities enrich everyone's life. Major metropolitan areas from Manhatten to Orange County have recognized the social and recreational values dog parks and proudly boast about dog parks to attract new commers to their neighborhoods.

AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY: the recreational dog park includes ALL ages, ALL genders, ALL ethnicities and ALL mental and physical abilities and....even people who don't own dogs!

Yes, dog-less people come into dog parks. Who? People who live in apartments that have "no pet" policies who miss the companionship and doofiness of animals; folks who live in senior facilities that might be faced with similar "not pet" restrictions; folks who might live a child or husband with allergies and just want to toss ball or two; folks coming with their kids to do research and check out dog breeds when they are in the "pre-adoption" state of mind.

In my humble opinion, dog parks are about the most inclusive recreational activity cities provide...plus it gives tax payers the most recreational useage bang for their buck.

Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now.

Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Victoria Reeder [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 12:02 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Victoria Reeder
Sender's Email*:	victoriareeder@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2122 Lakeshore Avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Dorinda Woodley [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 11:54 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Dorinda Woodley
Sender's Email*:	purpledori777@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	1617 Grand Ave.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarah Gage [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 3:08 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Sarah Gage
Sender's Email*:	Whymisssarah@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1746 16th st. #8
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. It is so important for dogs to be able to run off leash! Every day! A daily walk just isn't enough for most dogs, especially when they are young. Dogs that get adequate exercise will be better behaved, healthier, and happier. Unfortunately, if one lives in oakland, getting to places that allow for this is time consuming, even if one owns a car. Think how many happier, healthier, well-behaved dogs there would be in this city if there was a place for them to run around within walking distance of lake merrit! Please approve this project! Thank you. Sincerely, Sarah Gage

McElroy, Darryl

From: stephanie alber [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 9:13 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	stephanie alber
Sender's Email*:	stephalber@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	500 E 22nd #3
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Monique Rosenthal [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2012 10:45 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Monique Rosenthal
Sender's Email*:	morose34@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	5985 Claremont Avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Susan Oldershaw [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2012 9:27 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Susan Oldershaw
Sender's Email*:	lottydah2002@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	770 Prospect Ave, Oakland, CA 94610
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! I am currently driving my 2 dogs to Alameda or Point Isabel. Sometimes I do some shopping in Alameda which I would do in Oakland. We are so lacking this much needed facility in this neighborhood. It would be a real asset in many ways. Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: micah frazier [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 4:50 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	micah frazier
Sender's Email*:	micahhobbesfrazier@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	4096 piedmont ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Helen Jefferson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 10:23 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Helen Jefferson
Sender's Email*:	Rembouilletfr@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	Alameda Av
City of Residence*:	Alameda
Message*:	Ms. Clevenger Oakland Planning Commission, Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland is desperate to have. I strongly support the Lakeview dog park. Please! Listen to these constituents who spend time in the community with eyes and ears on the neighborhoods. I urge you to approve this project!

McElroy, Darryl

From: Hanna Weare [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 5:38 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Hanna Weare
Sender's Email*:	hanna@awarebodyprocess.com
Sender's Address*:	1200 Lakeshore Av, #17E
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Terrence Caine [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 3:17 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Terrence Caine
Sender's Email*:	iketuffy@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	3232 14th Ave #10
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Amy Petre Hill [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:24 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Amy Petre Hill
Sender's Email*:	amypetre@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1200 Lakeshore Ave. Apt. 5D
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. My husband and I live in a large high-rise on the lake with my small dog, Parker, and dream of having a local dog park we could walk to every day. Because there is no close, high-quality dog park I typically take my dog to the Alameda dog parks three mornings a week. With each trip I emit additional greenhouse gases and add to Alameda's sales tax coffers when I spend $15 on early morning coffee and breakfast each week. Adding a dog park on Lake Merritt will enhance the neighborhood, provide a place for dog owners to responsibly play with their dogs outdoors, and bring additional customers to local Oakland businesses. For all the above reasons, I strongly urge you to support a Lakeview dog part. Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Benjamin Westheimer [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:16 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Benjamin Westheimer
Sender's Email*:	bwestheimer@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	47 Chatsworth Ct.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! This is sorely needed; will cost little; and will benefit many. Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: christine berkman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 11:41 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	christine berkman
Sender's Email*:	chrisberkman@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	12845 Brookpark Road
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project. Thanks, Chris

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tracey Baldridge [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 8:00 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Tracey Baldridge
Sender's Email*:	traceybaldridge@ymail.com
Sender's Address*:	1733 10 st
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Richelle Lieberman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 6:54 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Richelle Lieberman
Sender's Email*:	scarletbohemian@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	251 Acton Place
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarah Donovan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 5:28 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Sarah Donovan
Sender's Email*:	twilight_speaks@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	twilight_speaks@yahoo.com
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	To the Oakland Planning Commission or whomever else it may concern, While I am not a dog owner myself, I still support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Giving dogs a safe and legal place to play would only benefit the community. As a resident of this neighborhood, I walk by Lakeview Park daily. Currently, it seems that the park is not efficiently used, and a dog park would be a more ideal use of that space. Recently, I was stopped by a group of people who were opposing the dog park, stating that their disapproval largely had to do with it being near a business district. Personally, I think a dog park near the businesses would only be a good thing, as it might reduce the number of dogs in the Saturday Farmer's Market (despite the "no dogs" signs around the market) and on the streets right outside of businesses if they had a nearby place to be. So basically, as non-dog-owning residents of the Lake Merritt area, my husband and I both support this project and hope very much that it gets approved. Thank you for your time!

McElroy, Darryl

From: Trineice Durst [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 4:41 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Trineice Durst
Sender's Email*:	tdurst14@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	255 Jayne Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jaime Calleja [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 12:56 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Jaime Calleja
Sender's Email*:	engendrus@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	Mandalay Road and Harbord Drive
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Claire Axley [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 8:42 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Claire Axley
Sender's Email*:	claire.axley@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	108 Mandalay Road
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: simon becerra [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 8:19 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	simon becerra
Sender's Email*:	simonbecerra@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	simonbecerra@gmail.com
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Amber Valles [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 3:14 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Amber Valles
Sender's Email*:	msamberv@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	3232 14th ave #1-
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: lee ballen [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 3:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	lee ballen
Sender's Email*:	omgirl4@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*:	1527 mountain blvd
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Dane Eifling [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 12:06 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Dane Eifling
Sender's Email*:	greatdane65@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	greatdane65@yahoo.com
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Eileen Jones [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 11:09 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Eileen Jones
Sender's Email*:	jones.eileen15@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	125 2nd Street #415
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Nikki Maeda [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 11:06 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Nikki Maeda
Sender's Email*:	giantglassofmilk@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	47th & West
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Gary Moore [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2012 7:56 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Gary Moore
Sender's Email*:	garymoore697@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	1109 Mandana Blvd
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is definitely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Oakland needs this to build the neighbor and beauty of Lake Merritt. Lakeshore is very dog friendly. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tina Quon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2012 7:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Tina Quon
Sender's Email*:	tina.quon@ucsfmedctr.org
Sender's Address*:	1109 Mandana Blvd
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community (which Oakland is greatly in need of), reduce crime (currently highest in the nation), and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elizabeth Lemkul [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 4:12 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Elizabeth Lemkul
Sender's Email*:	elemkul@sprintmail.com
Sender's Address*:	4157 Lake Shore Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Emily M [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:38 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Emily M
Sender's Email*:	sparkle577@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	Santa Clara and Vernon St.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Meghan McLean [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 10:01 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Meghan McLean
Sender's Email*:	mngojuice@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	4708 fairfax ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project. I am part of a large community of dog owners, and know that a Lakeview Dog Park will attract not only people from other parts of Oakland (like myself), but people from elsewhere as well. This is an opportunity to gain good press for this lovely city I call home, as well as increasing the visitors. thanks, Meghan (and huskies Jack and Spike)

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alison Voss [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 12:10 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Alison Voss
Sender's Email*:	alisonvoss@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	308 Jackson St. #105
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: ALMA PAGLIARULO [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	ALMA PAGLIARULO
Sender's Email*:	ALMAROSSETTE@GMAIL.COM
Sender's Address*:	2316 LAKESHORE AVE # 2
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Daniel Gonzales [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:31 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Daniel Gonzales
Sender's Email*:	dkgonzales@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2316 Lakeshore Ave Apt 5
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you, Daniel Gonzales

McElroy, Darryl

From: Susan Oldershaw [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:57 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Susan Oldershaw
Sender's Email*:	lottydah2002@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	770 Prospect Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! In the meantime I am forced to drive to Alameda or Point Isabel. I often visit shops in Alameda and spend money which is revenue Oakland could use. I could walk to the proposed dogpark from my home. Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jacqueline L'Heureaux [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7:35 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Jacqueline L'Heureaux
Sender's Email*:	j4f8l@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	2122 Lakeshore Avenue, #102
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs, and even though a Dog Play Area has twice been approved in the Lake Merritt Master Plan and by the Parks Commission (2006 and 2010), it hasn't yet come to fruition. It surely seems well past time that it did. Other cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Joyce Roy [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 5:10 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Joyce Roy
Sender's Email*:	joyceroy@earthlink.net
Sender's Address*:	258 Mather St.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Michelle Sparks [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:40 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Michelle Sparks
Sender's Email*:	shellysparks@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2122 Lakeshore Ave., No. 102, Oakland 94606
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I STRONGLY support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Because there's nothing that resembles a real dog park in Oakland me and several others I know drive to Pt. Isabell. I go twice a week and every time I purchase food, coffee etc. I also stop at a nearby farmers market rather than going to the one on Grand. If I had a dog park near my home I would purchase these things in my own neighborhood. Right now, the dogs are closer to the kids than they would be w/ the dog park because the dogs will be behind a fence. When I take my dogs down to the Astro Park area now, I let them off leash as do other dog owners. If people are concerned about having dogs around the kids at Astro Park, they should be more concerned now. Please, please, please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jonah Chiarenza [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:21 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Jonah Chiarenza
Sender's Email*:	jonah@alumni.virginia.edu
Sender's Address*:	5258 Claremont Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Nicolette Stevenson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 2:55 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Nicolette Stevenson
Sender's Email*:	sour_milk_08@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	2801 Summit ST
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarah Wilhelm [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 2:35 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Sarah Wilhelm
Sender's Email*:	sarah3wilhelm@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	389 Belmont St. #109 94610
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. This dog play area was already approved in 2006 and 2010, so please just carry through with what has already been voted in. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. I recently moved from Brooklyn, NY, where I visited the dog play area at Prospect Park every morning with my dog. It was a wonderful, unenclosed space where dogs could play freely until 9am every day. After several years of going there regularly I never noticed any problems involving dogs, their owners, or other visitors at the park. Instead it was a wonderful place where neighbors could meet and people could enjoy the outdoors with their pets. I, like many other people in this busy community, don't own a car and so am not able to drive my dog to the other dog parks (which are not in walking distance). This park is a necessity for this popular neighborhood where a large percentage of residents have dogs and need the space to exercise their pets. Please approve this project! Thank you!

McElroy, Darryl

From: Leal Charonnat [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 2:09 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Leal Charonnat
Sender's Email*:	lealcharonnat@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1 5th avenue #1-9
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Judith Schwartz [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:17 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Judith Schwartz
Sender's Email*:	JudithRSchwartz@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	2640 8th Ave.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Laverne Bell [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 1:12 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Laverne Bell
Sender's Email*:	mawusi777@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*:	mawusi777@sbcglobal.net
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: linda polse [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 9:29 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	linda polse
Sender's Email*:	inerpeas@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	inerpeas@hotmail.com
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Adriana Socorro [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 9:56 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Adriana Socorro
Sender's Email*:	Adrianasocorro@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	Palm ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Joanne Docena [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 7:37 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Joanne Docena
Sender's Email*:	Joville3@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	1531 4th Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I am a disabled resident of Oakland. I have lived here my entire life. Thru the years I have had dogs and I have had to travel out of the city in order to find off leash parks. This is just disgraceful for the city of Oakland to be so dog UNFRIENDLY, and unconcerned for the need of Oakland residents. Oakland has AMPle areas that could be used for a dog park, if it so chose to. There are many of us disabled people who want to be able to not have to travel far in order for out dogs to have some off leash FREEDOM to exercise. I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks becaus! e they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Shana Harris [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 7:17 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Shana Harris
Sender's Email*:	upyerkilt11@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	3942 Ruby Street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarah Pope [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 6:43 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Sarah Pope
Sender's Email*:	Sarah.salk.pope@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1 camino del cielo
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Auric Hornaman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 10:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Auric Hornaman
Sender's Email*:	aurichor@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	698 46th Street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ellen Evans [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 6:18 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Ellen Evans
Sender's Email*:	jeev13@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2831 Delaware Street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. And we are talking about both people and dogs. Given my very busy schedule, the time I spend with my dogs at the existing dog parks is also the time I spend with my fellow Oaklanders, from all walks of life, tied together by our love of our dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you. Ellen Evans

McElroy, Darryl

From: Vicky Scolini [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 5:38 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Vicky Scolini
Sender's Email*:	vms39@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	4224 Suter
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Victoria Reeder [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 5:33 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Victoria Reeder
Sender's Email*:	victoriareeder@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2122 Lakeshore Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: mylan cheng [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 4:49 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	mylan cheng
Sender's Email*:	mylan.cheng@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	11th ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: eric tran [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 4:49 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	eric tran
Sender's Email*:	eric.tran11@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	11th ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: bruin runyan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 4:33 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	bruin runyan
Sender's Email*:	bruinator@mailpuppy.com
Sender's Address*:	513 28th Street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Miriam Fliegner [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 4:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Miriam Fliegner
Sender's Email*:	mfliegner@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	775 Brooklyn Avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. I live in the area and pass Splash Pad Park frequently, and it is very much under-used right now; using some of that space for a dog park would help it live up to its potential. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: i polsuon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 12:19 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	i polsuon
Sender's Email*:	wlp1272@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	Alamadea
City of Residence*:	Alameda
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Wendi Poulson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 12:16 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Wendi Poulson
Sender's Email*:	wlp1272@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	A
City of Residence*:	Alameda
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and Planners. We are in Oakland to day looking for places to go with our dog while we do our shoppping. We would love to come to the Lake Merritt dog park on a regular basis. We have family living near Lake Merritt and it would make good family tme for us and our dogsi

McElroy, Darryl

From: eric McGill [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:50 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	eric McGill
Sender's Email*:	mcgillanizer@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	5320 Trask 94601
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission I am tired of going to Alameda with the dog. I want a dog park near home and where I pay taxes.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jeff Arizu [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:39 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Jeff Arizu
Sender's Email*:	andapress@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*:	41 Excelsior Court 94610
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park. I would like to have a dog park near my house. I'd love to twalk to the dog park every day, sometimes twice a day. My four year old would go to the playground with one parent and the other would be at the dog park. This would be a real advantage for our family. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: stacy rollo [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:28 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	stacy rollo
Sender's Email*:	stacyrollo@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*:	mandana circle
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger ; We would like to have a dog park at the park near the Grand Lake Theater/Farmers Market. We would like to take our two pre-school children and our dog to Lakeview park for the tot lot, the library and the dog park. It would make great family space. 24 Mandana Circle Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Yvonne Bennett [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:20 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Yvonne Bennett
Sender's Email*:	yvonneb.inalameda@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	Alameda
City of Residence*:	Alameda
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. We like to visit Oakland but are always frustrated there is no place in the downtown central area for us to spend a little time with our dog

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elsa Orta [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:17 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Elsa Orta
Sender's Email*:	ortaelsa@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	1097 106 Ave 94603
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. We're new in Oakland , a yong couple with no kids We would like to be able to come to Lake Merrit dog park and get to know the city better.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Liz Duncanson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:09 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Liz Duncanson
Sender's Email*:	liz.gillem@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	391 - 51st Street
City of Residence*:	oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. We are a young couple with no children and we would like access to Oakland Parks with our dog. We love to shop and eat at Lake Merritt and would like to go more often with our dog.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Cheryl Cleary [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:59 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Cheryl Cleary
Sender's Email*:	cab233@cornell.edu
Sender's Address*:	Hanover Ave and Lakeshore Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. In addition, a socialized dog is a safe dog. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jennifer Nadler [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:04 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Jennifer Nadler
Sender's Email*:	splinky_dinky@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1320 E 18th Street
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Currently I am forced to go to Alameda for the dog park there, which in turn gets me to do my shopping there. I would prefer Oakland get my sales taxes and money not Alameda but since I have no place convenient in my neighborhood where my dogs are allowed I have to pack everyone in the car and drive to the next closest park, Alameda. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Paul Vidican [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Paul Vidican
Sender's Email*:	pvidican@comcast.net
Sender's Address*:	Haddon & Athol
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. This proposed location is almost always EMPTY. PEOPLE would use this dog park on a daily basis, in all weather. And there's still plenty of room left for the few activities that happen there now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Iska Johnson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 11:00 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Iska Johnson
Sender's Email*:	anya.rysm@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1505 Jackson St #105
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime,make the neighborhood cleaner and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: linda polse [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 10:44 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	linda polse
Sender's Email*:	inerpeas@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	butters/burdeck
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jill Webber [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 7:48 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Jill Webber
Sender's Email*:	jillwebber1980@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	3520 Grand Avenue
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Amy Haas [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 6:26 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Amy Haas
Sender's Email*:	gemini.amy@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2944 Harrison St
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tracy Jacobs [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 6:21 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Tracy Jacobs
Sender's Email*:	info@quadruped.biz
Sender's Address*:	1315 E. 32nd St.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Carlos Saravia [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 5:11 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Carlos Saravia
Sender's Email*:	Saravia33@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	3205 Beaumont Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ellen Evans [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 11:31 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Ellen Evans
Sender's Email*:	jeev13@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2831 Delaware
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission: I've written to you before, and I will continue writing, as long as this project is left hanging. Dog parks are good things. Dog parks bring people together. I don't have kids, but I absolutely support the building and maintenance of park spaces for kids. I don't hike, but I absolutely support the creation and maintenance of park trails for those who do. All I am asking is that there be a place for me and my dog in our common space. Thank you, Ellen Evans

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mary Stark [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 9:45 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Mary Stark
Sender's Email*:	cstark510@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	1434 Everett Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Marilin Colon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:56 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Marilin Colon
Sender's Email*:	marilin.colon@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	100 Grand Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Laura Carnagey [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:44 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Laura Carnagey
Sender's Email*:	lcarnagey@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	4233 Balfour Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: vu long trinh [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:33 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	vu long trinh
Sender's Email*:	longtrinh@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2203 14th ave. apt. 102
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Eve Norman Norman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:27 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Eve Norman Norman
Sender's Email*:	vintageFem@att.net
Sender's Address*:	1714 Franklin St., 100-381
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mary Stark [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 10:01 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Mary Stark
Sender's Email*:	cstark510@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	1434 Everett Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lauren Larson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 10:06 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Lauren Larson
Sender's Email*:	laurenlarson5861@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	5861 Birch Court
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Let's give responsible dog owners a place to socialize their dogs. These dog owners are not the ones that let their dogs run free where ever, they care for their pets and clean up after them. Let's support that ! Thank you

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ronald Retamales [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:44 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Ronald Retamales
Sender's Email*:	ronaldretamales@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	119 Athol avenue 94606
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Avishai Taashur [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:05 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Avishai Taashur
Sender's Email*:	avishai94@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2490 Park Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Heather Smith [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:05 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Heather Smith
Sender's Email*:	hmasismith@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	656 39th St Oakland, CA
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Aaron Odle [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:59 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Aaron Odle
Sender's Email*:	jstwatuwnt@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	6013 Old Quarry Loop
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Nora McQuaide [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:50 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Nora McQuaide
Sender's Email*:	Sugaree0393@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	5701 Colton Blvd
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lily Servais [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:04 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Lily Servais
Sender's Email*:	lily.servais@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	92 Hamilton Place
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: ADAM ELLIS [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:58 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	ADAM ELLIS
Sender's Email*:	adam_l_ellis@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	438 STATEN AVENUE #203
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Susan Oldershaw [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 2:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Susan Oldershaw
Sender's Email*:	lottydah2002@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	770 Prospect Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! If we had a dog park in our neighborhood I could stop driving my 2 dogs to Point Isabel and Alameda. We would be committed to maintaining it. Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Stephen Lok [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 12:38 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Stephen Lok
Sender's Email*:	poppalok@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	288 3rd St. #615, Oakland, CA 94607
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Christine Lok [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 12:01 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Christine Lok
Sender's Email*:	christinewlok@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	3rd Street & Alice
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Arvin David Nalos [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2012 12:25 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Arvin David Nalos
Sender's Email*:	davidnalos@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1007 MacArthur Blvd.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Leslie Carson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2012 3:21 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Leslie Carson
Sender's Email*:	leslielx@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1638 Vista St
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. My dog Charlie is sweet and well-behaved and deserves a place to play near his home! Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Dolores Restrepo Macias [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:52 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Dolores Restrepo Macias
Sender's Email*:	doeluvs@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	320 Oakland Ave. Apt B, Oakland, CA 94611
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Angela Thomason [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:08 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Angela Thomason
Sender's Email*:	hugheal@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	1201 Pine St.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Saundra Torres [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:08 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Saundra Torres
Sender's Email*:	dreadgal55@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	5500 block on Shattuck Ave.
City of Residence*:	Oakland, CA 94609
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: denisa legaspi [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:30 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	denisa legaspi
Sender's Email*:	denshouse@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	denshouse@gmail.com
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lauren Kasdan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:45 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Lauren Kasdan
Sender's Email*:	laurensk98@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	114 Forest CT. 40206
City of Residence*:	Louisville
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jason Aiken [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 7:50 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Jason Aiken
Sender's Email*:	Jasonm.aiken@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	2635 rawson st.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: David Gans [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:44 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	David Gans
Sender's Email*:	david@trufun.com
Sender's Address*:	484 Lake Park Ave #102
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission: I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. There is no happier place on earth than a dog park. I say this as a dog lover but not a dog owner. I will not be a user of the park per se, but I expect I will be a regular visitor.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rita Hurault [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Rita Hurault
Sender's Email*:	reet@well.com
Sender's Address*:	504 Haddon Rd
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Although neither my husband or I had our own dogs, we got married at the Point Isabel dog park in Point Richmond because, as David told me early on in our courtship, you can't be there and not be happy. Our community needs this place where dogs of all kinds romp gleefully. Well run dog parks, such as the one at Point Isabel, are models of cooperation, diversity, and civic pride. Please approve Lakeview Dog Park. Thank you, Rita Hurault

McElroy, Darryl

From: Claire Palmgren [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 12:05 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Claire Palmgren
Sender's Email*:	clairep2@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	Cheney at Walker
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I STRONGLY support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: geannie lam [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 2:12 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	geannie lam
Sender's Email*:	lamfambam@aol.com
Sender's Address*:	1531 4th avet
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Joe Wyman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 1:55 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Joe Wyman
Sender's Email*:	ljwyman@comcast.net
Sender's Address*:	ljwyman@comcast.net
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kassie Rohrbach [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:30 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Kassie Rohrbach
Sender's Email*:	Kassierohrbach@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	400 perkins st.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: shelby robertson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:16 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	shelby robertson
Sender's Email*:	shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	459 Stow Ave.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rose Hammerman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:03 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Rose Hammerman
Sender's Email*:	hammermanrose@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	4708 Farifax Ave.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Carrie Cianchetti [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:47 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Carrie Cianchetti
Sender's Email*:	carriec51@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	440 40th St.
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: margueritte amable [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 4:19 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	margueritte amable
Sender's Email*:	amablem@comcast.net
Sender's Address*:	2208 Lakeshore Ave
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alilah Renwick [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:06 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Alilah Renwick
Sender's Email*:	alilah2001@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*:	400 Perkins St. #307
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Oaktown 357 [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:45 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Oaktown 357
Sender's Email*:	oaktownposse@357.com
Sender's Address*:	40th and Telegraph
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Claire Wing [clairewing@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2012 1:47 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: In support of a dog park created in my neighborhood

I am writing you in support of having a dog park available for my community at the corner of MacArthur and Lakeshore Avenue within the existing park space.
As I understand it, this will be a fenced space available to all our community for taking their dogs for exercise and socializing. This has already been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission and discussed in detail. The plans are well thought out and do not encroach space in this park already available for children's play and adult sports activities.
This would be one of the first local dog gathering places in our neighborhood; I understand it would be less than 1% of the green space in the Grand Lake area and it is sorely needed.
I appreciate the concerns of the few who contest this project but feel that the plan is reasonable and possible. There is no reason to delay further. The projected expense of doing this project is increasing the longer it is delayed.
I appreciate your response, which can be emailed to me directly. I hope you will also keep me informed about this plan's progress.
Sincerely,
Claire Wing, dog owner and neighbor resident
763 Rosemount Road
Oakland, 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Carrie Gustafson [cgusta@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 12:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: In Support of Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing to add my voice to the hundreds of individuals who support a dog park near Lake Merritt. I have three dogs, all from Bay Area shelters. We stay largely away from the Lake Merritt area since there is no designated area for dogs. The paths are crowded and the dogs often find garbage (chicken or rib bones) along the way or return with paws full of geese droppings.

Kind regards,

Carrie L. Gustafson, Attorney
cg125@columbia.edu
510.502.1797

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McElroy, Darryl

From: Frederike Schilter [Frederike.Schilter@ceb.ucla.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 05, 2012 2:11 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net; sutta@earthlink.net
Subject: In support of Lakeview Dog Park

Dear Ms Clevenger,

I'm writing to you to express my strong support for the long-planned Lakeview dog park.

I live one block from the planned dog park, at 553 Boden Way, and own a small dog. I have been living here for 9 years. Many people around Lake Merritt have small dogs because they live in apartments or condominiums and we don't have backyards where our dogs can roam. A lot of us would be able to walk to the new dog park, thus not creating any additional traffic, and our pets would have a convenient place to play off-leash, exercise, and meet other dogs. It would also be a social place for people to come together.

I'm confident you are aware of all the other arguments pro dog park like the fact that this park has been in the works since 1998, that dogs are banned from all over Lake Merritt park and almost all other city parks, and that there will be ample space left for hanging out, picnicking, and sports.

Thank you for considering my arguments in support of the new dog park.

Sincerely,

Ms Frederike Schilter
553 Boden Way
Oakland, CA 94610

510 663 6579

McElroy, Darryl

From: Pacheco, Linda [Linda.Pacheco@blueshieldca.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: In Support

I strongly support the dog part at Lake Merritt – please pass it so our furry family friends can enjoy it as much as we do.

Thanks,
Linda

P. Linda Pacheco
Market Intelligence & Insights
Blue Shield of California
(510) 530-0709
linda.pacheco@blueshieldca.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: William Teplow [wteplow@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, November 06, 2011 9:47 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Keep Astro Park as is!!

Pat Kernighan:
I, my children and grandchildren have been enjoying the wide open spaces of Astro Park over a span of 60 years. This rare piece of open space and lawn in the middle of Oakland is irreplaceable. I strongly object to the proposed dog park. Keep the space open for future generations. Kids need big areas of lawn to run free and play without worry about traffic. Do the right thing. Keep the park just the way it has been loved and appreciated by generations.
Very sincerely,
William Teplow
1518 Excelsior Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602

McElroy, Darryl

From: Annalisa Tay [Annalisa_Tay@gap.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 11:04 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: ODOG
Subject: Lake Merrit Dog Park Please

Dear Ms Clevenger

I am a resident of Oakland's Crocker Highlands since 1991 and if I had know how unfriendly Oakland was toward dogs, I may not have purchased my home here. Oakland needs a social space for my dog and myself in our own neighborhood. I have MS and it is difficult for me to get around and I would love to get to know my neighbors that also have dogs.

The Lake Merrit dog park has been in the works for a long time. It is time to conclude the discussion and break ground on this much overdue project. There is more than enough room for everyone in this park at the end of the lake. We are only requesting a small corner of this park. Dog owners that take their dogs to parks tend to be more responsible than some parents with their kids.

I hear from the opposition that it's too close to the Astro Park play area. If you check the records, you will see that Hardy Dog Park is even closer to a kids play area, in fact, you have to walk your dog through the play area to get to the enclosure for dogs. There has been no incidents with kids and dogs in 20 years.

I believe the Lake Merrit Dog park will only increase revenue for our neighborhood because we will stay and shop in our neighborhood rather than shop in Alameda as I do now, after taking my little dog to the Alameda Crown Beach Dog park.

Please, let's end this 10 year discussion and build our dog park.

Annalisa Tay
GID Sr. Technical Designer
Maternity Denim & Woven Bottoms, Knit Tops
415-832-1668

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sharon Gmail [sharonfrank8@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 27, 2011 2:21 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merrit dog park

To whom it may concern,

I am an apartment dweller currently residing on 40th St in Oakland. I hope you will consider the new dog park in oakland near Lake Merrit. There are no other dog parks in the area and the new dog park would help to make a more unified community

Thank you for our consideration,

Sharon frank

McElroy, Darryl

From: Christopher Grimmer [cgrimmer@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:05 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park, Hurray!

Ann,

Wanted to drop you an email in support of the proposed dog park. My family (and dogs) hope things move forward.

Thanks for your time and consideration,
Chris

Dr. Christopher Grimmer
638 Jean Street
Oakland CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Carole Levenson [carolesl@jps.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 7:28 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing you in support of a Lake Merritt dog park. I have lived by the lake for almost nine years, and my dog is not allowed in the park.
We have to walk to Piedmont (and buy an off-leash tag) for him to run around in our own neighborhood without a leash, in a park. We participated in previous hearings and organizational meetings (he was much younger then) and thought that a dog park was in the works. It is sad to think it might not happen in his lifetime (he is 11 years old now).

The prohibition on dogs in the park is mostly ignored, at this point, and there doesn't seem to be any reasonable reason to keep leashed dogs out of the park, as they haven't created any remarkable problems, but it still would be a joyful thing to have a nice off-leash area for the many dogs in the Lake Merritt neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Carole Levenson and Sasha
492 Staten Avenue #1103
Oakland 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jenna Whitman [jenna_whitman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 11:10 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Hello,

I am a resident of Oakland, live 2 blocks from the Lake, and work at civic center, and walk the lake almost every day. I have previouly written a detailed email to the City Council in favor of an off leash dog park and wish to express my support again. I'll be more brief this time: dogs have very few public off-leash areas in the east bay, and no such options dowtown. The proposed park represents a small fraction of the open space at the Lake. Fears of harm to children are not well founded, and giving dogs their own space will help protect the birds, too. The fact that the park is in walking distance for so many dog owners is a huge plus for promoting health, community interaction, and reducing traffic and car emissions in our city. Based on the number of dogs I see at the Lake everyday, there is certainly demand in the area; indeed, we should consider something similar at Snow Park, as well.

I hope you will consider these factors in making the decision.

Jenna Whitman

McElroy, Darryl

From: Carlos Uribe [curibe9@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 01, 2012 7:51 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am a long time Oakland resident and a frequent visitor to Lake Merritt. For a long time now I have been disappointed with the lack of dog-friendly parks available to Oaklanders. There are many times where I have to choose whether or not to take my dog to a park when I meet up with friends who have children for a play date or we have to carefully select a park that will accommodate both of our needs. Often, we choose to visit a park in Alameda or San Leandro.

It is my understand that the dog park for Lake Merritt was approved in 2006 and 2010 by the parks commission. I hope the planning department will quickly approve it and move it on through the public process so that we may see this plan come to fruition.

Now that it has finally come to your department, please give it your strong support.

Thank you
Carlos Uribe

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jean Simpson [jean-ds@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 4:07 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Dear Sir or Madam:
Please help us in establishing a dog park in the parkland near Lake Merritt. It would be much appreciated and used by local dog owners and would bring in additional business to the retail stores in the area.
Thank you,
Jean Simpson
new dog owner

McElroy, Darryl

From: joe contreras [jojosix@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 10:42 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

I drive by the proposed dog park site at Lake Merritt and rarely see anyone using the space. I have two dogs and have to drive to Alameda dog park which is always crowded even though most people in Alameda have yards. This while there are many dog owners that do not.

Joe Contreras
1470 Alice st unit 301
Oakland, CA 94612-4001
510.836.2851

McElroy, Darryl

From: Amy McGonagle [amymcgonagle@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 9:57 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

I am an Oakland resident, and I am writing to urge you to support the Lake Merritt dog park. There are not many places in the area where I can take my dog, and I would use this park often. I know many other people who would also use this dog park.

The dog park would take up less than one-quarter of the space at Lakeview Park. There would be minimal demands for maintenance by the city – much would be performed by volunteers. Volunteers have demonstrated their commitment at other parks, such as Joaquin Miller Park.

Thank you for your consideration,

Amy McGonagle

McElroy, Darryl

From: Helen Jefferson [hjefferson@lbl.gov]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 8:14 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: O'DOG; Robert Todd
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

If you don't rescue dogs then you should be rescuing others who do rescue.

Everyone needs comfort, exercise and socialization and dog parks provide two of the three. Please support this park and those whose efforts have gone unrewarded for years . . . and take the burden off the parks and dogs in Alameda that are deluged by visitors who have no other place to do.

If you don't ride BART or the bus because you don't like to fraternize with the unwashed, you know how it feels to be in a dog park that is overused by people with one thing in common: their love of animals. **This just might put Oakland on the map of desirable communities - - something Oakland has desired for decades.**

Helen Jefferson
Humane Society of Alameda

McElroy, Darryl

From: Zona Sage [amazona777@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,
I am a long-time Oakland resident, and Lake Merritt is in my neighborhood. I have enjoyed various aspects of the lake for many years, for taking walks, taking my granddaughter to Fairyland and the playgrounds. My granddaughter is now 10 and recently got an Australian shephard puppy with a lot of energy. This is a dog that needs a nice play to walk and play with other dogs.

I understand that there is discussion of putting a dog park in the part of area near Lake Merritt, near the library. I am in favor of such a dog park. It would allow my granddaughter to visit me and bring her dog. As it is now, there is no other place close enough for the dog to play. I understand that the area would be fenced, which would provide protection to the dogs, and to those outside who do not wish to engage with the dogs. I do not believe such a dog park would be a danger to children, but would in fact allow children to bring their dogs to play with other dogs.

I appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Zona Sage
663 Jean Street
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: the ellen [ellenrocs@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2012 4:14 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ann,

To say that I am incredibly disappointed in the City of Oakland, once again, is just redundant. I want to have equal access to City parks when I am out with my dog. Frankly, I have waited long enough to have equal access to my neighborhood parks because I HAVE A DOG.

Is the City not aware of how much money is lost to neighboring cities that are more dog friendly?

I would like to see that the plans for the dog park at Lake Merritt move forward, already. There is plenty of space left for soccer and other activities. Dog owners are responsible and keep our parks safe and clean.

My Aunty lives in the Lake Merritt area and I visit her a lot. How nice it would be to walk to a local dog park with her! Dog parks are a great social equalizer: rich and poor, old and young, black and white, gay and straight. All gathering there have one obvious thing in common from the get-go, and conversation is not only easy but expected. Bonds are formed. Friendships are made.

“Dogs facilitate friendly interactions among people, as they so actively solicit play and offer greetings. Establishing a dog park creates a community center of activity where friends and neighbors gather to relax,” said Dr. Lynette Hart, director of the Center for Animals in Society at U.C. Davis.

Business improvement districts (such as the Lakeshore Business Improvement District that supports our planned park) know that having this kind of amenity in the area can only help business. You meet at the dog park (instead of driving to another town), meet your neighbors, make friends, then meet up later for cup of coffee, or grab lunch, or go to the gym. Right now, Lake Merritt dog owners are going to Alameda, and then stopping for coffee at South Shore, or some groceries at Alameda’s Trader Joes. All that money could be staying in Oakland.

Hey! Let's get our well deserved dog park at Lake Merritt NOW!

Ellen Gierson
4175 Opal Street
94609

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tom Leibowitz [tomleibowitz@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2012 1:38 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

I understand that you are interested in comments regarding the proposed Lake Merritt Dog Park. I live close by and I think that the park is a great idea. There will be plenty of space for other activities.

Thanks

Tom

Thomas J Leibowitz
17 19th St, Apt 4D
Oakland, CA 94612

McElroy, Darryl

From: jere martin [jpmartin59@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:25 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

May I ask those (non-dogowners) who may be neutral toward or in favor of using a portion of Lake Merrit parkland commonly referred to as Astro Park as a dog run to go to the proposed site and just stand there for ten minutes observing the activites on or around it. Consider what a pack of barking dogs will do to the peace and quiet of the residents of the apartments nearby, the users of the library a few yards away, the children and their minders in the playground area, the bus users for the many lines who use the shelters in the park or directly across the street, trapped there for up to 30 minutes awaiting their rides, the fitness tribe using the free exercise equipment, the users of the makeshift soccer and baseball fields, although they may just be displaced--although to where they would go as there are no facilites for either of those sports nearby is unknown, the people who use the area while heading to the trails around the lake for the serenity it offers.
To the little gifts left by the geese who frequent the area will be added doggie waste, both in the dog area and the streets coming and going.
It is really hard to imagine a more inconvenient place for a dog run than this park. I'm not suggesting an alternative, but I think that any dog run belongs in an industrial area, isolated, with zero contact with people
who don't use it.

Jere Martin
1720 Macarthur Blvd.
510 530-3779

McElroy, Darryl

From: kirstentcm@gmail.com on behalf of Kirsten Cowan, L.Ac [kirsten@lifemedicineacupuncture.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:22 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net; Jeremy Stephens
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park - it's time!

Dear Planner Clevenger;

As a dog owner, it is probably clear why I would urge the city to finally go ahead and complete the long awaited dog park at in the lakeshore neighborhood. But it is truly as a resident that I urge this
- that large empty space (I always check when I drive by, usually several times a day) is unused, but it could be a vibrant hub of activity, well into the evening hours, providing a level of safety and 'eyes on the street' that can't be matched by any level of cameras, police presence, or neighborhood watch - simple activity! In addition, like many other dog owners, I leave Oakland in order to exercise and socialize my dog, and those outings invariably include stopping for coffee, a meal, or shopping - all monies we are taking out of Oakland
- even though we don't want to!

Our public spaces exist to serve all members of our community, from children, the disabled, sports players, walking clubs and so on - a dog park not only benefits those of us with dogs, but brings immeasureable benefits to the entire neighborhood and lakeshore community - please don't make us wait any longer!

Yours,
Kirsten Cowan

--
Kirsten Cowan, L.Ac
Acupuncture • Herbs • Natural Medicine
www.lifemedicineacupuncture.com
510.224.5570 • facebook • twitter

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McElroy, Darryl

From: the ellen [ellenrocs@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 11:21 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park Support Letter

Hello Ann,

I was all the way out in Walnut Creek this past week. Guess why..
They have a fabulous dog park within Heather Farm Park for small and large dogs. It is situated in a sunny area of the park, surrounded by beautiful trees, nice benches and a picnic table.....
I went there because I was so tired of bringing my dog to dog parks under freeways, the preferred Oakland way to deal with dogs and their owners..."just shove a dog park under or near a freeway...they'll love it, cause, what's the alternative..???
I think, really, Ann it is high time we have a beautiful dog park within Lake Merritt. This has been in the making for well over a decade and I would like to see Oakland make a good, healthy choice for our dogs and their owners. Please support the Lake Merritt Dog Park and give Oakland dog owners a model dog park, already.

Thanks,

Ellen Gierson
4175 Opal Street
Oakland, 94609
PS While in Walnut Creek, I spent quite a few dollars in their downtown eating, shopping and smiling! Would have loved to leave my money in Oakland, but the city of Oakland, once again, is just not getting it, sadly.

cc: Brunner, Schaff, ODOG

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lisa Korwin [lisa@korwinconsulting.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2012 11:40 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park Support

Greetings. I am writing to express my strong support for the Lake Merritt dog park. As a 30 year resident of Oakland, there is so much that I love about this City, including the joy of watching dogs run and play. Sadly, there are so few spaces available for them in the heart of the City to do so.

The proposed Lake Merritt dog park seems like an ideal location for a dog park—as it offers enough green space for both a playing field and a dog space. I urge you to support passage of this park. Thank you.

Best,

Lisa Korwin
Korwin Consulting
510.985.8383 (office and fax)
www.korwinconsulting.com

KORWIN CONSULTING
Advancing Social Justice Solutions

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jerome & Connie Lenoir [jvcelenoir@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park YES YES!!!!

Dear Oakland Planning Commision, Thank you so much for moving forward with the much needed Oakland Dog Park at lake Merritt. I have lived in the neighborhood for 24 years, and paid my property taxes each year, but leave the city for Dog Parks, and end up shopping in Alameda, or El Ceritto. WE NEED THE DOG PARK, NOW. PLEASE MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS PERFECT LOCATION, AND ENRICH OUR NEIGHBORHOOD. MANY MANY THANKS. JEROME LENOIR

McElroy, Darryl

From: PAL [kayakerhacker@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:53 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

We, who are guardians of dogs, would like a safe place to take our dogs to socialize and exercise. Many open-space, off leash areas are a gauntlet for small dogs who are seen as prey by many large dogs, who are privy to these spaces also.. This prey drive is totally natural, but inconvenient to say the least for our small companions. Small dog parks are a perfect venue for them to feel safe. Please give your support to the efforts of dog lovers to get appropriate spaces for their animals to play.
Thank you,
Pat Luiz and Cookie, Samantha and Ehukai (3 dogs that total 15 lbs.)

Copy Services

From: Sandy Lauren [slauren813@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:06 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: : Lake Merritt dog park

I am a mother of 3 grown children, all of whom I took to play at the park adjacent to the Lakeside library. I am well acquainted with the space and I believe that a fenced dog park would be a most welcome addition. The more people in the area, the more vibrant the community becomes. Just as the Farmer's market on Saturdays has helped revitalize the businesses and restaurants, so too would the addition of a dog park. It would also enhance the experience of children, many of whom do not own dogs, by allowing exposure to dogs at play.

--
Sandy Lauren
hm: 510-444-4044
cell 510-435-4044
FAX 510-444-4041

--
Sandy Lauren
hm: 510-444-4044
cell 510-435-4044
FAX 510-444-4041

McElroy, Darryl

From: maggie.isherwood@bnymellon.com
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 1:09 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Play Area

Dear Oakland Planning Commission

I am writing to lend add my voice to the many in support of the Lake Merritt Dog Play Area. As a resident in the Montclair District of Oakland, Lake Merritt would be more of a destination for me if there was a legal space for me to go with my two dogs. In the past I have walked/run around Lake Merritt but the dog play area would be yet another reason for me to visit this lovely part of Oakland. Having a legal space for people to congregate with their dogs makes for a stronger community and a stronger Oakland. Neighbors would get to know each other, creating a network of people more willing to look out for each other and support each other in their neighborhood. It would also facilitate people from different neighborhoods getting to know one another, with the common denominator of a great abiding love of their dog as the basis of newfound friendships. If you have ever spent anytime in a dog park, you know that it is a thing of beauty watching dogs run free and getting to know one another. Dogs provide such a great example of how living creatures can get along, given the right environment.

The Lake Merritt area is a busy, urban neighborhood. This amenity is well deserved and would benefit the entire area. I strongly urge the city to consider this Dog Play area so that this multi-use park could be enjoyed by everyone: individuals, families, children and dogs. Thank you!

Maggie Isherwood, Administrative Officer
BNY Mellon Wealth Management
555 Mission Street, 19th Floor * San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415-951-4154 **Fax:** 866-396-8848 **AIM:** 94W-1900

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McElroy, Darryl

From: jaklatt@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 5:50 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Play Area

As an Oakland resident and taxpayer I fully support the proposed Lake Merritt Dog Play Area. I have been a resident of Oakland for over 30 years and prior to that, my grandfather lived in Oakland and, when I visited, we would walk around the lake or visit Fairyland. Adding a dog park enhances the community as it brings together not just dogs but residents who are enjoying their city. And our city needs to do everything it can to encourage involved and committed citizens!

Dog owners tend to be very, very responsible when given the opportunity to be out in the community with their dogs. This dog park has been approved by the Parks Commission more than once in the past and it is time to make it happen. There has to be room in the park for kids, adults AND dogs!

Thank you,
Jennifer Klatt

McElroy, Darryl

From: Dennis Federinko [dfederinko@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2011 9:44 AM
Subject: Lake Merritt's Astro Park

Dear Council Member:

I love dogs but I urge you not to build a dog park here. I'm concerned that a dog run would introduce unpleasant odors into a highly public area. What's more, a large concentration of canines in one space could pose a safety threat to toddlers and small children at the playground. And parking is already difficult in my neighborhood.

Let's preserve this precious resource of open space.

Sincerely,

Dennis Federinko

538 Glen View Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Chris Mehling & David Kelso [madeinca2d@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 08, 2012 5:18 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please stop the stalling on the Lakeview Dog Park project. Since 1998 it has twice been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission, was included in the Adams Point Urban Design Plan and the Lake Merritt Master Plan, and yet little, if anything has has happened to move it forward.

An off-leash area for neighbors near Lake Merritt, in a largely UNUSED spot by I-580 would be of great benefit to Oakland dogs and dog-owners. It would be used daily by nearby residents, many of whom are elderly and without access to any place to socialize with their companion animals and other like-minded people. The plan would also add year-round flowers and several trees to what is now a patchy yellowish lawn. There will be more than enough room left on the field for pick-up soccer games, etc. as the dog park will utilize less than half the current field.

The planned fenced dog area is 35 feet away from the nearest playground. As many children never have access to animals either due to family finances or health reasons, this proximity would allow parents an opportunity to let their kids watch and visit the dogs (under their supervision and that of the dog-owners) and create a foundation for love of beings other than just humans.

Although our family has neither dogs or children, we prefer to be able to visit parks where both are present and filled with the joy and love of life that both exude when at play!

Please do move this project forward.

Thank you,
Chris & David
--
Chris Mehling and David Kelso
(510) 530-7671

McElroy, Darryl

From: Bwestheimer [bwestheimer@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2012 9:54 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

My wife and I are completely supportive of the dog park at Astro park by Lake Merritt. This has been planned, debated and stalled for far too long.

Please get on with the dog park!

Sincerely,

Benjamin and Deborah Westheimer
47 Chatsworth Ct.
Oakland, CA 94611

McElroy, Darryl

From: Barbara Schaaf [bschaafvolunteer@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 3:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park - YES

Dear Ms Clevenger,
I am writing to ask that you please urge the Oakland Planning Commission to vote for the conditional use permit that will allow the dog park to be built in the limited area of what is known as Astro Park.
With dogs prohibited in almost all Oakland parks, it is obvious that there is a need for places where dogs can legally and safely run and exercise.
The ODOG group has done their homework - they have twice been approved by the city parks commission - and must be allowed to proceed with their plans. Thank you.
I have lived on the Lake for 35 years, am an active park volunteer and I do not have a dog.
Sincerely,
Barbara Schaaf
565 Bellevue #1502
Oakland 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Adrienne Oberstein [grifstein@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 12:30 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogpark@comcast.net
Subject: Lakeview Dog park

I am writing to express my support of the proposed dog park Lakeview Dog Play Area. My 11 year-old son and I would appreciate being able to bring our dog there. While in that area we could then take advantage of other amenities like the shops and restaurants. I hope that you will help move this plan forward so it comes to fruition.

Thank you,

Adrienne Oberstein

McElroy, Darryl

From: Robert Petersen [robert@gpcp.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area
Importance: High

Dear Ann Clevenger:

I am taking a moment to express my support for the creation of the Lakeview Dog Play Area. I feel this park would be a tremendous improvement and needed addition to the surrounding neighborhoods and to Oakland in general. As a resident of Oakland with family roots dating back over 100 years, as well as multiple family members serving the City of Oakland in the police department, I request that you move this project forward without further delays. I am available at the contact information below if you would like to discuss.

Kind regards,

Robert

Robert M. Petersen
GP Capital, Inc.
180 Grand Avenue, Suite 1530
Oakland CA 94612
510.878.3302 phone
510.878.3315 fax

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McElroy, Darryl

From: Graham Quigley [innerpurpose@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2011 3:35 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Hello there Ann,

It has come to my attention that there is a proposal to build a dog park near the freeway overpass along Grand and Lakeshore and I just want you to know that I wholeheartedly support this effort. I am a dog owner and resident of Oakland and I also work in a local profession helping animals.

Here are the reasons I support this measure:

- Oakland NEEDS a dog park in this area as the nearest one is 2 MILES AWAY.

- The Lakeshore Market on Saturdays has a sign that says "No dogs allowed" and "See you at the Dog Park." So shoppers at the market can't have their dog go to a local dog park because there isn't one.

- There are TONS of dogs in the area.

- I used to work directly across the street at Clausen House on Grand (the organization that serves developmentally disabled individuals) and I've observed over the years that this section of the park is very poorly utilized. The close proximity to heavy traffic coming off the freeway makes this area a poor choice for soccer and other "ball" games, the only other activity I've seen in this section of the park. I have seen a ball or two run into traffic and this park would effectively prevent this from happening, leaving other space for such activities.

I very much support the construction of such a dog park as they build community and allow locals to meet each other. This is a low cost way to add a lot of character to such a thriving area.

Please help make this happen!!

Thanks so much and happy new year!

Graham Quigley
510.912.8184
grahamquigley.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Neil Egan [neilegan@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 6:44 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Ann Clevenger,

My wife and I just moved to Oakland from Brooklyn, NY. We have loved just about everything we've found here as we've adjusted to our new surroundings, with one big exception. The lack of any dedicated space to walk our dog in the beautiful park spaces near our new home!
In Brooklyn, the community of dog owners was large and widespread, and we all knew that we would see each other on schedule every day at the dedicated off-leash hours in beautiful Prospect Park. Far from create problems or safety issues, it became a very effective way to strengthen and enrich the community spirit of the many neighborhoods that were served by this great feature.
Please know that my wife and I, and every other dog owner we've encountered in the area, and many others who don't even own a dog, feel the same way as us. Our tax dollars are funding a park that excludes us, and those who work hard to keep it that way are misinformed, and are not serving the needs of their own community.

Many thanks for your work,
Neil Egan

> I live right off of Grand and Lake Merritt with my husband and dog and we are in great need of a dog park! When we moved to this area we were shocked to learn that we were not allowed to take our well-behaved pet into any of the park space around the lake, even on leash! So when we heard about this proposed dog park we breathed a sigh of relief, but we see that there is still work to be done to make it a reality.
>
> The very large community of local dog owners desperately need a place to take their dogs. In my opinion it's ridiculous to have all of this publicly funded park space that doesn't even include a place where we can take our pet, and the Lakeview dog play area would take a necessary step in the right direction. We would benefit greatly from having a space where our dog can run off leash and have fun fetching the ball and playing with other dogs, and meanwhile I can meet and greet my neighbors. It would enhance the lives of our dogs but also our lives as members of this community! Please PLEASE bring this proposed park into reality!
>
> Thank you,
> Sarah Wilhelm

McElroy, Darryl

From: Nonie C [nasyatana@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 05, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: letter

Dear City of Oakland,

I urge you to build the dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur now! The park will be used by lots of dog owners and still leave plenty of room for soccer and the playground. As dog owners we are not allowed to use any of the parks around Lake Merritt. We want to access to at least this small one acre in central Oakland so that we don't have to drive to Piedmont, Alameda or even use the car for the trip to the Oakland hills. The dog park at Lake Merritt is a low cost park with plans for volunteer maintenance and fundraising that will benefit hundreds of visitors to the Grand Lake area every year.
Thank You

Nasyatana Comer
282 Parkview Terr Oakland Ca 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Scarletbohemian@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 9:18 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: long awaited dog park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing to let you know how tired my husband and I are of waiting for the dog park that was part of the master plan in measure DD. I am a native and have gone all through Oakland public schools, and have been very active in city affairs and am tired of a small but vocal few making this a political issue. Lake view Dog Play Area, has been in planning for over 11 years. It's gone through dozens of public meetings, and has been in the press many times. It would transform a little-used park into a facility that serves hundreds of nearby residents daily – including many elderly and new families. The fact that certain council people have let a handful of their continuants destroy this plan is despicable!

I was on the board of directors of the Cameron-Stanford house, the Bellevue club, Shakespeare in the Park, was on the executive committee of the Centennial Suffrage parade this past October. I am self employed and have had my own showroom with high end furniture, as well as art and antiques. I have very evolved GOOD taste and would never be part of anything that would destroy the beauty of our Park. I vow to be part of a volunteer committee that will see to it this park is kept clean and beautiful. ODOG has a track record and Emily Rosenburg is a known figure to the Mayor's office and will vow the same!

Please end this conflict and give us our long deserved place to congregate.

Best,
Richelle Lieberman
Noah Harms

251 Acton Place, Oakland, CA
510.381.1973 510.444.2159
www.somethingtosellabout.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Save Astro Park Group [saveastropark@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 10:08 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: May 2nd Planning Commission Meeting-Please Confirm

HI Ann,

Can you please confirm that the Planning Commission meeting will be May 2nd at noon. Either way, can you let us know?

Pat Kernighan announced it in her newsletter but we just want to be 100% sure.

Thank you,

Sue Levin
Save Astro Park

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jeff Chorney [jeffchorney@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 8:55 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No dog park

Dear Ann Clevenger,

My name is Jeff, and I live on Perkins Street, near the intersection with Grand Avenue, with my wife and daughter. I learned recently there is a plan afoot to put in a dog run at Astro Park.

I am writing to tell you that I am 100% opposed to this plan. I urge you to do everything in your power to make sure that no dog run is installed at that location.

Nearly every Saturday, my daughter and I walk down Grand to the Farmer's Market. We stay there for awhile and then we go to Astro Park. We enjoy the grass and the playground. We like to watch people playing soccer and we like to play on the grass ourselves. Putting a dog run at that location would create an eyesore and would take away my enjoyment and the enjoyment of others.

Astro Park's green space is the perfect contrast to the busy freeway next door. It is the antidote to traffic. It helps make the rest of our neighborhood palatable.

I understand some dogs need a place to run but the center of our neighborhood is not the right place. Dogs should not take priority over people, especially children. Please do not diminish a very necessary patch of green.

Sincerely,
Jeff Chorney

McElroy, Darryl

From: Gail Price [gailprice1@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 6:51 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; save
Subject: NO DOG PARK at Astro Park

Dear Commissioners, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I live on Lake Merritt and use the park for Yoga, picnicking and reading. I see many people with children using the park. None of those human uses would be happening if the park is used for dogs and littered with dog poop. I see many, many people enjoying walking their dogs around the lake. To me it seems better exercise for the humans to walk with their dogs rather than sit around and watch the dogs play in an enclosed area. Plus I think that an enclosed dog park will be an eyesore.

Thank you,
Gail Price
277 Wayne Avenue
Oakland, Ca 94606

McElroy, Darryl

From: Bonnie Forbes Wittenstein [bonniemforbes@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:35 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: NO dog park at Astro Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing to urge you and the other Planning Commision members NOT to approve the dog park at Astro Park. It seems to me that there are plenty of other spaces/ empty lots throughout Oakland that are an eye-sore and would benefit from being turned into a dog park space. Why would you want to ruin the beautiful green lawn that is used by so many people? The fence would definitely take away from the beauty of the park and Lake Merrit. Even though I have a dog, I do not want that space used just for dogs to play. It belongs to the people of Oakland and should remain that way.

Thank you for your consideration,
Bonnie Forbes

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jill Friedman [bearcat3@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2012 6:11 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No dog park at Astro Park!!

I am writing to add my voice to the many in our community who do not want any part of Astro Park converted to a dog park. I live nearby [up Perkins] and often walk in the area around Astro Park and the Lake, sometimes even with a neighbor's dog. A dog park is not consistent with current use, by children, families, and sports groups. Nor is a dog park what I would want visitors to the Grand Lake/Lake Merritt area to be confronted with as a first sight. Please find a different space for people with their dogs. One that is not at the gateway to our wonderful community, and one that does not take away open space that is already used by others. Thanks. Jill Friedman

McElroy, Darryl

From: Anne [gordon.anne@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 1:23 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No Dog Park at Astro Park

To the Planning Commission,

I am a concerned mother of two who loves to take her kids to Astro Park. The park, in fact, is one big reason that we have chosen to live in the Grand/Lake neighborhood. My partner plays frisbee on the grass, we have picnics near the library, and not a week goes by without me taking both children to the playground. It would be truly tragic to replace a beautiful stretch of green with a fenced-in, non-grass dog park. Moreover, my toddler is scared of dogs, and it would cut down on our enjoyment of the playground immensely to constantly be having to reassure her that the dogs will not come over to the playground.

Please reject the proposal for the dog park.

Thank you,

Anne Gordon
460 Valle Vista Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610

--

Anne D. Gordon
gordon.anne@gmail.com
773.895.1609

McElroy, Darryl

From: Amy Jo Evje [amyjoevje@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 1:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No dog park in Astro Park please

Dear Ann Clevenger,

I'm writing to tell you that I strongly disapprove of any plan to turn Astro Park into a dog park.

I am a dog owner, a mother, and a frequent visitor to Lake Merritt and the farmer's market. It would be a terrible idea to change the beautiful, highly used grassy park into a brown, fenced dog park.

(1) Oakland boasts a number of gorgeous hiking trails that are dog- friendly. This insistence that dog owners have some sort of right to a dog park in each and every neighborhood is ridiculous. Dogs do best on trails, in motion, not romping around in a fenced wood chip area.

(2) Astro Park is always being used by people with kids, by sports teams and camps, pick-up soccer leagues, and folks who exercise at the lake. Why fix what isn't broken?

(3) The geese who live at Lake Merritt also use this grass at Astro Park, and they will have to overpopulate the grassy area near the lake, causing more congestion in an already busy area.

(4) It is not logical to turn a green space into a brown space, when there are plenty of ugly, unused spots in our city that could be turned into dog parks.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Karn
2907 Georgia St.
Oakland, CA 94602

McElroy, Darryl

From: Felicia [mai.felicia@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 2:06 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No dog park in Astro park

Dear Commissioners,
I am writing you today, to ask you to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood Astro park. I am a working professional and mother of a 2 year old. My family frequents the playground, the nearby library, and the open field on a daily basis. We believe that by allowing the proposed dog park to go through, you would be negatively impacting the community in many ways. There are not any other open fields in the vicinity, however there are at least 6 other dog parks in the area. Many children and adults use the open fields for picnicking, chasing geese, sunbathing, games of three-flies-up, soccer, volleyball, capture the flag, and more. By taking away this space and redesignating it for running dogs, you'd be doing many humans a disservice. Please save our Lakeview/Astro Park!
Sincerely,
Felicia Hashimoto

- Locating a dog park in the middle of a highly visible, high density retail environment is inappropriate and unwise fiscally and aesthetically
- The dog park would remove 50% of an open playfield currently depended upon by residents and schools.
- Active recreation use is identified by OSCAR as being inadequately served in the Lake Merritt area.
- Maintaining a dog park in this location is not sustainable. The high visibility requires maintenance standards that could not nor should be left up to a volunteer group.
- Parking is already stressed in the area. The dog park proposal would only add to the parking demand.
- The area sits atop two major watershed creeks and is saturated with rain water during winter and spring months.
- The proposed location is next to a tot lot, raising concerns regarding incompatibility and safety.
- Open Space (OSCAR) guidelines mandate that at the most, only 15% of this space be evaluated for change of use. The current proposal would change 24% of this neighborhood park.
- OSCAR guidelines described above mandate that new dog parks be located in underutilized spaces, not high value, existing playfields.
- The original dog park proposal followed appropriate process by being reviewed in 2004 and 2006 community meetings, but the design proposal at that time was for a highly improved $400,000 dog park.
- The cost estimate for the current proposal is $45,000 —only 11% of the original budget. No pre-development community meetings were held to gather input, even though concerns began surfacing in community email groups in mid-2009.
- A dog park with a small capital budget and a dubious maintenance strategy should be located in a less visible location.
- The location is too noisy and too busy for dogs and too dangerous if a dog were to get loose off-leash.
- There is a much better alternative location for a dog park at Lake Merritt that avoids virtually every concern brought up with the Astro/Eastshore Park location.
- http://www.saveastropark.org/

--
Felicia Mai Hashimoto
510.517.0051
mai.felicia@gmail.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ailian Chong [chongppr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 4:51 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: No Dog Park on Lakeshore Please

Dear Planning Commission:

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced dog area in our neighborhood near Astro Park. I love the open green space which is currently there. It's a joy to have such wide open space and seeing informal soccer and baseball games with kids and a few dogs running around. I used to bring my kids to this park and not have to worry too much about uncontrolled dogs in the area.

This space is too small for bounding dogs to move about freely and the fenced area will cramp the whole openness of this urban area. We've visited Point Isabel Park in El Cerrito, and can see how a dog park can be a magnet for many dogs in the greater bay area. This kind of increased usage would be inappropriate for our neighborhood. With cutbacks on the Parks & Recreation Department, there won't be funds for the more intensive maintenance needed for a new dog park. Please keep this neighborhood enjoyable AS IS since it is already a fairly dense populated area.

Sincerely,
Oy-Lene Chong
Spruce Street
Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Khalid Kadir [khalidkadir@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 9:15 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: No Dog Park on Lakeshore!

Hello -

As a long-time resident of Oakland who lives 1/2 block off of Lakeshore Avenue, I just wanted to register my opinion on the proposed dog park.

I think the location is horrible, and better alternatives exist (near Fairyland, for example).

Please vote against the proposed dog park and do not succumb to the wishes of a small, outspoken portion of our community at the expense of the rest.

Thank you,
Khalid Kadir
615 Brooklyn Avenue #4

McElroy, Darryl

From: lasaffold@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: no dog park!

I'm a parent and neighbor who uses the park and library regularly (3-5 times a week) and am writing to let you know that I oppose the idea of a dog park on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

Thank you,
Leigh Saffold

McElroy, Darryl

From: Emily Mendel [emily@mendelnet.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 11:15 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: No dog park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. The only green space we have should be used by all.

Emily Mendel

Sent from my phone

McElroy, Darryl

From: kay marie jacobson [kmariej@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 3:56 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No dog run at Astro Park!

Hello Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to please deny the application for the conditional use permit for a "dog run" at Astro Park. Green spaces are in short supply in the Grand Ave - Lakeshore neighborhood and the fencing of even a small portion of the park would be a huge loss. I personally walk by that park several times a week and my grandchildren often use the playground adjacent to the area proposed. The kids always want to run and play on the expanse of grass -- the nearest open space for a "kid run" is in Piedmont. That's a sad fact.

Aside from losing access to the field, a dog run will sacrifice what little green we have and no doubt turn it into a muddy mess. I love dogs and respect their needs to run, but this is simply not a great location for this use. Our priorities should be to the overall quality of the environment and more importantly to the children in the neighborhood. It is vital for us to preserve and improve what little public park space we have -- a dog run does not serve this purpose. Lastly, having so many dogs coming and going right next to a busy children's playground is probably asking for trouble.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Kay Marie Jacobson
651 Santa Ray Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sheila [selewis458@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 9:26 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: No Dog Run in Astro Park

Hi,

I am an Oakland resident who walks Lake Merritt quite frequently. I'm among those who do not want a fenced dog run at Lakeshore and MacArthur. Other than simply being unsightly, it eliminates some of the most important activities that take place there. Just a couple of weekends ago there was a soccer match for Special Olympians. In my mind, these are more important activities.

Need a dog run, build one near your home. That may work!

Thank you for your support!

Sheila Lewis
438 West Grand Avenue
#413
Oakland, CA 94612

"Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat."
- Alex Levine

McElroy, Darryl

From: christina mastrangelo [christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2011 5:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: NO On Fenced Dog Run Astro Park

Dear Council Members and Staff,

I am writing to voice concern and vote against having the fenced dog run at Astro Park at Lake Merritt for the following reasons:

SAFETY!! - Too close to the Children's Playground and Street which is not good for the kids or the dogs.

Not sanitary for the location

Not the best use for the greater public

Destroys the Oakland Culture of that use in that park.

This will deter the greater public from use and enjoyment of the park. Please put the dog park else where. **In addition most of the dog owners currently walk there dogs around the Lake and those that I have talked to said they would not use the dog park and that they would continue to walk there dog around the lake.**

--

Very Concerned Oakland Resident

Christina Mastrangelo

MOBILE: 510-459-2653
EMAIL: christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Andy Asp [westernsaga@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: NO to Astro dog park!

Hello,

I just want to let you know that I'm opposed to the proposed dog park at Astro Park near the lake. There's a dog park just a 10 minute walk away in Piedmont, and that field is one of the last true open spaces in the area.

Creating a dog park there transforms the area into a special-interest zone rather than an area for the general public near the playground. There's a good spot underneath the MacArthur freeway at Glen Echo Park that would be a fine dog park, with no playground nearby. Please give it a look.

No to the dog park!

Andy Asp

438 Lee Street, Apt. 1

Oakland , CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Carole Eade [caroleade@verizon.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 12:04 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; nnadel@oaklamdnet.com; At Large

Subject: NO to Dog Park at Astro Park

I have two grandchildren who live within walking distance of Astro Park. I take them to the park every week, as does their other grandmother and parents. We love the park and what I particularly love about it is that no dogs are allowed. It is rare to see a dog on the grass and I love the fact that as soon as you approach the park there is a visable sign stating that no dogs are allowed. I myself am afraid to be around dogs and find that often dog-owners, who let their dogs off leash will ttell you "don't worry my dog doesn't bite". Nothing scares me more than seeing a dog off a leash go up to a child, particularly my grandchildren. I truly believe that having a dog park in the area will encourage people to allow their dogs nearer to the playground because they will talk onto the playground with their dog either while dropping their children off to play or after getting their dogs from the playground. There will be dog poop around the playgound where there is none now.

In addition, I find it to be such a pleasure to see an area where parents and children can bring a ball to the grass and kick it around. There are many people who come to the grass just to play soccer and I think it would be a shame to take that space away from them. My little grandson loves to lay on the damp grass in the summer. He loves the way it feels. He is very tactile and to have that beautiful green grass for the children to enjoy is a wonderful part of that corner park. My grandson picked little daisy flowers, picks up white goose feathers and runs and blows them in the air. He has learned to kick a ball there.

Please do not allow that space to be ruined. It's a beautiful corner park and so many people enjoy it. Allowing dogs to enter the area (fenced in or not) will change the whole flavor of the park. The playground which is situated in that beautiful open area will become a claustrophobic area and I know that I will no longer enjoy taking my grandchildren there.

I know that if you allow the dog park, there WILL be dog problems there. Please don't ruin a beatiful thing. Find another spot away from where little children play. Thank you. Carole Eade

McElroy, Darryl

From: Steven Boranian [stevenboranian@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:56 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; At Large; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: NO to the dog park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please DENY the misguided application to convert our beautiful neighborhood park into an off-leash dog park.

What a sad day it would be if you were to take this wonderful resource that is enjoyed by so many and turn it over to dogs and their owners, who care about no one other than themselves. The most sad part is that a dog park is completely unnecessary. Every dog owner in Oakland is free to have his or her dog in her or her own home, and there is no need, and certainly no entitlement, to have premium public space fenced off for their exclusive use.

I have lived in the neighborhood for 16 years and have raised my three children here, walking often to the park and to the nearby library. I also drive by the park on a daily basis, like thousands of others, and it is a wonderful gateway to the neighborhood. Imagine if the open green space is replaced by a fenced-off brown patch filled with dogs and their droppings. If you approve this application, you will literally be dumping on our neighborhood. In fact, the weather this weekend is supposed to be nice and clear. Why don't you drive by and see for yourself how well this space is used and what a tragedy it would be if you put an end to the open use of this public space.

Please do not give in to the selfish dog owners. There are bullies and will insist that the entire city needs to embrace and accommodate their precious pets. They must not be allowed to appropriate for themselves one of the nicest spots in our neighborhood.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Steven Boranian
780 Trestle Glen Rd.
510-893-1402

McElroy, Darryl

From: Debbie Cooper [debjoy.cooper@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:58 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No to the dog park

Dear Ms. Clevenger and Councilmembers Kernighan, Kaplan, and Nadel:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Lakeview Dog Park proposal for three primary reasons.

1. It is going to be UGLY. There's no doubt in my mind about this. I am a highly skilled architect and I spend all my time evaluating design. It is incomprehensible to me how such a bad proposal is even being considered on a site adjacent to all of the very successful improvements around Lake Merritt and at Splash Pad Park, and in such a prominent focal point of the neighborhood.

   And there's nothing that will convince me that urine-soaked wood chips won't smell.

2. The community doesn't want it. I've been working with SAVE ASTRO PARK for almost a year to inform my neighbors about this plan. I've told hundreds of people that this green space will be fenced and filled with wood chips, and I've watched shock and disgust come over their faces every time.

3. ODOG doesn't understand what they are asking for. SAVE ASTRO PARK has staked out the dog park area to show the neighborhood where the new dog park will be located on several occasions. We have repeatedly had members of ODOG state that the area staked out is larger than their proposed plan. But we have made every attempt to show the location accurately based on ODOG's plan. This was done by a landscape architect, a contractor, and me – an architect. We know how to read plans.

   If they can't visualize the size of the space they are asking for, they certainly don't understand how truly detrimental a fenced, brown space will be.

Please keep Astro GREEN. I sincerely and strongly request that you DENY the proposal for the Lakeview Dog Park.

Thank you.

Deborah J. Cooper, AIA, LEED AP

681 Spruce Street

Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarah Heath [trisas6@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 12:09 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: NO to the Lakeview Dog Park proposal

Dear Commissioners,

I want to voice my opinion that Astro Park is **NOT** an appropriate location a fenced off-leash dog area - the space is too used and beloved by people (adults playing ultimate, kids playing soccer, individuals reading, etc.)

While I support dog parks throughout the city, they should be strategically located in areas where we are not *taking green-space away* from children and adults for exclusive use by dogs - we need to keep our priorities straight. The green-space in our city (as in any city) is far to precious & limited to surrender to the dogs. It would be an unnecessary eye-sore in what is now a beautiful treasure for families, neighbors and visitors.

Please consider alternative locations for the dog park and DENY the conditional use permit application for the Lakeview Dog Park.

Thank you,

~Sarah

Sarah Heath
Stow Ave, Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Steve Saffold [stevesaffold@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Oakland Common

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please deny the application to turn the green, open space at Lakeshore & MacArthur--"Astro Park"--into a fenced, wood-chipped dog area. This space is a gift, a true Commons at the very core of our city. The fact that this proposal had made it this far is frankly stunning. Would Boston permit half of Boston Commons to be turned into a fenced, wood-chipped dog area?

This should not come down to a show of hands by citizens. This is the job of the planning department and planning commission--to demonstrate vision, and in some cases, courage, to do what is best for Oakland today and far into the future.

With that being said, there is an astonishing amount of resistance to this proposal. I have stood at the proposed location on several Saturdays, simply explaining the proposal and giving people the opportunity to write down their email addresses if they believed this was a bad idea.

We have not been there every Saturday; in fact we have only been out there between five and ten times, within the past few months. And only in the morning.

On these mornings, some **1300** people have written down their names and email addresses and asked us to keep them posted on how to defeat this proposal. 1300.

I happen to work in real estate development. All of the projects I work on are "infill" projects in urban areas. I have seen major projects defeated by groups as small as two or three people. In the case of this dog park proposal, there are 1300 people who signed their names and volunteered their email addresses AT THE SITE. These are not people who are part of a region-wide network of dog-park objectors. I ask you: how could the city approve a project--a project that requires a conditional use permit for a change of use, nonetheless--that has at least 1300 objectors who have volunteered their information, not to mention unknown numbers who have not done so??

There are myriad reasons that this is plainly a horrible location for a dog park. Take your pick: adjacency to a tot playground, already gridlock traffic, no parking, no maintenance budget, permanent awful smell at a key Oakland location, regular use by folks of every age and stripe, or (my personal biggest reason) the beauty of the space and the tranquility it affords at this key location.

Thanks, Ms. Clevenger.

Kind regards,
Steve Saffold

Steve Saffold
510-282-9169 mobile
stevesaffold@yahoo.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elizabeth Benhardt [benhardt@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 2:01 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Oakland Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

I have just learned that a dog park/run will be built at the Astro park at MacArthur Blvd Lakeshore Avenue. I am not opposed to establishing an off -eash area for dogs, but why in heaven's name would it be planned at such a prominent and heavily utilized location.

I pass that intersection daily. I see children in the playground. And groups of kids, teens and sometimes adults cavorting in the green fields, tossing a ball, playing volleyball or practicing sports or simply running around. It's a place where the community gathers to enjoy the green space. Astro Park is the gateway to Lake Merritt, the alleged "jewel" of Oakland. I cannot imagine why city planners would intentionally blight the area with a fenced in dog park.There are other more discreet areas bordering the lake which could be reserved for dogs.

Please advise me if you are in favor of building the dog park in that location. Please explain the plans, i.e. how much of the current park would be diminished? How high would the fence be? How often would the dog area be cleaned and how would that be funded? Also let me know what other areas have been considered and why they are deemed inadequate.

As a long time resident of the neighborhood, I appreciate your response.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Benhardt

McElroy, Darryl

From: JM Drew [jmdrew2001@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 4:43 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Oakland off least dog area @ Lake Merrit

To: Ann Clevenger
Oakland City Planner [aclevenger@oaklandnet.com]

RE: Off least dog play area near Lake Merritt - please support this

Dear Ann,

Living in Oakland is wonderful. But with violence and too few Oakland Police I need to have a dog to feel safe in my neighborhood.

To have a well behaved, social dog is also important to me and the surrounding community. A well trained and happy dog that gets a lot of needed exercise prevents unruly dogs that are not ready to be out in public. One factor that helps to create a well behaved, socialized dog (besides training, which is an integral part) is an opportunity for them to run and have fun in their surrounding community. Lake Merritt is a wonderful place to walk and enjoy one of the unique and special places in Oakland. It would be that much better if I can bring my dog and he can also enjoy himself at an off leash dog park. Governor Brown also lives in my neighborhood and he too now has a dog who needs places to play and run off energy in Oakland.

I hope I can count on your support for a dog park in or near Lake Merritt.

JM Drew ~hope for the best , prepare for the worst
510-331-9914

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kathleen Meagher [meagherk@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2012 2:21 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: odogparks@comcast.net

Dear Ms. Clevenger--

I'm writing in support of the long-planned Lake Merritt Dog Park. My husband and I live on Trestle Glen Road, within walking distance of the park, and we, along with Chula, our dog, would love to have a convenient place where she can exercise and socialize with other dogs.

At present, we generally drive to the dog park under the freeway, off Claremont Avenue. We'd prefer not to use our car if we don't have to, and we are certain that the many dog owners in our neighborhood would really welcome the chance to take their pets to the park without having to drive.

I understand that some people are concerned about the proximity of the proposed park to a children's playground. From my experiences at the Claremont Avenue dog park, I think this concern is unwarranted. There, as in the proposed park, the dogs and children would be separated by a fence. Furthermore, the dog park appears to be quite an attraction to many of the children at the Claremont Avenue park--the dogs pay little attention to the kids, and certainly never bark at or threaten them, but the kids love to watch the dogs playing tag and catching balls.

Please don't let the dog owners of our neighborhood down. We have hoped and worked for this dog park for a long time. It will be a welcome addition to the Lake Merritt area.

Kathleen Meagher

McElroy, Darryl

From: Greg Macchi [gmac619@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 14, 2012 1:11 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Opposed to dog park at Astro Park

Hello -
I'm writing to voice my opposition to the proposed dog park at Astro Park on Lakeshore/Grand Ave. I live in the area with two small children and often use the playground and grass area to play, and run. I feel the dog park is much too large for the park and would ultimately be an eyesore and detract from the lovely presentation of the Lake and park area.

I strongly urge all of you to consider another, more better suited location.

Best,

Greg Macchi

452 Newton Ave.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rachel Dulaney [rachel.dulaney@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:33 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Opposed to dog run plan for Astro Park

To Whom it may Concern,

I wish to voice my opposition to the proposed dog run at Astro Park near Mac Arthur Boulevard and Lakeshore.

As a resident in the area (Palm Ave @ Bellevue) since 2006, I was surprised to hear of the project only recently from the group Save Astro Park. I have serious concerns about the changes proposed. The Save Astro Park group (www.saveastropark.org) enumerates several that I see as valid:
-poor drainage in that area of the park exposing dogs and people to increased health hazards
-high vehicle traffic in very close proximity
-cutting the usable recreation space of the already small park in half
-detracting from the beauty of the current open green field
-proximity to children's play area
-already overburdened city maintenance department would be unable to devote adequate resources to upkeep and slipshod and impermanent volunteer groups are no substitute.

Furthermore, I would encourage investigating the option of a dog run site at the old horse stables as described on at http://www.saveastropark.org/alternative-location. This location is nearby, walkable yet off the main artery roads, disused, and has firmer drier ground.

When the idea for a dog run in the area was first put forth in 1998, it may have had more support because there was a dearth of available off leash runs in Oakland. However, the implementation of the plan took many years to move forward, as with many bureaucratic processes, and in the interim other locations for off leash dog use have become available (find a list here).
While I appreciate that the plan for the Mac Arthur/ Lakeshore site has been in the works for years, I still do not find that that expense and effort put into it thus far is just cause for implementing a flawed plan for the park. It would be a costly mistake, and would no doubt meet with overwhelming community opposition if more people were aware of the plan.

I look forward to hearing discussion on this topic at the Planning Commission meeting.

Thank you for your devoted civil service and your attention in this matter.

Ms. Rachel Dulaney
Adams Point
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Natalie West [buglight2010@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:01 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Opposing Dog Park at Astro Park

. Please convey this message to the Planning Commission:
Dear Commissioners:
It is imperative that Oakland conserve its level park lands for human recreational use, not for dog parks. Please deny the proposed dog park at Astro Park, and direct staff to explore alternatives such as the underutilized park at Lakeshore/Hanover/Wayne.

Oakland is chronically short of parks for soccer, volleyball, and other sports that need to be played on turf. We are not a community like Piedmont, where private donors can pay millions of dollars to excavate a canyon and provide expanded facilities. (Blair Park proposal in Piedmont.) In Oakland, we must protect and preserve our level grass areas so that children and adults can stay active and involved in our community. The area that has been proposed for a dog park is almost always in use for frisbee, volleyball, soccer and other human activities; the area must be preserved for such activities.

A few short blocks away, there is a park on Lakeshore/Hanover/Wayne that would be a great dog park. This area has benches, some trees providing shade, a slope overlooking the lake, onstreet parking, and adequate space for a dog park while preserving a buffer for adjacent areas. A dog park on this area would make the neighborhood a safer, more pleasant area for all.

Thank you for denying the proposed Astro Dog park. Best regards, Natalie West (Oakland resident for 35 years, raised 2 children here - always looking for soccer, baseball, and other playing fields for the youth of our community.)

McElroy, Darryl

From: Richard Burge [rwburge@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 2:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Opposition to Astro Park dog area

To the Commissioners:

I am strongly opposed to any use of Astro Park for an unattractive fenced dog area and I urge you to deny the use permit for it. The fine grassy area is a rare, pleasant counterpoint to our otherwise congested urban environment. I think it is unreasonable that dog owners have the expectation of allowing their animals to run around off-leash and that the established public use of this nice open space should be hijacked for such an inappropriate purpose.

Dog owners have many options for exercising their pets at a wealth of surrounding areas in the East Bay Regional Parks and elsewhere. Owning a dog in Oakland was a choice they made in light of the existing features of our city. It should not be everyone else's responsibility to give over any part of our neighborhood park just because some owners now want to make their lives more convenient.

Sincerely,

Richard Burge
1032 Ardmore Ave.

McElroy, Darryl

From: R. Blair Sly [rblairsly@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 10:28 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Opposition to Dog Park at Astro Park/Eastshore Park

Hello,

I am a lifetime resident of Oakland and currently live on Wayne Ave, between Hanover and Stowe. I strongly oppose the proposal to establish a dog park at Astro Park/Eastshore Park, and encourage the commission to vote down the proposal.

Oakland is desperately deficient in level, grassy playing fields for sports and other recreational uses. I am an active volleyball and soccer player, and regularly use the space at Astro park to play these sports. Having a central place where anyone can freely participate in these types activities is critical to establishing a sense of community in this neighborhood. Proponents of the dog park argue that an ample grassy area would be preserved, but let's be frank -- the area they propose is just too small to accommodate soccer and other activities.

I fully support establishing a dog park in the general Lake Merritt area, but **PLEASE, let's work to find an alternative location for a dog park that doesn't take away from any of the invaluable level grassy areas that are used for other activities**! There are reasonable alternatives in Lakeside park near Fairyland, or down Lakeshore at the underutilized park at Lakeshore/Hanover/Wayne.

I hope you will do the right thing and preserve flat open green space for our community by denying the proposed Astro Dog park.

Blair Sly
407 Wayne Ave
Oakland CA 94606

McElroy, Darryl

From: Brian Collins [briancollins111@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 10:04 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; At Large
Subject: opposition to proposed Astro Dog Park at Lakeview Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger, Kernighan, and Kaplan,

I recently learned of proposed plans to build an off-leash dog park at Lakeview Park. This letter is to notify you, the city council, the Public Works Agency, and the Office of Parks and Recreation that I am strongly opposed to this plan.

I understand from my background research that this plan was proposed by a citizen petition in 1999 with only 740 signatures. The proposal was then initially planned as part of the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan in 2002. The proposal was then offered to public review in 2005 and 2006.

I have several concerns about this process - namely that:

1. 740 citizen signatures is a small subset, and it is highly likely that there are many more than 740 citizens (such as myself) that are opposed to this proposal. If the city council wishes, I am convinced that the citizens would easily gather several thousand signatures showing that this is not a good idea.

2. I moved to the neighborhood in 2006 as a homeowner in the Lake Shore neighborhood. Thus, I never had a chance to participate in this process. Given the opportunity, I would gladly provide my opinion on opposition of this plan.

3. The plan in itself is not a good idea. Why convert grassy field that are currently being used by citizens for recreation to dirt areas used by dogs for recreation? Whereas I am a dog lover, I do not agree that their "rights" to run around at a dog park outweigh citizens rights to recreate.

4. As I understand it, there are seven other dog parks within only a few miles of this location. Three of these were opened since 2006. Since the purpose of dog parks is to let dogs stretch their legs, it only makes sense that their owners can also stretch their legs and walk a little further to those locations.

5. If it is determined that another dog park is necessary, a careful review of additional locations should be conducted - Lakeview Park is not the right place - it is currently used by citizens and serves as a greenbelt between Interstate 580 and Lake Merritt. It should be kept green.

I encourage you each to oppose this plan!

Sincerely,
Brian Collins
872 Erie Street
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Peggy Bristol-Wright [pegasus16.b@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 11:36 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Dog Park at Astro Park

To Ann Clevenger, Pat Kernighan, Nancy Nadel and Rebecca Kaplan:

I'm writing to express my concern about the proposal to turn Astro Park at Lake Merritt into a dog park. I live in the Lake Merritt area, and I realize there are a lot of folks who own dogs in this part of Oakland. Lake Merritt is a great attraction for everyone and everything, from humans to birds to canines (and not a few rodents.) However, I don't believe Astro Park is the right place for a dog park for a number of reasons.

* It's too close to the children's play area. Please remember that not all dog owners are responsible when it comes to their pets. And many children are afraid of dogs.

* Lots of folks own pit bulls. Lots of folks own Rottweilers. Lots of folks own German shepherds. Are you really considering exposing the City to additional liability by specifically inviting these breeds of dogs to come and play right next to a children's playground? What if just one of them gets away from its owner or out of control? Have you ever noticed that not every dog owner does a good job of controlling his/her pet?

* Who is going to clean up the droppings? Is the City going to hire more workers, or (as I've heard) are you going to rely on the good will of the dog owners? If your answer is the latter, do you really believe that a volunteer workforce is going to maintain their commitment to pick up dog poop over the long haul?

* What about the people whose apartments or condos currently overlook this area of the Lake? Are all of them in support of the additional noise, the less-than-aesthetic view of dog droppings, and the smell?

* Astro Park is currently enjoyed by numbers of people for team sports like soccer. If you displace them with a dog park, where are you suggesting that they go now?

* Astro Park is very close to the Farmer's Market as well. Somehow, the visual of soccer players right across the street from the Market just works better than a visual of a whole gang of dogs in such close proximity to the Market.

* There is another small park, right by Lakeshore and Hanover, that doesn't seem to be used very much. Why not use that for a dog park instead?

I love dogs and my children have enjoyed them as pets. However, when it comes to the concept of letting dogs run around freely, Lake Merritt clearly is no substitute for Point Isabel. A dog park is a good idea, but Astro Park is not the right place.

Sincerely,
Peggy Bristol-Wright

McElroy, Darryl

From: David Roberts [davidbobs1@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 04, 2011 12:18 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Oppposed to dog park at Lake Merritt

Please continue your thoughtful opposition to the dogpark at lake merritt

I appreciate all the effort that has gone into this by both side but as a 25 year resident and park user for that entire time, a dog park is an extremely inappropriate use for a high traffic, high visibility location that will draw huge numbers of drivers that want to come and run their dogs off leash. I have a dog and its sad but a fact of life that you have to walk them on leash or drive somewhere far away. My kids learned soccer on the patch of ground the dogs will now have.

--
Best regards

David Roberts
510 444 1173
davidbobs@earthlink.net
davidbobs1@gmail.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rose Hammerman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*:	Rose Hammerman
Sender's Email*:	hammermanrose@gmail.com
Sender's Address*:	hammermanrose@gmail.com
City of Residence*:	Oakland
Message*:	Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Amy Reber [amy_reber@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 8:33 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Pattillo@pgadesign.com; Quan, Jean; Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca

Subject: Support for the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Good evening Oakland City Officials,
I am writing to add my support for the new dog park in the Lake Merritt area.

I've lived in the Adams Point neighborhood, next to the lake, for the last ten years. For eight of those I was not a dog owner. For the last two I have owned my own dog. I would support the new dog park whether or not I owned my own dog!

A dog park in the area is urgently needed because:

- Dog owners **need an area where it is legal** to walk their dogs. The area around the lake is technically off limits for dogs. Although they are tolerated there on leash.
- We need an **area where the thousands of dogs who live in the Lake Merritt area can spend some time running off leash.** I watched a woman let her dog run up and kill a goose one day. She was allowing her dog to roam off leash in the bird sanctuary. I reported the bird's death to the head naturalist at the bird sanctuary office. If there were a place where this woman could have taken her dog off leash at the lake, her dog may not have killed the bird.
- As I'm sure you know, Lake Merritt was the first wildlife preserve in North America . We need a separate **area for dogs away from the Lake Merritt wildlife**.

There is plenty of space for walkers, bikers, and runners around the lake, but there is no sanctioned area for people to walk their dogs. And definitely no place for dogs to run off leash!

Thank you so much for considering adding your support to the Lake Merritt dog park proposal. The area is GREATLY needed!

Sincerely,
Amy Reber

McElroy, Darryl

From: Maida Counts [countsmd@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:05 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save a little bit of nature for all

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

Similiar to the beauty of Central Park that wonderful place in the middle of one of the world's greatest cities New York City, please reserve a bit of nature's beauty at the corner of Lakeshore Avenue and East Shore Pkwy in Oakland for the human soul to be refreshed.

When I have had a stressful day, it is a pleasure to drive along Lakeshore Avenue toward my home. The trees and open green space near the tot playground and library are a balm for me. There are no buildings or fences to shut out the view toward the lake. I am thankful to have Astro Park there.

As a resident of this neighborhood for more than 15 years, I have witnessed the many uses of this valuable open space. From families with small children running on the grass to soccer teams practicing or young adults playing frisbee, it is enjoyed by many.

To dedicate a large portion of this park area to a dog run is to destroy a jewel in the City of Oakland. I have driven by other dog runs in the East Bay. They are dismal in appearance. The ground is packed dirt at best or mud during the rainy season. It has been noted that the Astro Park area is especially wet due to underground water conditions. Will there be an odor from dog feces accumulating in this area in the warmer weather as well?

Although the dog run volunteers are enthusiastic about maintaining the area, how long will that last? Will they be here in 2 years - 5 years - 10 years? We have a mobile society. Will the City of Oakland have to step in and maintain the run at a cost to the taxpayers?

Where will these dog owners park their cars? Nearby residents will not be the only ones bringing their dogs to a run here. Parking is already difficult in this area especially on Saturdays with the Farmers' Market. The local theatre and merchants have already been impacted by lack of parking. During fair weather the majority of the parking along Lakeshore Avenue is utilized each day by joggers enjoying the path around the lake.

There is also the concern of safety not only to the small children nearby in the swings and slides of the tot playground but to people using the area near Grand Avenue. Will all the dog owners using the run have insurance in case of any incidents or will the City of Oakland be responsible?

Hopefully, another site will be found that benefit dogs and their owners. It might also be mentioned that the Oakland Hills have a number of trails in the East Bay Regional Park system that allow dogs. If people want to provide open space for their dogs, perhaps they should make an effort in this direction.

Let's keep the gateway to Lake Merritt as beautiful as possible for all visitors and residents.

Maida Counts
468 Stow Avenue, # 7
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Adriana Socorro [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:48 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. My husband and I moved to Oakland a few months ago from SF because rent is too high for an apartment that allows dogs, Oakland is a lot cheaper and even nicer, we see a lot of people walking with their dogs everywhere I'd dare to say that I see more people with dogs in Oakland that I ever saw in SF, but that's probably because of the lack of parks here. We live in Lake area and every day I have to drive somewhere to take my dog to play with other dogs. I wonder what people without cars, disabled or older people would do iffhu can't drive? Where do they take their dogs?
I love the neighborhood I live in, but I'm sure it would be a lot nicer if we had a dog park that would bring the community together, because that's what dOgs do, they make people happier and make us be as social as they are, why not have a park that makes us as happy as our dogs are when they go to it?
Please approve the park and let us all be happy :)

Name*: Adriana Socorro

Email*: Adrianasocorro@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Palm and Bellevue

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. My husband and I moved to Oakland a few months ago from SF because rent is too high for an apartment that allows dogs, Oakland is a lot cheaper and even nicer, we see a lot of people walking with their dogs everywhere I'd dare to say that I see more people with dogs in Oakland that I ever saw in SF, but that's probably because of the lack of parks here. We live in Lake area and every day I have to drive somewhere to take my dog to play with other dogs. I wonder what people without cars, disabled or older people would do iffhu can't drive? Where do they take their dogs?
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Please approve the park and let us all be happy :)","Adriana Socorro","Adrianasocorro@gmail.com","Palm and Bellevue","94610"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Margueritte Amable [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:55 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

I live near the proposed dog park, I am disabled and take my dog across to the park on Lakeshore nearly every day and would be grateful to have a park where she could be off leash.

Name*: Margueritte Amable

Email*: amablem@comcast.net

Street address or intersection*: Lakeshore @ Brooklyn

Zip Code: 94606

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

I live near the proposed dog park, I am disabled and take my dog across to the park on Lakeshore nearly every day and would be grateful to have a park where she could be off leash.","Margueritte Amable","amablem@comcast.net","Lakeshore @ Brooklyn","94606"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Helen Jefferson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:22 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

Without my dogs I would be without hope, Not all dogs can aspire to be part of the Search & Rescue organization, but any dog can rescue a a person from despair.

Not to have experienced the unquestioning love a dog offers is a sad concept. Some people are without children but bathe in the love a dog provides.

Please help us to repay our dogs for the love they give as too many senseless acts of cruelty continue. They ask for little in return. You have so much to offer.

Do this in the name of civic pride and leadership. Share the parks that are meant for families - - including family members that some call pets.

Helen Jefferson
Alameda, CA

Name*: Helen Jefferson

Email*: Rembouilletfr@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 1820 Alameda Av, Alameda

Zip Code: 94501

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

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Helen Jefferson
Alameda, CA","Helen Jefferson","Rembouilletfr@yahoo.com","1820 Alameda Av,
Alameda","94501"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Janet Sessions [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners,

A dog park at Lake Merritt would enable me to have longer visits with friends who live in that area. When a dog owner can let her dog off leash in an enclosed area, the dog benefits from being able to run, chase balls, and play with other dogs. In my experience at fenced in off leash dog parks, dog owners connect with each other for the sake of their dogs. Getting my dog 2 years ago helped me feel more connected to my community because of that. I have found the dog owners to be responsible for picking up the poop and donating used plastic bags for the area.

Dog ownership has helped me live a healthier lifestyle. Part of my daily focus is getting Louie out for walks and hikes. I believe that the more opportunities there are for dog owners to connect (like at the Lake Merritt dog park), the more likely it is that dog owners will hold each other accountable to being responsible dog owners.

I hope that the dog park at Lake Merritt gets approval. I, for one, would take personal responsibility in encouraging positive interactions between owners to promote responsible dog ownership in Oakland.

Thanks for considering my point of view, Janet Sessions

Name*: Janet Sessions

Email*: jrsessions@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 421 48th Street

Zip Code: 94609

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners,

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Thanks for considering my point of view, Janet Sessions","Janet Sessions","jrsessions@gmail.com","421 48th Street","94609"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Neil Egan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:43 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, My wife and I moved here this year from Brooklyn, NY. We were excited and happy with all the great things our new home and neighborhood had to offer, until we realized that none of the parks in Oakland allow dogs. We own a dog, and this was shocking to us. We hope it can be fixed quickly for us and all the dog owners in the area.
Currently, we drive every weekend to Berkeley, where there are large, beautiful dog parks where we socialize with people and exercise our dog. It is ridiculous that we live a block from Lake Merrit, but there is no space for us to do this in our own neighborhood.
It would help the community, not hurt it. We know many others who feel the same way.

Thanks for your time.
Neil Egan

Name*: Neil Egan

Email*: neilegan@mac.com

Street address or intersection*: 389 Belmont Street

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, My wife and I moved here this year from Brooklyn, NY. We were excited and happy with all the great things our new home and neighborhood had to offer, until we realized that none of the parks in Oakland allow dogs. We own a dog, and this was shocking to us. We hope it can be fixed quickly for us and all the dog owners in the area.
Currently, we drive every weekend to Berkeley, where there are large, beautiful dog parks where we socialize with people and exercise our dog. It is ridiculous that we live a block from Lake Merrit, but there is no space for us to do this in our own neighborhood.
It would help the community, not hurt it. We know many others who feel the same way.

Thanks for your time.
Neil Egan","Neil Egan","neilegan@mac.com","389 Belmont Street","94610"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Joe Contreras [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I have two small dogs who deserve a place to run with other dogs. Lake Merritt is a large enough park for such a place. Leaving enough open space for everyone.

Name*: Joe Contreras

Email*: jojosix@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 1470 alice st #301

Zip Code: 94612

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I have two small dogs who deserve a place to run with other dogs. Lake Merritt is a large enough park for such a place. Leaving enough open space for everyone.","Joe Contreras","jojosix@yahoo.com","1470 alice st #301","94612"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lisa Hanauer [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
Dogs need space to run and romp and socialize and a dog park allows them that space in which to safely do that. Responsible pet owners are also tax paying residents of this community and similarly deserve to have the space in which to safely exercise their dogs.

Name*: Lisa Hanauer

Email*: Gemmama@aol.com

Street address or intersection*: Holman road and Grosvenor

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
Dogs need space to run and romp and socialize and a dog park allows them that space in which to safely do that. Responsible pet owners are also tax paying residents of this community and similarly deserve to have the space in which to safely exercise their dogs.","Lisa Hanauer","Gemmama@aol.com","Holman road and Grosvenor","94610"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elizabeth Lemkul [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

In addition to being a wonderful place for dogs to play and people to visit, I believe that a neighborhood dog park fosters a sense of community. Through my time at city dog parks in Chicago, I got to know my neighbors and became more involved in community events, including events to support the park system and other neighborhood programs.

For me personally, a dog park at Lake Merrit would be nice as I live on Lake Shore Ave., and could walk my dog to the park, rather than driving to the hills every day.

Name*: Elizabeth Lemkul

Email*: elemkul@sprintmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 4157 Lake Shore Ave

Zip Code:

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

In addition to being a wonderful place for dogs to play and people to visit, I believe that a neighborhood dog park fosters a sense of community. Through my time at city dog parks in Chicago, I got to know my neighbors and became more involved in community events, including events to support the park system and other neighborhood programs.

For me personally, a dog park at Lake Merrit would be nice as I live on Lake Shore Ave., and could walk my dog to the park, rather than driving to the hills every day.","Elizabeth Lemkul","elemkul@sprintmail.com","4157 Lake Shore Ave",""

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarah Wilhelm [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:32 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners,

I am really eager to have the dog park at Lake Merritt for several reasons. I live right across from Lakeside Park and walk my dog at least three times a day. I would love to know that I could legally walk my dog in my local public park without the fear of getting a ticket. Because this doesn't appear to be likely anytime soon I would love to be able to walk my dog down to the proposed Lake Merritt dog park site every day. I am a local resident and have the right to use the park in a way that fits with my life, just like every other local taxpayer . I don't have any children and don't play a sport or run at the park, but I would like to enjoy the park by spending time there every day with my dog. That way we could both enjoy the beautiful calming experience of the outdoors. It would add to my health and the longevity of my life by exercising with my dog at the park, and it would build community as I get to know my neighbors and fellow dog owners.

Thank you!

Name*: Sarah Wilhelm

Email*: sarah3wilhelm@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 389 Belmont St., Oakland CA

Zip Code:

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners,

I am really eager to have the dog park at Lake Merritt for several reasons. I live right across from Lakeside Park and walk my dog at least three times a day. I would love to know that I could legally walk my dog in my local public park without the fear of getting a ticket. Because this doesn't appear to be likely anytime soon I would love to be able to walk my dog down to the proposed Lake Merritt dog park site every day. I am a local resident and have the right to use the park in a way that fits with my life, just like every other local taxpayer . I don't have any children and don't play a sport or run at the park, but I would like to enjoy the park by spending time there every day with my dog. That way we could both enjoy the beautiful calming experience of the outdoors. It would add to my health and the longevity of my life by exercising with my dog at the park, and it would build community as I get to know my neighbors and fellow dog owners.

Thank you!","Sarah Wilhelm","sarah3wilhelm@gmail.com","389 Belmont St., Oakland CA",""

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jonah Chiarenza [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me: It has been included in the neighborhood plan and would help animate a little-used corner of the lake merritt park system, helping to bring more people to the park and lake, and making the area safer from early in the morning through evening.

Name*: Jonah Chiarenza

Email*: jonah@alumni.virginia.edu

Street address or intersection*: 5258 Claremont Ave

Zip Code: 94618

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me: It has been included in the neighborhood plan and would help animate a little-used corner of the lake merritt park system, helping to bring more people to the park and lake, and making the area safer from early in the morning through evening.","Jonah Chiarenza","jonah@alumni.virginia.edu","5258 Claremont Ave","94618"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Susan Oldershaw [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:09 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I have 2 dogs. Currently, I drive them to the Alameda or Point Isabel dog parks. The proposed Lake Park dog park is close enough to my neighborhood in China Hill for me to walk. This would be a positive thing in many ways. As a senior citizen is would be incentive for me to get out of my house more often, get some exercise as I walked to the dog park, drive and pollute less, socialize with other neighborhood dog owners. Sometimes, I stop in Alameda to buy some things so this would bring that revenue back to Oakland. We all love Lake Merritt and everyone I have spoken to about it would be committed to maintaining the dog park and making it an asset for the lake area. I see the closeness to the playground as an asset as well, in that it would foster a love of animals for the it would foster a love of animals for the children, which is a very healthy thing. I think the fears on the opposing side are unfounded. There are so many committed people to this dog park that it could only make the area even more beautiful. In this very unfriendly dog city we and especially this neighborhood, we certainly have waited too long for this much needed dog park. Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Name*: Susan Oldershaw

Email*: lottydah2002@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 770 Prospect Ave

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I have 2 dogs. Currently, I drive them to the Alameda or Point Isabel dog parks. The proposed Lake Park dog park is close enough to my neighborhood in China Hill for me to walk. This would be a positive thing in many ways. As a senior citizen is would be incentive for me to get out of my house more often, get some exercise as I walked to the dog park, drive and pollute less, socialize with other neighborhood dog owners. Sometimes, I stop in Alameda to buy some things so this would bring that revenue back to Oakland. We all love Lake Merritt and everyone I have spoken to about it would be committed to maintaining the dog park and making it an asset for the lake area. I see the closeness to the playground as an asset as well, in that it would foster a love of animals for the it would foster a love of animals for the children, which is a very healthy thing. I think the fears on the opposing side are unfounded. There are so many committed people to this dog park that it could only make the area even more beautiful. In this very unfriendly dog city we and especially this neighborhood, we certainly have waited too long for this much needed dog park. Thank

you for taking the time to read my thoughts.","Susan Oldershaw","lottydah2002
@yahoo.com","770 Prospect Ave","94610"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Shelby [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:45 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
I live two blocks away, in an apartment that has no yard or outdoor space.
A dog park would be a great use for that underutilized space - I walk by it 4 times a day, and never EVER see anyone there, except the occasional booth of the anti- dog park people. The park is large enough to accommodate open space, the tot lot, and the dog park.
I currently have to get a ride if I want to allow my dog to be off leash, and I don't own a car. Hundreds of people walk their dogs along lake merrit's paths every day, and while most of us are responsible about picking up after them and keeping them on leash, some don't obey these rules and cause a nuisance.
If there were a dog park, the dogs would be more contained to a focal point in the park, instead of all around the lake. Why are anti-dog people against this idea?
More paths are dog free, and less poo is around the trails!
Please, we need this park! Help Jimmy Dean (my miniature dachshund) run free!
In a contained, safe environment.

Name*: Shelby

Email*: shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 459 Stow Avenue

Zip Code: 94606

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
I live two blocks away, in an apartment that has no yard or outdoor space.
A dog park would be a great use for that underutilized space - I walk by it 4 times a day, and never EVER see anyone there, except the occasional booth of the anti- dog park people. The park is large enough to accommodate open space, the tot lot, and the dog park.
I currently have to get a ride if I want to allow my dog to be off leash, and I don't own a car. Hundreds of people walk their dogs along lake merrit's paths every day, and while most of us are responsible about picking up after them and keeping them on leash, some don't obey these rules and cause a nuisance.
If there were a dog park, the dogs would be more contained to a focal point in the park, instead of all around the lake. Why are anti-dog people against this idea?
More paths are dog free, and less poo is around the trails!
Please, we need this park! Help Jimmy Dean (my miniature dachshund) run free!

In a contained, safe environment.","Shelby","shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com","459 Stow Avenue","94606"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Stephanie [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:39 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

I live two blocks away from Lake Merritt yet I have to drive to Berkeley so my dog can play outside.
The money I save on gas can be better spent near where I live. The more people come to Oakland the more money will be spent in the city. I believe having a safe, fenced area for dogs to play will benefit the great city of Oakland.

Name*: Stephanie

Email*: stephkle@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Jackson and 14th

Zip Code: 94612

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

I live two blocks away from Lake Merritt yet I have to drive to Berkeley so my dog can play outside.
The money I save on gas can be better spent near where I live. The more people come to Oakland the more money will be spent in the city. I believe having a safe, fenced area for dogs to play will benefit the great city of Oakland.","Stephanie","stephkle@gmail.com","Jackson and 14th","94612"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kassie Rohrbach [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners,

I'm writing to urge to you approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area. As a dog-owner that walks and runs Lake Merritt multiple times a week, my dog and I would both greatly appreciate the addition of an off-lease dog play area.

The closet dog park to my house is in Piedmont. I am required to purchase a piedmont dog park permit to take my dog to this park (a costly annual fee for non-Peidmont residents). The closest Oakland dog park to my residence is over 3 miles away. To get to the park and get some good time in, I currently have to drive to a park in Oakland. In fact, there are no dog parks in Oakland that I currently take my dog to. If I bother to get him in the car to take him for a run, we go to Berkeley, Richmond, or Alameda, where there are large, scenic, dog parks for my dog to run around.

Building this dog park would make my neighborhood more livable and walkable.

Thank you for your leadership in Oakland. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Kassie Rohrbach, District 2 Oakland Resident

Name*: Kassie Rohrbach

Email*: kassierohrbach@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 400 Perkins St, Apt 107

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners,

I'm writing to urge to you approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area. As a dog-owner that walks and runs Lake Merritt multiple times a week, my dog and I would both greatly appreciate the addition of an off-lease dog play area.

The closet dog park to my house is in Piedmont. I am required to purchase a piedmont dog park permit to take my dog to this park (a costly annual fee for non-Peidmont residents). The closest Oakland dog park to my residence is over 3 miles away. To get to the park and get some good time in, I currently have to drive to a park in Oakland. In fact, there are no dog parks in Oakland that I currently take my dog to.

If I bother to get him in the car to take him for a run, we go to Berkeley, Richmond, or Alameda, where there are large, scenic, dog parks for my dog to run around.

Building this dog park would make my neighborhood more livable and walkable.

Thank you for your leadership in Oakland. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Kassie Rohrbach, District 2 Oakland Resident","Kassie Rohrbach","kassierohrbach@gmail.com","400 Perkins St, Apt 107","94610"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Michelle Sparks [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:25 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I live nearby and my dogs need a place to socialize and excercise off leash. Please, please, please!!!

Name*: Michelle Sparks

Email*: shellysparks@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 2122 Lakeshore Ave., # 102 at Brooklyn

Zip Code: 94606

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I live nearby and my dogs need a place to socialize and excercise off leash. Please, please, please!!!","Michelle Sparks","shellysparks@hotmail.com","2122 Lakeshore Ave., # 102 at Brooklyn","94606"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Carrie Cianchetti [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 8:48 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
I live and work in Oakland. I love this city and as a responsible dog owner I want a safe places for dogs that do not cause problems for the neighborhoods or bother people who don't like dogs.

Name*: Carrie Cianchetti

Email*: carriecianchetti@yahoo.org

Street address or intersection*: 440 40th St. Apt B Oakland Ca

Zip Code: 94609

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
I live and work in Oakland. I love this city and as a responsible dog owner I want a safe places for dogs that do not cause problems for the neighborhoods or bother people who don't like dogs.","Carrie Cianchetti","carriecianchetti@yahoo.org","440 40th St. Apt B Oakland Ca","94609"

McElroy, Darryl

From:	Rose Works [workspaz@yahoo.com]
Sent:	Monday, March 12, 2012 1:22 PM
To:	vienv.truong@gmail.com; blake.huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; pattillo@PGAdesign.com
Cc:	nnadel@oakalndnet.com; pkernihan@oaklandnet.com; At Large; Clevenger, Ann; saveastropark@gmail.com; Angstadt, Eric; Miller, Scott
Subject:	Planning Commission-Save Astro Park
Attachments:	Planning Commission CUP.pdf

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please find my letter in opposition to the Board granting a conditional use permit at Astro Park in the Lake Merritt area. Please take a moment of your time and read the rationale for not granting this permit as it adversely impact our neighborhood in a number of ways and in inconsistent with the General Plan.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 510-325-9974 or workspaz@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Rose Works

cc: Oakland City Councilmembers Nadel, Kernighan, and Kaplan
Ann Cleavenger

McElroy, Darryl

From: david getzschman [davidgetzschman@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 12:31 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Plans for Astro Park

Hi folks,

I'm a three-year resident of Oakland who loves the community and loves Lake Merritt. I intend to make the neighborhood my home for the foreseeable future.

I'd like to convey my hope that you'll dismiss plans for a dog run at Astro Park, adjacent to Lake Merritt. I'm not against dogs or dog-owners, and I would support a dog park in a more secluded area, but consider that:

• For many visitors to Lake Merritt, whether they're coming for our wonderful Saturday Farmers Market, the Grand Lake theater or any of the local businesses, Astro Park is their first visual impression of the neighborhood as they take the Grand/Lake exit from 580. Its wide open green acres suggest Oakland's commitment to beautiful public areas, and a dog park would diminish that impression.

• A dog run at Astro Park seems short-sighted given the inevitable noise and odors it would introduce right next to the Farmers Market, which is an attractive draw to thousands in the vicinity of the lake.

• Significant acreage devoted strictly to dogs would limit space and discourage visitation from the thousands of native and wintering birds that help make Lake Merritt such a unique place to visit.

I've no doubt local dog-owners would love a park. I simply think there's a more suitable alternative elsewhere, and I'd encourage you to explore other possibilities.

Thanks for taking my opinion into consideration!

Dave Getzschman
1 Lakeside Drive Apt. 1209
Oakland, CA 94612

McElroy, Darryl

From: M.Kourjanski [mkourjanski@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 7:00 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please, no "dog park" dirt pit by Lake Merritt

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express our entire family's strong opposition to the plans of some apparently small but very vocal activist group to place a dog park in the middle of the open green by Lake Merritt.
We reside in the neighborhood since 2003, and had many, many wonderful moments of going to the playground or kicking the ball on the green.
This open green is the face of the city, it shows charm and beauty.

When we talked within our family about the strange plans to spoil this open green space, my now 10-year old son asked – who could possibly come with this weird idea? My now 18-year old daughter asked – how come this idea found its way into the city government? My wife just shook her head because she is aware how dysfunctional the governance of this city is.
And from my own point of view I would add that we've seen many cities and governments through our life – from former USSR, through Europe and to quite a few places in the US – and Oakland unfortunately shows the most staggering incompetence in terms of architectural planning and strategy of all places we've ever seen.

Me being a Block Captain for the Neighborhood watch, I discussed the publicized plans around the dog park with our neighbours. The reaction was overall between strongly negative and somewhat neutral (with the unanswered question – who is going to pay for and do maintenance). Mind you, many of them own dogs.

I would like to ask you to DENY the permit application for the dog park proposal; if it moves forward it would be an enormous disservice to our community.

Finally, I simply cannot resist to mention:

- It is amazing how difficult it is to even obtain simple facts about the proposed upcoming changes;
- It is nearly impossible to determine what is the decisioning workflow and public commenting process at the City commission, with very low transparency and visibility to local residents (who by the way pay your salary with their property taxes).
- It is amazing to note that city officials were making order-of-magnitude mistakes in quoting estimated budgets for the new feature development and continued maintenance.
- It is amazing to see an utter and complete disregard by some of the Representatives of the voice of the community expressed in thousands of negative opinions, along with a pretty rude communication style.
- And last but not least – it is amazing to see the lack of elementary logic in the arguments from the small group of pushers of this poor idea.

Thank you for your attention.

Kind regards,

-Mikhail Kourjanski
619 Montclair Ave.
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:53 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Please, No Dog Park At Lakeshore & MacArthur
Attachments: photo (49)[21].JPG

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am a dog owner and live on Elwood Avenue in the Grand Lake District.

In December of 2010 I went to a Park and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting to hear about a proposal to fence a dog run on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur. The only way I knew about this was through a dog therapy group that I belong to that phoned me to ask me to come to the meeting and support the design approval for this run. Otherwise, I would have had no idea. I did not come to the meeting to support the dog run however. I came because I was incredulous that the city of Oakland would even consider fencing a dog run next to a tot lot in a highly visible space in the middle of a busy shopping district. To this day I remain dumbfounded that this proposal has gotten as far as it has.

Astro Park (also known as Eastshore Park) is a beautiful, precious green gateway to the Grand Lake district as well as a gateway to Lake Merritt. Additionally, a large and diverse group of Oaklanders use the park in diverse ways => http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TESI-FZCApc

I am a member of Save Astro Park and we have worked to help educate the neighborhood on the dog park proposal and what we have observed is this: the more people find out about it, the more people don't want it.

The fact that this proposal was kept virtually under wraps except for dog specific groups who knew about it is a shame. Had the community learned about it a lot earlier it would have never gotten this far or created the kind of acrimony that it has.

One thing is for sure: the city needs to take a stronger leadership role in determining the siting for these dog runs. Otherwise we have what we have now: ODOG going from neighborhood to neighborhood creating rancor amongst residents. Seattle figured out a better way so maybe someday Oakland can as well. Regarding Seattle's pilot program and eventual implementation of a dog park plan, "The pilot program made all the difference. First, it showed residents that the city was in charge and acting reasonably. Second, it taught Seattle how to identify site selection criteria that would lead to successful locations, which turned out to be: (1) avoid interference with other established uses or department-sponsored activities; (2) avoid locations directly abutting residences; (3) assure availability of close-by parking; (4) avoid locations near children's play areas; (4) choose spots where there are minimal impacts on the visual character of a park; (5) site so as to avoid spillover into non-dog areas; and (6) avoid sensitive environmental habitats. " (http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_Dog_Park_Report.pdf)Note that the Astro Park location choice flies in the face of every single one of these criteria.

I am not anti-dog and I am not anti dog park either. What I am against is taking away the little precious open, unfenced, un-programmed green space that we have so that people can have yet **another** place to have their dogs interact. We have plenty of resources for dogs already and, at the expense of grabbing 22,000 square feet (about half, see attached photo) of the available open green space in our neighborhood gateway, the city in no way owes residents a dog park on every corner. What the city does owe residents is care and consideration in how it treats its precious open un-programmed green space. As the old saying goes, "They ain't making any more land." I urge the Planning Department to take this into careful and consideration in looking at this proposal to fence off half of the open space at Astro Park. While this issue may seem small in comparison to many, it actually is one that will impact thousands of people and for generations to come.

Thank you for listening and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Levin

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alanya Snyder [alanya@beautifulendeavors.com]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2011 8:16 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please, no dog park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I'm writing to express my concern about the proposal to put a dog park at Astro Park. The area in question has been widely used for organized and impromptu playtime for as long as I can remember, and I cherish the space particularly now that I have two sons. That park brings business to the area, as myself and many people I know will drag our kids to the Farmer's Market or other nearby errands, knowing we can reward them with some great park time afterwards. The park draws a wonderful mix of people who make us proud to call Oakland home. Let's keep it.

Thank you,
Alanya Snyder
1561 Vista St.
Oakland, Ca. 94602

McElroy, Darryl

From: THOMAS, MAX J [mt6862@att.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:47 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com.
Subject: Please - stop the "Dog Park" in Astro Park between Lakeshore and Grand. This is open space for people including children. Find another place for dogs. max
Importance: High

Max J. Thomas
Business Application Solutions
415-644-7335
415-606-3963 mobile

McElroy, Darryl

From: Judith Gottlieb [judithgottlieb94706@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 08, 2012 1:20 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please approve Conditional Use Permit

Dear Oakland Staff,

I am writing to give my support to the proposed dog park at the Lakeview Park. I remember when there was public concern about the present Farmers Market near Lake Merritt. It has turned into a wonderful weekend event. I know that the Lakeview dog part will have just the same effect on the city and the Lake Merritt area.

I am interested to take my dog and my Mom to Lake Merritt at the same time. Now when we visit the lake we have to keep the dog in the car, because there is no place for my dog to be off leash.
I enjoy the atmosphere that occurs when dog owners and dogs come together.

There is plenty of space for all the activities that will occur there. The park will take up less than 1/2 the current field space.There is more than enough room for a dog park and a pick up soccer game. The fenced dog area is 35 feet away from the children's play ground and will have no impact on the children who play there.

This plan has been approved by Parks and Recreation Commission two times and has been in the planning stage since 1998. It is time that the city have a dog park near Lake Merritt. It will be a boon to the businesses in the area.

Sincerely, Judith Gottlieb

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jesse Bassett [jessebassett@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 2:05 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Please approve dog park

We love to take our two year old to the playground at Astro Park and since we don't have a dog it would be wonderful to have an opportunity to teach him about safe behavior around animals through visits to an enclosed dog park.

Best,

Jesse Bassett

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mark Martin [mkmpp@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2012 9:07 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Please approve the dog park

Please consider a small dog park at Lake Merritt. I don't have any children. My dogs are my kids. The lake is one of the beautiful areas of city to visit. Everywhere there are dogs and dog-people there is less crime. Joachim Miller park illustrates a great example of this. The dog space proposed at the lake is underutilized and comprises less than 1% of the Grand Lake green space. Give back something to Oakland's dog-friendly citizens.
Respectfully
Mark Martin and David DeMello
Oakland homeowners

Sent from my iPad

McElroy, Darryl

From: Steven Viavant [sviavant@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 8:57 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Please approve the dog park

Hi Ann,

I am writing to you regarding the proposed dog park in the grassy public space adjacent to Lake Merritt. Please, lets move forward with the project!

I live nearby (in Park Bellevue Tower), and walk around the Lake, or to the Farmers Market etc, very frequently. Dog parks are not only a great asset for dog owners (and their dogs!!), but are also a delightful and healthy addition to the urban scene for non-dog-owners as well, to observe, enjoy, and delight in the dog-to-dog interactions that occur in the dog- and people-safe park areas.

thanks for your thoughts on the matter -

Steven Viavant

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kerry Wochinski [kerrywo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 10:44 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please Approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area

My husband and I and our two dogs currently go to Alameda Dog Park on a daily basis to exercise our "girls" since we cannot find adequate facilities in Oakland.

Daily exercise helps us prevent unwanted behaviors such as destructive chewing, barking and aggitation and makes life more congenial in our close condo community. Our dogs both came from shelters and we are commited to keeping them in our home throughout their entire lives, which means that we prioritize their daily exercise needs. It keep everyone happy.

Currently, we must drive 20 minutes each way (in light traffic) to reach Point Isabel or Alameda Dog Park. Since we can get other errands done while in Alameda, that's where we go most of the time. While in Alameda, we shop and spend over $1000 per month at Trader Joes, Safeway, Walgreens, drycleaners and gas stations. Getting the dogs exercised is non-negotiable, so using these businesses in Alameda as a significant time savings in our busy evening.

Please do what you can to make the Lakeview Dog Play Area a reality. It's really shocking that Oakland Residents must travel so far to get to a decent dog exercise play area. Thanks,

Kerry and Kevin Bird
3116 Adeline St #109
Oakland, CA 94608

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kevin Chung [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 10:10 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	Good for the City overall
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	Good for the City overall
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Good for the City overall
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Good for the City overall
Please add your own comments here:	
Name*:	Kevin Chung
Email*:	jetkevis@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*:	Claremont x College
Zip Code:	94705

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","","Kevin Chung","jetkevis@gmail.com","Claremont x College","94705"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Christine Lok [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 11:55 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:	
Name*:	Christine Lok
Email*:	christinewlok@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*:	3rd Street & Alice
Zip Code:	94607

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","","Christine Lok","christinewlok@gmail.com","3rd Street & Alice","94607"

McElroy, Darryl

From: caroline belo [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:19 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	Good for the City overall
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	Good for the City overall
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Good for the City overall
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Good for the City overall
Please add your own comments here:	
Name*:	caroline belo
Email*:	carolinebelo@google.com
Street address or intersection*:	15 san antonio place
Zip Code:	94133

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","","caroline belo","carolinebelo@google.com","15 san antonio place","94133"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Grey McIntosh [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:18 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	I dont have a dog but agree
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	I dont have a dog but agree
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Good for the City overall
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Good for the City overall
Please add your own comments here:	
Name*:	Grey McIntosh
Email*:	greyelizabeth@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*:	Cleveland and Radnor
Zip Code:	94606

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","I dont have a dog but agree","I dont have a dog but agree","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","","Grey McIntosh","greyelizabeth@gmail.com","Cleveland and Radnor","94606"

McElroy, Darryl

From: F. Hsu [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	I dont have a dog but agree
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	I dont have a dog but agree
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	I dont have a dog but agree
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	I dont have a dog but agree
Please add your own comments here:	
Name*:	F. Hsu
Email*:	tsaodofu@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*:	7th Ave and 24th St.
Zip Code:	

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","I dont have a dog but agree","I dont have a dog but agree","I dont have a dog but agree","I dont have a dog but agree","","F. Hsu","tsaodofu@gmail.com","7th Ave and 24th St.",""

McElroy, Darryl

From: Helen [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:12 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:	
Name*:	Helen
Email*:	luftmensch@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*:	MacArthur and Laguna Ave.
Zip Code:	94602

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","","Helen","luftmensch@gmail.com","MacArthur and Laguna Ave.","94602"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Marcel De Gross [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 9:21 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:	We have 450 million dogs in America....Oakland has 3 dog parks, let's get real here.
Name*:	Marcel De Gross
Email*:	marceld1907@sbcglobal.net
Street address or intersection*:	Boston.MacArthur Blvd.
Zip Code:	94602

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","We have 450 million dogs in America....Oakland has 3 dog parks, let's get real here.","Marcel De Gross","marceld1907@sbcglobal.net","Boston.MacArthur Blvd.","94602"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Judy Sakaki [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 7:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:	
Name*:	Judy Sakaki
Email*:	judyks820@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*:	7970 Surrey Lane Oakland, CA
Zip Code:	94605

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","","Judy Sakaki","judyks820@gmail.com","7970 Surrey Lane Oakland, CA","94605"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kathy Marks [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 5:11 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:	Those of us who recreate with our dogs deserve a place where we can do that. Go parks are the answer often times. Easy to get to, fun for dogs and their humans. When the human cannot exercise on trails, their dogs still need to exercise. What better than a dog park to suit both needs!
Name*:	Kathy Marks
Email*:	simpsweet@comcast.net
Street address or intersection*:	3772 Canon Ave
Zip Code:	94602

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Those of us who recreate with our dogs deserve a place where we can do that. Go parks are the answer often times. Easy to get to, fun for dogs and their humans. When the human cannot exercise on trails, their dogs still need to exercise. What better than a dog park to suit both needs!","Kathy Marks","simpsweet@comcast.net","3772 Canon Ave","94602"

McElroy, Darryl

From: Nathaniel Witherbee [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 3:59 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*:	Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt:	Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together:	Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:	Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park:	Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:	
Name*:	Nathaniel Witherbee
Email*:	witherbee.nate@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*:	480 60th St. Apt. 4
Zip Code:	94609

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","","Nathaniel Witherbee","witherbee.nate@gmail.com","480 60th St. Apt. 4","94609"

McElroy, Darryl

From: greenfieldben1@gmail.com on behalf of Ben Greenfield [ben02@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, January 03, 2012 12:57 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please complete dog park

Dear Ann,

As a 10 year resident of the Cleveland Heights neighborhood of Lake Merritt, living 0.25 mi from the proposed dog park, I am writing to vote my strong and continuing support for the dog park. I want to see completion of the proposed park at the grassy field by El Embarcadero Library, as proposed. I am truly annoyed with all of the NIMBYs in my neighborhood who oppose the park, while not considering the substantial community need that it would fill. I do not have a dog, but think the completion of the dog park would be a substantial improvement to the neighborhood. In particular, I think it would greatly improve safety, by increasing pedestrian traffic, particularly after dark. I don't know what the delay is, but I am anxious to see it completed. Please forward at will.

Thank you,
Ben Greenfield
Merritt Avenue

McElroy, Darryl

From: Greg Macchi [gmac619@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:17 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Deny application for dog area at Astro Park (Lakeshore)

Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area at Astro Park on Lakeshore. My family use the large green area for recreational activities and feel the large dog area would detract from the usable space as well as create an eyesore in the community. Again, please vote to not allow for the dog park at our park.

Best regards,

Greg Macchi
452 Newton Ave.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Liz Fuchs [eaf11182002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 5:55 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Please Deny Dog Run on Lakeshore

Honorable Planning Commissioners:

Please Deny the proposed offleash dog run permit proposed for the community park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. (aka AstroPark). This is the wrong place to site an offleash dog run for the following reasons:

- This park is flat and used alot by active recreationists. Dogs do not need flat land but soccer players and active recreationists do.They should have priority for this flat park area.This is a small area and you will be trying to cram too many uses at the expense of kids soccer, volleyball, baseball and other recreationists.
- This dog run will damage the neighborhood and adjacent businesses. On weekends, the parking already is tight and this will create even more parking and traffic demands. I note that recently in other cities, for example, most recently Rancho Palos Verdes in southern california, an offleash dog area was closed down after only a short time because it attracted so many dog owners it created severe parking problems that adversely affected adjacent businesses. That will likely happen here.
- The city lacks adequate park maintenance now, and this could become an unmaintained nuisance.
- A chain link fence and brown wood chips surface will create an eyesore in one of the prime neighborhood gateway locations., transforming this lovely grassy park. It will be even worse when it rains. And this could adversely affect the property values of any business or residence that is adjacent to it.
- Dogs will inevitably get loose and create unsafe conditions for the adjacent children's play area. Not every child--or adult--likes or feels safe around dogs. That should be respected. I already witnessed unleashed pit bulls loose in the area by the library on a Saturday. Siting a dog run here is asking for such conflicts, instead of avoiding or minimizing them.
- There are better alternatives--consider a dog run near less visible, less heavily used areas such as the old police stables or the area by the lawn bowling. There are other dog runs already in the city.

Just because folks say it has been in discussion for a long time is no excuse to allow such a damaging project. You have the discretion and I urge you to DENY this permit.

Liz Fuchs
Merritt Ave.

McElroy, Darryl

From: ouija@spaz.org
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 6:38 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: please deny permision to make fenced off dog park

please , deny the fenced off dog park . i live in front of the park at perkins , and i feel its the last thing needed . we use this park all the time to play with our children ,frisbee, and sports. the area around the lake is aprotected wildlife area , and not sutable for sports etc. its allready good . whats needed is awareness for dog owners to understand the area there in front of bellevue is a bird migration protected zone . a reserve for these birds whos habitat is indangered. the dog owners and others dont know this , because no signs or anything to tell them. thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: mike evans [mikeevans1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:32 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please DENY permit application for fenced dog area at Astro Park

Dear Ms.Clevenger,

Please forward my email below to the Planning Commission.

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off lease dog area in Astro Park. This area is used by individuals, families, and communities for many different outdoor activities. The space promotes exercise, health and community. It is also very prominent to visitors to the City coming from the freeway. And a large chain-link, wood-chip covered area at this location will be an eyesore to both the neighborhood and visitors. One last, but very big concern, is the runoff from this area flowing into Lake Merritt during wet weather.

Please keep Astro Park in its current use as a healthy neighborhood park by denying the permit application for a fenced off lease dog area. I think an area like where the old Police horse stables were makes more sense as a dog park.

Respectfully,

Pat Evans
Oakland Homeowner since 1990
Piedmont Pines

McElroy, Darryl

From: t monnin [tev.monnin@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 3:55 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: please DENY permit application for fenced dog area

Dear Ms. Ann Clevenger:

I am writing to urge the commissioners to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This area is used by individuals, families and communities for many different outdoor activities. The space promotes exercise, health, and community. Please keep it this way by denying the permit application for fenced off leash dog area.

thank you,
Tev Monnin

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kamala Leslie [repdiva@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 11:32 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please DENY permit application~Astro-Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I have lived in the Lake Merritt neighborhood for several years now and really appreciate the open grass area. It adds to the beauty of the area. Turning it into a fenced off-leash dog area makes it available for use by limited number of people, that is dog-owners. The rest of the people~ the soccer players, the parents with children, the Lake Merritt enjoying resident, the out of area visitors looking to enjoy the lovely grassy park by the Lake... the rest of us.... will be cut out from further use of this park. This to me feels very unfair. It changes not only the appearance of the area but the accessibility and use. We need open areas in urban settings for the simple enjoyment of life and nature. Please consider this and DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood.
There are plenty of other places for those who consciously choose to take on the responsibility of pet-ownership to take their dogs, including the dog park at Redwood Regional, just a ways up the road.

Thank you,

Kamala Leslie Davis
Lake Merritt resident

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jennifer Chin [jentchin@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:30 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please deny permit for fenced off off-leash dog area

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

Thank you for forwarding my email below to the Planning Commission.

Dear Commissioners:

I've been an Oakland Lake Merritt resident for nearly 15 years. I love dogs--I've owned a dog, and I've cared for others' dogs. I'm also a parent with a 4-year old who loves the green area of Astro park because my son can run around the field and play soccer on Saturday mornings before we walk over to the Farmers' Market. We can fly kites and play baseball there on Sunday afternoons. We play in the sandbox, but sometimes my son just wants to run on the green, green grass. All of these things will be changed or not even a possibility if there is a fenced, off-leash dog run built. **I respectfully, but strongly request that you deny permit to allow for a fenced-off dog park area in the park, on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.**

With all the wonderful park upgrades and road and walkway improvements done under Measure DD, I'm finding it very hard to imagine how a off-leash dog run with a wrap around fence, RIGHT on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur is even a consideration. So many people use this space--adults have their own soccer games along side the kids. Little toddlers run and chase the geese, kites are flown, There isn't enough room to push the soccer and field games to the area near the library parking lot. There are many dog parks in walking distance. Why do we need to have a chain fenced obstruction right in the heart of the busiest part of Lake Merritt? Why are we going to put in something that will take away the green grass, block park access, increase traffic, and put off-leash dogs closer to tots?

I'm a single mother who is finding urban Oakland harder and harder to raise a child in. I own my property and I pay Oakland taxes. I support Oakland businesses because I believe in this city. I will be extremely disappointed if this permit is allowed to push out more recreational space for residents and children where it is needed most. Why are we pushing out the people and children and making room for dogs? Dogs can have space--it's just not appropriate here.

To avoid sending large files, I'm including a link to photos of my son and his buddies making good use of this space. Please don't take that away.
https://picasaweb.google.com/107385679758804445215/AstroPark?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCP_j27T-u5f6cA&feat=directlink

Respectfully,
Jennifer Chin (Oakland Lake Merritt resident since 1997)
Alex Chin (Oakland Lake Merritt resident since 2007)

McElroy, Darryl

From: Philip de la Rosa [filup501@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:55 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please DENY the conditional use permit application for dog area.

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. It is a beautiful open space that I enjoy very much. It would dishearten me to see that open space diminished in any way. It gives me a wonderful sense of community and warmth to see children children playing there and watching the volley ball games during warmer weather. I would be a shame to see Astro Park go to the dogs!

Philip de la Rosa
491 Chetwood St
94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: StephandTrav Bethune [stephntrav.bethune@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 1:02 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Deny the Conditional Use Permit for the Dog Park Application for Astro Park

Please do deny this application for permit use of Astro Park to set up a dog park. As an Oakland resident and frequenter of the Lake Merritt area, there are few central places in this area that are available for people, especially children, to make full use of that green space for recreation. Having been a dog owner, I can say there are a variety of dog park options in Oakland, and Alameda County, for folks to walk their dogs off-leash. Please do not compress the Astro Park space for "people".

Best,

Travis Bethune
760-258-6986 - cell.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Molly Ammons [molly.ammons@ngem.com]
Sent: Friday, March 30, 2012 4:41 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please DENY the dog par at Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I am a resident of the Lake Grand area, and I coach a girls running program, Girls on the Run Lake Merritt, at Astro Park twice a week. Astro Park is an invaluable piece of land in our community that has too few green play areas for children.

Of our team of 17 girls, ages 8-13, over half live in apartment buildings without yards or open play spaces. Their time at Astro Park twice a week are rare moments where they can lay in the grass, run as far as they like without fear of cars, and partake in the vibrant community that surrounds the park. It would be a shame and an embarrassment to Oakland to have this community area used for a dog park, instead of as a place for community children to grow and thrive.





Above left: Coach Kristin and four Girls on the Run on a sunny Day in Astro Park
Above right: The moon rises over three of our team members as they run laps in Astro Park

I am not against a dog park in the Lake Merritt area - on the contrary, I highly support it. However, Astro Park is not the appropriate place.

Respectfully,

Molly Ammons
Girls on the Run Bay Area - Lake Merritt Team Coach
491 Mandana Boulevard, #7
Oakland, California
p. 510-381-2406

McElroy, Darryl

From: MNocon@fbm.com
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:44 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please DENY the permit application for Astro Park!!

Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This open space is a beautiful anchor to the surrounding neighborhoods and shouldn't be cut up and fenced off to only be used by dog owners. I am a dog lover, but know for a fact that the City of Oakland already has plenty of off-leash areas for dog owners to take their pets. This will be an complete eye-sore and will selfishly take away vital space that is now used by many, and will then only be available to a few. Please, please don't let this happen!!

Monica J. Nocon
Time & Billing Supervisor

Farella Braun + Martel LLP
RUSS BUILDING
235 MONTGOMERY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO / CA 94104

Main Line 415.954.4400
Direct Line 415.954.4715

Acct. Dept. Fax 415.291.8212
or
Main Fax 415.954.4480
www.fbm.com

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Farella Braun + Martel LLP

McElroy, Darryl

From: Michael Recknor [michael@recknor.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 7:19 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please DENY the permit for the off-leash dog park

Dear Commissioners:

The plans for the proposed off-lease dog park near Astro Park will turn a bright open space into a chain-linked prison yard. Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Michael Recknor
6153 Castle Drive
Oakland, CA 94611

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alexandra Williams [atw8@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 2:56 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please do not destroy Astro Park!

Hello Pat, Rebecca, Nancy and Ann:

I have been an Oakland resident since 2002. Since my daughter was born in 2006, we have gone weekly to Astro Park. Each week I I run around Lake Merritt, pushing her in her stroller. We then go to the farmer's market and finish up the morning with an hour or two cavorting in the grass of Astro park and playing in the adjacent playground.

I am a lifelong dog owner and dog lover but Astro Park is not the right place to put a dog run! It is one of the few open, grassy spaces we have in Oakland and one of the few of those that is safe and at which I have no worries that my daughter will stumble across garbage or worse as we play in the park and grass.

Astro Park is one of the rare swathes of green in our city; it's very expanse is part of what is treasured by our family! Please, please do not put a dog park there. Even a relatively small area of grass being converted to a fenced off dog run will turn one of our few pretty, vibrant and open spaces into an ugly scar. As it stands now, the wide open grassy space, the library, the colonnade and the lake make that corner one of the best treasures in Oakland - please don't ruin it!

I fully support the effort to create more dog-friendly and dog- specific areas within Oakland but surely there are options that won't ruin what we've already got.

Thank you,
Alex Williams

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tye Reichle [tyereichle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 10:18 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Please do not partition Astro Park. We do not a dog-run there. Thank you. T. Reichle

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mirabai Deranja [morticia.atoms@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 10:48 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Do Not put the dog park in.

We like Astro Park the way it is. Please keep it green and open.

Thank you,
Mirabai Deranja, resident of Oakland California

--
Aspire to inspire before you expire.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jaime Boust [jaimeboust@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:21 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please don't allow a dog park at Astro Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I live within walking distance of Astro Park on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur Blvd. I have a two-year old, with another on the way, and what we love most about our neighborhood is how family-friendly it is. We visit the playground at least three times a week, and play ball on that nice stretch of green. Next year, our daughter would like to play soccer on Saturdays on the grass next to the playground.

We are highly opposed to fencing off this multi-use area for the use of a dog park. Not only would it be an eye-sore, it would take precious space away from kids, from people who like to play soccer there, from the drum circles who meet, and countless other people who use this space. What's more, I question the safety of a dog park adjacent to both a freeway approach and a child's playground.

The green areas of the park around Lake Merritt area are already dominated by another animal: the goose. But that's another subject entirely. Why should we take even more space away from the kids and give it to the dogs? As a dog owner, I understand the desire for public dog-run space, but Astro Park is not the place. The sheer size of the proposed dog park is selfishly large, and I imagine there are other locations within the park that receive less use than the proposed space. Please help us block this development. Animals are an important part of the community, but I hope you'll agree that people come first.

Thank you,

Jaime Boust
4133 Lakeshore Avenue

McElroy, Darryl

From: chad marshall [chadmarshall@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 08, 2011 12:58 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Please don't let Astro Park go to the dogs!

Hello Ann,

I normally don't write letters to The Planning Department, but for this cause I felt obligated. My Wife and I are Oakland residents and have been homeowners here for about 7 years. We walk Lake Merrit and hit the Farmers Market every weekend, almost without fail. I've heard that there are plans to turn Astro Park into a fenced dog run. For us that would be a terrible idea. I love walking thru that park and watching all the people enjoying whatever activiteis they are in to. Did I mention we are expecting our first child? It's one of the few places I can imagine letting my kid run around with no worries. A dog park would completely ruin that idea. Please keep Astro Park for People.

Thanks for your time.
Chad Marshall & Clara Llosa
415.205.8056

McElroy, Darryl

From: william lyons [willwjl@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 10:46 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please don't make astro park a dog run!

Parks and green spaces were created for people! There is so little open green space around the lake! Most of that is covered with Canada Goose droppings as it is!
If this area is made a dog run, even a small portion, there will be even less safe open green space for people. It will also not be clean. Regardless of the rules/laws a good number dog owners do not pick up their dog's litter. The sidewalks all around lake Merritt are littered with dog droppings. I've even witnessed people allowing their dogs to run free through the Rose Garden. Which is also dog-restricted!
There are also ordinances in the Farmers Market and Lakeside Park that clearly state no dogs. I still see people with their dogs leashed and unleashed in the parks in and around Lake Merritt. I once even saw the Former Mayor Jerry Brown with his bulldog in Lakeside Park. I acknowledged him and reminded him that no dogs are allowed in the park as he jogged by. Does Oakland need one more venue where lawlessness can prevail?

Don't let Astro Park become a dog run! It's not good for the area!

McElroy, Darryl

From: Shigeo Watanabe [shigwatanabe@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: please don't ruin Astro park

I am begging you to not allow the proposed dog park to ruin Oakland's wonderful Astro park. It is so inspiring for me to see so many people and children running around playing soccer, baseball, volleyball and just exercising in the space that the well wishing, but misguided dog park people want to claim. Even most dog owners that I know think that it is a bad area for a dog park and would much prefer the old stable area behind Children's Fairyland. Please keep Astro Park the way it is.
sincerely, Shigeo Watanabe

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alexandra Williams [atw8@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please keep Astro Park as it is!!!!

Dear Members of the Oakland Planning Commission:

I have been an Oakland resident since 2002. Since my daughter was born in 2006, we have gone weekly to Astro Park. Each week I I run around Lake Merritt, with my daughter now accompanying me on her bike instead of being pushed in the jogger. We then go to the farmer's market and finish up the morning with an hour or two cavorting in the grass of Astro park and playing in the adjacent playground.

I am a lifelong dog owner and dog lover but Astro Park is not the right place to put a dog run! It is one of the few open, grassy spaces we have in Oakland and one of the few of those that is safe and at which I have no worries that my daughter will stumble across garbage or worse as we play in the park and grass.

Astro Park is one of the rare swathes of green in our city; it's very expanse is part of what is treasured by our family! Please, please do not put a dog park there. Even a relatively small area of grass being converted to a fenced off dog run will turn one of our few pretty, vibrant and open spaces into an ugly scar. As it stands now, the wide open grassy space, the library, the colonnade and the lake make that corner one of the best treasures in Oakland - please don't ruin it!

I fully support the effort to create more dog-friendly and dog-specific areas within Oakland but surely there are options that won't ruin one of the beautiful well-used spaces we've already got.

Thank you,
Alex Williams

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mirabai Deranja [morticia.atoms@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 10:35 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Please keep Astro Park open and green!

To Ann Clevenger:

Hello. Please keep Astro Park green and open. We love it. We play volleyball there. We drive by there all the time, appreciating the green.

Thank you, thank you.
Mirabai Deranja -Resident of Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: sunnywindow@juno.com
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 7:02 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please keep rare, wondrous grassy Astro Park as it is.

Dear Oakland Planning Commissioners ~~

This is to ask that you keep Astro Park as it is: Invitingly Vast and Green. It is Our Urban Meadow, gladdening and soothing all people. We smile at the sight of it and at the feel of it under us. Its healing civic benefit would be lost if a dogpark were put in it.

Thank you ~~

Gayle Mohrbacker, sunnywindow@juno.com

_____
53 Year Old Mom Looks 33
The Stunning Results of Her Wrinkle Trick Has Botox Doctors Worried
http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3141/4f5d59484e1781de9b87st06vuc

McElroy, Darryl

From: John Thompson [jthompson@pyatok.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 1:37 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please no dog run at Astro Park

Hello All,

As a neighbor (I live at Lee & Van Buren) and a local worker, I wanted to e-mail my objection to a fenced-off dog run area at Astro Park. My girlfriend and I LOVE the Lake and the wonderful (and improving) ring of green space that surrounds it. Every day on my walk to work I am passed by joggers with their dogs running alongside, and I frequently see people pausing to let their dogs socialize with other dogs. All of this happens naturally, and it's all part of what makes the neighborhood so inviting for people like us that were done with living in San Francisco.

We are dog lovers and wish we could own a few under our lease. For now we make do with stalking our neighbor's dogs (and getting awkward smiles from their owners.) But on the issue of a fenced-off dog run at Astro Park, we both feel that the park is already happily maximized by groups playing sports, morning exercise groups, strolling people as well socializing dogs and their owners. There is no need to sequester a part of it and turn it into a dirt patch fouled with dog poop. The geese already do enough unmitigated fouling of the park.

I understand the joy of seeing dogs running off-leash but obviously with the adjacent freeway traffic that's not a great idea at this corner. But it's also part of the reason that this is just not the best place for this activity at all- either off-leash or with a fence, especially given the frequency of other uses. Adding a fence will fracture the park too much for the other uses, inviting more geese into the vacuum.

Please leave this wonderful park unfenced and open for all users, as it is today. People love it as it is.

Sincerely,

John

--
John Thompson, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
Project Architect
Pyatok Architects
1611 Telegraph Ave., Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612
510-465-7010 x114
jthompson@pyatok.com
www.pyatok.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Joy Hillriegel [joy.hillriegel@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 12:43 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: please no dog run near Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I love dogs and want them to have a great place to play... but I feel strongly that this is not the right place.

I'm concerned about the smell. Over time dog parks definitely get a strong urine/ammonia smell... and this location is so close to the little playground, that I worry there could be a significant impact on the ability of children and parents to enjoy the area.

Additionally, the fenced off area would have a significant impact on the open, welcoming feeling that the end of the park currently has.

Perhaps there is another part of the park that would work instead? Maybe in the green space between Fairyland and Bellevue Avenue?

Thank you for taking these concerns into account when making your decision, and I hope we can find a better location for the dog park.

-Joy Hillriegel
484 Merritt Ave
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: chrmaine@wellsfargo.com
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 2:40 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please perserve open space at Lake Merritt

Dear Commissioners,

It has come to my attention that a conditional use permit has been submitted to create at fenced off-lease dog area in our neighborhood near Lake Merritt. I have been a resident of Oakland and Piedmont for nearly 25 years. I cherish the beauty of Lake Merritt and often walk or run around the lake, bring my kids there to play, and show it off to my out of town friends. It is a city jewel!

We need the open space and greenery that the park has today. The open space for people to play Frisbee, soccer, or simply sit down and have a discussion or lunch is cherished. There are fewer and fewer areas like this for recreation and relaxation. Please preserve it!

While I like dogs, I do not agree this is the best use of that site and do not support it. Please do not approve a dog park there – it is a beautiful site the way it is today.

Thank you,

Charmaine Clay
510 Boulevard Way
Piedmont, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: j v [ja_7_4@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 5:06 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please preserve Astro Park as it is

Dear Planning Commission,
Please reject the application to replace a beautifully green and tranquil Lake Park (aka Astro Park) area, used by a majority of Lake Merritt residents, with a dog area that would cater to a small number of dog owners. I have two dogs, but believe this proposal is short sighted and selfish; it denies the majority of residents of the enjoyment they have enjoyed for generations. It would deny residents of the many current uses it provides by chopping up and negatively impacting the park. It is a beautiful space that should be preserved as a destination location for Oaklander's and visitors alike.

What began slightly more than a year ago with less than a dozen concerned Oakland citizens in the Lake Merritt area, opposed to changing the current use of the park, has grown into a movement of astounding proportions. The reason is simple; it's a bad idea and the wrong location for a fenced in and ultimately ugly and smelly dog area.

I have enjoyed this park as a child, adolescent and adult. It is a rare jewel that sparkles like no other place in Oakland. Located in the heart of a thriving business and residential neighborhood, it provides a much needed respite to us all from the hustle and bustle common to an area with such heavy and diverse use.

Please vote to preserve this park in its current and pristine condition and deny this dog proposal.

Thank you,

Joseph Villatoro

McElroy, Darryl

From: Michael Nasif [mnasif1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 5:26 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Michael Nasif
1181 Holman Road
Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ashley Ziegler [Ashley@sfhoundlounge.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Save Astro Park

Hello,

My name is Ashley Ziegler. My family is an active, involved part of the community. I have never opposed anything in my neighborhood but must now.

I appreciate your considering all of the pleas to Save Astro Park. It is a very important area and it helps so many people w/ varied background, ages and needs. It most definitely should remain as is.

Warm Regards,

- Ashley Ziegler

McElroy, Darryl

From: Joshua Drake [jdjd123@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:26 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please save Astro Park --- no dog park!

Ms. Ann Clevenger,

Please vote to deny the effort to convert Astro Park into a dog park. This is the only green place in my neighborhood to play sports! Astro Park is beautiful now as open space with no fences. Please don't let the dogs turn it into an eyesore.

Sincerely,
Joshua Drake
637 Beacon St, Oakland

Sent from my iPad

McElroy, Darryl

From: Richard Chaikind [richjc@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 9:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to please deny the proposal to have a dog run in Astro Park. I live in the area and I along with friends enjoy using the park to play soccer, toss a ball around or just being there on a sunny day. If you walk through the park almost any day, especially on weekends you will see the whole park being used and enjoyed by people of all ages. there must be some other place to fence off for dogs.

Thank you,
Richard Chaikind

McElroy, Darryl

From: Victoria A. Barbero [vabarbero@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:02 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Save Astro Park for Children

To the Commissioners:

Please **deny** the conditional use permit for the fenced- off leash dog area in our neighborhood park. We have lived in the area for the past 30 years and take special delight in seeing the children and adults enjoying the playground and the greenery. Many of them live in apartments and have nowhere else to play. Please do not take away that joy. The dogs would bring dirt, noise and danger to a place of peace, beauty and relative quiet.

My husband and I strongly urge you to deny this permit and allow the majority to enjoy the greens.

Victoria and Reinaldo Barbero

1010 Trestle Glen Rd.
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: kojimapearl@gmail.com on behalf of sarah canizzaro [kojima@kojimapearl.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 11:43 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: please save astro park from becoming a dry dusty dog run

Dear Ann Clevenger,
I am writing to ask you to please reconsider your plans to build a dog park in one of the only open public spaces in my neighborhood. Dog owners have plenty of places to go already. I really wish that you will also consider that dog parks are DUSTY, and given the wind that blows through this space, it would be a public health hazard to have dried dog feces blowing through a playground where now both children and adults can enjoy. I have lived in this neighborhood for 12 years and I have witnessed this space being enjoyed by many many hardworking people. Please do not destroy their space, in the seeking of gentrification!
Sincerely, Sarah Canizzaro
--

www.kojimapearl.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kris Jussila [kris_j59@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 11:30 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; rkaplane@oaklandnet.com; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Save Astro Park in Oakland

Dear City Council Members,

I recently learned that Astro Park may be slated to become a dog park. I would ask that you consider to **not** do this to a park where it is used for our kids to have a large open space to play. I also know that is it used for soccer, flag foot ball, a place to work out and many more things. **A dog park in that space is not appropriate. Please do not allow this to happen to Astro Park.**

Thank you,
Kris Jussila

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alexandra Williams [atw8@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2012 10:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please save Astro Park!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Dear Astro Park savers:

Hi, my name is Quinn and I am 6 years old. I want you to save Astro Park and I will make some signs that say "Save Astro Park". I want to save Astro Park because I like to play in the grass. I also like to play soccer on the grass. And I also like to play rugby on the green space. I live in Oakland. I do like dogs but I think the dog park should be somewhere else because I use the green space and other kids do too. And anyway, dogs might run into the street since it's very, very close to the cars. It's a better place for people than dogs.

I will bring the signs to the park and hang them up.

Thank you for saving the park,
Quinn Williams

PS I told my Mom what to say and she typed this email.
PPS I will try to take a picture of me playing in the green space and send it to you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kris Jussila [kris_j59@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 10:25 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Save Astro Park!

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

This park is used by many in our area for sports, games, working out, picnics, for our kids to have an area to play, etc... A fenced area in this park does not make sense. Not ot mention that it would ruin the look of the park. Please consdier other areas that are better suited for a dog park.

Respectfully,

Kris

McElroy, Darryl

From: Wendy Winter [wintermade@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 8:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners, I respectfully ask that you deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced, off-leash dog park at Astro Park.
Let's not kid ourselves, Oakland's reputation is tarnished: from our less than present former Mayor Dellums, to the Occupy Movement, the recent mass murder at the Oikos college and our high crime rate. Oakland simply carries a bad rep. And now a group of misguided people want to take a piece of our crown jewel and turn it into a fenced dog run. So now imaging the future when news cameras turn to show scenes of the lake, they'll get a beautiful view of what? happy dogs in a fenced in area rather than beautiful green space, with kids and adults enjoying one of the few green, easily accessible, public spaces. Sure, we've got Redwood Park, but if you're tethered to the flat lands or vehicle free, you're going to have to work hard to see some green space. Don't take away the green.

And for the record, I love dogs more than I love people. I think Oakland's leash laws are simply Draconian. Change the laws. Make life easier for dog owners, but DON'T take away this beautiful green space in my neighborhood. That would simply be foolish.

thank you
Wendy Winter
589 Kenmore Ave
Oakland, CA
94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: stephen cunningham [stephent_94606@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 10:32 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please save our open space at Astro Park

Hello,

I am a 40 year resident on Haddon Hill and I am opposed to transforming the wonderful open sapce at Astro Park into a doggie park. This open space is currentlywell utilized by many groups and should not be made available to a select few.

Thanks
Stephen
Haddon Hill

McElroy, Darryl

From: Natasha Rosen [tasharosen@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 12:28 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Preserve Astro Park

Hello Ann Clevenger,

I live in Oakland by Lake Merritt and I love my community. Please don't change Astro Park. We are in desperate need of easily accessible, free public land for recreational sports and social gatherings. This is a public space that should be open to the public to use they way they like. I love watching people play sports, exercise, play drums and just use the space for positive physical outlets. There are so many other places to put a dog park. Don't put one in Astro Park. Why not use the abandoned gas station lot across the street? That space is not currently being used. Thank you for listening to my concern. I hope you understand how much I care about Astro Park and hope to keep it preserved the way it is.

Thank you for your understanding and support,
Natasha Rosen

McElroy, Darryl

From: C.C. Abdullah [cc1gel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 11:07 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Proposal on Astro Park

To : Commissioners

take action to stop this proposal against use Astro Park.
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.
Astro Park is space needed by the people of the city not prime location for dogs.

Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Patricia Littlefield [norcal532001@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 8:56 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed Dog Park

I am against the development of the Astro Park as a dog exercise area, even though I am a small dog. The area is inappropriate for a variety of reasons.
First, there is a nearby dog park on the Oakland/Piedmont area near the Rose Garden.
Secondly, vestiges of a number of old creeks draining into the lake result in water pooling in that field, and it will be a muddy mess. It also portends for remnants of dog waste draining into the lake.
Thirdly, the neighborhood , in general, is becoming too busy on Saturdays in particular, with the crowds that come in to frequent the Farmes' Market, the sidewalk vendors on the margins of the Farmers' Markets, the restaurant clientele on Lakeshore, and the number of people trying to exercise in the lake area. We don't need more activity in the area. Many of the people who will bring their dogs will drive over to the area, and then park, contributing to congestion and decreasing the overall effort in the area to get people out of their cars.
Fourthly, the mentally handicapped have been long term users of that space on the weekends to play soccer, not to mention others who work out on the edges.
Fifthly, I don't think the city needs to be paying for this given the budget.

If you are still insistent in doing something in the area, why not look into using the school yard of Lakeview Elementary School which will be closing after this year? You have parking, you have space that you can easily modify for a dog run.

The neighborhood is getting to be too busy on Saturdays and a bit of a drag for anyone living in that area. A good thing can become too much, just like what happened with the Festival of the Lake. It started out smaller and manageable, and over the years, it became larger with too much activity for the area. The mix we have now is tolerable, but on the verge of becoming too much.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Steven Belcher [swbelcher007@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2012 10:29 AM
To: Pattillo@PGAdesign.com; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com
Subject: Proposed Dog Park at Astro Park (Lakeshore)

Steven W. Belcher

630 Longridge Road

Oakland, California 94610

(510) 301-5321

swbelcher@msn.com

Re: Opposition to Proposed Dog Run at Astro Park

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

Please "google" "off leash dog parks in Oakland" and you will see a great Yelp site rating **37 off leash dog parks in and around Oakland**. Now search for programed play fields near Lakeshore and they list places such as "Gilman" which is in Berkeley and scheduled to the hilt and Mosswood which is not flat. Astro Park (Lakeshore) is one of the few remaining pieces of unprogramed playing field left in Oakland. That means, that you can see groups of pick up soccer, baseball, football, play without driving to a field, paying for a permit…or waiting for a permit.

In that vein, yesterday I passed the park and there was all the above activities go on at the same time, no stress, just having fun. Where will these citizens go for their outdoor fun? It also occurred to me that most of those children and young adults do not have a clue that their play fields are about to disappear or have the means to drive to an alternative.

Please leave one of the last big open green spaces, open and green. Some have this compulsion to fill empty spaces…let this one be. By the way, with the City budget on life support, how will the proposed dog park be financed and maintained?

Sincerely,

Steve Belcher

Planning Commission: vien Truon, C.Blake Huntsman, Michael Colbruno, Madeleine Zayas-Mart, Jonelyn Whales, Chris Pattillo

McElroy, Darryl

From: William Rogers [william@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:59 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed Dog Park at the Astro Park Site Location

March 29, 2012

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am a resident of the Lake Merritt area and have two boys ages 10 and 12 who use Astro Park regularly. While I am generally supportive of dog parks in urban communities, I am strongly opposed to the reconfiguration of Astro Park for this purpose.

First, a dog park in this location destroys a primary (and much needed) feature of Astro Park – un-programmed open space. Adults and children need open space areas to run, exercise, play games and engage in sports. The elimination of well-used, un-programmed open space in an area that has very little is contrary to basic community needs and is antithetical to the human, environmental and public health goals for Oakland and its residents.

Second, the proposed dog park's proximity to an area that is programmed for children's play may constitute an incompatible use by mixing dogs and children in such close proximity to one another. It's a potential safety issue for park users and a liability issue for the City.

Third, the prominence of the location for the proposed dog park is contrary to the current projects around the lake. This is an area where the City has spent millions of stimulus dollars to beautify the Lake Merritt area and to provide more open space. Astro Park is the Northern gateway to the new and improved lake. Dog parks become large dirt patches because dogs that are running, digging, urinating, and defecating suppress the ability of anything green to grow. Despite the architectural renderings of a green and flowered dog park, the reality is a very prominent eyesore in this high profile location.

The proponents of the dog park have asserted volunteers will largely maintain the dog park. Volunteers often make frequent requests that require a higher level of oversight and support from staff and city resources. The City of Oakland would be responsible for administration of liability waivers for volunteers, MOU's and oversight of the operational components of a volunteer program.

In addition, cities across the country have engaged volunteers who have really good intentions about maintaining an area or Park over the long term. Yet as people's lives or priorities change, so does their commitment. Volunteer efforts for ongoing maintenance simply wane over time. It is often difficult and tiresome for volunteers to continuously pick up after others. When volunteer efforts dissipate, it is the City's responsibility to ensure that the park is well maintained and safe for the public's use. At the end of the day, the City has sole legal and financial responsibility for the public asset.

Given this, the City of Oakland will have financial, maintenance and operational responsibility for the park regardless of volunteer efforts. City services will include litter pick up, trash can service, graffiti abatement, weed abatement, mulching, pruning, irrigation (to minimize dust), site inspections, site drainage maintenance, annual wood chip and straw bale replacement, gate, sign, bench maintenance, response to public concerns and complaints and animal control related issues. City staff and Police will be required to ensure compliance with dog park rules and will be responsible for enforcing dog park hours of operation. The dog park will require recurring City resources to maintain and operate.

The City will also be required to use its resources to field complaints, enforce rules, monitor activities and facilitate disagreements. Common community complaints about dog parks include noise, dust (from dirt and wood chip decomposition), blighted conditions, and odor from feces and urine. Complaints from users include environmental factors such as the presence of mud, the quality of woodchips, and the condition of the site surface. Municipalities with dog parks are also finding that a dog park can create conflicts among animals of different sizes and requests are commonly made to mitigate conflicts by creating separate areas for large and small dogs. As time goes on, users also tend to request a higher standard of maintenance and/or amenities than available resources allow.

Environmental factors are also an issue. Storm water and ground water quality may be negatively impacted from feces, urine and mud washing off. In addition, proper site drainage and maintenance will be essential to prevent the transport of feces, urine, surface material (wood chips) and soil.

Wildlife may also be impacted as the presence of dogs may be incompatible with wildlife by the lake which may cause wildlife to stay away or cause their nesting, foraging and other essential activities to be interrupted. Birds are often flushed by dogs and some dogs chase and kill wildlife. There are also public health and dog health alerts: E Coli inquiries, dog disease inquiries, respiratory illness inquiries, water borne pathogens inquiries, etc..

Finally, parking will likely be an issue. Dog parks are typically a city-wide or regional resource and people drive to them from outside the immediate neighborhood, City and even the region. The lack of parking (particularly in an area that is already densely populated with cars) can have a negative impact on surrounding businesses and neighbors.

For all of the reasons stated above, a dog park at this location should not be approved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

William Rogers
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Anna Fisher [afisherca@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 8:14 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: proposed dog park near Lake Merritt

Dear Planning Commission members:

I've lived in Oakland for several years, and have spent many hours near or by Lake Merritt. I was very disturbed to learn that a dog park has been proposed to take up (and take away) space from that lovely picturesque recreational area near the Lake.

On weekends, children use the space, often after visiting the Library. Residents play soccer, stretch before a run around the Lake, or just arrive to sit and chat with friends. People coming from or going to the Farmers' Market stop there, enjoying the setting on a Saturday morning. I've played frisbee, had picnics, played tag with my little nieces and more in the exact place this **terrible** proposal would transform into a 21,000 square-foot dog run.

What a **horrible** idea, to ruin this setting with a dog park that can hardly be called pretty, relaxing or healthful for Oakland residents. Have you noticed how much space the intended dog area will actually take up? I've seen the plans, and it is a **large, ugly, intrusive** area that will surely detract from the current green grass and play space we have now. I wonder, too, how that dog run will look a few months after it is built, and who will really take care of it, keep it clean, maintain it...

I love dogs, but a dog park is not the sight I want to see as my first view of Oakland when I come off Route 580 and down the hill toward Grand Avenue. There are other areas that are much more suitable for this proposal. Besides, the dogs won't care where the Park is, so long as they have some space to run. Surely you can find another less-used space in Oakland for the dogs, and save this space for the rest of us

So please...STOP this proposal, deny the conditional use permit application for the off-leash dog area in our precious neighborhood park. It is a **BAD IDEA** for this neighborhood space.

Respectfully,
Anna Fisher

McElroy, Darryl

From: Chris Willging [cwillging@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Proposed dog park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park near the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

I have been using this park with my children for about 6 years, and have found that the space to run and play next to the playground adds to the sense of freedom that the kids have there, especially as they grow older and find the playground less interesting. I also appreciate having some open green space in this very public and central location. In addition, I have a lot of concerns about the maintenance of the dog park, since there is no budget for that. Even if the park is well-maintained, the odor from dog urine soaking into the wood chips and the ground may become unbearable over time.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Christine Willging

McElroy, Darryl

From: Michael Kissam [bandini4@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 3:15 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed dog run at Astro Park

Hello,

I have just heard that the proponents of a proposed dog park at Astro Park have completed their application. I am writing to express my extreme disapproval of this proposal. I have read the flyer from the people attempting to further this plan and they like to state that they "simply want a small slice of the thousands of acres of Oakland Park space available". To say that the area they suggest be used as a dog run is just some random slice of Oakland park space is ridiculous. It only takes a casual familiarity with Lake Merritt to know that the grass by Astro Park is by far the single most heavily used area around the lake. It's the most heavily used slice of park for miles in any direction for that matter.

My daughter takes soccer classes at this location every Saturday and when we are there there are always several other groups teaching soccer there as well, including one group that specializes in organizing games for the mentally handicapped. There are groups that do tai chi there. There are groups that do various forms of cardio and resistance training there. We regularly meet friends there to kick the ball around with our children. We fly our kites there. There are almost constant soccer, volleyball and frisbee games going on there. The list goes on and on. On weekend mornings you are lucky if you can even find a place to play, there is so much activity going on there. Again, it only takes the most casual familiarity with this area to know this, so why anyone would propose taking this area away from children of Oakland is beyond me.

I want to be clear that I have nothing against dogs and would even potentially support a dog run at another location should it be deemed to be truly an important societal asset, but to take away the most popular children's play area in the Lake Merritt area and give it to dogs seems to be a horrible idea on every level. Not to mention the inherent risks involved in having a childrens playground and a dog park side by side.

Oakland, while a wonderful city, has many many problems to deal with and many of these problems directly effect our youth. This park has consistantly provided a safe and fun environment for kids to play, learn and be positive in. Please do not communicate to the children of Oakland that they are literally less important than a dog. Please do not take our park away.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Kissam

McElroy, Darryl

From: Marcia Lovelace [marcialovelace@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 9:29 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed dog run in Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. The area in question is in constant use for games, drum circles and the kinds of eclectic gatherings that give Oakland its unique flavor. The proximity to the children's playground, library and bird sanctuary at Lake Merritt makes it the wrong site for an off-leash dog run. I own and like dogs--and sympathize with those looking for such a facility. But this is not the right place for it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcia Lovelace
307 Jayne Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Scott Sibley [sibleys@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 4:16 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: re: Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

As Crocker Highlands' residents we urge that you deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. The proposed park would prevent on-going activities from taking place and there is no money in the Oakland budget to maintain it. We've been told that proponents have offered to maintain it; if this is true let them create a trust fund, administered by the city, to do so before any application is considered.

All the Best!
Rhonda and Scott Sibley

McElroy, Darryl

From: Save Astro Park Group [saveastropark@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 1:36 PM
To: sue@heragency.com
Cc: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Re: Dog park concern

On Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 12:55 PM, Swetta Abeyta <swettabeyta@yahoo.com> wrote:

> Dear Commissioners,
>
> I have lived in the Grand ave area for 5 years. I encourage you to NOT approve the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.
>
> Please consider that although there are many dog lovers in the world, there are also many people that don't share this enthusiasm. There are always a few owners that don't have control of their dogs and also don't pick up after their dogs. Astro park is not a good location for dogs due to the fact that the patrons using the kids park and remaining open grass will be forced into close proximity with these owners/dogs. In my opinion a dog park should be placed in an area that doesn't force a large amount of unintentional interaction between dogs and others.
>
> Is seems as if there are better alternatives to the dog park location. Some, within the lake Merritt area. However, Astro Park has a steady user base of kids, athletes, and farmer's market patrons. It would be a shame to alter this beautiful green, family friendly space.
>
> Thank you,
> Swetta Abeyta

McElroy, Darryl

From: christina mastrangelo [christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:31 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Sue Levin
Subject: Re: NO On Fenced Dog Run Astro Park

Hello Again,

I wrote you on November 14th and never heard back.
I am writing again to voice my concerns and negative impact to put in a dog run in the middle of Astro park will do to the community. It is best to put a dog park else where. This will deter the greater public from use and enjoyment of the park. **In addition most of the dog owners currently walk there dogs around the Lake and those that I have talked to said they would not use the dog park and that they would continue to walk there dog around the lake.**

SAFETY!! - Too close to the Children's Playground and Street which is not good for the kids or the dogs.

Not sanitary for the location

Not the best use for the greater public

Destroys the Oakland Culture of that use in that park.

--
Very Concerned Oakland Resident

On Mon, Nov 14, 2011 at 5:28 PM, christina mastrangelo <christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Council Members and Staff,
>
> I am writing to voice concern and vote against having the fenced dog run at Astro Park at Lake Merritt for the following reasons:
>
> **SAFETY!!** - Too close to the Children's Playground and Street which is not good for the kids or the dogs.
>
> **Not sanitary for the location**
>
> **Not the best use for the greater public**
>
> **Destroys the Oakland Culture of that use in that park.**
>
> This will deter the greater public from use and enjoyment of the park. Please put the dog park else where. **In addition most of the dog owners currently walk there dogs around the Lake and those that I have talked to said they would not use the dog park and that they would continue to walk there dog around the lake.**
>
> --
> **Very Concerned Oakland Resident**
>
> **Christina Mastrangelo**
>
> MOBILE: 510-459-2653
> EMAIL: christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com

--
Christina Mastrangelo
Mobile: 510-459-2653
Email: christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Save Astro Park Group [saveastropark@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 10:21 AM
To: sue@heragency.com
Cc: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Re: Please Deny application for dog area at Astro Park (Lakeshore)

On Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 10:16 AM, Greg Macchi <gmac619@gmail.com> wrote:

> Dear Commissioners,
> Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area at Astro Park on Lakeshore. My family use the large green area for recreational activities and feel the large dog area would detract from the usable space as well as create an eyesore in the community. Again, please vote to not allow for the dog park at our park.
>
> Best regards,
>
> Greg Macchi
> 452 Newton Ave.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Melissa Skoro Scott [liber8n55@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 9:17 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; del@oaklandnet.com; At Large; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Save Astro Park!

Dear Councilmembers:

Please Keep Astro Park for the kids!

Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: David Bargueno [davidbargueno@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 12, 2012 1:47 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; del@oaklandnet.com; At Large
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Save Astro Park!

Dear Council members:

Please Keep Astro Park for the kids!

Thank you.

Cheers,

David

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jesse Nachem [jlnachem@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Save Astro Park-Update

Dear Councilmember Kernighan, Councilmember-at-Large Kaplan, and Ms. Clevenger:

It has been brought to my attention that a group of people are advocating for the installation of a dog park in Astro Park. I am writing urge you to keep the park open, and not allow any dog park to be made on this land.

Astro Park is used fully and consistently by our neighborhood (I live off of Lakeshore and Brooklyn) and also by the many visitors that come for the Saturday farmers' market and other community events. Every day of the week I see people using the park to exercise, picnic, meet up, or read. Every Saturday I've noticed that there are soccer classes for developmentally disabled people and also for toddlers.

A fenced-in dog park would severely limit the space we can use in Astro Park (and incidentally could be an eyesore). There are a lot of other dog parks in the area we can use. As a pet owner, I know that I can easily reach four dog parks within a short drive or even a ten minute walk. Adding one here is unnecessary. I don't know why or how this idea is being proposed, but I urge you again to please leave the park open.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Jesse Nachem (3rd Dist.)

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rebecca Kaufmann Aldinger [rebeccakaufmann@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 11:03 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Re Proposed Dog Park by Lake Merritt Branch Library/Playground

Dear Representatives,

I was very surprised to find out about the proposed plan to build Lakeview Dog Park by the playground near the Lake Merritt branch library (Astro Park). Honestly, this seems like a strange idea for a number of reasons, and, although I am an avid animal-lover, I think a dog park in this location would be a big mistake.

First, there are very few open green spaces like this one available for large groups to gather for games of frisbee or soccer, or for multiple small groups to play catch or other games side by side without crowding one another. This kind of open space helps create and maintain a sense of community because it's a space where people come together- both with friends they know and new people they meet out on the field. I myself have enjoyed playing frisbee with friends out on the field, as well as the unexpected pleasure of welcoming strangers into the game. If the field is cut in half it won't be big enough for either soccer or frisbee, and will no longer be a place where people can come together for large games or to play alongside others.

Secondly, the paths around Lake Merritt already provide people with dogs a place to walk or run with their dogs. If people want to play with their dogs off leash, then they need to go somewhere off the beaten path, as most urban areas must accommodate non dog-lovers and dogs who aren't dog-friendly by insisting that dogs be on leash. Following this logic, it doesn't make sense to create a space right in the middle of an urban area and normal foot traffic for unleashed dogs.

Related to this, the dog park will be unappealing for those afraid of dogs, and will be aesthetically unpleasing to most. Instead of grass, it will be dirt. Instead of an open area, it will have a chain-link fence. Instead of quiet or the sounds of friends and family playing, there will be dogs barking. This kind of park should be located somewhere else, where dog owners can take advantage of the space to run their dogs, but other people don't have to lose their precious little green space in the middle of town. A slightly less-prized space will easily suffice for a dog park without sacrificing this small park that all passersby can currently enjoy.

Thank you for reading my email and allowing me to voice my concern. I do hope that you will consider that the a large, green open space benefits many more people than a dog park. Everyone's needs can be met by keeping the green space, and adding a dog park in a less central location.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Aldinger, resident of the Lake Merritt area for 8 years

McElroy, Darryl

From: Pat Hea [patheaphy47@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:06 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Regarding Application for Dog run in Park Near MacArthur and Lakeshore

Dear Commissioners,
I am apposed to an off lease dog park. **Please stop and deny any permit for use of a dog** off lease area in the park at the corner of MacArthur and Lakeshore.
I have lived in the neighborhood for 30 years. I know how important this open space is. I live on Haddon Hill/China Hill. We have no parks or public spaces on the hill so this area is very important for the neighborhood and community.
Again I am very opposed to an off lease dog park at Astro Park in Oakland.
Thank you
Patrick Heaphy
614 Alma Ave
Oakland, 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lisa Robesch [l.m.robesch@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 9:49 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Regarding the conditional use permit application for fenced off-leash dog area Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. Astro Park has this great big space of green. We play frisbee there and hang out in the sun. It's one of the only big free spaces of green for miles. I like it the way it is. I use it. Please don't take it away from the community. I love dogs and am all for an off leash area, just not there! The fence will not help the feeling of community. There are plenty of other places much better suited for a fenced in off-leash area. Please consider my voice in your decision.

Thank you,
Lisa Robesch
671 Vernon Street
Oakland CA 94610
510-520-9649

McElroy, Darryl

From: Patrick Liddell [canzona@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 7:16 PM
Subject: Right Idea, Wrong Place

Hello Community Representatives,

I heard about the plan to build a dog park in Lake Merritt's Astro Park while there last Saturday afternoon. I agree that a dog park would be very good to have somewhere on the Lake Merritt perimeter, but Astro Park is not the place to do it. I concur with all the reasons they have for not putting it there, but the strongest argument against it for me is the amount of traffic at that corner, which is already pretty unsafe but with a bunch of animals there, even with a fence, it would surely prove more tragic.

I hope you will consider other alternatives to this location.

Many thanks, cheers,

Dr. Patrick Liddell

McElroy, Darryl

From: Heather Ehmke [hehmke@walkuplawoffice.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:55 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners:

I understand that the application for a DOG PARK at Lakeside Park near MacArthur Blvd. (also called Astro Park) has been completed. Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This area is used by many people for soccer, frisbee, volleyball, and children who enjoy the grassy area. It also is a great open space that would be stunted by fences. Children would be playing side by side with dog poop. It's just not an ideal place for a dog run. I love dogs and believe there should be more designated areas for off-leash play, but this is just not the right place! Go check it out and see for yourself. It's simply illogical to fence off this expanse of grass for dogs.

Thanks for your consideration.

Heather Ehmke
Secretary to Douglas S. Saeltzer, Esq.
and Kevin L. Domecus, Esq.
(415) 981-7210
(415) 391-6965 (fax)
www.walkuplawoffice.com
www.wrongfuldeath-law.com
www.neuroinjurylaw.com



McElroy, Darryl

From: Jerry Wolfe [wingate63@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 2:22 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park: Please NO DOG PARK

Dear Ms. Clevenger,
I have been a proud Oakland resident for the past 40 years and truly love the diversity and beauty of our city. For thirty of those years I worked in the Oakland Public Schools, and now serve on various community boards, including the Downtown Oakland YMCA, and La Clinica.
I mention these experiences to give you a sense of my perspective of what is of great value to all the citizens of Oakland, especially our youth and families.
The green open space area known as Astro Park, is a rare and much used city gem. Most urban areas around the country are working diligently to preserve the few and limited green open spaces in their cities, knowing the value to the whole community which these spaces provide.
The space at Astro Park is a city wide gem. I have spent countless days viewing the vast array of families, youth, high schools, community groups and sports teams who use that space and cherish its availability. Even to just drive by the spot and see the green beauty gives Oaklanders moments of peace and calmness.
The outpouring of opposition to the outdated and limited view of those proposing an ill conceived dog park and thus elimination of a major part of this space, shows the overall community desire to keep the gem as it is.
I am certainly not a dog hater(as often portrayed by the group pushing this dog park), nor unaware of the needs of dog owners in our city. Yet this is the wrong place and time for such a project. As I am sure you are aware, our city faces major financial shortages, and despite supposed assurances from "volunteer" dog owner groups, the city is not in a position to spend any public funds on a badly place project.
I strongly urge you to oppose this dog park, not just for the hundreds if not thousands of Oaklanders who have voiced their opposition but for all those who use, view and value this rare open space in our city for years to come.
Sincerely,
Jerry Wolfe

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kevin Duncan [kevinduncan2@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 9:36 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Planning Commission --
My name is Jean-Philippe and I live in the Crocker Highlands area in Oakland. Prior to purchasing a home in Oakland, I lived almost a decade in San Francisco. When it came time to have a family and settle with wife and kids and such, I carefully considered several areas around the Bay and Peninsula. To be honest, Oakland was not on top of my list (Piedmont and San Mateo were). But then a friend took me to Gold's Gym one Saturday morning (I had never been around there before). After our workout, we made it to the green grass where a lot of young people from different backgrounds (Latin America, Brazil, Spaniards, French etc..) were playing soccer (I grew up in Europe and I am a decent soccer player) and I joined in. After the play, we headed to the Farmers Market nearby.

It is then that I realized Oakland could be a gret option to start a family: I could imagine my (then-future but now quite real) kids playing in the green grass area, kicking balls with me and my friends, running to the playground towards the lake. I was sold and bought a house in Oakland.

So it with absolute horror that I heard a group of my fellow proud Oaklanders have decided to turn the green grass area that lured me to Oakland into a ...dog park? Why should we destroy what is probably one the best open spaces in Oakland and probably in the Bay Area into a dog park? Is there any other space anywhere in teh city to accommodate a dog park? How can we take we consider taking a green, gorgeous space, open to all to do whatever one feels like and turn it into a potentially dirty space, reserved for the few of us who have dogs?

I strongly urge (ok, beg) you to not approve this plan, to not allow a dog park in this area close to Lake Merritt, the Farmers Market and the best of Oakland. Help dog owners find another space somewhere else but not so close to what is the heart and pride of Oakland: our gorgeous Lake Merritt area with it green open space, "do whatever your heart fancies" grass area.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to chime in.
Jean-Philippe

PS: in case you wonder, yes we do own dogs, two of them; we love them but we believe Astro Park is too useful to too many people from too many walk of life to turn it into a dog park useful only to those who are dog owners!

McElroy, Darryl

From: Alaina Eldridge [alainaseldridge@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 5:36 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please don't accept the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area at Astro Park. I live in the neighborhood and have enjoyed the large grassy area for many years now. Every weekend I walk by the park, on my way to the farmers market, and often take the child I babysit to the park to play on the grass. The park is almost always being used by families or people playing sports. Getting rid of all the grass and putting in a brown dog area would make the neighborhood less attractive and appealing. I also think it's a poor spot for a dog park and wont be very successful, especially since there are much better dog parks just a couple miles away. So please deny the conditional application for the fenced off dog area and keep the park green. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alaina Eldridge

McElroy, Darryl

From: cd.warren@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:53 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This park is one of a few areas in Oakland that provides an appealing and charming family-friendly location. Please preserve this space for the enjoyment of families and other people wanting to enjoy an open, serene, and relaxing place.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Warren

McElroy, Darryl

From: Michael Sasso [michaelwsasso@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 10:26 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Commissioners,

Please do not turn Astro Park into a dog run. Very few large open grassy places in our area of Oakland exist which are suitable for soccer and other field games. Converting a large area of the park into a dog run will severely impact these activities in a negative way. There are many other suitable dog run areas which would not displace play areas for our neighbors and children.

Thank you ,

Michael Sasso

492 Staten Ave., #501
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: chad marshall [chadmarshall@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 6:39 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not allow our beloved park go to the dogs. Let's face it, dogs are already everywhere. I see them in Starbucks. In the bread isle at Safeway. On the counter of La Farine bakery. In restaurants with their obviously fake "Service Animal" vests on. Heck, I already see some dog owners using Astro Park without a care. Scofflaws! Can we please have a place, just one place that is for people only? Where kids can run and play without listening to incessant barking and owners screaming "NO!", "WHAT A GOOOO BOY!" et cetera et cetera. Now is your chance to take a Stand! Sit! Stay! Please keep the park for the people.

Thanks for your time.
Chad Marshall
415.205.8056

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarilee Janger [sarileejanger@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This neighborhood does not need another off-leash dog park...there are enough nearby to satisfy those needing to let their dogs run free. What we do need to maintain is the free space, a multi-use big splash of green in the middle of our neighborhod. What a shame it would be to lose it!
Thank you,
Sarilee Janger

McElroy, Darryl

From: Liz Sand [lizsand@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 10:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro park

Hello Ann and Dear Commissioners, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I suggest an alternative place for the dog park. Across Lakeshore is an empty lot that was a gas station. This space is almost as large and is not an infringement to anyone using the existing park. My problem with the proposed space is aesthetic and safety. Please do not take away the existing park.
Thank you.
Liz Sand

McElroy, Darryl

From: Liz Sand [lizsand@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 10:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro park

Hello Ann and Dear Commissioners, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I suggest an alternative place for the dog park. Across Lakeshore is an empty lot that was a gas station. This space is almost as large and is not an infringement to anyone using the existing park. My problem with the proposed space is aesthetic and safety. Please do not take away the existing park.
Thank you.
Liz Sand

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lea Therianos [leatherianos@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:08 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to support the efforts to save Astro Park. I'm a dog owner, and have lived in the Bay Area for almost 28 years of my life. There are many wonderful dog parks, and out door areas for dog owners to take their pets in the Bay Area.

I'm almost always supportive of creating new spaces for outdoor off-leash dog parks, but I feel that it's unnecessary to turn Astro Park into one because the area is not suitable for a dog park. There are too many cars, and man-made dog runs are hard to maintain and keep clean. Parks such as the one they're proposing to make in Astro Park is usually the last place I enjoy taking my dog for exercise. I enjoy taking my dog to parks such as Fort Funston in San Francisco, and Point Isabelle in Richmond. I'm a Berkeley resident, and the drive to both of these places is completely worth it for me because the land is a suitable place for families to spend time with their beloved pets.

Astro Park is a place where many people and families, mine included, enjoy playing outdoor sports, join fitness groups, have picnics, and participate in many other outdoor activities. It'd be a shame to do away with the green grassy area that gets so much great usage now, and to fence this area off to make a dog park when there are so many other wonderful places to take our pets.

Thanks for taking time to read this letter.

Best,
Lea Therianos

McElroy, Darryl

From: Benjamin Adkins [benjamin_adkins@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 2:52 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Ben Adkins and I live in the Adam's Point neighborhood next to Astro Park and Lake Merritt. Astro Park and the Lake is the best thing about this area of Oakland. It is truly the gem of Oakland! Please do not allow this beautiful green space to be turned into a dog run. Please deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in my neighborhood park! I have many reasons for pleading with you to not allow this to happen. My wife and I moved to Oakland within the last year because we are volunteers with the International Rescue Committee, an organization committed to helping displaced refugees from around the world to successfully resettle here in Oakland. My friends, our new incoming refugees, are arriving from all over the world: Bhutan, Nepal, Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and so many more! We use Astro Park - one of the few large green areas that is within walking distance near my neighborhood - to host weekly and daily events. For example, every Friday we teach a free English class for new refugees and afterwards we play soccer with our students. We walk to Astro Park and use this beautiful green space to play soccer and build relationships with our students. Our students describe this as their favorite time during the week. It is therapeutic for them! For many, they come from rural areas that are usually lush and green, so coming to a modern city like Oakland is hard for them. Yet, this little space called Astro Park allows them to remember what green space looks like. I distinctly remember one of my Bhutanese friends on his first time to Astro Park reaching down to the grass and dirt at Astro Park and smiling. I asked him what was going on because here was this 30 year old man standing in the middle of Astro Park bent over in half touching the earth. I will never forget what he told me - he looked up at me and said in his broken English - "Ben, I feel the earth again." I asked him, "what do you mean?" He told me that this was the first time since he moved to Oakland (about four months prior) that he was able to touch the grass, the soil, and the earth. He was so excited and happy to be able to have a green place to come to. He came up to me and gave me a big hug and said: "thank you!" This is why Astro Park is important. Living in a modern city, we have to protect our green spaces. If Astro Park had been a dog run, my new friend would have never had this experience.

In addition to this experience, we use Astro Park every Sunday at 3pm to play soccer. A group of around 20 show up and play soccer from 3pm till around 6 or until it gets dark. This is not just a group of your average American guys playing soccer. This is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-religious group. Here is a group of Muslims from Afghanistan playing soccer with Hindus from Sri Lanka, Buddhist from Bhutan, and Orthodox Christians from Eritrea - laughing and playing soccer. They are the future of Oakland. They are the future of our nation. Allowing green spaces like Astro Park to exist allows for connections and bridges to be built across cultural, language, religious, and social barriers. It is one of the few green spaces in Oakland big enough to host a group like ours.

Besides using this beautiful green space for sporting events, we host family events here as well. For example, last Spring we hosted an Easter picnic and egg hunt for refugee families. We had over 30 families show up for the event. We had food from all over the world. We had games for the children. And we had a good 'ole American Easter Egg Hunt for the young children. Well, ... we thought it was only for young children until our adults, who had never experienced an Easter Egg hunt ran out to find eggs for themselves. Many of the families had never experienced an Easter Egg hunt and were so happy and excited to be able to experience an American "tradition." For weeks afterwards, many of our friends kept asking us when we could go back to Astro Park and look for eggs! If Astro Park was a off-leash dog run, where else could we go? Please, don't allow this space to be turned into a dog-run. Not only do we use this space for large group gatherings, we also use it for small group gatherings as well. We have taught English in the park. We have small picnics in the park. It is such a wonderful place. And we love it!

Commissioners, I beg of you, please deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in my, no, "our" neighborhood area park.

Sincerely,
and in most respect,

Benjamin S. Adkins

McElroy, Darryl

From: Steve B [sbreg82@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 5:34 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: SAVE ASTRO PARK

Dear Commissioners,

I love Astro Park and think a dog park would be a blight on the park and surrounding area. I request that you all DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in my neighborhood park. I live on Hanover Ave. located off of Lakeshore Ave. less than a half mile form Astro Park and walk by, use, and enjoy almost daily.

Respectfully Your,

Steven Bregante
322 Hanover Ave.
Oakland, CA 94606
925-785-1487

McElroy, Darryl

From: Eric Steckel [eric@bars-tone.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:34 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save Astro Park

To Nancy Nadel, Council District 3, Rebecca Kaplan, Council At Large, and Ann Clevenger, Oakland Planning Department,

I am writing today as a resident of Adams Point in Oakland and someone who really loves the way Lake Merritt and Astro Park are currently setup. I have two children who have enjoyed the playground for years, and are now ready to use the fields adjacent to the Astro Park. For many reasons, it would be a shame to convert a large part of that to fenced in brown space. While I understand that the fields are in their current state because of plans to create the dog park, their use as open fields of play have been embraced by the community.

For starters, fencing in the area would fundamentally alter the views of the lake from the area, and that is no good thing. It is lovely the way it is, so let's keep it that way. Secondly, I understand that dog owners need a place to bring their pets, but doing this adjacent to a playground is really not safe or appropriate. Right idea- Wrong place.

I urge you to reconsider where we place a dog park. The corner of Macarthur and Lakeshore is not the place.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eric L. Steckel
303 Adams Street, #203
Oakland, CA 94610

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McElroy, Darryl

From: Gerald Wheeler [geraldwheeler@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 4:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

I have lived in this neighborhood for over 27 years and dividing the use of this small park between dogs and people is a proposal that has been rejected by most of the residents that I know, particularly those, and there are a lot of them, families with small children.
Astro Park is a location that always has been and continues to be fully used by families, and sports enthusiasts for recreation and pleasure on a daily basis.
Chopping it up for dogs is a bad idea.

I have no doubt that there are other, far less intrusive locations where dog owners can allow their animals to run free. Please do not allow it here.

Thank you,

Gerald Wheeler
651 Santa Ray Ave.
Oakland, Ca. 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Donald Scott [brasco1903@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 7:05 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: save astro park

I would prefer not to have a massive dog park take space away from people who use that grass year round, whether it be parents and kids, soccer players, football camps, or people laying out with a book.

If compromise is necessary, make is smaller. The dog park is sure to be popular early on, then once interest tapers lake merritt would be left with a under utilized space with everyone asking 'who came up with this idea'.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ryan Lindsay [rlindsay54@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2012 12:48 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save Astro Park

Ms. Ann Clevenger;

I am writing to you in regards to the proposal to place a dog park in the middle of Astro Park. As a resident of this neighborhood, and as a fan of dogs, I would like to express that I am against this dog park.

The argument is that this space is rarely in use, so why not a dog park? Well first off, it IS used by members of the community (children and their families who use the nearby playground, fitness training groups, a group of mentally challenged people for fitness and games, and others).

Secondly, a space does not have to be in a constant state of use in order to entail its importance. It is a lovely green space that really shines especially on sunny days. Filling it with wood chips and adding a chain link fence is going to make this space unattractive visually and possibly unhealthy (more traffic, increase in dog waste).

I sympathize with dog owners; I have owned dogs in the past and occasionally look after friends' canine companions. I understand how awesome it is to have a place to hang out and let your pet run free and enjoy the outdoors without a leash. This proposal, however, is going to be more at the expense of the community. The neighborhood will loose a green space and only gain a soiled pile of wood chips in return.

Thank you so much for your time and understanding.

Sincerely,

Ryan Lindsay

McElroy, Darryl

From: Brea Jones [breajones@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2012 12:38 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save Astro Park

Ann Clevenger:

I am writing to express my strong disapproval for creating a dog park in Astro Park, at the intersection of MacArthur Blvd. and Lakeshore Ave.

The city has done so much to improve this community over the course of the three years I have called this neighborhood home, and it is a shame to turn much loved greenspace into an eyesore of a dog park. This space is used by community members playing soccer, exercising, stretching out with a picnic or book, and generally scanning the beauty of the area. A dog park in this area would block access for its current many uses and also alarm small children and families who utilize the adjacent children's playground. I strongly advocate against this dog park.

Thank you for taking my views into account.

Sincerely,
Brea Jones
444 Lee St., #4
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sarah H [trisas6@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 22, 2011 10:47 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Pat, Rebecca, Nancy & Ann,

Please count our family amount those that do NOT wish to loose Astro park to the dogs.
While we appreciate the need for dog parks, this is NOT the right location. Astro park is so loved and so used as a beautiful open green space I can't see justifying fencing it in for the dogs... not when it means taking the space away from our kids!!!

Thanks,

Two mom's & their little one
Stow Ave, Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: awenzell [awenzell@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners:

I write to STRONGLY oppose the conversion of Asto park to a dog run area. While I understand the need for doggy open spaces, this park and the area specifically slated for the dog park is one of the most utilized open spaces in all of Oakland. Not a day goes by, rain or shine, when you will not see people (taxpaying citizens) playing Frisbee, soccer, baseball, football, working out, turning cartwheels, chasing their children, or simply sunbathing.

I am a dog owner and I live three blocks from Astro park, so I would benefit disproportionately from a dog run area. But looking at the larger good to the community, it would be a terribly selfish disservice to the citizens of Oakland as a whole to deny such a utilized recreational area to the rest of my neighbors because a handful of us dog owners want to run our dogs off-leash.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,
Ann Wenzell
750 MacArthur Blvd.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jan LeGassick [janle@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 9:13 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

I live in the Lakeshore area and am unhappy with the proposal to create a fenced-in dog area near Astro Park. Please deny the conditional use permit.

Contrary to what supporters of the dog area claim, this part of the park is often used by adults and kids for soccer games and other activities. It's also an entry point to the Lakeshore area and is now an open, inviting space. Fencing it off for dog use, and relying on volunteers to maintain the site is a bad idea. There must be other places that are not prime real estate, that would be more suitable for a dog park.

Thank you,

Jan LeGassick

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jonathan Hayward [jonnyhayward@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, November 05, 2011 12:17 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Ann, Pat, Nancy, and Rebecca,
My name is Jon Hayward and I live at the corner of Grand and Lee street in Adams point. My wife and I moved to Oakland last year in August from the east coast. We have found a great community of friends and neighbors and have really enjoyed seeing Oakland stereotype after stereotype smashed as the months have moved on.

I love Oakland but when people back east ask me what it's like living here I can't help but mention the lack of good green public space here, and now there is even less that the tent city is killing everything that is green downtown. One thing that I had loved about living on the east coast (cambridge MA) was that people were out and about playing ultimate frisbee, soccer, kickball, softball, etc., in the public spaces. Often times on my bike ride home from work I would hop into a game and meet new people. This is something that I really miss, Oakland has virtually no inviting public social sports events, and virtually no space to facilitate said events.

I have however stubbled upon a group of guys who play soccer every sunday at 1 at the Astro park. One day a few months ago I asked if I could hop in and pretty much every Sunday after they have invited me to play. Every week new people show up (last week we had a 12 v 12 game) and play, there is a great sense of community and friendly game play with no emotional or uncomfortable confrontations to date. It is a multicultural, diverse in age (not yet gender but ladies are alway welcome), and all around great group of guys.

If a dog park were built in the proposed location we would loose half of our playing field and be forced to play in a tighter space closer to the trees, playground, freeway and parking lot. As it is now we comfortably play in the center of the green without any danger of hard passes or shots entering the playground.

I should mention to that I am in general pro dog park and pro dog. I grew up with dogs, love dogs, and would have one now if my apartment were pet friendly. I am not in favor of replacing people parks with dog parks, especially parks that are commonly and habitually used by the public.

Please do not continue with the plans to build the dog park at Astro park. Oakland can't afford to loose so much of the green space that it so desperately needs to facilitate public events, and all around positive social interaction.

Thank you,
Jon Hayward

Registered and active voter in Alameda County

---
jonnyhayward@gmail.com
http://web.me.com/jonnyhayward <— PORTFOLIO SITE
twitter.com/jonnyhayward
978 257 1191

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sally Lewis [sallyelewis@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 11:49 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Pat, Rebecca, and Ann,

I have been living in Oakland for about three years, and I have lived right up the street from Astro Park for almost two years now. In fact, I can see Astro Park from my bedroom window. I thoroughly enjoy and take pride in my residence in the Lake Merritt area. I frequent local shops, the Saturday Farmer's Market, and walk around the lake at least twice a week (weather permitting). Moreover, I worked at Bayhill High School, on Boden Way, which utilized Astro Park for its' sports and other school activities. I now work at another local high school, and our school played flag football against Bayhill High School in Astro Park -- right where people are trying to install a dog park. I think it would be a travesty to take this space away from the multitude of people and programs that utlize it. It makes me happy to see people of all sorts of creeds use this park for play and recreational activities. I am a dog owner, and have been for 5 years, and yet I am completely opposed to this space being used as a dog park. I know that my students would be devastated not to be able to use this area to scrimmage against oher local high school. I cannot think of another place for our games to be held. Please consider the people who use this park for positive reasons every day and deny this area as a dog parl. Thank you

--
Sally Lewis

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ashley Ziegler [Ashley@sfhoundlounge.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:01 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: save astro park

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ashley Ziegler [Ashley@sfhoundlounge.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:01 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save Astro Park

Hello,

Please save astro park! In short I believe it is the heart and soul of the area. Thank you, Ashley Ziegler

McElroy, Darryl

From: Gilbert Vahanian [gvahanian@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 3:05 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please forward this message to the Planning Commission.

Thank you.

Dear Commissioners,

Please vote to DENY fencing off a portion of Astro Park for a dog run.

This beautiful, serene, green space provides utility not just to the many active users of it, but also to thousands of daily passer-by who derive peace and satisfaction from seeing a tranquil, green oasis in the midst of what otherwise would be a desolate urban diaorama of buildings and concrete.

If we must appropriate valuable, open, flat, green, unprogrammed space for any other purpose, then let's ensure that the utility provided by that proposed use FAR outweighs the cost of relinquishing this green space. Decimating this beautiful space with woodchips, dust, and chicken-wire does not come close!

Moreover, this well-intentioned, but utlimately horrifically flawed proposal, will be an eye sore, nose sore, and ear sore for all visitors to the lake, IN PERPETUITY!

When I saved a deaf dalmation puppy from sure extermination by a breeder in San Leandro, I relocated to Concord to give the sweet soul a back yard to run in. No, I did not have a car, and rode to Bart on my bicycle. I'm all for dog parks in Oakland, but to put a dog park at this vital patch of green adjacent to a tot lot and an important, highly trafficked corridor that connects many districts strikes me as sophomoric.

And I haven't even touched on the notion that this land is part of the first US national wildlife refuge and an important bird sanctuary!

Please, let's kill off this proposal, and start working on proposlas on how to preserve our valuable open space from similar future land grabs.

Let's not be the ones future generations of Oaklanders and Piedmonters look back to as having woodchiped paradise and put up a dog crapper.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Kindest regards,

Gilbert Vahanian

Oakland Homeowner since 2005
635 Spruce St.
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Daniel Gutierrez [dan_zone@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:52 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I am a Native Oaklander. I grew up playing in Astro Park and now bring my own children there to play. I also still play frisbee there as well. Although I love dogs, I am opposed to having a dog park in Astro Park. There has to be another location better suited as a dog park. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Daniel Gutierrez, Realtor
Highland Partners
510-517-3000

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tom Willging [twillgin@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 6:15 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Chris Willging
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Commissioners:

Please vote to deny the application to create a dog park on the Astro Park grounds. With the layout of the park, having dog runs will interfere with the many activities that take place there now. I am especially concerned about the effect of a dog park on the children's playground that will border the dog run. My two grandsons, ages 2 and 6, have enjoyed the park throughout their young lives and would like to continue to do so.

I appreciate the need for a dog park and hope that you are able to locate a suitable area in the neighborhood. My only objection is having the park so close to where children play and to the soccer and athletic fields.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Willging
177 19th Street, Apt. 2D
Oakland, CA 94612
510-835-0159 (home)
202-491-4747 (cell)

McElroy, Darryl

From: Marcus Keay [marcuskeay@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 7:52 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park - Deny Dog Park Permit

Dear Miss Ann Cleaver

As a resident of the Lakeshore area "1177 Holman Road" and the father of a 17 month old child, my family and I frequent the children's play area adjacent to the proposed dog park regularly. As an observer of the activities that take place in the proposed area for the dog area I strongly oppose the area to be designated for dogs. The proposed area is regularly used by children and adults alike for multiple open area activities such as children's and adult soccer, running, bootcamp and volley ball to name a few. There has to be a better location for the dog park than this site.

Please help keep our limited open park areas for people and reconsider this proposal and find another location.

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Keay
1177 Holman Road,
Oakland, CA, 94610

Sent from my iPad

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ebere Chukwuemeka [eberechukwuemeka@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 6:38 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save Astro park.

Hello. I have been playing soccer at astro park for 9 years now every sunday along with many other Oaklanders. Please do not build a dog park park there. If you do, you will be taking away alot from me and the kind fellows that i play with at that park every sunday. i am comfident that we are not the only ones that will lose alot from the building of the dog part at astro park. Alot of people make use of that spot and it would be terrible to us if it was gone or replace with whatever. I also think its really messed up how the city doesn't have the time or money to cut the grass at astro park but they have the time and money to construct a dog park there and rob people of a really good spot. Anyway please don't build the dog park or anything there for that matter thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Brian Auerbach [auerbach.brian@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:28 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park as an open green space for all to use

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I live in the neighborhood that includes the Astro Park green space. This green space is a gem in the neighborhood that creates a beautiful and unmistakable vista for all citizens to share. There is nothing more pleasurable after a long day at work in San Francisco and a commute bus ride home than to look out of the bus window and see that wide vista with all kinds of people walking, playing soccer, kids playing, people exercising and, of course, just the open space dedicated to all.

A dog park in this location would be a tragedy for all concerned. I am not against dogs or dog parks per se, but this prime resource set in such a prominent part of our neighborhood is just wrong for dog usage and would be a city planning error. I ask you to please deny the proposal to put a dog park in this wonderful, shared location.

Sincerely,
Brian Auerbach

McElroy, Darryl

From: Diane Wallace [moongoddess13@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 11:25 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park from going to the dogs

Dear Ann,
Please stop the proposal that would turn Astro Park into a dog park. This is a beautiful grassy area where people play sports, dance, exercise and enjoy themselves in a scenic location. Dog parks are messy and ugly with bare earth and ugly fences. Please don't allow a noisy, messy eyesore to be installed where there are now beautiful green open spaces. There is no reason why dog owners can't walk their dogs on leashes near the lake. There are other dog parks within driving distance that don't impact as many people.

Please keep Oakland's Lake Merritt beautiful and deny this dog park proposal.
Sincerely,
Diane Wallace
Oakland resident

McElroy, Darryl

From: alexandra feinstein [alexafeinstein@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: SAVE ASTRO PARK!

PLEASE DO NOT PLACE A DOG PARK IN THIS LOCATION!!!
I am a Grand Lake Resident, and I believe there are many other places to put a dog park. This is the only place where families like ours, can play soccer and run around freely with out getting hit by a car.
It would be such a unpleasant place to have a dog park. Please please do not place a dog park in this location! it will smell, and be unpleasant, as my children play at the playground next to Astro park.
Regards,
Alexandra Feinstein
346 Santa Clara Ave Oakland 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Nicole Danielle Scott [nicoledscott@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2012 8:53 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; del@oaklandnet.com; At Large
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park!

Dear Councilmembers:

Please Keep Astro Park for the kids!

Thank you.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Victoria Wong [vwoakland@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:56 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park!

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing to oppose the proposed dog park at Astro Park. I am a long time resident of the Grand Lake neighborhood, and I feel strongly that the open space at Astro Park is an integral part of the community that needs to be preserved. This area is highly visible and attractive, and heavily used and enjoyed by many neighborhood residents, including me and my family, who live within half a mile of the park. Every weekend there are people using that open space for soccer games, stretching and calisthenics, and children's activities. A dog park at this location would eliminate the open space that is important to our community, in an area with relatively little park space for recreation like soccer games. There is no place for those types of activities around the lake or up either Grand or Lakeshore Avenues. It also would impact safety for children, as the dog park would be right next to the heavily used playground and library.

That open space also serves as a transition between SplashPad Park and the Lake, significantly harming the aesthetics of the park. I do not want a dog park in that highly visible location. It would be a visual blight on the neighborhood, which has worked hard for years to improve itself and attract pedestrians and shoppers.

Furthermore, despite ODOG's promises that its volunteers will maintain the park, there is no guarantee it will happen, and the City will not have the resources to maintain the park. If it becomes dirty and smelly, the community will have no recourse for correcting the problem. Furthermore, I believe this dog park, if it is to be located anywhere, should, like most dog parks, be placed in an underutilized area, as the Linda Park dog park and the dog park near FROG Park are placed (on a steep hillside and under a freeway, respectively), rather than in a highly used, attractive and visible area.

As it is, Oakland does not have the resources to maintain existing parks, even with volunteer assistance. For example, the Oakland Rose Garden's condition has deteriorated severely since gardening staff was reduced, despite regular volunteer efforts. I do not want to see a new dog park, in a highly visible and highly trafficked area, blight the neighborhood. In fact, I am opposed to even the capital expenditures proposed for the park, given Oakland's dire budget situation. That money would be far better spent maintaining existing parks than creating another park that much of the community opposes, and for which the City cannot afford maintenance.

Arguments that this location has been in the works for a long time and that the City should not spend additional money on planning a new park are irrelevant. The fact that this not a suitable location for a dog park remains true regardless of how much it would cost to plan an alternative location. As you know, based on the strong community opposition to the park, many local residents had no idea about the plans.

In sum, I oppose the proposed dog park for many reasons, including children's safety, aesthetics, and the elimination of an important and heavily used open space, where Oakland has a shortage of open, accessible park space already. Please vote against the proposed dog park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Wong

McElroy, Darryl

From: Patti Byram [patti@trademarkevents.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 12:17 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: SAVE ASTRO PARK! No dog park
Importance: High

Dear Commissioners: Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This green park is beautiful as it is and used in many ways by children, adults, families, Lake Merritt wildlife. This is not the place for a dog park. Thank you.

Patti Byram
Resident of Grand Lake area

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mclaughlan, Kristina [Kristina_Mclaughlan@intuit.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 11:57 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park!! - Please DENY conditional use permit application
Importance: High

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood Astro Park!!!

My family, friends and I enjoy this park on a weekly basis for large games of soccer, Frisbee, boot camp and many other sports. My small children enjoy playing on the outdoor play structures, and we would be devastated to lose field space and have an off-leash dog area. We are all completely opposed to this conditional use permit application.

Please do NOT allow the conditional use permit application to go through.

Thank you,
Kristina McLaughlan
71 La Salle Ave, Piedmont CA 94611

McElroy, Darryl

From: Omar shah [omarshah@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 1:09 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park!!

Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This park is frequently used for many fun activities for kids and adults including soccer, volleyball, etc. Given that there is a kids park next to it, it is a fun and safe place for kids to run around in the green grass.
Allowing dogs in the park would make it unsafe for little kids and also ruin the green grass due to dog feces. Please consider keeping this park for residents to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

Thanks
Omar

McElroy, Darryl

From: Elaine Ellis [mselainels@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 1:50 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park!

Dear Commissioners,

Please DO NOT vote to the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

I am an Oakland resident and love to run around Lake Merritt and all of its surrounding green space. While I love dogs and believe they deserve a place to run around, please do not take away this limited green space in the Lake Merritt neighborhood for all of us who use it in our own ways, playing sports or just enjoying relaxing there in the sun.

Thank you for considering the wishes of your constituents.

Sincerely,
Elaine Ellis
(School social worker, Rockridge resident)

McElroy, Darryl

From: Karyn Moss Veneklasen [karyn@mosspro.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 11:19 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park--Move Proposed Dog Park to Another Location

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park, Astro Park. Our daughter plays soccer there on Saturdays, and our toddler son loves to play in the green area. We also love having the big green patch as a great benefit to the neighborhood.

We're 100% in favor of an off-leash dog park in the neighborhood, but as a dog owner, I know that they're ugly and smelly, so we'd would all be better off hiding it behind Fairyland or another site that's less visible and in the center of our highly trafficked public park area.

Sincerely,

Karyn Veneklasen
1036 Sunnyhills Road
Oakland 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Karen Zachary [karendzachary@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 6:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Ann,

Please don't build a dog park at Astro Park.

1) parking is already abysmal in this area and would get worse
2) dog walking already obstructs the sidewalks around the lake too much...and having a dog park could mean more dogs passing through my neighborhood
3) we don't need the noise
4) it's wrong for all Oakland citizens to yield precious green space to a minority (dog owners)
5) Astro Park gets plenty of use for more positive activities

I don't think the city should have ANY dog parks, but if it must, the space by Fairyland is a much better location.

Thank you for reading,

Karen Zachary
2316 Lakeshore Ave #9
Oakland, CA 94606

McElroy, Darryl

From: Kamala Leslie [repdiva@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2011 5:21 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save AstroPark

I'm writing as a Lake Merritt resident to express my concern over Astro Park becoming a dog shitting parlor. Sorry to be so blunt, but this is a beautiful wide open plot of land that is used by soccer players, children, picnicers, etc and it really ought to remain that way. Turning it into a dog park will not only take away from the beauty of the Lake, but it then is only available to serve a specific population, that being dog-owners. Please keep Astro Park a public plot of land for citizens to use for human play, enjoyment, nature.... not for dogs to take over. Thank you for hearing me. I wish you safe and happy holidays.

Sincerely,
Leslie Davis
510 409 5494
450 merritt ave

McElroy, Darryl

From: Clarence Binninger [cbinusa@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 6:13 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astropark

Please do not turn astro park into this wasteland of a dog run. The geese like the grass, the kids like the grass, and I like the grass. It would be less horrible if it at least turned into a cordoned-off grass dog run, but dark chunks to add to global warming? Are you kidding? If this nightmare originated with a city employee, then this is an example of an out-of-touch government bureaucrat run-amock. Why not turn an underused parking lot into a nice grassy field where dogs can run instead? There are plenty of such lots near the Lake by the Kaiser Convention Center and Laney College and all over downtown.
Clarence Binninger

McElroy, Darryl

From: Tye Reichle [tyereichle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 2:56 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save the Astro park

Please deny the use of the corner of the park for 'dog run'.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ashley Ziegler [Ashley@sfhoundlounge.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 12:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: save the park

I have submitted letters in an effort to save Astro Park before and I am now sending another message but will keep it brief. The park is used as it us by many. It is a cherished area that should remain as is. Thank you for considering my high priority request.

- Ashley Ziegler

McElroy, Darryl

From: Laverne M [lmatiasg@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 8:29 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: saveastropark@gmail.com

issapointment
Ms. Ann Clevenger

I have no words to express my sadness and dissapointment after leaning the plans for Astro Park in Oakland.
When I go to Farmers' Market on Saturday it is a joy to walk from the lake to the market and see kids playing, youth prating sports and families connecting and building a vibrant community. The park is one of the few green areas accessible to residents of this area - walking distance.

I'm writing to ask you to PLEASE DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.
Our families, youth and children would greatly appreciate it.

Best, Laverne Matias
Maple Avenue
Oakland, CA 94602

McElroy, Darryl

From: Valerie Dunn [sogno.e.viverlo@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7:59 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: SaveEastropark

Hello.
I am a local citizen of Oakland. On saturdays My family and I walk down to the farmers market and then walk over to the open space, which is such a great treat to have for families enjoying a picnic or watching our children play soccer with their friends. We love dogs and even want to have spaces for them. However, this park in particular is not the appropriate setting, and it would greatly take away the natural beauty of the park and all that it represents for local families.

Please do not allow the building of a dog part in this area, to my understanding there are already several parks for dogs and yes, there are several parks for kids, but this would be an eyesore, let alone taking away from the openness that the park provides during those spring and summer days when families head out to this park.

Thank you, for your time.

Valerie Dunn

McElroy, Darryl

From: Emily Mendel [emily@mendelnet.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 10:52 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Stop the Dog Park

The Dog Park is taking vital green open space from our neighborhood. Kids, sport players, walkers, exercisers, dreamers, all need that space.

Regards,
Emily S. Mendel

1109 Ashmount Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94610
510.763.1898

McElroy, Darryl

From: Sufen Chang [sufen@structurespace.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 9:34 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: stop the dog park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. We love our little park with the green area. My family has lived in this neighborhood for 14 years and both of my kids grew up in this park. This is the gem that's part of Lake Merritt. Please save this beautiful green area and do not ruin Lake Merritt which is the most beautiful iconic scene in Oakland.

Having an area that is FENCED off is the last thing we need. One of the main reasons that the farmer's market is so successful is how porous it is in its entire perimeter. Similarly, we need a natural green space without fences to bridge and connect the lake and the businesses on the other side of the freeway, as well as providing the most versatile and open use for all residents.

Thank you,

Sufen Chang
Resident at Adams Point and Jean Street Condominiums since 1998.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rachel Broadwin [chezrachel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 11:06 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Suggested Locations for Dog Park
Attachments: Suggested Locations for Dog Park.doc

Hi Ann - I'm a home owner who lives about half a mile from the proposed dog park at Astro Park. I believe there are several other, much better, locations for the dog park. Please see the attached map where I've indicated 3 other locations.

1) In the park across from Ahn's Burger along Grand Ave
2) Former Chevron station
3) Vacant Lot at MacArthur and Wesley

You've already heard all the arguments. The Astro Park location is just too beautiful and well used to convert to a dog park.

Thanks for trying to resolve this issue.

Rachel

======
Greetings from Rachel B.
chezrachel@yahoo.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: Julie Knoeller [julie.knoeller@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2011 10:55 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: support dog park

Dear City Planning Commission,

I am a new resident of Oakland and am very keen on the dog park project. This type of activity is very important to my family's quality of life and we really hope it comes to pass.

Happy New Year,

Julie Knoeller
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: Quang Dang [quanghdang@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 11:49 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Support for Astro Park Dogpark

Dear Ann, Pat, Nancy, and Rebecca:

I walked by the "Save Astro Park" folks last Saturday and was deeply troubled by their attempts to confuse people about what is going on at Astro Park. I am an Oakland resident who has two dogs who would love to see a dog park there. I think it would be great for everyone, especially local dog owners who have so places to go, given OMC 6.04.080. There is plenty of room at this park to have the proposed dog park and still have other activities. It will help make Oakland a better place, with more opportunities for dog owners to exercise and socialize their dogs properly. Please let me know about any public meetings about this dog park.

Thank you,
Quang H. Dang
209 Frisbie Street, Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Dale Risden [dalerisden@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2012 10:27 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Support for Dog Park in Grand Lake

Dear Planning Department,

While serving on the Joaquin Miller Park advisory board, I assisted from the local communities input for the new Dog Park in Joaquin Miller Park.

I would like to share my experiences with the new Dog Park, and how beyond just dogs, the Dog Park has had other impacts on Joaquin Miller Park, as well.

It has been a great spot for Oakland neighbors to meet. It has been outings for seniors with dogs. A place for conversation. In Joaquin Miller Park the new dog areas have increased park usage. Helped maintain a rather little used area of the park, and has brought interest in and usage of other areas of the park by these new visitors.

To my surprise there has been little negative impact. Maintenance is done by visitors of the Park. The communities experience has been a very positive one.

Thanks,
Dale Risden

McElroy, Darryl

From: Susanna Gordon [spgordon@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, January 09, 2012 1:07 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Support for Grand Lake dog park

Oakland Planning Commission:

Please support construction of a dog park at Lake Merritt by Lakeshore. As a neighborhood resident, I would love to be able to take my dog there to play, and would likely buy food on Lakeshore before or following such visits. Right now, I have to drive to a dog park farther afield -- Joaquin Miller, Frog Park in Rockridge, or the Piedmont dog park on Linda. There is currently nothing available close to home.

I have two small children and have at times used the tot lot next to this location, and I have always been surprised that the large grassy area next to it is so underutilized. This area would be much better designated as an off-leash dog area.

Thank you

Susanna Gordon
1496 Trestle Glen Rd
Oakland

McElroy, Darryl

From: Adriana Socorro [adrianasocorro@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2012 1:53 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Support for Lake Merritt dog park

Hi,

As a dog owner living in the Lake Merritt area I fully support the dog park that is planned to be opened at the Lake. Since I don't own a car it is very hard to go to dog parks because dogs are not allowed on public transportation or anywhere around the Lake.

I believe this park will benefit all the community not just dog owners. We have to believe in the consciousness of the people and that we will all work to keep the park clean and in optimous condition.

Thank you for reading all these emails and listening to all dog owners who only want a better life for their loved ones.

Adriana Socorro

McElroy, Darryl

From: Lisa Haage [lhaage@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2012 11:51 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: support for lake merritt dog park

Hello--
I just wanted to write a quick letter of support for a dog park at the Lake. I have lived in Oakland for 25 years, but have found that since I got a dog and go to dog parks, that I have gotten to know many more of my Oakland neighbors, and a very diverse cross section of Oakland residents. I think that, in addition to getting many more folks out and about which is obviously good for the city, it really presents a very unusual opportunity for folks from all sorts of backgrounds to mingle and enjoy the out of doors together.

In addition, I note that I have several children's parks in my immediate neighborhood, and many city schools which I support financially with my tax dollars but do not use. I am happy to do so, but think that we should also provide services in the city for people who do not have children.

Many thanks for your concern.

Lisa Haage
5849 Colby Street
Oakland 94618

McElroy, Darryl

From: Amy Reber [amy_reber@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 22, 2012 9:54 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Support for the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Hello Ms. Clevinger,
I've lived in the Adams Point neighborhood, next to the lake, for the last ten years. For eight of those I was not a dog owner. For the last two I have owned my own dog. I would support the new dog park whether or not I owned my own dog!

A dog park in the area is urgently needed because:

- Dog owners **need an area where it is legal** to walk their dogs. The area around the lake is technically off limits for dogs. Although they are tolerated there on leash.
- We need an **area where the thousands of dogs who live in the Lake Merritt area can spend some time running off leash.** I watched a woman let her dog run up and kill a goose one day. She was allowing her dog to roam off leash in the bird sanctuary. I reported the bird's death to the head naturalist at the bird sanctuary office. If there were a place where this woman could have taken her dog off leash at the lake, her dog may not have killed the bird.
- As I'm sure you know, Lake Merritt was the first wildlife preserve in North America . We need a separate **area for dogs away from the Lake Merritt wildlife**.

There is plenty of space for walkers, bikers, and runners around the lake, but there is no sanctioned area for people to walk their dogs. And definitely no place for dogs to run off leash!

Btw -- I walked by Astro Park yesterday in the afternoon and there was not one person using the huge expanse of grass that spans across the corner of the park near the children's playgound.

Thank you so much for considering the Lake Merritt dog park proposal. The area is GREATLY needed!

Sincerely,
Amy Reber

McElroy, Darryl

From: Amy Reber [amy_reber@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 8:33 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Pattillo@pgadesign.com; Quan, Jean; Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca

Subject: Support for the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Good evening Oakland City Officials,
I am writing to add my support for the new dog park in the Lake Merritt area.

I've lived in the Adams Point neighborhood, next to the lake, for the last ten years. For eight of those I was not a dog owner. For the last two I have owned my own dog. I would support the new dog park whether or not I owned my own dog!

A dog park in the area is urgently needed because:

- Dog owners **need an area where it is legal** to walk their dogs. The area around the lake is technically off limits for dogs. Although they are tolerated there on leash.
- We need an **area where the thousands of dogs who live in the Lake Merritt area can spend some time running off leash.** I watched a woman let her dog run up and kill a goose one day. She was allowing her dog to roam off leash in the bird sanctuary. I reported the bird's death to the head naturalist at the bird sanctuary office. If there were a place where this woman could have taken her dog off leash at the lake, her dog may not have killed the bird.
- As I'm sure you know, Lake Merritt was the first wildlife preserve in North America . We need a separate **area for dogs away from the Lake Merritt wildlife**.

There is plenty of space for walkers, bikers, and runners around the lake, but there is no sanctioned area for people to walk their dogs. And definitely no place for dogs to run off leash!

Thank you so much for considering adding your support to the Lake Merritt dog park proposal. The area is GREATLY needed!

Sincerely,
Amy Reber

McElroy, Darryl

From: Harley Siskin [hjsiskin@me.com]
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Support the dog park

As a senior citizen, I would welcome a dog park near my residence. Right now, I must drive to Alameda, which is tiring. An unfortunate outcome is that I end up doing all my errands there, depriving the small businesses at the Lake of my patronage. Since I see hardly more than a handful of people in the disputed field, I feel a dog park would be a better use of space and would do more to foster community.

Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: Mark Popple [markpopple@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 9:36 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: The proposed dog park at Astro Park.

To the Commissioners.
Please DENY the permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area.
I am totally opposed to this for many reasons. This is currently an open space for everyone to use. Many football players use this area. It is just big enough for two simultaneous games at present; if any part of it is fenced off that capability will be gone and there are very few places where people can play.
It is used as a playing field for the special school just up the hill from there. Last year they had a special needs games day there and they will be devastated at the loss of this facility.
Are we seriously proposing to spend money on a dog park when we cant keep libraries open? I know that this is supposed to be privately funded and not cost the city but I cannot see how that is possible.Even assuming no city funds are used to build the park, and it is maintained by volunteers (both assumptions that I would dispute) the city will still be on the hook for maintaining the dog mess bins and having them emptied. Will the proponents pay for this service?
Whilst we are on the subject of mess, is it wise to have that much dog mess right next to a children's playground? It will hardly be very pleasant for young children and their carers to be subjected to that stench. Having visited some of the many other dog parks in the area I am NOT impressed by the standard of maintenance, the smell, or the look of them. The proponents hold up the Ohlone dog park in Berkeley as a fine example of a dog run. When I visited there was un-picked up dog muck in numerous places and on the fence was a sign that said " please stop the incessant barking of your dogs" that the residents of the area had posted in obvious disgust and distress. Or will this one go the route of the Alameda dog park in which there are white plastic lawn chairs scattered around the dog urine stunted shrubbery and scraggy grass.
But perhaps the biggest reason for keeping the park as it is, is the fact that it is the entrance to the city's jewel, Lake Merritt. Nearly everyone who comes to the lake passes this corner. Why should we spoil the open space, that is enjoyed by everyone, to fence it off for a few people with dogs. I thought Oakland was supposed to be against special interests and favouring the few.
Please leave our park alone.
Mark Popple.
Oakland resident. Cleveland Heights.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Rachel Gregg [rachel@inman.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 1:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

For more than two years I have lived on Grand Avenue across the street from Astro Park. My third story apartment allows me to observe the daily (and nightly) goings on of the park and & the park has been nothing short of inspirational.

Please deny the conditional use permit that would fence off a significant portion of green space to create a dog park. Simply put, a transition of Astro Park's green space into a dog park would be a misguided, egregious waste of taxpayer dollars.

The money should be put towards maintenance of the park, AS IT IS. Additionally, those dollars could be used to maintain the heavily used but shoddily maintained nearby Splash Pad Park.

Astro Park is used day-in and day-out by countless Oaklanders. Nearby parking is at capacity. Astro Park is thriving, AS IT IS. Please, reserve taxpayer dollars for maintenance of the current park system or locate the dog park in a park that is in need of revitalization.

Astro Park is a dynamic and thriving park that attracts a broad spectrum of our population - lets keep it that way.

Rachel Gregg
626 Grand Avenue Apt 4
Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: kathleen gillis [kathleengillis@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:05 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Planning Commissioner, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leasch dog area in our neighborhood park. It is a totally inapropritate place to have a dog park. I truely hope that you have the far-sight to see this.

Thank you,

kate gillis

McElroy, Darryl

From: Evelyn Williamson [may.williamson@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 3:47 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask that you please deny the conditional use permit that would transform Astro Park into a dog park. I grew up in Oakland I I think it would be a huge mistake to turn that area into a dog park for many reasons.
It is a space constantly used by the public in a variety of ways; pick up soccer games, volleyball, and kids playing ball with their parents are just a few. People do not talk about it much, but it is evident through observation that the area functions as a center of the community. Also, from a aesthetic stand point, it would be an eye sore. Dog parks inevitably become dirt patches that are always a little smelly. That location is basically the gateway to Lake Merritt from the Lakeshore business strip, a big fenced in lot wouldn't provide the warmest welcome.
It seems to me that there are other areas around the lake that could serve the needs of local dog owners without taking away such a loved feature of the neighborhood.

Thank You for Your Consideration
Evelyn Williamson

McElroy, Darryl

From: stan lee [islandboystan@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:53 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I am voicing my concern that you NOT put a dog park at Astro Park. I believe that a dog park at that location is not the best use since there are many others who use it for picnics, volleyball or other games. I also think that its too close to the children's playlot. Why can't the city consider a area behind Fairyland? I believe it would be less intrusive. Please save Astro Park from going to the dogs!! Thank you, Stan Lee

McElroy, Darryl

From: Dennis Federinko [dfederinko@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2011 9:40 AM

Dear Council Member:

I love dogs but I urge you not to build a dog park here. I'm concerned that a dog run would introduce unpleasant odors into a highly public area. What's more, a large concentration of canines in one space could pose a safety threat to toddlers and small children at the playground. And parking is already difficult in my neighborhood.

Let's preserve this precious resource of open space.

Sincerely,

Dennis Federinko

538 Glen View Avenue

Oakland, CA 94610

McElroy, Darryl

From: Taylor Brady [taylor@taylorbrady.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 1:54 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ann Clevenger,

I am writing today to share my strong opposition to any plan that would seek to turn Astro Park into an enclosed, off-leash dog park.
As an Oakland resident, and member of a family with both a dog and a small child, I have several reasons for this opposition:

1) I disapprove of enclosing a public space that is used for a variety of purposes by a diverse range of Oakland residents and converting it to a single-use space. The implication that dog owners have some sort of privileged claim on public space that trumps the claims of pick-up soccer teams, parents with small children, runners and exercisers, and community members simply enjoying a bit of accessible green space, is profoundly imbalanced and undemocratic.

2) The location of Astro Park at a "crossroads" in terms of Oakland neighborhoods has ensured that the broad range of mixed uses noted above has served a purpose of civic integration and sharing of space across lines of race and class, at a time when society at large and Oakland in particular seem to be rapidly re-segregating.

3) The collateral effect of the park's location adjacent to the Saturday farmer's market is that a number of families who might not otherwise consume significant portions of fresh, locally grown food are now doing so because of the time they spend in proximity to the market with their children. The impact of this on both regional economies and neighborhood health is hard to quantify, but at a time when childhood obesity and diabetes are at epidemic levels, and several major Oakland neighborhoods have earned the unwelcome designation of "food deserts," even a potential correlation between the park's location and healthy food purchase habits is worth preserving.

4) Oakland and surrounding parts of Alameda County boast a number of spectacular dog-friendly trails that are a healthier, safer means to ensure adequate off-leash time. Having seen the proliferation of enclosed off-leash dog parks during my time as a resident of San Francisco, I can say that these civic amenities tend to encourage the worst habits of dog owners, promoting unsupervised and unstructured time spent by large concentrations of dogs in a limited space. This tends to lead to large numbers of fights, bite wounds and other injuries, and paradoxically to under-exercised dogs, since owners tend to be less engaged in promoting active exercise once they have the illusion that the off-leash space is doing the work for them.
Reliance on these "dog-only" spaces also tends to exacerbate problems of dogs that are under-socialized with humans and especially with children.

5) Simply from an aesthetic standpoint, the idea of turning an unfenced green space into a fenced, wood-chipped lot makes no sense.

Astro Park works as it is currently designed and used. How many institutions and spaces in Oakland can we say that about right now? I strongly encourage you to support its retention as a community green space accessible to a broad range of uses, rather than its enclosure for the benefit of a narrow segment of the community.

Best regards,
Taylor Brady
2907 Georgia Street
Oakland, CA 94602

McElroy, Darryl

From: stephenparente@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2012 6:10 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

To the Attention of the Commissioners of the Planning Commission,

Dear Commissioners, my wife and I are writing to urge you to DENY the conditional use permit for the fenced off leash dog area

in our beautiful and much used and appreciated park at Lake Merritt! It's a mystery to us that the moneys being spent to improve

access and open space at the Lake should be closed off and encumbered by a 28.000 SQ, FT dog park.!

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and please DENY the petition for a dog park at Astro Park!!

Sincerly,

Stephen and Margaret Parente

McElroy, Darryl

From: Penny Jane T. Aporillo [dynastyluv_95@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:05 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello,

PLEASE, do not turn part of Astro Park into a dog park. I have taken my son and his friends to this park many times because it is a great place for my son and his friends to play and especailly all the grassy space for kid's and adults to enjoy alike. I'm sure that there are other parks in Oakland and much bigger where you can place a dog park, but not Astro. Hopefully, you will take my thoughts into consideration and SAVE ASTRO for people and not dogs.

Penny Jane T. Aporillo
dynastyluv_95@yahoo.com

McElroy, Darryl

From: jere martin [jpmartin59@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

While riding BART from the Coliseum yesterday, I rode through the industrial wasteland of Oakland. I thought what a nice place this would be for a dog park--plenty of space, parking, no residents, enclosed large lots. Best of all, no prime parkland converted to a noisy, dirty activity which will affect unfavorably children, bus riders who use the busy two stops, soccer players, library users et al.

There is no reason why this nuisance should be foisted upon people who love and use Splash Pad daily. Let's find another place. Really, the dogs won't mind at all.

Jere Martin
Dimond District

McElroy, Darryl

From: Helen Lee [hlee33@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 3:12 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann

Dear Commissioners,

I am a new homeowner in the Grand Lake district and live right across the neighborhood Astro Park. I love the neighborhood and am extremely upset about the poposed conditional use permit application for a dog area. I commute from Oakland to San Francisco and take the local transit bus and on my commute back home, I stop by the Astro park several times a week to sit on the grass after a long work day to reflect. The splash of green in the middle fo our neighborhood is uplifting for the mind and body as I aslo play frisbee and volleyball during the weekend.

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Very best,

Helen Lee
Oakland, CA

McElroy, Darryl

From: jathro1923@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 1:50 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Unwise use of park space

Ms. Clevenger,
I live at 641 Kenwyn Rd. - in the Haddon Hill area - and have lived in the neighborhood for well over 30 years.
I am writing to implore you not to approve the proposal to create a dog park at what is currently the Astro Park green space adjacent to MacArthur bordered by Grand Ave and Lakeshore. It is a highly valued green space that serves my neighborhood as well as all residents in the Lakeshore/Grand Lake neighborhoods. It is used regularly by citizens and it would be a shame to lose it to satisfy a relatively small number who think their dogs rights to "run free" trumps the rights of the rest of neighborhood have an open space for any number of purposes. That is a prime spot that should be for all of the citizens.

Please have the courage to vote no on the proposal to appropriate one of the nicest most open green spaces in our neighborhood for purposes that serve only a relative few.

Thank you,
Jay Rowley

McElroy, Darryl

From: meshellysnow@gmail.com on behalf of Michelle Dong [dong.michelle.r@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 10:09 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Up Vote for the Dog Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I'm an Oakland native with three dogs, and I live about six blocks from the proposed dog park site. I don't have a car, and would love to have every day access to a park within walking distance where I could take my four-legged companions, get them some exercise and socialization, and for myself, meet two-leggers of the canine persuasion.

The proposed park is not even half of the current lawn, leaving enough room for a pick up game of soccer or a round of baseball, and there is so much green space all around the lake where people can have picnics and exercise. Can we please have even a small fenced area where all the local residents (especially apartment-dwellers) can take their dogs to play off-leash and safely?

I am one of the volunteers that have committed to keeping the area clean. I also attend the monthly Lake Merritt clean-ups, almost entirely powered by volunteers, which have done a fantastic job of keeping the acres of lake park clean and trimmed.

I really hope you make a positive recommendation on this proposal. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michelle Dong
574 Athol Avenue
Oakland, CA 94606

McElroy, Darryl

From: cody eriks [codyeriks@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:50 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Vote No on the Lake (Astro) Park Dog Proposal

Dear Commissioners,
Please vote to DENY the proposed dog area for Lake (Astro) Park. Without a doubt, it is the worst possible idea that could have been proposed for this wonderfully beautiful location. An off-leash, fenced-in dog area will reverse the great strides the city has made and invested millions of dollars into to improve the lake area. These improvements were designed to and have been successful in encouraging commerce and has created an area that is both inviting and a desired location for a great many wonderful uses. This dog proposal is a black-eye on an otherwise great lake area concept.

I have recently become aware of the history of how this dog area proposal came to where it is today. What a tragic process of secrecy and mis-information this project has engaged in to further a very short-sighted agenda. To be sure, trancparency was NOT part of how this proposal developed.

This park provides recreation to a great many organizations and individuals alike, yet until recently, there has been no outreach to identify exactly who the organizations are, how they utilize or benefit from the park or what multiple unprogrammed uses the park provides for everyone on a daily basis. This is a horrible omission of information that really should have been identiied at the beginning of this whole ordeal. It was not and I must ask why?

Beyond the many reasons to keep the park as is and utilized as a great resourse by a great and diverse population, blight is yet another strong arguement against a dog area here. Blight is what will result because there are no sustainable provisions or budget for maintenance or care contained within this ill-concieved dog area proposal. Yes, it does say volunteers will be responsible for maintaining the area but, in truth, depending on volunteers to maintain this area of vines, feces and urine smells, year after year, and next to a childrens play area too, is irresponsible.

Please deny the off-leash, fenced-in dog area at Lake Park; it erally is a bad idea for this park.

Thank you,

Cody
Adams Point

McElroy, Darryl

From: D Mathews [driatiana@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 2:14 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: We need a Dog Park in Oakland

Hello,

I grew up in Oakland over on Brooklyn Ave next to Lake Merrit. And I would love to have a dog park nearby.

McElroy, Darryl

From: Juliana Henry Garcia [spideyjules@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 4:57 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: we need a dog park

I just moved to Oakland and I would like to be able to take my dogs to lake Merritt. There is no place for recreation near my home so i depend on lake merritt. Thank you, juliana Henry garcia
6035 majestic ave Oakland ca

Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: john maloney [jmmaloney@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 2:16 PM
Cc: LakeshoreHomes LakeshoreHomes
Subject: We really don't need a dog park at the Astro Park location

Dear community representative:

Please stop this silliness about putting a dog park in Astro Park.

Astro Park is barely big enough to accomodate a pick-up soccer game, much less a permanent dog park with all its attendant sanitation, hazard, and maintenance issues. With all the demands on our beleagured City budget, building a dog park seems to be another frill we can't afford.

Let's get our police force, libraries and schools fully staffed. Then maybe we can consider another location for a dog park if we really have no better way to expend our resources.

John Maloney
1085 Brookwood Road
Oakland, CA 94610-2507

McElroy, Darryl

From: sutta@earthlink.net
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2012 1:20 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net; Marvin Ishai
Subject: We support the dog park near Lake Merritt

Dear Ann,
We live on Lakeshore, have a dog and are ardent supporters of the dog park near the library. We were at the meeting of the Park and Rec Commission and were appalled at how the opposition to this Dog Park manipulated the meeting and presented incorrect and distorted information that was accepted as true by the Commission.

We sincerely hope that this won't happen at the upcoming meeting of the Planning Commission.

Thanks for listening.
Laura Sutta and Marvin Ishai

Laura Sutta, "The Lake Merritt Photographer"
www.laurasutta.com
510-444-3820

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ann Noriega [anorie@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2012 6:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: We want a dog park

We need a dog park at Lake Merritt good way to get community together. Plenty of space at lake for everyone including dog family's Sent from my iPhone

McElroy, Darryl

From: Travis Leyva [eastbay.cowboys@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 3:48 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: We want a dog park

To whom it may concern,

I heard there is an attempt being put forth to open a dog park in the northeast end of Lake Merritt park. I live in Oakland, the Laurel
District, and have a dog. I frequent many of the shops and restaurants in the Lakeshore district. We currently have to drive down to Alameda now, to take our dog to a dog park, and as a result, since we are already down there, we do a lot of our shopping in Alameda. It would be so much easier and closer to go to the Lakeshore area for both shopping, and to take our dog to the dog park.

I know there are many more that feel the same way, and would LOVE to have a small portion of the vast Lake Merritt park, devoted for a fenced dog park. I say "fenced" because if y'all are worried about children mixing, or getting injured by a dog... a fenced park would obliterate that fear, no?
Just wanted to let it be voiced by two of your city's residents.

Travis Leyva
Bruce Wilkinson
3724 38th. Ave.
Oakland Ca 94619

McElroy, Darryl

From: Jerome & Connie Lenoir [jvcelenoir@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 9:57 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Yes on Dog Park!!

Hello Ann, I understand that you folks will be putting the final approval on the new dog park, and I can't tell you how excited all the neighborhood is to have a dog park! Everyone that I have spoken to have been 100 percent behind the dog park idea at McCarthur and Lakeshore, and it will add one more jewel to the Lake Merrit area, I know that there is a very small group of people that are against any change, but they are a small, but vocal,minority. As you know, the area of forthe dog park is never used, so it will be great to have it there. I have lived in Oakland for 25 years as a homeowner, and it is way overdue for a dog park here. Many thanks, and hopefully I will see you at the new dog park! Jerome Lenoir

McElroy, Darryl

From: Ruby Kane [rubykane@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 12:28 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Yes to Lake Merritt Lakeview dog park

For a year I lived in the Lakeshore section of Oakland, and there is no place within walking distance to run your dog. This means:

- Dogs have nowhere to poop except a neighbor's lawn. Even when you pick it up, that doesn't make them happy.
- Dogs get less exercise, which makes them worse-behaved dogs.
- Some dog owners don't abide the city park rules and bring their dogs where they are not allowed.
- This highly populated area, which has a high number of elderly people and a huge saturation of dog owners is not well-served by the city parks.
- People take their dogs to other cities and spend their shopping and dog licensing fees there instead of in Oakland.

Further, the people opposing this park have been viciously attacking dog owners who want the park for months and months over this issue, claiming that the 10-year plus process wasn't adequate time for their review. When they tried to find another place for the park to go, they realized the same thing that the park proponents have been saying for years--there's nowhere else! I moved from Seattle to Oakland in part because of governmental gridlock that undermined our safety and well-being in the city. No more review--it's been long enough for the bullies to have their say. (No offense to bulldogs.)

Thanks for listening.
Ruby

LUKA'S
TAPROOM & LOUNGE

RECEIVED
APR 16 2012
City of Oakland
Planning & Zoning Division

April 12, 2012

Scott Miller
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 2114
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Scott:

Enclosed please find my personal comments related to the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal's CUP application being considered at the May 2, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting.

I am a dog owner, local business owner and on the Board of Directors for Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation and I regrettably, but deeply oppose this proposal. I feel this opposition is strongly supported in the OSCAR Element of the General Plan, detailed further in my attached zoning comments.

The Oakland Parks Coalition's 2011 Community Report Card states, *"Dog parks and community gardens should not be an afterthought in park planning. Rather they should be incorporated into park design and strategically placed."* and they acknowledged that the strong public opposition to the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal could have been avoided with a more strategic approach. Instead of pushing this contentious proposal forward, we need to take a step back and do it right.

I don't oppose dog parks, just the proposed location. Lake Merritt's revitalization is inspiring recreation, leisure, spontaneous dance and music all around the lake. I agree with PRAC Commissioner Miller when he said at the July 2011 CUP application hearing *"a monument belongs here, not a dog park."* A tribute to Samuel Merritt or Lake Merritt District signage is more appropriate than the fenced space proposed. Please come down to the park on a Saturday morning and evaluate for yourself.

I do feel that we need to give more thought on dog use in our parks. However given the current budget crisis, I recommend looking at on-leash use first as it does not require large capital commitments. At the same time we can start doing our homework on dog parks, which to date has only included the perspective of a small group of well intended dog park supporters. This is important and highly visible park space that deserves broader community input. Please feel free to contact me at maria@lukasoakland.com or 510-409-8582 if you have questions on this project.

Regards,

Maria Alderete
Luka's LLC, Managing Member
Board of Directors, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation
Park Steward, Eastshore Park

Respectfully submitted to the Oakland Planning Commission by Maria Alderete
Contact Info: maria@lukasoakland.com or 510-409-8582

Lakeview Dog Park Proposal – Preservation of Open Space Perspective

Eastshore Park is a small, well-loved neighborhood park at the corner of Grand, MacArthur and Lakeshore. Even when not in use, it provides green, open space to buffer our dense, urban environment. A dog park here would further sub-divide our park and overprogram an area that is clearly protected by OSCAR and our planning code. ***Therefore, I ask that you oppose ODOG's application for a minor conditional use permit for the Lakeview Dog Park.***

Aesthetic Impact

Eastshore Park is a vital green link between the Grand Lake retail district and Lake Merritt, the heart of Oakland and the city's aesthetic centerpiece. This central area is a main traffic intersection next to the 580 freeway off ramp and retail businesses, and is surrounded by high rise apartments and a freeway overpass.



Eastshore Park is protected by our code given its gateway designation, proximity to freeway overpass and dense, urban surroundings. A tribute to Samuel Merritt or Lake Merritt signage would be more appropriate.

- ***Eastshore...the park is also a logical "gateway" to the lake area*** *and would benefit from signage improvements or even a monument or fountain of some sort. (OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12)*
- *Policy OS-9.3 Gateway Improvements.* ***Enhance neighborhood and city identity by maintaining or creating gateways.*** *Maintain view corridors and enhance the sense of arrival at the major entrances to the city...Use public art, landscaping, and signage to create stronger City and neighborhood gateways (OSCAR, Chapter 2, pg 63)*
- *Policy OS-3.6 Open Space Buffers Along Freeways. Where compatible with adjacent land uses,* ***support the use of land along, under, or over freeways in urban settings for greenbelts, recreation,*** *public art, or other activities which enhance the usefulness and appearances of such land. (OSCAR, Chapter 2, pg 29)*

The aesthetic impact of a dog park is too great for this central park space. The proposal would greatly impact the green link and replace it with fences, dirt, wood chips and some landscaping. Vines on fences are not

enough for this prominent location and require more maintenance. James Vann (CALM) refused to state an opinion, but did say that the wood chips were unfortunate and that it's not the best place for it.

Eastshore Park is just too small to further sub-divide the space. Our code protects from overprogramming of space. The OSCAR guidelines for buildings in neighborhood parks is no more than 15% of the park space can be used for a new use *(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 28).* This project is currently 24% of the park space. The fence creates barriers and boundaries similar to buildings and the project is considered a "park improvement" by our code thus requiring building permits.

At the July 13, 2011 PRAC meeting on this proposal, Commissioner Miller expressed concern, "We have a tendency in this city to cover every green place with stuff...monument belongs here, not a dog park." When fully implemented, Measure DD will provide $198 million of public benefit along the shoreline of Lake Merritt. Let's preserve Eastshore Park and find a way to better showcase it as the gateway to the Lake Merritt District and a centerpiece for Oakland pride.

Impact on Existing Use

The impact on use is even greater, as the dog park proposal takes up closer to 50% of the usable field.



This park space is heavily used for active recreation, a use that OSCAR states is inadequately served in our area. The primary use is in the summer, with soccer players, volley ball courts, drum circles, capoeira dancers and other spontaneous, diverse recreation. Its central location and proximity to freeways and public transportation make active recreation accessible to our community. The field is relied upon by Bayhill High School, Soccer Tots, the Special Olympics and other youth programs for their recreation programs. There are no other open fields at Lake Merritt and active recreation is protected at Lake Merritt by our code:

- ***Eastshore. This neighborhood park is very heavily used*** *(OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12)*
- *While the densest areas tend to be relatively close to Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park,* ***they are not adequately served with facilities for active recreation*** *such as ballfields, playgrounds, and recreational centers. (OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 16)*

Respectfully submitted to the Oakland Planning Commission by Maria Alderete
Contact Info: maria@lukasoakland.com or 510-409-8582

Lakeview Dog Park Proposal – Preservation of Open Space Perspective

- ***Conflicts between park uses.*** *This policy directs the Office of Parks and Recreation to site new park facilities in a manner which maximizes the usefulness of the facility while minimizing its impact on existing use.* ***Basic principle, Large enough areas should be provided for each activity*** *(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 34)*

Our code recommends providing large enough space for each activity. On a typical Saturday, volley ball courts use the space where the dog park is proposed and soccer games are played in the remaining open field. There are also many small children from the tot lot that use the open field. By fencing off the space for the dog park, volley ball and soccer games will be compressed into the smaller field along with the tot lot spill over use.

It's not even an ideal area for off-leash dog park use. Emily Rosenberg of ODOG admitted that some dogs do get agitated by traffic and bus stops and those dog owners will have to find a different park.

Dog Park Development Considerations

I do not oppose dog parks, I just oppose the Lakeview Proposal at Eastshore Park due to the significant aesthetic and use impacts. Our code mandates in built-out areas that the emphasis should be on underutilized resources *(OSCAR Chapter 2, pg. 3).* **Eastshore Park is not underutilized** *(OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12).* To date dog park development has followed that rule:

1. **Grove Shafter** - History of underutilization. PRAC Comm. Ricards expressed concern for drug use in area.
2. **Jefferson Square** - After freeway construction in the 1970s, this historic attraction grew steadily neglected and became one of the community's most underutilized parks.
3. **Mosswood** - Area is near freeway and history of blight and crime. Homeless encampments, drug dealing and needles present in park.
4. **Joaquin Miller** - Underutilized part of parking lot.
5. **Hardy Dog Park** Underutilized concrete area under freeway.

The Lakeview Proposal is a good idea in the wrong location. The PRAC Commission was very concerned of the lack of a formal location evaluation process for the Lake Merritt dog park. Given the contentious community situation this dog park has created, as well as the many years ODOG has been trying to find a spot at Lake Merritt, it is important that our civil leaders step back and approach dog park development in a more strategic way. We are on a path of building many small, costly neighborhood dog parks. Yet even ODOG's website surveys show that most dog users prefer the larger open format like Point Richmond. We as a community need to spend more time understanding dog owner needs.

I recognize that ODOG and several dog park supporters have worked long and hard on this project. However, the original dog park proposal considered for the Lake Merritt Master Plan was for a $400,000 project. ODOG stated they kept their members informed of progress, but the broader community was not informed about the current $50,000 design proposed to PRAC in December 2010. The 2004 community pre-development meetings (which are required by our code *Planning code, 17.135.030, A & OSCAR Chapter 2, pg. 2)*) are not adequate community process for this current proposal. Projects must make reasonable forward progress, our building code requires forward progress every 6 months. It's been over 15 months since this project made any forward progress and PRAC did not approve the CUP application in July 2011.

I asked that you oppose the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal, and instead allow on-leash dog use at Eastshore to take pressure off the immediate need for park space for our dog community. This would enable the community to develop a more strategic approach, while preserving this important gateway at Lake Merritt.

Alternative Location Solution for Lake Merritt Dog Park

Contact: Maria Alderete 510-409-8582 or maria@lukasoakland.com

Side-by-Side Comparison of the Two Lake Merritt Dog Park Sites

	Lakeview Dog Park	Alternative Location at Police Horse Stables (PHS)
Photo		
Location	Within Eastshore Park (2 acres), bounded by Grand Ave., MacArthur Blvd. & Lakeshore Ave. Located in central area and heavily used.	Within Lakeside Park (75 acres) south of Children's Fairyland, west of the Oakland Bandstand. Former Police Horse Stables site. Currently fenced and vacant. Five blocks from Eastshore Park
Dog Park Size	21,000 square feet or 24% of the park. OSCAR mandates new uses in parks not exceed 15%.	20,000 square feet or less than 1% of park.
Community Access	Walking distance for many Grand Lake residents. ½ to 1-mile walk for Adam's Point and Cleveland Heights. Over 1 mile for Uptown.	Walking distance for Adam's Point & Uptown residents. Approx ½-mile walk for Grand Lake and just under 1 mile for Cleveland Heights.
Needs	Less need for dog park for Cleveland Heights & Trestle Glen due to home ownership and backyard space.	More need for dog park for Adam's Point due to apartment living with no backyard space.
Walking/ Parking	Best walking access for Grand Lake. With the exception of the Farmer's Market on Saturday, most of the surrounding neighborhoods drive to the area. Potential for big impact on retail areas.	Best walking access for Adam's Point & Uptown Paid parking at the park entrance, meter parking on Grand, free parking on Perkins and north side of Grand. No retail impact.
Zoning	OSCAR identifies Eastshore Park as "heavily-used "and "gateway" to Lake Merritt. Adding a fenced area would greatly impact open space and is not visually appealing for this central area that is designated by OSCAR as a gateway. Has the only large recreation field available in the Lake Merritt area for residents and local schools. This use is protected as it is identified as an unmet need by OSCAR. The plan submitted to PRAC in Dec. 2010 had 10% of the budget of the original plan. No longer befitting of this prime location.	OSCAR indicates new uses should focus on underutilized areas. Formerly used as Police Horse Stables, currently unused. Already fenced, not eliminating community recreational use. New use would help to get rid of homeless and undesirable issues in the area.
Site	Poor drainage, issue due to fecal presence and would not be usable during wet season. High visibility and proximity to retail increase priority for city maintenance and additional costs for beautification of dog park, at a time when there is a budget crisis and pending layoffs. Proximity to tot lot biggest concern of community.	Area surrounded by trees and not visible on Harrison St. side, more appropriate for fenced area with dirt & wood chips. Safer for dogs due to higher fence and not close to extremely busy intersection. Not near a tot lot and will have higher fences.

Contact: Maria Alderete 510-409-8582 or maria@lukasoakland.com

Key details to consider for the Police Horse Stables (PHS) site:

- The PHS dog park would be located mostly in an underutilized portion of Lakeside Park.
- The Police Horse Stables site, located at the south end of Children's Fairyland, has a history of homeless residents and crime that would be deterred by greater use.
- The original need for a dog park came from Adams Point constituents. This high density, multi-family residential area has the greatest need for a dog area nearby. The PHS site would give the best access to the neighborhood with the greatest need.
- The PHS location has a history of animal use (horses and dogs) and is in the recommended "geese exclusion area" identified in the July 2007 Lake Merritt Canada Goose Management Study.
- The PHS site is a sound alternative because of planning considerations, City-wide budgetary concerns, and limited public agency resources, such as maintenance.
- The PHS site would be set back within Lakeside Park, in a peaceful, attractive setting, yet would not obstruct views from surrounding neighborhoods or roadways.
- The PHS site would preserve Eastshore Park, thereby allowing its improvement as a gateway to the Lake Merritt District.

The following points provide policy analysis regarding both the Lakeview and PHS sites:

1. **The OSCAR acknowledges that active recreation use is inadequately served in the Lake Merritt area**. The Lakeview Dog Area would remove 50% of the usable playfield, resulting in significant loss of active recreation area. No such loss would occur at the alternative PHS site. *(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg 43)*
2. **The OSCAR states that open space preservation in the Lake Merritt community is a priority.** *(OSCAR Chapter 2, pg 7)* Preservation of open space at Eastshore Park is greater due to higher density residential development and park demand. At Eastshore Park, the surrounding land use pattern and the presence of Interstate 580 create a need to preserve open space buffers. *(OSCAR, Chapter 2, pg 29)* The PHS site is currently vacant, surrounded by trees in a peaceful area of the park.
3. **The OSCAR identifies Eastshore Park as a "Gateway" to the Lake Merritt District**. The OSCAR explicitly recommends signage improvements, a monument or fountain at Eastshore Park. A fenced dog run is not identified as part of the open space vision for Eastshore Park. *(OSCAR Ch 5, pg. 10, 11 & OS 9.3)*
4. **The OSCAR requires that in built out areas, an emphasis should be on underutilized resources** *(OSCAR Chapter 2, pg. 2 &3)*. Eastshore Park is identified by OSCAR as a heavily used neighborhood park *(OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12)*. PHS is vacant and unused.
5. **The OSCAR recommends no more than 15% of neighborhood park for new uses.** *(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 28)* The same size park has a very different visual impact at these different locations. Eastshore would be dominated by this new use, PHS impact is not as significant. Eastshore Park is too small to accommodate additional uses.

Clevenger, Ann

From: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Terry Boom [terryboom@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 8:13 AM
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [CHNeighbors] RE: News Article: Alternative Horse Stables Dog Park

Re-posting with permission of the author.
****

Re: [PSA3] Fw: [GrandLakeNCPC] News Article: Alternative Horse Stables Dog Park

Dearest Neighbors,

I believe myself to be a GOOD dog owner. I always pick up after my dog, and furthermore I actually make her do a 'bladder dump' in my backyard before taking her on a walk (to avoid yellowing my neighbor's yards). Yet, I am often confronted with "Can you take your dog elsewhere to do that?" Actually, I can't. Dogs are smart. They don't let you choose where to make them go ;) They know if they go at home, they likely won't get a walk. And my only place to walk her is on the streets, since I cannot take her in any park in Oakland regardless of her being on leash.

Our options of where to take our dogs are limited. We usually head to Alameda, or Berkeley - and the result is that while we are out, we run errands shopping at non-Oakland businesses.

I am a strong proponent of a new dog park in Oakland, but I am not a supporter of the horse stable option. Why?

I NEVER use Mosswood's large dog run because it is so tucked away and remote that no one could hear me scream (it's also next to a freeway so it's already loud).

I need to feel safe when I take my dog somewhere. And for me to feel safe, I like visibility. Tucking away a dog park where no one can see it - and where there is no free parking - will pretty much guarantee I won't use it.

I don't want to start a flame war here. I am simply adding one point that I haven't see documented yet: a REMOTE, hidden dog park is not a safe place to go alone.

thanks for listening,
ff

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Clevenger, Ann

From: vale.la.pena.leer@gmail.com on behalf of Susan Q. [susana@riseup.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 9:10 AM
To: Hall, Mark
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area - YES!

Dear Mr. Hall,

I am writing to express my support for the PRAC approved design for the Lakeview Dog Play Area Minor Conditional Use Permit application. Dogs have an important role in the lives of many Oakland residents and deserve a place at the lake.

I agree with Council Member Nadel, that the time invested in the community hearing process since 1998 to the present indicates that the Lakeview dog play area can best serve the needs of the community. I believe that this dog play area has been designed to add beauty to the location and that the volunteers are well organized to keep it clean and attractive.

Thank you for your concern,
Susan Quinlan

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:13 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: Lake Merritt Dog Park

From: OaklandNJB <oaklandnjb@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thu Mar 31 16:56:18 2011
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Just a quick note to say I hope you continue to support the creation of an off-leash dog park near Lake Merritt. I was born and raised in Oakland, and I have fond memories of playing at Astro Park as a child; and I firmly believe the establishment of a dog park will not be detrimental to this play area.

Plans for the dog park were approved long ago, and it's really a shame it has taken so long to create this useful area for people and their pets. A well-maintained dog park is a great benefit to the neighborhood, encourages neighbors to get to know each other, and provides a positive environment for animals to play and exercise.

Creating the Lake Merritt dog park is a win-win for the city, the neighborhood and the animals, and I strongly encourage you to do whatever you can to move the plan forward.

Thanks!

David A. Steinberg
382 Orange Street
Oakland, CA

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 3:36 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: Lakeview Dog Play Area

From: Sandra Olson <sandra_olson@sbcglobal.net>
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Sent: Thu Mar 31 12:57:18 2011
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Council Members,

This is to show my support of the Lakeview Dog Play Area project.

Sandra Olson
Sasha (therapy dog) & Morgan
Rockridge

"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated" - Mahatma Gandhi

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:39 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: Lakeview Dog Play Area support

From: Jay H <jdinsf@comcast.net>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thu Mar 31 09:14:44 2011
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area support

Dear Council Member Nancy Nadel:

I am writing to indicate my support for the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

I have lived on the southwest side of Lake Merritt since 2005, my husband has lived here since 2003. We are dog owners, AND we vote. We have seen an explosion in the number of dogs in the area, but the growth of dog parks has not kept pace. We respect the No Dogs in the park areas around the lake. However, we pay taxes in Oakland, and feel we are greatly underserved as dog owners.

As I understand it, the Lakeview Dog Play area has been approved twice, and will not impact the Oakland General Fund. The park for the planned play area is actually under-utilized in its current design. The dog play area would bring responsible people together, which is always a good thing.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to aid in gaining support for the dog play area.

Thank you,

Jay Hamlin
270 Wayne Ave #201
Oakland, CA 94606

Clevenger, Ann

From: **Nadel, Nancy**
Sent: **Wednesday, March 30, 2011 9:30 AM**
To: **Wang, Xiaojing**
Subject: **Fw: in support of Lakeview Dog Play Area**

----- Original Message -----
From: Sara Bisikirski <sbisikirski@yahoo.com>
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Riley, Dana
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net <odogparks@comcast.net>
Sent: Tue Mar 29 17:08:03 2011
Subject: in support of Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Oakland City Council Members,

As a West Oakland home owner, social worker and mother of 3 wonderful dogs I am writing to encourage you to support the development of the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Dog parks are good for building positive community relationships and we have a dearth of them in Oakland.

Moving ahead on this project seems like a no-brainer. 11 years of delays is enough!

Thanks for your time,

Sara Bisikirski, LCSW
1421 Peralta Street
Oakland CA 94607

cell: 401.632.6717

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:31 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park

From: Danielle Schneeloch [mailto:danielle@danielledesigns.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:27 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Councilmember Nancy Nadel,

I am writing to you today to ask for your support of the Lake Merritt Dog Park. I am a long time Alameda County Resident and a recent new home owner in Oakland. My Fiancé and I purchased our Historic Landmark home (Tower house) early last year. Even though we were not focused on buying a house in Oakland we found a community and a neighborhood that I did not know existed. We need to take it a step further. We walk Lake Merritt every weekend with our 2 dogs and wish every day that there was a dog park. Oakland, and in particular Lake Merritt has overcome so much in terms of how it is perceived. This is what Oakland needs! Oakland should look to San Francisco as it sets a perfect example of how dog parks and dog owners can add to the beauty, livability, community and not to mention safety of a neighborhood. I can tell you that the dog owners who use Dog parks on a regular basis are mostly educated and professional. These are people that truly care about the health and well being, not only their animals but also their community.

Please support this Dog park, it can only make Oakland that much better.

Regards,
Danielle Schneeloch

Danielle D. Schneeloch
Principal Designer
Danielle Designs, LLC
Sobel Design Building
680 Eighth Street, Suite 231
San Francisco, CA 94103
T - 415.431.2300
F - 415.704.3295
danielle@danielledesigns.com
www.danielledesigns.com

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:20 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Support for Dog Park in Lake Merritt Area

From: Caro Jauregui [mailto:cajauregui@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:07 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Support for Dog Park in Lake Merritt Area

Good afternoon,

I live in 1545 Jackson Street, 94612. I wanted to write you to express my support for a dog park in this area. There are not many dog friendly areas here. Going to the current available dog parks is an inconvenience because of their distance. I hope you vote in support of the dog park that has been 8 years in the making.

Thank you.

--
"may you be happy. may you be healthy. may you be safe. may you experience liberation in your life."
caro jauregui
510-557-5283

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:01 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: dog park support

From: ralph@computermaven.net [mailto:ralph@computermaven.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; rkaplan@oaklandet.com; Office of the Mayor; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: dog park support

We live off Moraga and enjoy time with our child at Lake Merritt for the Farmers Market, eating out and, of course the tot lot. A fenced dog park would be a dandy addition to the park. Ralp Morewitz

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Support for Lake Merritt Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: ziskadelic@gmail.com [mailto:ziskadelic@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Ziska Maria West
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:24 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Support for Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Nadel,

I am writing to you today to show my support for the Lake Merritt dog park. I am a long time resident of Lake Merritt and live right off of Lakeshore on Wayne Avenue. I sincerely hope that you will not let a small number of misguided citizens get in the way of this development that will significantly benefit our neighborhood, community, and city overall. Being in walking distance of a safe and secure place where my family can take our dog is extremely important and this park would certainly fill a neighborhood void for dog owners who are not allowed to walk our pets along the lake. This park would in no way limit the use of the space around the lake for other citizens given that individuals are welcome to meet, congregate, and play sports in any number of the many grass and open spaces all along the lake, especially with the plans for the renovation of the canal along the downtown side of the lake. As a resident who passes by the proposed location many times each day, I know that it is very rare that this space is in use at all, and certainly never in a way that would not still be possible next to the proposed park space. As a council member I urge you to think about all residents and our varied needs and understand that this park is critical to the needs of families like mine who currently have no safe space to exercise our dogs within walking distance of our homes. This matter will both influence my future voting as well as my family's decision to stay in the neighborhood and will be looking to see how you choose to handle this situation in the hopes that you will see the importance of balancing public space for all your constituents.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Ziska West

333 Wayne Ave
Oakland, CA 94606

Clevenger, Ann

From: lailan sandra huen [lailan.huen@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:55 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Gerard, Jennie; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Councilmembers & Staff,

I'm writing in support of the Lake Merritt dog park as a D2 East Lake homeowner, and a dog owner.

I understand the process has taken 8 years to get resident input and approval through the parks, and believe this process should be respected. I myself participated in a resident survey conducted by Councilmember Kernighan last year.

I wish that I didn't have to go to Alameda, Berkeley and Albany so often to play ball with my dog and hope that we can build more parks in Oakland that families can use and enjoy to build community.

Thanks for your work on this issue.

Lailan Huen
2222 9th Avenue

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:52 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: support of dog park

From: Kristina Yates <krisyat@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wed Mar 23 04:14:58 2011
Subject: support of dog park

Hi Nancy,

You are my council person and I want to let you know I support having a dog park at Lake Merritt. It is very important and will enhance the area. Thanks!

--

Kristina Yates, MFT
510-655-5518

Clevenger, Ann

From: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Grace Webber [grace.webber@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 6:07 AM

To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com

Subject: Re: [CHNeighbors] A sweet note about Wednesday night's meeting at Barnett Hall

Nancy, and my neighbors,

I'm very proud to live in the Lake Merritt neighborhood, and to be part of the community of neighbors in Cleveland Heights. I am very glad for this list, for through this I have learned from my neighbors many things I otherwise wouldn't have heard about: ranging from CORE training sessions that have helped my family prepare for emergencies, to events such as the opening of my neighborhood bicycle repair shop - come nursery - come honey store, and indeed of the existence of plans to fence a portion of the green space at the bottom of the hill.

I've been able to ask questions on a variety of topics here and people have been very friendly and tolerant and have helped me hone my skills in areas such as suspect van identification with very good humor. Thank you all!

I have met in person neighbors of mine (on and off this list) who are for the dog park, neighbors who are for retaining green space, and neighbors who had never heard about the topic. I have enjoyed discussions with all of them and in every case the discussion has been rich and has been informed by similar feelings of joy with and love and hope for the neighborhood, and for Oakland, that I feel myself.

I am looking forward to being able to hear from the councilmembers, from the architect, and from all of my neighbors at tonight's meeting. I have a suspicion that there are only a few hundred people on each of these neighborhood email lists (if I hadn't happened to see a flyer in Leaning Tower I never would have found out about this one at all), yet many tens of thousands in our Council Districts, so there is probably a wide range of opinions nobody has heard yet. Recent publicity in the media has probably reached more people in Oakland who were previously unaware of this project and will come to hear for the first time all about it.

Partly this is because, in spite of all the history of effort that has gone in by the dedicated band of people who want to have an additional dog run here, and the presence on the Lake Merrritt plan map from 2002 of a small icon marked "Potential" where it could be placed, we are in fact still several steps away from being finished with the formal process, even if we do continue in that direction. Indeed, the official public noticing period, where signs would go up at the site and neighboring premises would receive a communication from the council describing the plans, has not even begun yet, and I'm sure we all agree that would be a very important step where the outcome should certainly not be pre-determined (or else it's very worrying as how would we know what other plans the council might have "up their sleeves" across the street from our own homes?).

Please be aware that for some of us, we don't see any of our green space as "most distant" and thus "unimportant". What we do with it does matter. And please do not imply that the frustration that our list members have experienced with this topic generating so much heat is down to one "side" or the other - yes, we have passionate people who live here. While there are some people who seem to engage on this topic and this alone, from outside our neighborhood, there are also many neighbors who have open minds and have been respectful to avoid "soapboxing" since they want to get on with all the people who live around them. This doesn't have to be neighbor-against-neighbor, and please don't try to set us against each other in your "sweet" note, when as you point out you don't live here. This is a chance for all of us to hear and understand our council's process, to hold the council accountable for it, and to ensure that we all do in fact have all the information we need to be full participants in our democracy. I certainly don't attempt to predict what opinions others of my neighbors might hold or how they might choose to express

them. I am proud of my neighbors and I trust that they will listen to what others have to say and be thoughtful in how they interpret that.

You shared a link to one Facebook page, from the proponents. Here it is again:
http://www.facebook.com/#!/LakeviewDog
Neighbors who are interested in this topic might also be interested in a Facebook page with a different point of view: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-Astro-Park/136486593085134
Or, they might prefer to go to a web site at http://www.saveastropark.org, which has the original proposal from Nancy Nadel to the PRAC from December 2010, the Adams Point Urban Design Plan, and other documents. I'd point to the official council page describing the project if there were one, but I don't think there is (I really have looked!). For context, people might like to read the Lake Merritt Master Plan, which is online. This is the document from 2002 which is so widely cited. It's inspiring to read its goals and vision for our Lake area and reflect on how all the city's investments made since 2002 and continuing today are in fact making that vision come true: http://www.oaklandnet.com/community/index.html

I look forward to meeting more of my neighbors tonight, people for retaining our green space, people for fencing a part of it, people who don't know, and people who will be my neighbors for years to come and will bring many ideas and nuggets of information to my family on all manner of topics. Above all, people who care and want to be informed and engaged in what happens to our gorgeous Lake Merritt area.

Thank you.

Grace

On Tue, Mar 22, 2011 at 11:42 PM, Nancy Rieser <gofindnancy@yahoo.com> wrote:
[message clipped as per CHNeighbors list guidelines]
--

Please use grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu
It's my "email for life".

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Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:58 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

----- Original Message -----
From: Matt Paduano <mpaduano@yahoo.com>
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Sent: Tue Mar 22 21:25:31 2011
Subject: I__Support__the__Lakeview__Dog__Park!

Sent from my iPhone

Clevenger, Ann

From: **Nadel, Nancy**
Sent: **Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:08 PM**
To: **Wang, Xiaojing**
Subject: **Fw: Lake Merritt Dog Park**

----- Original Message -----
From: glassgardener@juno.com <glassgardener@juno.com>
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net <odogparks@comcast.net>
Sent: Tue Mar 22 19:44:04 2011
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Hello!

I am unable to make it to the meeting tomorrow night to show my support for a dog park at Lake Merritt. I live within walking distance of the Lake and feel that people with dogs in the area well deserve the space to run their dogs. A dog park is a place of community for those who use it - a meeting place for people of a variety of backgrounds who share in common their love of dogs. I hope you will support the initiative to have a dog park near Lake Merritt.

With best wishes,

Kim

Kim Webster
www.kwebsterglass.com
www.sniffthemovie.com
Cell: (510) 409-8727

Clevenger, Ann

From: **Nadel, Nancy**
Sent: **Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:59 PM**
To: **Kernighan, Pat**
Cc: **Wang, Xiaojing**
Subject: **Fw: New Dog Park**

----- Original Message -----
From: Carol Nyhoff <cnyhoff@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tue Mar 22 17:44:32 2011
Subject: New Dog Park

Hi Nancy,

I think it is a great idea to have a new dog park in the Lakeview Lake Merritt area of Oakland.

Not every urban apartment dweller has a car or can take their dog down to the bay easily for socialization and exercise. I am sure that the participants at this new location have a well thought out plan, have done due diligence with the City of Oakland regarding monthly waste disposal, and would be respectful of neighborhood rules.

Sincerely,

Carol Nyhoff

Clevenger, Ann

From: Rebecca Sternberg [rsternberg@presidiomba.org]
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2012 11:16 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Please support the Lake Merritt Dog Play Area

There are too few dog parks in our area and this amenity is a critical need for the neighborhood.

Thanks,
Rebecca Sternberg

--

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Follow my sustainable food news and ideas at http://twitter.com/sustainfood

Meat and dairy cause 51% of global greenhouse gas emissions:
http://www.worldwatch.org/files/pdf/Livestock%20and%20Climate%20Change.pdf

Clevenger, Ann

From: Laura Sutta [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 10:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

We live on Lakeshore and would like to have a legal place to take our dog.
We both pass the proposed site several times a day and there is very rarely anyone using the space.

A dog park would make excellent use of the unused space.

A dog park would be a great place to meet neighbors so that when we meet in the neighborhood we will recognize each other and feel more like a community. Given that there's an increase in crime in the neighborhood, it is very important to build community and a dog park will help that happen.

Name*: Laura Sutta

Email*: sutta@earthlink.net

Street address or intersection*: 2230 Lakeshore

Zip Code: 94606

Powered by EmailMeForm http://www.emailmeform.com/

From: Supriya Kalidas [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 11:10 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Supriya Kalidas
Sender's Email*: supriyakalidas@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 342 Rishell Drive
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Erica McCrea [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 5:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Erica McCrea
Sender's Email*: maggie.marie.7@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 707 Arimo Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values – all things Oakland can use right now.

We spend a lot of time at the kids park next door to the proposed site, as well as the library there, and a dog park would be a welcome addition. To those who think it an 'eyesore' I would say that I have spoken to many people, who don't even own dogs, who love to watch dogs frolicking in dog parks. This would be such a great addition, please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Steven Belcher [swbelcher007@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 10:36 AM
To: swbelcher@msn.com
Subject: Proposed Astro Park Dog Run

Steven W. Belcher

630 Longridge Road

Oakland, California 94610

(510) 301-5321 <tel:%28510%29%20301-5321>

swbelcher@msn.com

April 17, 2012

Dear Members of the Oakland Planning Commission,

This is a brief note regarding the proposed dog run in Astro Park/Lakeshore. I hope you had a chance to drive by during the recent nice weather and observed the wonderful urban phenomena of a many different groups engaging in different sports at the play field. There was baseball, soccer, frizbees, kites, and little kids just tripping. Related to this availability of multi-use recreational open space is consideration of future demands on this park. At sometime in the past the Planning Commission reviewed and approved a mid rise, 54 unit low and moderate income family housing project on a relatively small site opposite Ahn's Burgers, located at Belvue and Grand. There is apparently no on-site recreation space planned for a significant number children living in the project. I have been told that the developer is mitigating this need by using Lakeside Park. Since Astro/Lakeshore Park is the only open field within walking distance to the project, the proposed dog run may significantly impact this recreation resource for these children. I would appreciate this issue being addressed in the staff report presented at the May 2, hearing.

From: Alilah Renwick [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:06 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Alilah Renwick
Sender's Email*: alilah2001@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 400 Perkins St. #307
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Mary Stark [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 10:01 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Mary Stark
Sender's Email*: cstark510@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 1434 Everett Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Jason Aiken [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 7:50 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jason Aiken
Sender's Email*: Jasonm.aiken@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2635 rawson st.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Cindy Fong [cindyfong1@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2012 9:19 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: odogparks@comcast.net

Attachments: IMG_2369.jpg; IMG_2370.jpg; IMG_2372.jpg


IMG_2369.jpg


IMG_2370.jpg


IMG_2372.jpg

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

We are Oakland natives. Born and raised in this great city. We own two homes, went to public schools, visit our public libraries and parks.
Now we are raising our kids here, along with our dog. It's sad to say that we have to go to other cities to let our dog and kids run free together. We live right by the proposed dog park site and would greatly appreciate it if you could help make it happen. We walk/run our dog around the lake every day. In the morning and afternoon. That location is empty, every day. Yes, maybe occasionally there's a pick up soccer game or something small going on during the weekend, but on the whole, nothing happens there. In addition, when there is something going on, it doesn't really occur where the dog park would be. It happens at the other end of the park. Yes, I notice the photos the Save Astro Park folks have posted. But I do know that those images are planned. It's interesting that daily nothing occurs, but on the occasion something does, there's someone there to take photos and post them. I guess I could send you a picture everyday too. It would be pretty boring though. Just an empty corner.

We think this would be an amazing community meeting spot for Oakland.
Help reduce crime and give some well deserving citizens a place to socialize their dogs, as much as themselves.

I'm not really sure why people are so against it. It's next to an extremely busy traffic corner, right below the freeway. I'm guessing the excitement of grass is the pull, but there are plenty of other open spaces around Lake Merritt - No Dogs Allowed (Snow Park, the many open spaces along Bellevue Ave and the new green spaces being built now by the Henry J. Kaiser)

Please help create a dog park at Lakeview!

Thank you,

Cindy Fong and Terry Lee

--
Cindy Fong Design + Photography
510-333-1288
www.studiofong.com

From: Ellen Gierson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2012 3:44 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Ellen Gierson
Sender's Email*: ellenrocs@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 4175 Opal Street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: LESLIE HILFORD [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 7:26 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: LESLIE HILFORD
Sender's Email*: LSHILFORD@HOTMAIL.COM
Sender's Address*: 3307 WILSON PLACE
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Michael Rucci [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 6:18 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Michael Rucci
Sender's Email*: mikeinternet@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: Santa Clara and Valle Vista
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: jasmine Halloran [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 6:17 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: jasmine Halloran
Sender's Email*: jhalloran25@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: Santa Clara and Valle Vista
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Wayne Walker [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 3:40 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Wayne Walker
Sender's Email*: ghostandthedarkness77@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 1231 16th Avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you. Not all people can get out where the dogs parks are. I live a few blocks from Lake Merritt and I think something like this is needed there. In this case if people want to cry about how it might stress a child out then the child has no business in public if a simple dark bark is going to stress them out. A crying child stresses me out but they are still allowed to! be in public. THIS IS NEEDED AND WANTED

From: Sarah Gage [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 3:08 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Sarah Gage
Sender's Email*: Whymisssarah@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1746 16th st. #8
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now.

It is so important for dogs to be able to run off leash! Every day! A daily walk just isn't enough for most dogs, especially when they are young. Dogs that get adequate exercise will be better behaved, healthier, and happier. Unfortunately, if one lives in oakland, getting to places that allow for this is time consuming, even if one owns a car. Think how many happier, healthier, well-behaved dogs there would be in this city if there was a place for them to run around within walking distance of lake merrit!

Please approve this project! Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sarah Gage

From: Terrence Caine [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 3:17 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Terrence Caine
Sender's Email*: iketuffy@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 3232 14th Ave #10
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Amber Valles [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 3:14 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Amber Valles
Sender's Email*: msamberv@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 3232 14th ave #1-
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Alison Voss [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 12:10 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Alison Voss
Sender's Email*: alisonvoss@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 308 Jackson St. #105
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Auric Hornaman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 10:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Auric Hornaman
Sender's Email*: aurichor@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 698 46th Street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Iska Johnson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 11:00 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Iska Johnson
Sender's Email*: anya.rysm@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1505 Jackson St #105
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime,make the neighborhood cleaner and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: linda polse [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 10:44 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: linda polse
Sender's Email*: inerpeas@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: butters/burdeck
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,
I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Jill Webber [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 7:48 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jill Webber
Sender's Email*: jillwebber1980@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 3520 Grand Avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Amy Haas [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 6:26 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Amy Haas
Sender's Email*: gemini.amy@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2944 Harrison St
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Tracy Jacobs [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 6:21 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Tracy Jacobs
Sender's Email*: info@quadruped.biz
Sender's Address*: 1315 E. 32nd St.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Carlos Saravia [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 5:11 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Carlos Saravia
Sender's Email*: Saravia33@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 3205 Beaumont Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Ellen Evans [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 11:31 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Ellen Evans
Sender's Email*: jeev13@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2831 Delaware
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission:
I've written to you before, and I will continue writing, as long as this project is left hanging. Dog parks are good things. Dog parks bring people together. I don't have kids, but I absolutely support the building and maintenance of park spaces for kids. I don't hike, but I absolutely support the creation and maintenance of park trails for those who do. All I am asking is that there be a place for me and my dog in our common space.

Thank you,

Ellen Evans

From: Mary Stark [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 9:45 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Mary Stark
Sender's Email*: cstark510@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 1434 Everett Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Marilin Colon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:56 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Marilin Colon
Sender's Email*: marilin.colon@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 100 Grand Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Laura Carnagey [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:44 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Laura Carnagey
Sender's Email*: lcarnagey@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 4233 Balfour Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: vu long trinh [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:33 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: vu long trinh
Sender's Email*: longtrinh@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2203 14th ave. apt. 102
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Eve Norman Norman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:27 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Eve Norman Norman
Sender's Email*: vintageFem@att.net
Sender's Address*: 1714 Franklin St., 100-381
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Lauren Larson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 10:06 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Lauren Larson
Sender's Email*: laurenlarson5861@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 5861 Birch Court
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Let's give responsible dog owners a place to socialize their dogs. These dog owners are not the ones that let their dogs run free where ever, they care for their pets and clean up after them. Let's support that ! Thank you

From: Ronald Retamales [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 6:44 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Ronald Retamales
Sender's Email*: ronaldretamales@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 119 Athol avenue 94606
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Avishai Taashur [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 1:05 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Avishai Taashur
Sender's Email*: avishai94@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2490 Park Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Adriana Socorro [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2012 11:48 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. My husband and I moved to Oakland a few months ago from SF

because rent is too high for an apartment that allows dogs, Oakland is a lot cheaper and even nicer, we see a lot of people walking with their dogs everywhere I'd dare to say that I see more people with dogs in Oakland that I ever saw in SF, but that's probably because of the lack of parks here. We live in Lake area and every day I have to drive somewhere to take my dog to play with other dogs. I wonder what people without cars, disabled or older people would do iffhu can't drive? Where do they take their dogs?
I love the neighborhood I live in, but I'm sure it would be a lot nicer if we had a dog park that would bring the community together, because that's what dOgs do, they make people happier and make us be as social as they are, why not have a park that makes us as happy as our dogs are when they go to it?
Please approve the park and let us all be happy :)

Name*: Adriana Socorro

Email*: Adrianasocorro@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Palm and Bellevue

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. My husband and I moved to Oakland a few months ago from SF because rent is too high for an apartment that allows dogs, Oakland is a lot cheaper and even nicer, we see a lot of people walking with their dogs everywhere I'd dare to say that I see more people with dogs in Oakland that I ever saw in SF, but that's probably because of the lack of parks here. We live in Lake area and every day I have to drive somewhere to take my dog to play with other dogs. I wonder what people without cars, disabled or older people would do iffhu can't drive? Where do they take their dogs?
I love the neighborhood I live in, but I'm sure it would be a lot nicer if we had a dog park that would bring the community together, because that's what dOgs do, they make people happier and make us be as social as they are, why not have a park that makes us as happy as our dogs are when they go to it?
Please approve the park and let us all be happy :)","Adriana Socorro","Adrianasocorro@gmail.com","Palm and Bellevue","94610"

From: Margueritte Amable [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 8:55 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

I live near the proposed dog park, I am disabled and take my dog across to the park on Lakeshore nearly every day and would be grateful to have a park where she could be off leash.

Name*: Margueritte Amable

Email*: amablem@comcast.net

Street address or intersection*: Lakeshore @ Brooklyn

Zip Code: 94606

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

I live near the proposed dog park, I am disabled and take my dog across to the park on Lakeshore nearly every day and would be grateful to have a park where she could be off leash.","Margueritte Amable","amablem@comcast.net","Lakeshore @ Brooklyn","94606"

From: Helen Jefferson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:22 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

Without my dogs I would be without hope, Not all dogs can aspire to be part of the Search & Rescue organization, but any dog can rescue a a person from despair.

Not to have experienced the unquestioning love a dog offers is a sad concept. Some people are without children but bathe in the love a dog provides.

Please help us to repay our dogs for the love they give as too many senseless acts of cruelty continue. They ask for little in return. You have so much to offer.

Do this in the name of civic pride and leadership. Share the parks that are meant for families - - including family members that some call pets.

Helen Jefferson
Alameda, CA

Name*: Helen Jefferson

Email*: Rembouilletfr@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 1820 Alameda Av, Alameda

Zip Code: 94501

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

Without my dogs I would be without hope, Not all dogs can aspire to be part of the Search & Rescue organization, but any dog can rescue a a person from despair.

Not to have experienced the unquestioning love a dog offers is a sad concept. Some people are without children but bathe in the love a dog provides.

Please help us to repay our dogs for the love they give as too many senseless acts of cruelty continue. They ask for little in return. You have so much to offer.

Do this in the name of civic pride and leadership. Share the parks that are meant for families - - including family members that some call pets.

Helen Jefferson
Alameda, CA","Helen Jefferson","Rembouilletfr@yahoo.com","1820 Alameda Av, Alameda","94501"

From: Janet Sessions [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 11:11 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners,

A dog park at Lake Merritt would enable me to have longer visits with friends who live in that area. When a dog owner can let her dog off leash in an enclosed area, the dog benefits from being able to run, chase balls, and play with other dogs. In my experience at fenced in off leash dog parks, dog owners

connect with each other for the sake of their dogs. Getting my dog 2 years ago helped me feel more connected to my community because of that. I have found the dog owners to be responsible for picking up the poop and donating used plastic bags for the area.

Dog ownership has helped me live a healthier lifestyle. Part of my daily focus is getting Louie out for walks and hikes. I believe that the more opportunities there are for dog owners to connect (like at the Lake Merritt dog park), the more likely it is that dog owners will hold each other accountable to being responsible dog owners.

I hope that the dog park at Lake Merritt gets approval. I, for one, would take personal responsibility in encouraging positive interactions between owners to promote responsible dog ownership in Oakland.

Thanks for considering my point of view,
Janet Sessions

Name*: Janet Sessions

Email*: jrsessions@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 421 48th Street

Zip Code: 94609

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners,

A dog park at Lake Merritt would enable me to have longer visits with friends who live in that area. When a dog owner can let her dog off leash in an enclosed area, the dog benefits from being able to run, chase balls, and play with other dogs. In my experience at fenced in off leash dog parks, dog owners connect with each other for the sake of their dogs. Getting my dog 2 years ago helped me feel more connected to my community because of that. I have found the dog owners to be responsible for picking up the poop and donating used plastic bags for the area.

Dog ownership has helped me live a healthier lifestyle. Part of my daily focus is getting Louie out for walks and hikes. I believe that the more opportunities there are for dog owners to connect (like at the Lake Merritt dog park), the more likely it is that dog owners will hold each other accountable to being responsible dog owners.

I hope that the dog park at Lake Merritt gets approval. I, for one, would take personal responsibility in encouraging positive interactions between owners to promote responsible dog ownership in Oakland.

Thanks for considering my point of view,

Janet Sessions","Janet Sessions","jrsessions@gmail.com","421 48th Street","94609"

From: Neil Egan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:43 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners,
My wife and I moved here this year from Brooklyn, NY. We were excited and happy with all the great things our new home and neighborhood had to offer, until we realized that none of the parks in Oakland allow dogs. We own a dog, and this was shocking to us. We hope it can be fixed quickly for us and all the dog owners in the area.
Currently, we drive every weekend to Berkeley, where there are large, beautiful dog parks where we socialize with people and exercise our dog. It is ridiculous that we live a block from Lake Merrit, but there is no space for us to do this in our own neighborhood.
It would help the community, not hurt it. We know many others who feel the same way.

Thanks for your time.
Neil Egan

Name*: Neil Egan

Email*: neilegan@mac.com

Street address or intersection*: 389 Belmont Street

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners,
My wife and I moved here this year from Brooklyn, NY. We were excited and happy with all the great things our new home and neighborhood had to offer, until we realized that none of the parks in Oakland allow dogs. We own a dog, and this was shocking to us. We hope it can be fixed quickly for us and all the dog owners in the area.
Currently, we drive every weekend to Berkeley, where there are large, beautiful dog parks where we socialize with people and exercise our dog. It is ridiculous that we live a block from Lake Merrit, but there is no space for us to do this in our own neighborhood.
It would help the community, not hurt it. We know many others who feel the same way.

Thanks for your time.
Neil Egan","Neil Egan","neilegan@mac.com","389 Belmont Street","94610"

From: Joe Contreras [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I have two small dogs who deserve a place to run with other dogs. Lake Merritt is a large enough park for such a place. Leaving enough open space for everyone.

Name*: Joe Contreras

Email*: jojosix@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 1470 alice st #301

Zip Code: 94612

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I have two small dogs who deserve a place to run with other dogs. Lake Merritt is a large enough park for such a place. Leaving enough open space for everyone.","Joe Contreras","jojosix@yahoo.com","1470 alice st #301","94612"

From: Heather Smith [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 6:05 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Heather Smith
Sender's Email*: hmasismith@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 656 39th St Oakland, CA
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Lisa Hanauer [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 5:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
Dogs need space to run and romp and socialize and a dog park allows them that space in which to safely do that. Responsible pet owners are also tax paying residents of this community and similarly deserve to have the space in which to safely exercise their dogs.

Name*: Lisa Hanauer

Email*: Gemmama@aol.com

Street address or intersection*: Holman road and Grosvenor

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
Dogs need space to run and romp and socialize and a dog park allows them that space in which to safely do that. Responsible pet owners are also tax paying residents of this community and similarly deserve to have the space in which to safely exercise their dogs.","Lisa Hanauer","Gemmama@aol.com","Holman road and Grosvenor","94610"

From: Elizabeth Lemkul [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 4:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

In addition to being a wonderful place for dogs to play and people to visit, I believe that a neighborhood dog park fosters a sense of community. Through my time at city dog parks in Chicago, I got to know my neighbors and became more involved in community events, including events to support the park system and other neighborhood programs.

For me personally, a dog park at Lake Merrit would be nice as I live on Lake Shore Ave., and could walk my dog to the park, rather than driving to the hills every day.

Name*: Elizabeth Lemkul

Email*: elemkul@sprintmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 4157 Lake Shore Ave

Zip Code:

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

In addition to being a wonderful place for dogs to play and people to visit, I believe that a neighborhood dog park fosters a sense of community. Through my time at city dog parks in Chicago, I got to know my neighbors and became more involved in community events, including events to support the park system and other neighborhood programs.

For me personally, a dog park at Lake Merrit would be nice as I live on Lake Shore Ave., and could walk my dog to the park, rather than driving to the hills every day.","Elizabeth Lemkul","elemkul@sprintmail.com","4157 Lake Shore Ave",""

From: Sarah Wilhelm [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:32 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners,

I am really eager to have the dog park at Lake Merritt for several reasons. I live right across from Lakeside Park
and walk my dog at least three times a day. I would love to know that I could legally walk my dog in my local public

park without the fear of getting a ticket. Because this doesn't appear to be likely anytime soon I would love to be
able to walk my dog down to the proposed Lake Merritt dog park site every day. I am a local resident and have the
right to use the park in a way that fits with my life, just like every other local taxpayer . I don't have any children
and don't play a sport or run at the park, but I would like to enjoy the park by spending time there every day
with my dog. That way we could both enjoy the beautiful calming experience of the outdoors. It would add to my
health and the longevity of my life by exercising with my dog at the park, and it would build community as I get to
know my neighbors and fellow dog owners.

Thank you!

Name*: Sarah Wilhelm

Email*: sarah3wilhelm@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 389 Belmont St., Oakland CA

Zip Code:

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners,

I am really eager to have the dog park at Lake Merritt for several reasons. I live right across from Lakeside Park
and walk my dog at least three times a day. I would love to know that I could legally walk my dog in my local public
park without the fear of getting a ticket. Because this doesn't appear to be likely anytime soon I would love to be
able to walk my dog down to the proposed Lake Merritt dog park site every day. I am a local resident and have the
right to use the park in a way that fits with my life, just like every other local taxpayer . I don't have any children
and don't play a sport or run at the park, but I would like to enjoy the park by spending time there every day
with my dog. That way we could both enjoy the beautiful calming experience of the outdoors. It would add to my
health and the longevity of my life by exercising with my dog at the park, and it would build community as I get to
know my neighbors and fellow dog owners.

Thank you!","Sarah Wilhelm","sarah3wilhelm@gmail.com","389 Belmont St., Oakland CA",""

From: Jonah Chiarenza [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:27 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me: It has been included in the neighborhood plan and would help animate a little-used corner of the lake merritt park system, helping to bring more people to the park and lake, and making the area safer from early in the morning through evening.

Name*: Jonah Chiarenza

Email*: jonah@alumni.virginia.edu

Street address or intersection*: 5258 Claremont Ave

Zip Code: 94618

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me: It has been included in the neighborhood plan and would help animate a little-used corner of the lake merritt park system, helping to bring more people to the park and lake, and making the area safer from early in the morning through evening.","Jonah Chiarenza","jonah@alumni.virginia.edu","5258 Claremont Ave","94618"

From: Susan Oldershaw [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 3:09 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I have 2 dogs. Currently, I drive them to the
Alameda or Point Isabel dog parks. The proposed Lake Park dog park is close enough to my neighborhood in
China Hill for me to walk. This would be a positive thing in many ways. As a senior citizen is would be
incentive for me to get out of my house more often, get some exercise as I walked to the dog park, drive
and pollute less, socialize with other neighborhood dog owners. Sometimes, I stop in Alameda to buy some things so this would bring that revenue back to

Oakland. We all love Lake Merritt and everyone I have spoken to about it would be committed to maintaining the
dog park and making it an asset for the lake area. I see the closeness to the playground as an asset as well, in that it would foster a love of animals for the
it would foster a love of animals for the children, which is a very healthy thing. I think the fears on the opposing side are unfounded. There are so many committed people to this dog park that it could only make the area even more beautiful. In this very unfriendly dog city we
and especially this neighborhood, we certainly have waited too long for this much needed dog park. Thank you
for taking the time to read my thoughts.

Name*: Susan Oldershaw

Email*: lottydah2002@yahoo.com

Street address or intersection*: 770 Prospect Ave

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I have 2 dogs. Currently, I drive them to the
Alameda or Point Isabel dog parks. The proposed Lake Park dog park is close enough to my neighborhood in
China Hill for me to walk. This would be a positive thing in many ways. As a senior citizen is would be
incentive for me to get out of my house more often, get some exercise as I walked to the dog park, drive
and pollute less, socialize with other neighborhood dog owners. Sometimes, I stop in Alameda to buy some things so this would bring that revenue back to Oakland. We all love Lake Merritt and everyone I have spoken to about it would be committed to maintaining the
dog park and making it an asset for the lake area. I see the closeness to the playground as an asset as well, in that it would foster a love of animals for the
it would foster a love of animals for the children, which is a very healthy thing. I think the fears on the opposing side are unfounded. There are so many committed people to this dog park that it could only make the area even more beautiful. In this very unfriendly dog city we
and especially this neighborhood, we certainly have waited too long for this much needed dog park. Thank you
for taking the time to read my thoughts.","Susan
Oldershaw","lottydah2002@yahoo.com","770 Prospect Ave","94610"

From: Shelby [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:45 PM

To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
I live two blocks away, in an apartment that has no yard or outdoor space.
A dog park would be a great use for that underutilized space - I walk by it 4 times a day,
and never EVER see anyone there, except the occasional booth of the anti-dog park people. The park is large enough to accommodate open space, the tot lot,
and the dog park.
I currently have to get a ride if I want to allow my dog to be off leash,
and I don't own a car. Hundreds of people walk their dogs along lake merrit's paths every day, and while most of us are responsible about picking up after them and keeping them on leash, some don't obey these rules and cause a nuisance.
If there were a dog park, the dogs would be more contained to a focal point in the
park, instead of all around the lake. Why are anti-dog people against this idea?
More paths are dog free, and less poo is around the trails!
Please, we need this park! Help Jimmy Dean (my miniature dachshund) run free!
In a contained, safe environment.

Name*: Shelby

Email*: shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 459 Stow Avenue

Zip Code: 94606

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.
I live two blocks away, in an apartment that has no yard or outdoor space.
A dog park would be a great use for that underutilized space - I walk by it 4 times a day,
and never EVER see anyone there, except the occasional booth of the anti-dog park people. The park is large enough to accommodate open space, the tot lot,
and the dog park.
I currently have to get a ride if I want to allow my dog to be off leash,
and I don't own a car. Hundreds of people walk their dogs along lake merrit's paths every day, and while most of us are responsible about picking up after

them and keeping them on leash, some don't obey these rules and cause a nuisance.
If there were a dog park, the dogs would be more contained to a focal point in the
park, instead of all around the lake. Why are anti-dog people against this idea?
More paths are dog free, and less poo is around the trails!
Please, we need this park! Help Jimmy Dean (my miniature dachshund) run free!
In a contained, safe environment.","Shelby","shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com","459 Stow Avenue","94606"

From: Stephanie [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:39 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

I live two blocks away from Lake Merritt yet I have to drive to Berkeley so my dog can play outside.
The money I save on gas can be better spent near where I live. The more people come to Oakland the more money will be spent in the city. I believe having a safe, fenced area for dogs to play will benefit the great city of Oakland.

Name*: Stephanie

Email*: stephkle@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: Jackson and 14th

Zip Code: 94612

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me.

I live two blocks away from Lake Merritt yet I have to drive to Berkeley so my dog can play outside.
The money I save on gas can be better spent near where I live. The more people come to Oakland the more money will be spent in the city. I believe having a safe, fenced area for dogs to play will benefit the great city of Oakland.","Stephanie","stephkle@gmail.com","Jackson and 14th","94612"

From: Kassie Rohrbach [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:31 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners,

I'm writing to urge to you approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area. As a dog-owner that walks and runs Lake Merritt multiple times a week, my dog and I would both greatly appreciate the addition of an off-lease dog play area.

The closet dog park to my house is in Piedmont. I am required to purchase a piedmont dog park permit to take my dog to this park (a costly annual fee for non-Peidmont residents). The closest Oakland dog park to my residence is over 3 miles away. To get to the park and get some good time in, I currently have to drive to a park in Oakland. In fact, there are no dog parks in Oakland that I currently take my dog to. If I bother to get him in the car to take him for a run, we go to Berkeley, Richmond, or Alameda, where there are large, scenic, dog parks for my dog to run around.

Building this dog park would make my neighborhood more livable and walkable.

Thank you for your leadership in Oakland. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Kassie Rohrbach, District 2 Oakland Resident

Name*: Kassie Rohrbach

Email*: kassierohrbach@gmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 400 Perkins St, Apt 107

Zip Code: 94610

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners,

I'm writing to urge to you approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area. As a dog-owner that walks and runs Lake Merritt multiple times a week, my dog and I would both greatly appreciate the addition of an off-lease dog play area.

The closet dog park to my house is in Piedmont. I am required to purchase a piedmont dog park permit to take my dog to this park (a costly annual fee for non-Peidmont residents). The closest Oakland dog park to my residence is over 3 miles away. To get to the park and get some good time in, I currently have to

drive to a park in Oakland. In fact, there are no dog parks in Oakland that I currently take my dog to. If I bother to get him in the car to take him for a run, we go to Berkeley, Richmond, or Alameda, where there are large, scenic, dog parks for my dog to run around.

Building this dog park would make my neighborhood more livable and walkable.

Thank you for your leadership in Oakland. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Kassie Rohrbach, District 2 Oakland Resident","Kassie Rohrbach","kassierohrbach@gmail.com","400 Perkins St, Apt 107","94610"

From: Michelle Sparks [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 2:25 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aolo.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Personal Request to Approve the Dog Park

Subject*: Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval

Please add your own comments here: Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I live nearby and my dogs need a place to socialize and excercise off leash. Please, please, please!!!

Name*: Michelle Sparks

Email*: shellysparks@hotmail.com

Street address or intersection*: 2122 Lakeshore Ave., # 102 at Brooklyn

Zip Code: 94606

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Dog Park-Personal Request for Approval","Dear Planners, Here's why the dog park is important to me. I live nearby and my dogs need a place to socialize and excercise off leash. Please, please, please!!!","Michelle Sparks","shellysparks@hotmail.com","2122 Lakeshore Ave., # 102 at Brooklyn","94606"

From: Aaron Odle [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:59 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Aaron Odle

Sender's Email*: jstwatuwnt@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 6013 Old Quarry Loop
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Nora McQuaide [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 12:50 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Nora McQuaide
Sender's Email*: Sugaree0393@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 5701 Colton Blvd
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Lily Servais [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:04 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Lily Servais
Sender's Email*: lily.servais@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 92 Hamilton Place
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: ADAM ELLIS [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:58 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: ADAM ELLIS

Sender's Email*: adam_l_ellis@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 438 STATEN AVENUE #203
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Nathaniel Witherbee [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 3:59 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*: Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt: Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together: Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports: Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park: Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:
Name*: Nathaniel Witherbee
Email*: witherbee.nate@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*: 480 60th St. Apt. 4
Zip Code: 94609

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","","Nathaniel Witherbee","witherbee.nate@gmail.com","480 60th St. Apt. 4","94609"
From: Susan Oldershaw [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 2:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Susan Oldershaw
Sender's Email*: lottydah2002@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 770 Prospect Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities

across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! If we had a dog park in our neighborhood I could stop driving my 2 dogs to Point Isabel and Alameda. We would be committed to maintaining it. Thank you.

From: Stephen Lok [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 12:38 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Stephen Lok
Sender's Email*: poppalok@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 288 3rd St. #615, Oakland, CA 94607
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Christine Lok [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 12:01 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Christine Lok
Sender's Email*: christinewlok@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 3rd Street & Alice
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Christine Lok [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 11:55 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*: Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt: Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together: Applies to my household

Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:
Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park: Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:
Name*: Christine Lok
Email*: christinewlok@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*: 3rd Street & Alice
Zip Code: 94607

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","","Christine Lok","christinewlok@gmail.com","3rd Street & Alice","94607"
From: caroline belo [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:19 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*: Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt: Good for the City overall
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together: Good for the City overall
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:
Good for the City overall
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park: Good for the City overall
Please add your own comments here:
Name*: caroline belo
Email*: carolinebelo@google.com
Street address or intersection*: 15 san antonio place
Zip Code: 94133

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","","caroline belo","carolinebelo@google.com","15 san antonio place","94133"
From: Grey McIntosh [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:18 AM

To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*: Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt: I dont have a dog but agree
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together: I dont have a dog but agree
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports:
Good for the City overall
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park: Good for the City overall
Please add your own comments here:
Name*: Grey McIntosh
Email*: greyelizabeth@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*: Cleveland and Radnor
Zip Code: 94606

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","I dont have a dog but agree","I dont have a dog but agree","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","","Grey McIntosh","greyelizabeth@gmail.com","Cleveland and Radnor","94606"
From: F. Hsu [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*: Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt: I dont have a dog but agree
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together: I dont have a dog but agree
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports: I dont have a dog but agree
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park: I dont have a dog but agree
Please add your own comments here:
Name*: F. Hsu
Email*: tsaodofu@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*: 7th Ave and 24th St.
Zip Code:

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space

would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","I dont have a dog but agree","I dont have a dog but agree","I dont have a dog but agree","I dont have a dog but agree","","F. Hsu","tsaodofu@gmail.com","7th Ave and 24th St.",""
From: Helen [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 10:12 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*: Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt: Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together: Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports: Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park: Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:
Name*: Helen
Email*: luftmensch@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*: MacArthur and Laguna Ave.
Zip Code: 94602

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","","Helen","luftmensch@gmail.com","MacArthur and Laguna Ave.","94602"
From: Arvin David Nalos [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2012 12:25 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Arvin David Nalos
Sender's Email*: davidnalos@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1007 MacArthur Blvd.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Leslie Carson [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Saturday, March 24, 2012 3:21 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Leslie Carson
Sender's Email*: leslielx@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1638 Vista St
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. My dog Charlie is sweet and well-behaved and deserves a place to play near his home! Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Judy Sakaki [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 7:49 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*: Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt: Applies to my household
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together: Applies to my household
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports: Applies to my household
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park: Applies to my household
Please add your own comments here:
Name*: Judy Sakaki
Email*: judyks820@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*: 7970 Surrey Lane Oakland, CA
Zip Code: 94605

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","Applies to my household","","Judy Sakaki","judyks820@gmail.com","7970 Surrey Lane Oakland, CA","94605"
From: Dolores Restrepo Macias [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 9:52 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Dolores Restrepo Macias
Sender's Email*: doeluvs@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 320 Oakland Ave. Apt B, Oakland, CA 94611
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Angela Thomason [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:08 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Angela Thomason
Sender's Email*: hugheal@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1201 Pine St.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Saundra Torres [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 2:08 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Saundra Torres
Sender's Email*: dreadgal55@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 5500 block on Shattuck Ave.
City of Residence*: Oakland, CA 94609
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: denisa legaspi [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:30 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: denisa legaspi
Sender's Email*: denshouse@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: denshouse@gmail.com
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Lauren Kasdan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:45 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Lauren Kasdan
Sender's Email*: laurensk98@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 114 Forest CT. 40206
City of Residence*: Louisville
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: David Gans [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:44 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: David Gans
Sender's Email*: david@trufun.com
Sender's Address*: 484 Lake Park Ave #102
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission:

I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park.

There is no happier place on earth than a dog park. I say this as a dog lover but not a dog owner. I will not be a user of the park per se, but I expect I will be a regular visitor.

From: Rita Hurault [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 9:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Rita Hurault
Sender's Email*: reet@well.com
Sender's Address*: 504 Haddon Rd
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park.

Although neither my husband or I had our own dogs, we got married at the Point Isabel dog park in Point Richmond because, as David told me early on in our courtship, you can't be there and not be happy.

Our community needs this place where dogs of all kinds romp gleefully. Well run dog parks, such as the one at Point Isabel, are models of cooperation, diversity, and civic pride.

Please approve Lakeview Dog Park.

Thank you,
Rita Hurault

From: Claire Palmgren [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2012 12:05 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Claire Palmgren
Sender's Email*: clairep2@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: Cheney at Walker
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I STRONGLY support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: geannie lam [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 2:12 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: geannie lam
Sender's Email*: lamfambam@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 1531 4th avet
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Joe Wyman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 1:55 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Joe Wyman
Sender's Email*: ljwyman@comcast.net
Sender's Address*: ljwyman@comcast.net
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Kassie Rohrbach [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 10:30 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Kassie Rohrbach
Sender's Email*: Kassierohrbach@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 400 perkins st.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: shelby robertson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:16 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: shelby robertson
Sender's Email*: shelby.e.robertson@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 459 Stow Ave.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Rose Hammerman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:03 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Rose Hammerman
Sender's Email*: hammermanrose@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 4708 Farifax Ave.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Carrie Cianchetti [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:47 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Carrie Cianchetti
Sender's Email*: carriec51@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 440 40th St.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: margueritte amable [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 4:19 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: margueritte amable
Sender's Email*: amablem@comcast.net
Sender's Address*: 2208 Lakeshore Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Larry Branquinho [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:43 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Larry Branquinho
Sender's Email*: labranquinho@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1401 Jackson St
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Stephanie Le [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 10:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Stephanie Le
Sender's Email*: stephkle@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 14th St and Jackson
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Janet Sessions [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:01 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Janet Sessions
Sender's Email*: jrsessions@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 421 48th St
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Christine Stark [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 11:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Christine Stark
Sender's Email*: cstark510@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 1434 Everett Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Ellen Gierson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 10:35 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Ellen Gierson
Sender's Email*: ellenrocs@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 4175 Opal Street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Teresa Jackson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 4:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Teresa Jackson
Sender's Email*: tajackster@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: Uptown Apartments
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Barbara Garber [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 12:45 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Barbara Garber
Sender's Email*: bagarber@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 423 Elwood Avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,
We recently moved from San Francisco to Oakland, and were surprised to find how awkward it is to have a dog and live near Lake Merritt. I strongly support building a dog park at Lakeview Park. In San Francisco the dog park was a social hub of the neighborhood, bringing people together. The community atmosphere of a dog park like this promotes healthier dog ownership, allowing easy access to dog exercise which prevents attacks on both people and dogs. Dog parks in San Francisco typically safely share grounds with a children's play area as well, providing conveniences for many families who often own a dog and have a child. We visit the other dog parks in Oakland, in lieu of having one in our neighborhood, and have been surprised by how crowded they are.
Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Vanessa Jeschke [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 9:58 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Vanessa Jeschke
Sender's Email*: vanessa.jeschke@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 404 Euclid Ave, Upper Unit
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Wendy Parks [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 5:45 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Wendy Parks
Sender's Email*: princesswendilynn@yahoo.com

Sender's Address*: 279 Lee St. #12, Oakland, CA 94610
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

This would be a great addition to our community. Please make this happen!!!

From: terry lee [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 12:36 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: terry lee
Sender's Email*: fleeranch@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: haddon road and Hillgirt Circle, Oakland
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Ariana Brandon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 5:50 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Ariana Brandon
Sender's Email*: a_brandon@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 90th Ave and Thermal St.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: ihxgct@yiqsql.com ihxgct@yiqsql.com [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 10:22 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: ihxgct@yiqsql.com ihxgct@yiqsql.com
Sender's Email*: ihxgct@yiqsql.com
Sender's Address*: ihxgct@yiqsql.com
City of Residence*: ihxgct@yiqsql.com
Message*: pYND5U dxstwjuokwpt, [url=http://mmotmyfhyaxi.com/]mmotmyfhyaxi[/url], [link=http://vkylpevlykve.com/]vkylpevlykve[/link], http://rhqegkxlxaej.com/

From: Natalie Reed [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:36 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Natalie Reed
Sender's Email*: futurenataliereed@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 480 Crescent St
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: karen eng [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 8:47 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: karen eng
Sender's Email*: prayerdame@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 3976 greenwood avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park and ask that you move forward without further delay in implement the voter approved park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Julie Montoya [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 9:17 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Julie Montoya

Sender's Email*: jules_m@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*: 3422 Elmwood Ave.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Julie Caffey [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:16 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Julie Caffey
Sender's Email*: juliecaffey@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 4690 Tompkins, 3
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: joe contreras [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:11 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: joe contreras
Sender's Email*: jojosix@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 1470 alice st #301
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Diane Tebault [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 11:00 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Diane Tebault

Sender's Email*: goldengaterescue@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*: 4016 Canon Avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: elizabeth poore [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 10:55 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: elizabeth poore
Sender's Email*: bepoore@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 8418 aster ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

PS- I have read all the arguments against the dog park, and they are silly. I have been peed on, bitten, spit on, run into, and had things thrown at me by CHILDREN in oakland, but NEVER by a dog. It is absurd to ban dogs from any part of any park, especially on a leash. Dogs are a necessary part a healthy, wholesome and satisfying life, and banning them has no benefit. The few downsides of having canines around can be ameliorated with simple training, and enlisting dog owners in policing each other. If you won't bow to reason and allow dogs around the lake, at least grant dog owners this little piddly piece of ground. I drive past it several times a week, and I have NEVER seen anyone but kids dressed as thugs and bums laying on the ground use that piece of ground. The people arguing against the dog park have serious control issues, and would benefit from having canine company around. I don't even LIKE dogs, but I have eyes and a brain and therefore can see and recogniz! e their value to healthy communities.

From: Terry Boom [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 8:30 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Terry Boom
Sender's Email*: terryboom@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*: Haddon and Athol
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, Opponents to the proposed dog park would have you believe the park should not be approved because parks should be for "everyone." By their logic, there should be no tot lots, no basketball courts, tennis courts, soccer fields, or other activity-specific parks because they are not for "everyone."

Please don't be swayed by them. The Lake Merritt area is one of the most densely populated areas of the city. It draws hundreds of recreational users, including dog owners, but provides no off leash space. Dogs on leash are relegated to the sidewalk only and banned from all nearby parks.

Both the Adams Point and Lake Merritt plans identified Eastshore Park as the best park in the Lake Merritt area to address this inequity. Please approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

From: Elaine Wong [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 04, 2012 12:48 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Elaine Wong
Sender's Email*: greatmstuff415@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: greatmstuff415@yahoo.com
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now.

A dog park like this is a great addition and invaluable to the people of Oakland. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Chris Frostad [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 03, 2012 9:11 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Chris Frostad
Sender's Email*: frostad73@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 3045 Dakota Street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: reenie raschke [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 10:30 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: reenie raschke
Sender's Email*: reenie@reenieimages.com
Sender's Address*: 6100 Snake Road
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Rose Hammerman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 9:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Rose Hammerman
Sender's Email*: hammermanrose@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: hammermanrose@gmail.com
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Mary Stark [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 12:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Mary Stark
Sender's Email*: cstark510@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 1434 Everett Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Kerstin Haavimb [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:03 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Kerstin Haavimb
Sender's Email*: kerstinhaav@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 960 45th st. Oakland 94608
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Albion Roberts [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:56 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Albion Roberts
Sender's Email*: albioncloud@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 34th/Telegraph
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Jeamet Moore [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 5:08 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jeamet Moore
Sender's Email*: jeanet.moore@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 317 Lee St Apt F
City of Residence*: Oakland

Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. The complaints that dogs would climb over the fence and attack children have no foundational basis, as there are dog park/children park combos in North Oakland and at Mosswood Park. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Lisa Hanauer [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 1:57 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Lisa Hanauer
Sender's Email*: Gemmama@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 1247 Holman Road
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Kirsten Cowan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 1:14 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Kirsten Cowan
Sender's Email*: kirstencowan@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 261 Lester Ave. Apt. 3
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. I live right in this neighborhood, and although it would be nice to take my partner's dog there, I really want the park as a woman, frequently walking the lake, and by the proposed park, I wish there was a critical mass of dog owners frequenting the park and making the whole area safer and more populated, especially after dark!

Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Oaktown 357 [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:45 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Oaktown 357
Sender's Email*: oaktownposse@357.com
Sender's Address*: 40th and Telegraph
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Tiffany Wagner [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:43 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Tiffany Wagner
Sender's Email*: tiffisalways@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 6348 Heather Ridge Way
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Margaret Laws [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:39 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Margaret Laws
Sender's Email*: hazel_motes@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 550 Glen View Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Joanne Docena [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:22 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Joanne Docena
Sender's Email*: Joville3@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 1531 4th Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project so it can start to be built asap. Enough of needless delays. Go yourself and sit there and watch the activity or lack there of, on this spot. Are any of the people against this plan actual dog owners? This is really an excleent spot, and much needed , so why keep debating it... It is time to take action and move forward.. There is NO real reason NOT to have this done.

From: Maria Lepe [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 12:04 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Maria Lepe
Sender's Email*: changita4011@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1500 50th Ave Oakland, CA 94601
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.
-Maria Lepe

From: Betsy Block [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:59 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Betsy Block
Sender's Email*: bets@bbaum.com
Sender's Address*: 742 Wesley Way Apt 2C
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Vanessa Jeschke [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:46 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Vanessa Jeschke
Sender's Email*: vanessa.jeschke@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 404 Euclid Ave, Upper Unit
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: suzie rudloff [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:32 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: suzie rudloff
Sender's Email*: suzierudloff@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: underhills rd and grosvenor st.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: mindie dodson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:31 AM

To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: mindie dodson
Sender's Email*: mindiedodson@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 550 glenview ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Terry Kitagawa [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:31 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Terry Kitagawa
Sender's Email*: mixture_terry@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 5855 horton street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Ruth Busbee [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 11:28 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Ruth Busbee
Sender's Email*: ruthbusbee@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 77 Fairmount Ave. Apt. 111
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Kat Smith [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 29, 2012 9:55 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Kat Smith
Sender's Email*: katisca@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 4026 Canon Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Leslie Walker [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 6:37 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Leslie Walker
Sender's Email*: lwalker114@comcast.net
Sender's Address*: 7527 Sterling Drive
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Alecia Kurey [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 3:33 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Alecia Kurey
Sender's Email*: AleciaKurey@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 200 Caldecott Lane #219
City of Residence*: Oakland, 94618
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been

shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project!!!

Thank you.
Alecia Kurey

From: Kira Belanger [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 1:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Kira Belanger
Sender's Email*: Kirabelanger@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 715 Mandana Blvd
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Wenonah Elms [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 6:36 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Wenonah Elms
Sender's Email*: wenonahelms@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 319 Lenox Avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Rachel Gonzalez [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:20 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Rachel Gonzalez
Sender's Email*: r.suzannegonzalez@gmail.com

Sender's Address*: 2122 Lakeshore Ave.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Nancy Rieser [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 1:55 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Nancy Rieser
Sender's Email*: gofindnancy@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 444 Alhambra Street
City of Residence*: Crockett
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

My dog Cookie Scraps and are a Therapy Pet team and visit the Lakeview Library. We are part of the Paws to Read program, where children practice reading to non-judgemental dogs.

Personally, even though I now live in Crockett, I would love to have a place to take Cookie before or after her reading sessions at the far edge of Eastshore Park, the park along side of the Library. The kids would love it too. Often times I walk Cookie along the edge of tot lot play area (called Astro Park) on the way to my car. In an instant, becomes a one-animal petting zoo.

From what I have been able to glean from the anti-dog park communications is that their arguments boil down to 4 main complaints.

I will list the reasons with my observations/comments.

#1. "It is problematic that the dog park is near the children's tot lot."

The dog park under the freeway on Claremont Ave is less than 10 feet from a children's play area. It has happily co-existed for many years without incident for about two decades now.

The proof is in the pudding.

#2. "The space will take away the athetic field."

No, it won't. It basically would sit on the far edge of the park where soccar players prefer NOT to play because kicked balls roll into the traffic on Grand Avenue.

Before I moved from Oakland in 1999, I had lived in Adams Point for over 25 years. I witnessed that the far edge of the park along MacArthur was not only underutilized but, more often is not, sat empty.

Now, when I come to Oakland for the Paws to Read program at the Lakeview Library, it is clear that the usage pattern has not changed.

#3. "It's the last 'unprogrammed space' around Lake Merritt"

Nope. Plently parkland around Lake Merritt has no "program" or restrictions.

#4. "Parks are for people and not dogs."

Dogs can only enter a park with its human owner. Owners do not loose their "human" status when they enter a dog park.

Yes, parks are wonderful places for people. We agree on that point! Dog OWNERS are people, and those PEOPLE who live in Oakland near the Lakeview park want some of their recreational tax dollars to be allocated for a dog park along this little edge of the park...just like tax dollars support other for people with special recreational interets or talents, like:

a. Fairyland (for small people with lovely imaginations)
b. the boat house (for people who like to go in the water in water vessels)
c. the Japanese garden and Garden building (for people who like plants)
d. the tot lots (for small people who like swings)
e. tennis courts, baseball diamonds, soccar fields and lawn bowling(peope who like to play with balls)

Dog owners play with balls too...to be sure they are covered with dog spit, but they ARE balls nonetheless. The only difference is that the balls are thrown by dog owners are just caught by dogs)

And when humans play/engage in ANY of the above recreational activites, it gets them outside and active AND they get to engage with others who enjoy similar activities. Dog parks are no different.

Look, we all agree that recreational ammenities enrich everyone's life. Major metropolitan areas from Manhatten to Orange County have recognized the social and recreational values dog parks and proudly boast about dog parks to attract new commers to their neighborhoods.

AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY: the recreational dog park includes ALL ages, ALL genders, ALL ethnicities and ALL mental and physical abilities and....even people who don't own dogs!

Yes, dog-less people come into dog parks. Who? People who live in apartments that have "no pet" policies who miss the companionship and doofiness of animals; folks who live in senior facilities that might be faced with similar "not pet" restrictions; folks who might live a child or husband with allergies and just want to toss ball or two; folks coming with their kids to do research and check out dog breeds when they are in the "pre-adoption" state of mind.

In my humble opinion, dog parks are about the most inclusive recreational activity cities provide...plus it gives tax payers the most recreational useage bang for their buck.

Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now.

Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Victoria Reeder [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 12:02 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Victoria Reeder
Sender's Email*: victoriareeder@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2122 Lakeshore Avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Kevin Chung [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 10:10 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; blakehuntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; odogparks@comcast.net; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please Build the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Subject*: Yes for the Dog Park
We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt: Good for the City overall
Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together: Good for the City overall
Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports: Good for the City overall
Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park: Good for the City overall
Please add your own comments here:
Name*: Kevin Chung
Email*: jetkevis@gmail.com
Street address or intersection*: Claremont x College
Zip Code: 94705

*** Text Database Entry ***
"Subject","We need legal space for dogs near Lake Merritt","Families with kids AND dogs should be able to visit the park together","Parks need to serve all of us, not just those with kids or who play sports","Community gathering space would maximize the value of this park","Please add your own comments here","Name","Email","Street address or intersection","Zip Code"
"Yes for the Dog Park","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","Good for the City overall","","Kevin Chung","jetkevis@gmail.com","Claremont x College","94705"

From: Dorinda Woodley [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 11:54 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Dorinda Woodley
Sender's Email*: purpledori777@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 1617 Grand Ave.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: stephanie alber [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 26, 2012 9:13 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: stephanie alber
Sender's Email*: stephalber@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 500 E 22nd #3
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Monique Rosenthal [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2012 10:45 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Monique Rosenthal
Sender's Email*: morose34@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 5985 Claremont Avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Susan Oldershaw [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 25, 2012 9:27 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Susan Oldershaw
Sender's Email*: lottydah2002@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 770 Prospect Ave, Oakland, CA 94610
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! I am currently driving my 2 dogs to Alameda or Point Isabel. Sometimes I do some shopping in Alameda which I would do in Oakland. We are so lacking this much needed facility in this neighborhood. It would be a real asset in many ways. Thank you.

From: micah frazier [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 4:50 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: micah frazier
Sender's Email*: micahhobbesfrazier@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 4096 piedmont ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Helen Jefferson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 10:23 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Helen Jefferson
Sender's Email*: Rembouilletfr@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: Alameda Av
City of Residence*: Alameda

Message*: Ms. Clevenger
Oakland Planning Commission,

Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland is desperate to have.

I strongly support the Lakeview dog park. Please! Listen to these constituents who spend time in the community with eyes and ears on the neighborhoods. I urge you to approve this project!

From: Hanna Weare [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 5:38 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Hanna Weare
Sender's Email*: hanna@awarebodyprocess.com
Sender's Address*: 1200 Lakeshore Av, #17E
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Amy Petre Hill [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 8:24 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Amy Petre Hill
Sender's Email*: amypetre@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1200 Lakeshore Ave. Apt. 5D
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. My husband and I live in a large high-rise on the lake with my small dog, Parker, and dream of having a local dog park we could walk to every day. Because there is no close, high-quality dog park I typically take my dog to the Alameda dog parks three mornings a week. With each trip I emit additional greenhouse gases and add to Alameda's sales tax coffers when I spend $15 on early morning coffee and breakfast each week.

Adding a dog park on Lake Merritt will enhance the neighborhood, provide a place for dog owners to responsibly play with their dogs outdoors, and bring additional customers to local Oakland businesses.

For all the above reasons, I strongly urge you to support a Lakeview dog part. Thank you.

From: Benjamin Westheimer [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 21, 2012 2:16 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Benjamin Westheimer
Sender's Email*: bwestheimer@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 47 Chatsworth Ct.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! This is sorely needed; will cost little; and will benefit many.

Thank you.

From: christine berkman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 11:41 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: christine berkman
Sender's Email*: chrisberkman@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 12845 Brookpark Road
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project.

Thanks,
Chris

From: Beth Morris-Wong [skyokwa2000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 9:09 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Pattillo@pgadesign.com; Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net; Quan, Jean
Subject: Dog park please

I would like to see a dog park in the Lake Merritt area. Dog owners have to drive to Alameda or Berkley. The space is used by soccer players already and would be a great place for the community to socialize. It will also help cut down on crime.

Beth Morris-Wong

From: Amy Reber [amy_reber@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 8:33 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Pattillo@pgadesign.com; Quan, Jean; Brunner, Jane; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley; Reid, Larry; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Support for the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Good evening Oakland City Officials,
I am writing to add my support for the new dog park in the Lake Merritt area.

I've lived in the Adams Point neighborhood, next to the lake, for the last ten years. For eight of those I was not a dog owner. For the last two I have owned my own dog. I would support the new dog park whether or not I owned my own dog!

A dog park in the area is urgently needed because:

* Dog owners need an area where it is legal to walk their dogs. The area around the lake is technically off limits for dogs. Although they are tolerated there on leash.
* We need an area where the thousands of dogs who live in the Lake Merritt area can spend some time running off leash. I watched a woman let her dog run up and kill a goose one day. She was allowing her dog to roam off leash in the bird sanctuary. I reported the bird's death to the head naturalist at the bird sanctuary office. If there were a place where this woman could have taken her dog off leash at the lake, her dog may not have killed the bird.
* As I'm sure you know, Lake Merritt was the first wildlife preserve in North America . We need a separate area for dogs away from the Lake Merritt wildlife.

There is plenty of space for walkers, bikers, and runners around the lake, but there is no sanctioned area for people to walk their dogs. And definitely no place for dogs to run off leash!

Thank you so much for considering adding your support to the Lake Merritt dog park proposal. The area is GREATLY needed!

Sincerely,

Amy Reber
From: Tracey Baldridge [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 8:00 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Tracey Baldridge
Sender's Email*: traceybaldridge@ymail.com
Sender's Address*: 1733 10 st
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Richelle Lieberman [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 6:54 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Richelle Lieberman
Sender's Email*: scarletbohemian@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 251 Acton Place
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Sarah Donovan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 5:28 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Sarah Donovan
Sender's Email*: twilight_speaks@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: twilight_speaks@yahoo.com
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: To the Oakland Planning Commission or whomever else it may concern,

While I am not a dog owner myself, I still support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Giving dogs a safe and legal place to play would only benefit the community. As a resident of this neighborhood, I walk by

Lakeview Park daily. Currently, it seems that the park is not efficiently used, and a dog park would be a more ideal use of that space. Recently, I was stopped by a group of people who were opposing the dog park, stating that their disapproval largely had to do with it being near a business district. Personally, I think a dog park near the businesses would only be a good thing, as it might reduce the number of dogs in the Saturday Farmer's Market (despite the "no dogs" signs around the market) and on the streets right outside of businesses if they had a nearby place to be.

So basically, as non-dog-owning residents of the Lake Merritt area, my husband and I both support this project and hope very much that it gets approved.

Thank you for your time!

From: Trineice Durst [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 4:41 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Trineice Durst
Sender's Email*: tdurst14@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 255 Jayne Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Jaime Calleja [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 12:56 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jaime Calleja
Sender's Email*: engendrus@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: Mandalay Road and Harbord Drive
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Claire Axley [burst@emailmeform.com]

Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 8:42 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Claire Axley
Sender's Email*: claire.axley@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 108 Mandalay Road
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: simon becerra [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 8:19 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: simon becerra
Sender's Email*: simonbecerra@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: simonbecerra@gmail.com
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: lee ballen [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 3:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: lee ballen
Sender's Email*: omgirl4@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*: 1527 mountain blvd
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Dane Eifling [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 12:06 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Dane Eifling
Sender's Email*: greatdane65@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: greatdane65@yahoo.com
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Eileen Jones [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 11:09 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Eileen Jones
Sender's Email*: jones.eileen15@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 125 2nd Street #415
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Nikki Maeda [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 19, 2012 11:06 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Nikki Maeda
Sender's Email*: giantglassofmilk@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 47th & West
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Gary Moore [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2012 7:56 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Gary Moore
Sender's Email*: garymoore697@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 1109 Mandana Blvd
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,
I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is definitely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs.
Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Oakland needs this to build the neighbor and beauty of Lake Merritt. Lakeshore is very dog friendly.
Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Tina Quon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 18, 2012 7:53 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Tina Quon
Sender's Email*: tina.quon@ucsfmedctr.org
Sender's Address*: 1109 Mandana Blvd
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,
I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community (which Oakland is greatly in need of), reduce crime (currently highest in the nation), and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now.
Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Elizabeth Lemkul [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 4:12 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Elizabeth Lemkul
Sender's Email*: elemkul@sprintmail.com
Sender's Address*: 4157 Lake Shore Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Emily M [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 3:38 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Emily M
Sender's Email*: sparkle577@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: Santa Clara and Vernon St.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Meghan McLean [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 10:01 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Meghan McLean
Sender's Email*: mngojuice@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 4708 fairfax ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project.

I am part of a large community of dog owners, and know that a Lakeview Dog Park will attract not only people from other parts of Oakland (like myself), but people from elsewhere as well. This is an opportunity to gain good press for this lovely city I call home, as well as increasing the visitors.

thanks,

Meghan (and huskies Jack and Spike)

From: ALMA PAGLIARULO [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: ALMA PAGLIARULO
Sender's Email*: ALMAROSSETTE@GMAIL.COM
Sender's Address*: 2316 LAKESHORE AVE # 2
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Daniel Gonzales [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 16, 2012 9:31 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Daniel Gonzales
Sender's Email*: dkgonzales@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2316 Lakeshore Ave Apt 5
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project!

Thank you,
Daniel Gonzales

From: Susan Oldershaw [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:57 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Susan Oldershaw
Sender's Email*: lottydah2002@yahoo.com

Sender's Address*: 770 Prospect Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! In the meantime I am forced to drive to Alameda or Point Isabel. I often visit shops in Alameda and spend money which is revenue Oakland could use. I could walk to the proposed dogpark from my home. Thank you.

From: Jacqueline L'Heureaux [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 7:35 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jacqueline L'Heureaux
Sender's Email*: j4f81@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 2122 Lakeshore Avenue, #102
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs, and even though a Dog Play Area has twice been approved in the Lake Merritt Master Plan and by the Parks Commission (2006 and 2010), it hasn't yet come to fruition. It surely seems well past time that it did. Other cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project!

Thank you.

From: Joyce Roy [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 5:10 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Joyce Roy
Sender's Email*: joyceroy@earthlink.net
Sender's Address*: 258 Mather St.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Michelle Sparks [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:40 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Michelle Sparks
Sender's Email*: shellysparks@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2122 Lakeshore Ave., No. 102, Oakland 94606
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I STRONGLY support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Because there's nothing that resembles a real dog park in Oakland me and several others I know drive to Pt. Isabell. I go twice a week and every time I purchase food, coffee etc. I also stop at a nearby farmers market rather than going to the one on Grand. If I had a dog park near my home I would purchase these things in my own neighborhood.

Right now, the dogs are closer to the kids than they would be w/ the dog park because the dogs will be behind a fence. When I take my dogs down to the Astro Park area now, I let them off leash as do other dog owners. If people are concerned about having dogs around the kids at Astro Park, they should be more concerned now.

Please, please, please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Jonah Chiarenza [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 3:21 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jonah Chiarenza
Sender's Email*: jonah@alumni.virginia.edu
Sender's Address*: 5258 Claremont Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Nicolette Stevenson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 2:55 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Nicolette Stevenson
Sender's Email*: sour_milk_08@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 2801 Summit ST
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Sarah Wilhelm [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 2:35 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Sarah Wilhelm
Sender's Email*: sarah3wilhelm@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 389 Belmont St. #109 94610
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. This dog play area was already approved in 2006 and 2010, so please just carry through with what has already been voted in. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now.

I recently moved from Brooklyn, NY, where I visited the dog play area at Prospect Park every morning with my dog. It was a wonderful, unenclosed space where dogs could play freely until 9am every day. After several years of going there regularly I never noticed any problems involving dogs, their owners, or other visitors at the park. Instead it was a wonderful place where neighbors could meet and people could enjoy the outdoors with their pets.

I, like many other people in this busy community, don't own a car and so am not able to drive my dog to the other dog parks (which are not in walking distance). This park is a necessity for this popular neighborhood where a large percentage of residents have dogs and need the space to exercise their pets.

Please approve this project! Thank you!

From: Leal Charonnat [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 2:09 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Leal Charonnat
Sender's Email*: lealcharonnat@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1 5th avenue #1-9
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Judith Schwartz [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 15, 2012 9:17 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Judith Schwartz
Sender's Email*: JudithRSchwartz@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 2640 8th Ave.
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Laverne Bell [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 1:12 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Laverne Bell
Sender's Email*: mawusi777@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*: mawusi777@sbcglobal.net
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: linda polse [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2012 9:29 PM

To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: linda polse
Sender's Email*: inerpeas@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: inerpeas@hotmail.com
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Adriana Socorro [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 9:56 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Adriana Socorro
Sender's Email*: Adrianasocorro@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: Palm ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Joanne Docena [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 7:37 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Joanne Docena
Sender's Email*: Joville3@aol.com
Sender's Address*: 1531 4th Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I am a disabled resident of Oakland. I have lived here my entire life. Thru the years I have had dogs and I have had to travel out of the city in order to find off leash parks. This is just disgraceful for the city of Oakland to be so dog UNFRIENDLY, and unconcerned for the need of Oakland residents. Oakland has AMPle areas that could be used for a dog park, if it so chose to. There are many of us disabled people who want to be able to not have to travel far in order for out dogs to have some off leash FREEDOM to exercise. I strongly support the proposed

dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks becaus! e they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Shana Harris [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 7:17 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Shana Harris
Sender's Email*: upyerkilt11@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 3942 Ruby Street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Sarah Pope [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 6:43 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Sarah Pope
Sender's Email*: Sarah.salk.pope@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1 camino del cielo
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Ellen Evans [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 6:18 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Ellen Evans
Sender's Email*: jeev13@gmail.com

Sender's Address*: 2831 Delaware Street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. And we are talking about both people and dogs. Given my very busy schedule, the time I spend with my dogs at the existing dog parks is also the time I spend with my fellow Oaklanders, from all walks of life, tied together by our love of our dogs.

Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

Ellen Evans

From: Vicky Scolini [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 5:38 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Vicky Scolini
Sender's Email*: vms39@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 4224 Suter
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Victoria Reeder [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 5:33 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Victoria Reeder
Sender's Email*: victoriareeder@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 2122 Lakeshore Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: mylan cheng [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 4:49 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: mylan cheng
Sender's Email*: mylan.cheng@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 11th ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: eric tran [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 4:49 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: eric tran
Sender's Email*: eric.tran11@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 11th ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: bruin runyan [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 4:33 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: bruin runyan
Sender's Email*: bruinator@mailpuppy.com
Sender's Address*: 513 28th Street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build

community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Miriam Fliegner [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 4:23 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Miriam Fliegner
Sender's Email*: mfliegner@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 775 Brooklyn Avenue
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission,

I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. I live in the area and pass Splash Pad Park frequently, and it is very much under-used right now; using some of that space for a dog park would help it live up to its potential.

Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: i polsuon [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 12:19 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: i polsuon
Sender's Email*: wlp1272@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: Alamadea
City of Residence*: Alameda
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Wendi Poulson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 12:16 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Wendi Poulson
Sender's Email*: wlp1272@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: A
City of Residence*: Alameda
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and Planners. We are in Oakland to day looking for places to go with our dog while we do our shoppping. We would love to come to the Lake Merritt dog park on a regular basis. We have family living near Lake Merritt and it would make good family tme for us and our dogsi

From: eric McGill [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:50 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: eric McGill
Sender's Email*: mcgillanizer@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 5320 Trask 94601
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission I am tired of going to Alameda with the dog. I want a dog park near home and where I pay taxes.

From: Jeff Arizu [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:39 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jeff Arizu
Sender's Email*: andapress@sbcglobal.net
Sender's Address*: 41 Excelsior Court 94610
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park. I would like to have a dog park near my house. I'd love to twalk to the dog park every day, sometimes twice a day. My four year old would go to the playground with one parent and the other would be at the dog park. This would be a real advantage for our family. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: stacy rollo [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:28 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: stacy rollo
Sender's Email*: stacyrollo@sbcglobal.net

Sender's Address*: mandana circle
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger ; We would like to have a dog park at the park near the Grand Lake Theater/Farmers Market. We would like to take our two pre-school children and our dog to Lakeview park for the tot lot, the library and the dog park. It would make great family space.

24 Mandana Circle
Oakland

From: Yvonne Bennett [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:20 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Yvonne Bennett
Sender's Email*: yvonneb.inalameda@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: Alameda
City of Residence*: Alameda
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. We like to visit Oakland but are always frustrated there is no place in the downtown central area for us to spend a little time with our dog

From: Elsa Orta [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:17 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Elsa Orta
Sender's Email*: ortaelsa@yahoo.com
Sender's Address*: 1097 106 Ave 94603
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. We're new in Oakland , a yong couple with no kids We would like to be able to come to Lake Merrit dog park and get to know the city better.

From: Liz Duncanson [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:09 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Liz Duncanson
Sender's Email*: liz.gillem@gmail.com
Sender's Address*: 391 - 51st Street
City of Residence*: oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. We are a young couple with no children and we would like access to Oakland Parks with our dog. We love to shop and eat at Lake Merritt and would like to go more often with our dog.

From: Cheryl Cleary [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 2:59 PM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Cheryl Cleary
Sender's Email*: cab233@cornell.edu
Sender's Address*: Hanover Ave and Lakeshore Ave
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. In addition, a socialized dog is a safe dog. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Jennifer Nadler [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 11:04 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Jennifer Nadler
Sender's Email*: splinky_dinky@hotmail.com
Sender's Address*: 1320 E 18th Street
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. Currently I am forced to go to Alameda for the dog park there, which in turn gets me to do my shopping there. I would prefer Oakland get my sales taxes and money not Alameda but since I have no place convenient in my neighborhood where my dogs are allowed I have to pack everyone in the car and drive to the next closest park, Alameda. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: Paul Vidican [burst@emailmeform.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 10:41 AM
To: odogparks@comcast.net; Clevenger, Ann; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Nadel, Nancy; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com; Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Park!

Name*: Paul Vidican
Sender's Email*: pvidican@comcast.net
Sender's Address*: Haddon & Athol
City of Residence*: Oakland
Message*: Dear Ms. Clevenger and the Oakland Planning Commission, I strongly support the proposed dog park near Lake Merritt, at Lakeview Park. Oakland is sorely lacking in space dedicated to access for people and their dogs. Cities across the country are building dog parks because they have been shown to build community, reduce crime, and increase property values - all things Oakland can use right now. This proposed location is almost always EMPTY. PEOPLE would use this dog park on a daily basis, in all weather. And there's still plenty of room left for the few activities that happen there now. Please approve this project! Thank you.

From: CBColeman comcast [cbcoleman@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 8:43 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: dog park-yes please

To Whom It May Concern;

I favor the installation of a dog park near the Lakeview library. Although our children are grown up now we would have loved to have taken them to the playground,the dog park and the library all on one visit. Having more people using that park is an important thing for the neighborhood. We would enjoy seeing people and their dogs at play near the Lake.

Clarence B. Coleman
From: holberding@aol.com
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 2:04 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; nnadel@oakllandnet.com; At Large; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: lakeviewdog@gmail.com
Subject: Dog Park - Oakland

Good afternoon,

Frankly, I am surprised that the issue of the Lakeview Dog Play area is still not resolved
Did we not vote on this some years back?
What was all the hoopla about a couple of months ago?
Oakland is way behind when it comes to pets and we are known for being non-pet friendly.
Let's change this, please

Many of us that live in the area, Adams point, etc are willing to take on the responsibility of maintaining the park

Perhaps it would even benefit local merchants and stimulate growth? What a novel idea

Please move this project forward and get it done.
Thank you from a local tax payer

H W. Olberding
From: Virginia Palmer [VPalmer@fablaw.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 29, 2011 4:34 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: I support the dog park

I live and work in Oakland and would be delighted to see people use the park at Lakeshore and MacArthur with their dogs. I do not own a dog, but think it is critically important that the community provide access to parks for dog owners. Thanks, Virginia Palmer

VPalmer@fablaw.com

From: Quang Dang [quanghdang@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2011 11:49 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Support for Astro Park Dogpark

Dear Ann, Pat, Nancy, and Rebecca:

I walked by the "Save Astro Park" folks last Saturday and was deeply troubled by their attempts to confuse people about what is going on at Astro Park. I am an Oakland resident who has two dogs who would love to see a dog park there. I think it would be great for everyone, especially local dog owners who have so places to go, given OMC 6.04.080. There is plenty of room at this park to have the proposed dog park and still have other activities. It will help make Oakland a better place, with more opportunities for dog owners to exercise and socialize their dogs properly. Please let me know about any public meetings about this dog park.

Thank you,
Quang H. Dang
209 Frisbie Street, Oakland

From: Tonishia Martinson [queenofgreen2010@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 15, 2011 9:15 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; jeanquan4@gmail.com
Cc: ODOGPARKS@comcast.net
Subject: DOG PARK IN OAKLAND

hi City Hall: LOOK at SCZ Dog Parks, San Jose Dog Parks, Sacramento Dog Parks, San Fransico Dog Parks, Santa Rosa Dog Parks(NONE them have any lawsuit or fights over dogs that "jumps/attack people"..... and Dog Parks is Special park for ALL DOGS that gets along w other dogs/people. i went dog parks ALL my life, i am owner of my dog.... ITS RARE that dog would jump 5feet or 5 1/2feet

fence(NOT EVEN Great Dane or Agility dogs) its VERY RARE. and, IF you dont accept this.... there is VERY GOOD chance for dogs to become aggressive toward people/animals DUE TO NO SOCIALIzing! i volunteered at many shelters, some dogs turned up with owners saying their hometown(Oakland) DIDNT have any parks for their dogs to play, get socialings.... and because that, they CANNOT take their dogs out anytime due to their dogs barkings, growlings at everyone!(all because no Socialings) TRM/AM, KM, S.Jr M(TRM=Tonishia R Minard(owner of three pets), AM=Aang Minard(my dog), KM=Katara Minard(my snake), S.Jr=Sokka Jr Minard(my rescued lizard))

i typed this in Facebook, i ought for YOU ALL to read this and check different dog parks. its TRUE. my dog Aang is in Agility Classes, he is 85 pounds dog(if stand, 5'8" tall) with ability to jump 3feet, but ALWAYS Fails 5feet. there is many champ Agility dogs but THEY ALL cant jump 5feet or 5 1/2 feet tall fence. and what i typed is TRUE. bring YOUR kids or grandkids to SJ dog park or SR dog patrk or SAC dog park and tell ur kids to walk past fence, YOU WILL SEE dogs being happy to see people, they might stand on fence or barking(in HAPPY way) but they NEVER jumps over fence. i am aunt of twins who is 5years old now, they LOVES to stand behind fence and petting dogs through fence holes, there is NONE harm done to them. in SJ dog park, there is KIDS playground RIGHT next to dog park..... NOT EVEN dog jumped over fence to fight w kids playing next part of park.

Tonishia, Aang, Katara, Sokka Jr Minards

From: Shannon [pence.shannon@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 24, 2011 8:53 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; LakeviewDog@gmail.com
Subject: Plea for a dog park

Attachments: Ralphie's park.docx

September 24, 2011

City of Oakland

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza

Oakland, CA 94612

Attn.: Councilmembers

I was formerly unaware of the City's strict laws against dogs until I recently adopted one for my daughter's birthday a few days ago. I see dogs all the time near Astro Park in where I live. So, when I took my kids to the park with the new puppy today I stopped to read what the park prohibits. Dogs were listed along with firearms and alcohol. This regulation seems completely ridiculous to me.

As for the argument that the dogs would cause unpleasant odors, my own dog and I found it hard to find even a small area that wasn't riddled with goose feces not to mention the odor of the lake itself. As a longtime resident and voter in Oakland I strongly feel that providing a dog park in this neighborhood would create a much more desirable housing market for families and friendly pet owners, as well as for weekend shoppers. As many of my neighbors, my yard is small and it would be great to have an area near home where I could take my pet to run freely and socialize with other dogs.

I am convinced that building more dog parks in Oakland would also greatly decrease the number of surrendered and stray dogs turned in to Oakland Animal Services where I adopted my dog. Before I found my dog I had visited several shelters in the Berkeley and Oakland areas. OAS was by far the most congested shelter I had encountered. I was the only person looking to adopt that day. There was a long list I had to wait behind for people that were complaining about stray dogs or surrendering dogs they couldn't care for. If the city had more pet friendly policies, I'm sure it wouldn't have to spend so much of our tax money to care for these animals that could otherwise be taken care of voluntarily by its residents.

The city's current dog policies seem to promote illegal dog ownership practices. In fact, the volunteer that helped me informed me that the only reason the shelter could function was largely due to donation contributions. This hardly sounds very sustainable for a city on a budget that has already executed public school closures and a police department that will not respond to "grand theft, burglary, car wrecks, and vandalism" due to layoffs!

A dog park in Lake Merritt would not only create a much needed positive image for our city, but solve one of the many budget problems we face in this great time of despair.

Shannon Temple

District 3

From: Shannon Titus [shantitus@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2011 8:17 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; jeanquan4@gmail.com
Subject: Please Build the Dog Park !

Dear Oakland City Council Members:

I live near the proposed dog play area at Lake Merritt, and I strongly support this project. It's been in planning for 11 years, and approved twice. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is something that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, and something that is badly needed. Please approve this project.

Thank you.

Shannon Titus

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~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Shannon Titus
510.290.6075
www.shannontitus.com

From: Gunther Jones [guntherj@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 10:38 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please move forward with the Lake Merritt dog play area

My name is Gunther R. Jones I own my home at 412 Bellevue Ave right near the proposed (and twice approved) dog play area and I think it is a terrific idea. You have my full support to move forward with this plan.

Thank you for your time and feel free to contact me with any questions or needs.

Sincerely,

Gunther R. Jones
412 Bellevue Ave
Oakland CA 94610
From: Chris Smith [chris_smith_construction@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 11:16 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park Parks and Rec advisory committee meeting

Councilwoman Kernighan,

I know that this is my second email today on this subject, I promise to give it a rest after this. :-) I've voted for you since we met and I've always appreciated your responsiveness, and I do understand that this is clearly not the most important issue the city is facing, but it is important to me.

I'm very disappointed with the results of tonight's meeting of the Parks and Rec Planning Advisory Committee. Although the organizers of the dog park proposal were allowed to speak extensively, other citizens including myself were not allowed to voice their support publicly at the meeting, but opponents were given a minute each to speak. This seems somewhat arbitrary and unfair, although the same situation occurred with the presentation on the alternative location which was not up for a vote.

According to the City of Oakland website, there are supposed to be 11 members of the Committee, but only 7 were present. As you may know, the vote ended in a 3 - 3 tie, effectively killing the recommendation even though the same committee had recommended the project only 6 months ago. I'm not familiar with the intricacies of city commission rules, but 3 out of 11 votes does not make a majority. Between the decision to not let me speak at the meeting, and the victory of the dog park opponents with an underwhelming 27% of the commission vote, I'm feeling somewhat disenfranchised.

I noticed and am particularly galled by Ellen Wu's decision to abstain from a tie vote on a significant and contentious issue that drew large crowds supporting both sides. Although I disagree with his vote, I commend Barry Miller for publicly stating his reasons for his vote. However, I wonder why Wu, and the other commissioners who failed to even show up for the meeting, belong on the commission at all. I hope that you, the rest of the council, and Mayor Quan do not reward them with re-appointment to a position that they are obviously unwilling or unable to do. I'm quite serious about this and am willing to re-evaluate my support for you based on the future composition of this committee. To be clear, I am not advocating removing anyone from the commission for voting against the proposal, just the members who didn't show up or ducked the question by abstaining. They are not adding any benefit to Oakland and should not have their future political aspirations rewarded by re-appointment to a commission they are unwilling to participate in.

Sincerely,

Chris Smith
762 Mandana Blvd.
Oakland, CA

From: Erica Peck [shy_dogs@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 5:48 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Riley, Dana
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Oakland needs dog parks!!

I would like to voice my opinion on behalf of the proposed Lakeview dog park.

Dog owners have been demonized far too long in Oakland. Most of us are responsible, upright citizens, not backyard breeders of fighting dogs. We vote and pay taxes, and we should have just as much right to enjoy the city's beautiful open spaces with our dogs as do soccer players and bocce ball enthusiasts and joggers and random loiterers and birds. (I'm pretty sure the birds don't even vote.) All we are asking for is a little space here and there, and not just icky places tucked under freeways where nobody wants to go. I think that's very reasonable.

I have two small children as well as two dogs, and our family has no problem having a dog park right next to a tot lot - in fact, we welcome it. We are frequently in the area to shop or take my son to & from school (he attends Broadway Children's School on Adams) and he loves the playground. Our family would love to bring our dogs as well as the kids, and split our time between the two areas. The only remaining bummer is that dogs aren't allowed in the tot lot, but understandable I guess (though not apparently a problem in Piedmont).

We have been working too long to make the Lakeview location work. Please don't make us start all over again.

Thank you,
Erica Peck
Thomas Jenkins (my husband)
Sydnie Peck (my mom)
Collin Jenkins (our 4-year-old)
Maxwell Jenkins (our 1-year-old)
Daisy (our beagle)
Cartoons (our spaniel mutt)

P.S.
In the interest of full disclosure, we were residents of the Grand Lake area until recently, when we moved to Alameda for better schools. But that's another email. And as I mentioned, we still come to the area several times a week -- and would come even more often if there were a dog park.

"Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog, it's too dark to read." -Groucho Marx
From: grace.webber@gmail.com on behalf of Grace Webber [grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 3:01 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Hall, Mark
Subject: Please let's do the right thing for Oakland's future, and not put in a fenced dog run at Astro/Eastshore, but consider a better alternative instead

Dear all,

As Nancy and Pat have heard from me before, I'm opposed to putting a fenced dog run in at Astro/Eastshore. I moved to Newton Avenue, above Leaning Tower of Pizza, last year, attracted by the beautification of Lake Merritt and the promise of its retail neighborhoods. I was shocked when I found out there was a proposal to take the current attractive open space that welcomes us down from the highway and to fence it off, put concrete around, and have it as a place where dogs will run around; and I was unhappy when I found there were few answers to the questions I had to ask and getting information from proposers and the council was more difficult than I expected.

I heard the presentation from the proposers at the small group meeting at the Council Offices, and then at the Community Meeting, and I was disheartened to hear that there was no alternative available. Then Maria Alderete brought new vigor and energy and went to work with the various stakeholders and determined that in fact there was an alternative which had previously been overlooked. Because of her efforts many small group discussions occurred and it turned out that there is a really viable option at the Police Horse Stables. Having learned a lot about dog parks since hearing of the first proposal less than a year ago, I am very excited by the potential at this location. I do believe that it can become a more beautiful and lovely dog park than any advocate could have expected Astro/Eastshore to become, without incurring a long list of impacts on our community that use of the Eastshore space in this way would have. My understanding is that with support from Oakland Parks and Recreation, the Police, and Public Works, this location could in fact become "operational" as a dog park more quickly even than Eastshore, starting now. This is because the amount of work to convert it to that use is so much less than at Eastshore. And that's why I am named as one of the proposers of the Police Horse Stables site for a dog park for Lake Merritt.

I urge you to be open-minded at this afternoon's PRAC meeting and as we move forward with city processes to assess the worth of proposals to change use in our parks. Please consider our responsibility to future generations of Oaklanders, to make the best use of our park spaces, and not to put our commercial vibrancy and primary visitor attraction in jeopardy just because some of us have become tired by the process itself. Part of the greatness of California, of the Bay Area, and of Oakland, is that it continually reinvents itself with new people and new ideas coming in and making great things happen. We can do so much better for Oakland than implement a variant on a 10-year-old proposal just because some people have been wanting it for a while. We can

implement a new, improved, different plan that serves our people (and our dogs!) much better.

Thank you for listening, and I look forward to seeing you this afternoon.

Grace Webber
Cleveland Heights

--

Please use grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu
It's my "email for life".

From: Lawrence Block [lawrence.block@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Hall, Mark
Cc: Emily Rosenberg
Subject: Re: Letter of Support for Lakeview Dog Park

Pat, Nancy and Mark,

I have just recently moved to the Grand Lake area in January of this year, and I have found the dearth of accessible dog parks that provide social interaction for both dogs and people somewhat discerning. Even in the coldest days of summer in Diamond Heights, SF (57 degrees on a regular basis) there are always people there with their dogs at the local dog park.

For the most part, the dog parks I have seen in Oakland have been shoved under the MacArthur freeway in one area or another that are fairly remote and isolated. I would be concerned about my own personal safety if not for my wife's well being. I do not use any dog park IN Oakland for that reason.

As I pass through the area daily around the proposed Lakeview Dog Play area, I do take notice that there are more people with dogs that walk around there than there are people actually using the field. Yes, I have seen people play Frisbee, soccer, and football. But at the same time I have seen the use of the different parts of the field for the same activities. There is no reason why they could not continue to do so with a dog park there.

As a dog owner my entire life, I have found that dog owners come from all walks of life, young and old, outdoorsy types, and urbanites. Those crosswalks of life all go to some dog park in the SF Bay area, whether it be Fort Funston in SF, or Point Isabel. Building the dog park on Lake Merritt will allow the same folks to interact and promote the community in the immediate vicinity in the open arena-literally.

I look forward to the day that Barry the Beagle can visit the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

Best,

Lawrence Block

From: Lucille Donohoe [lucillead@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 10:44 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Riley, Dana
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

To Whom It May Concern:

I both live and work in the Lake Merritt area. It is a great neighborhood, but in my daily walk to work I see plenty of people breaking the rules and walking, running and playing with their dogs off leash around the lake. The reason for this is because, while city policy may not be dog friendly, many of the residents are and there is no other place nearby for them to exercise their pets. Anyone who spends any regular amount of time in the neighborhoods of Lake Merritt can easily see that a dog park is a much needed resource.

There are plenty of reasons why the area should have a dog park and I understand why some residents may not want the park in such a prominent area. However, as a 10+ year resident and property owner of Oakland, I would like to see a dog park in the originally proposed spot at Lakeshore and MacArthur. My primary reason for wanting a dog park at this location is safety. As a single woman with two small dogs I would not feel safe using a dog park in a secluded and less secure area such as the old police stables near Fairyland, especially since there have been several well published stories of attempted rape in that area. A dog park in a high traffic area, however would be something I would use and a welcome change from walking my dogs on leash throughout my neighborhood. This would be especially true during the winter months, when I have to walk my dogs in the dark after work. I would feel much more safe in central location with other dog owners than walking by myself. In a city with a serious crime problem at times safety should take precedence over aesthetics and I think the Lake Merritt dog park is a prime example of one of these times. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lucille A. Donohoe

510 332 2837

lucillead@yahoo.com
From: Edie Murphy [chayarivka@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 9:03 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Kernigan,

I am writing in support of the Lake Merritt dog park near the tot lot and McArthur Blvd. I am a licensed business owner and therefore business tax payer in Oakland. I am also a dog owner and have been a resident of Oakland living on Hanover Ave off of Lakeshore Ave for 22 years.

For all of these years I have longed for a dog park in my neighborhood so that I could let my dogs (four of them in these last 22 years) run off leash in an area that I can walk to. There has never been such a place. I used to take, Shoola, my yellow Labrador who loves to swim, to Point Isabelle but every time we left there she would leave with diarrhea and vomiting due to sewage in the water. I used to take her up to the Trails in Joaquin Miller park until arthritis on my hip got bad and I had to curtail my hiking. More recently I've been taking her the Berkeley Dog park on Hearst Street.

All these solutions to the problem of Oakland discriminating against dog owners have required me to climb into my carbon fuel burning vehicle with my dog and increase the air pollution and congestion of the East bay. In the last year or so, we have had a spate of rapes around the Lake Merritt area that have made me feel unsafe walking at night without my dog. So aside from the companionship of my dog, I have come to feel she is a necessary safety device for me as a single woman in Oakland.

For years we have been discussing a dog park around Lake Merriitt. Years ago I voted yes to an Oakland bond issue that was supposed to provide the money for this project. I am terribly frustrated that time and again people find reasons to block the needs of local dog owners.

I've heard the argument that a dog park would lead to more parking congestion in the area. What about the parking congestion I cause in other people's neighborhoods that I have to drive to to give my dog exercise. If there were more local dog parks this factor of the congestion problem would be reduced all over. If there was a Lake Merritt dog park, I could easily walk my dog to the park and not have to drive somewhere else.

The Lake Merritt proposed site should be shared and used for many recreational purposes. Under the proposed plan, there would still be space for the tot lot and open space for people to play volleyball or run around.

If voting means nothing, and bond issue money continues to be diverted to other projects, it undermines any voter's confidence in our system. I hope you will decide to finally bring a dog park I to my local neighborhood.

Thank you for your time. I am out of the area on vacation or I would be there this afternoon to voice my opinion in person.

Edie Murphy, PT

Edie Murphy, PT
www.HandsOnPT.com
Cell 510-599-3345
From: Sabrina Almazan [sabrina@fourpawssociety.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

It is very frustrating that some of the steps that we have to go through only takes away from the progress we've been making thus far. Unfortunately, this is nothing new to dog park campaigns. No matter what, there will always be the FEW "neighbors" that will not like the idea of having a dog park in their back yard. And, we also know that the amount of neighbors and businesses that want a dog park in their neighborhood FAR OUTWEIGHS the opposition.

Please…let's keep on track with the location and design we've been working on and move forward. Please do not try moving it to another location. It is time to complete the approval process for the Lakeview dog park. Let's have the Lake Merritt Dog Park completed THIS YEAR!

Thank you,

Sabrina

Sabrina Almazan

President

Four Paws Society®

1271 Washington Avenue #422

San Leandro, CA 94577

www.FourPawsSociety.org <http://www.fourpawssociety.org/>

Phone: (510) 909-2163

Who We Are:

A non-profit 501(c)3 team of volunteers, animal lovers, community friends and supporters in Alameda County and beyond

Our Mission:

Our mission is to be advocates for pets and their families, to promote the health, happiness and well-being of pets, to encourage responsible pet care and ownership and increase community resources for pets and their families…currently focusing on cities in Alameda County

From: mik cortez [fidosparky@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 8:09 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park choice

Dear Councilman Kerrigan

I wish I could attend today's meeting to voice my support for the Lakeview site and not the out-of-the-way old horse stables.

I will be at work during this community meeting, after which I will go home and then drive about 10 miles to get to a location where I can legally let my dogs run. Or I will walk about 1 and 1/2 miles to an unused park and illegally run my dogs while keeping alert for cops who might cite me. The Lakeview Dog Play Area is long overdue and at less than 1 mile from my home, will be very accessible to me. My dog Fido was a puppy when plans were first proposed for a dog park in Lake Merritt. She is 13 now and may never see it in her lifetime. Perhaps the younger Sol will one day legally play in the sun there.

Please consider the fact that the old horse stables are very inconvenient for people to get to and the location is not ADA compliant. Let us move on with the Lakeview plan. Thank you, Mikala Cortez, taxpayer
From: Terry Boom [terryboom@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 8:30 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: dogpeople@comcast.net; Terry Boom
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Council Members Nadel and Kernighan,

I have been volunteering in support of the Lakeview Dog Play Area for several months now. On Saturday, the Lakeview volunteers set up the mock fence to give the community a sense of the size of the area. I met one of the SAPs and we amicably agreed to disagree about the issue. Imagine to my surprise as the afternoon wore on I came to find myself thinking along SAPs lines on one issue.

Lakeview Park is a gem and a wonderful gateway to the Lake Merritt area. We dog park supporters have tended to characterize the space as an under-utilized lawn next to a busy freeway. I think it's been a mistake on our part to denigrate the value of this space to the community.

Lakeview Park is a diamond in the rough. I firmly believe that investing in a dog play area on this space will transform it into a wonderful gathering place for the community. Here's a place where families can gather with their toddlers to enjoy the tot lot. Here's a place where families can let their dogs run off leash while respecting the adjacent Lake and its nearly 150 year status as a wildlife sanctuary. Here's a place where families can kick a soccer ball around or play volleyball on the playing field.

As the saying goes, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. A space vital with families and their kids and dogs is more beautiful to me than a pretty, but frequently empty lawn.

As for the issues of maintenance and cleanliness, I also firmly believe that if you put any dog park in a space that the community values, the community will step up and take care of it.

I took some elementary education classes many years ago while considering a career as a teacher. One thing I heard in one of my classes always stuck with me. A professor of education noted that schools that demonstrate a sense of community by being open and accessible had far fewer problems with graffiti and other vandalism. Schools that were shuttered up behind high fences with little access had greater problems with these things.

I think Oakland should think along these lines when siting this and any future dog parks. If you put a dog park in a space the community values, the community will demonstrate pride of ownership. If you site dog parks in remote, blighted areas, you're sending a message that the city doesn't value this park. Therefore, why should the community?

I have heard anecdotally from many dog owners that they don't like some of Oakland's dog parks for these very reasons. They're remote, next to loud freeways, and not well-used. Some people feel unsafe and no longer use these parks.

As you consider the issue in the coming weeks, I ask to you to keep in mind that almost *40%* of U.S. households today have at least one dog.
http://www.humanesociety.org/issues/pet_overpopulation/facts/pet_ownership_statistics.html
This translates to a lot of constituents in your districts under-served due to park laws and the wildlife sanctuary status around the Lake. You have the tough position of weighing their needs against the needs of the

community. However, given that some 150 acres of green space around the Lake are available to the remainder of your constituents, it seems like an easier concession to make a 20,000 square foot dog play area a reality for these constituents.

You have the opportunity to turn a diamond in the rough into a true gem. Moreover, you can set the standard for community ownership of future Oakland dog parks. Please turn the 10+ year dream of a Lakeview Dog Play Area into reality.

Respectfully,

Terry Boom

From: Darlene deManincor [darwin100@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 8:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Emily Rosenberg
Subject: Dog park

I fully support the dog park plans as they were approved for Lakeshore.
I do not believe dog parks should be only in marginalized, blighted areas. The people who are spreading fear about urine soaked, graffiti covered parks have obviously not been to the ones in this area.
I am astounded at the misinformation that the opponents of the park have been allowed to circulate.
I trust that the city will honor the commitment made to the people who worked for years to get this park in place.
If the alternate park is chosen I would hope that the process would be expedited to be put in place within a year. However, it is my understanding that the Fairyland board would oppose it.
We need a dog park. We worked long and hard to abide by city rules and to be sabotaged by a few neighbors with a questionable agenda is frankly unfair.

Darlene deManincor

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ben Greenfield [bengreenfield@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 10, 2011 8:33 AM
To: Hall, Mark
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Support for Dog Park in originally proposed location

Dear Mr. Hall,

I am a resident of Nancy Nadel's district, and will live about 1/3 mile from the proposed dog park by the Tot Playground. I have been reading with interest discussions on the neighborhood listserv and on facebook regarding the controversy in our community over the local dog park, and the new proposed alternative location at Children's Fairyland. I do not own a dog, but have lived in this neighborhood for 9 years.

After considering all of the options on the table and ideas, I feel that the city of Oakland should continue with the current proposed location, by the Tot

Playground, the Lakeside Library, etc. (referred to by opponents as "Astro Park"). I think there is great need for a dog park in this neighborhood, and trust that dog owners will step up and assist with clean up of the park. I also think siting a dog park there will increase public use of that area during evening and night hours, promoting additional safety for walking in the neighborhood.

Finally, I do think that the alternative proposed location is a good one and should receive consideration as a potential future additional location. It would not hurt the city of Oakland and the Lake Merritt Neighborhood to have two dog parks so that our canine companions can have a variety of options in which to run freely.

I will not be attending the conditional use permit meeting but am available for questions by email if you would like to discuss further. Thank you for considering my comments.

Ben Greenfield
479 Merritt Avenue, Apartment 6
From: Joanna Wu [jjordanwu@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 11:16 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please approve the Lakeview dog park

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

I am a homeowner in Oakland and I have a wonderful, gentle dog. I believe it is time to complete the approval process for the Lakeview dog park and NOT to try moving it to another location.

Thank you for your time,

Joanna

Joanna Wu
(510) 545-6982
jjordanwu@gmail.com

From: Marilyn Miller [himomiller@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 3:38 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Priorities, Lake Merritt and dog park

To Councilmembers Kernighan and Nadel:

The discussion re priorities for the section of Lake Merritt Park contemplated for the dog park, has me thinking of priorities re use of space, health, well-being, amenities .

As Oakland continues to emphasize infill of residential areas near public transportation sources, the need for amenities for all concerned increases. Dogs obviously have a significant place and role in residents' lives - companion, protection, mental, emotional and physical health... Dog-walking gets people out for exercise. Dogs require off-leash exercise. Dog parks offer opportunity for human interaction as well as dog play.

I live on a street, in Dimond district, with 24 households from one end of the street to the other:
6 households (25%) have children from tiny to highschool age.
8 households (33%) have a dog or two (3 of these have one or two children as well)
I wonder to what extent these proportions are typical, in that it seems indicative of a high incidence of dog ownership. Our block may be off the chart in having 1 in 3 households with a dog. Perhaps 1 in 4, or 1 in 5 is more typical?

Oakland places no restriction on the no. of households that may own a dog. This implies obligation to include suitable amenities in planning for this sizeable segment of the population. The Merritt dog park plan has been carefully considered and tweaked in regard to amenities as well as sensitivities for all concerned. It is time to go ahead and implement it !!

Thank you,
Marilyn Miller
3550 Boston Avenue
From: Christine Bradbury [chrissiegirl7@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 3:20 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

Hello

This email is in support of the proposed Lakeview Dog Park at Lake Merritt. I walk around Lake Merritt several times a week and just love the area. There are people using the exercise area, shopping the farmets market, enjoying the kiddie park, shopping Grand Ave and Lakeshore Ave and running and walking with their dogs. A dog park would be a wonderful addition to this bustling area for those of us with older dogs that can't make it around the lake or, in my case, a pug.

Please trust the dogowners of Oakland who will use this park to be respectful of the area, keep it clean and be good to the neighborhood because we will.

Sincerely,
Christine Bradbury
Oakland, CA 94619

From: Walter McDowell [walterm2@me.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 1:11 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Emily Rosenberg
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Enough is enough, simply, there is no reason to not go forward with the dog park at the present plan, apart from the dismal financial state. I think we pro dog parkers, could raise the necessary funds to make up the balance. Jeez give us a

chance. This issue reminds me of the gay marriage debate, it's going to happen, and it is the right thing to do. A few rotten apple always spoil everything. COME ON, can't you see, this is a great opportunity! I have a very nice vision of what this could mean to our community. I think the location at MacArthur and Lakeshore is a great location. People going by in their cars will see people and their dogs there having fun, and they will think WOW, that's really great. What a nice park, and a nice community we have here.

Walter McDowell

From: Cathy Cade [cathy@cathycade.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 1:03 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Complete Lake Merritt dog park

Dear Council Member Kernighan,
I have been waiting years for the dog park at Lake Merritt. I know the area well and am convinced that this will be an important part of building community in Oakland--not just for the dogs and their owners. It will be an important opportunity of people to connect across age, race, and class--connections that many Oklanders care deeply about.
Please do everything you can to complete the Lake Merritt dog park now.
Cathy Cade
--

| | | | | | | | | | |

Cathy Cade
Personal Histories & Photography

Your stories are precious.
Your photos speak volumes.

I help people make books from their life stories and photographs.
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From: Ruth Busbee [ruthbusbee@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 1:02 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

I am an Oakland resident who wants the Lake Merritt dog park completed THIS YEAR.It is time to complete the approval process for the Lakeview dog park and NOT to try moving it to another location.

While I am unable to attend the meeting as I am on a business trip next week, please let this email count as another voice of someone that wants the dog park.

Best,
Ruth Busbee
From: Annalisa Tay [Annalisa_Tay@gap.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 12:44 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merrit Dog Park

I was deeply saddened to learn that the naysayers to the Lake Merrit dog park may be winning.

If we have to move to another location, the process will start all over again, and it can be 5-10 years before we ever see a dog park.

What if we have the same trouble in the new location. We come down to the wire and then the rug gets pulled out again.

My dog could be dead by then! We need a dog park in our neighborhood NOW.

It amazes me how un-dog-friendly some Oaklanders are.

Every day I see several dozen dogs in our neighborhood. How wonderful it would be to meet those neighbors and to shop in my own neighborhood.

Please, help us to make this a reality. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting next week because we (and our dogs) will be out of town.

Thank you ~ Annalisa Tay (Oakland Crocker Highlands Resident)

Sr. Technical Designer, Old Navy Maternity & Maternity-Plus

Woven and Denim Bottoms, Knit Tops

550 Terry Francoise Blvd, San Francisco 94158

415-832-1668 (internal extension 61668)

P Think Green- please do not print this email unless necessary

From: ljwyman@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 12:38 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat

Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Councilperson Kernighan --

We are writing to you today to ask for your support to create the proposed dog park on Lake Merritt. We have been residents of Oakland since 1994 and have found it difficult to find a large open space for our dog in close proximity to our homes. As a result, we drive several additional miles to parks such as Point Isabel and Fort Funston.

A park at Lake Merritt adjacent to the parking area under 580 would provide open space in closer proximity to our home, decreasing the amount of time we have to spend in the car transporting our dog to other facilities.

We understand that the park has been under consideration for a number of years now. We think given the efforts to date, the Council should reward all of the fellow Oaklanders for their hard work.

Sincerely

Joe & Lisa Wyman

4903 Stoneridge Court

Oakland, CA 94605

From: Ashley Rogers [agrogers@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 12:34 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Support for Lakeview Dog Park

I'm writing again in support of the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area near Lakeshore and MacArthur. As you know, plans for this dog park have been in the works for about a decade, with the location and design changed several times to appease the City as well as opponents. The current plan represents a well thought out design that takes into account the various user groups in that area (children at the tot lot, pedestrians at the farmer's market, birds by the lake) and minimizes impacts, including visual impacts through the use of landscaping. In cities througout the country, dog parks have proven to strengthen a sense of community and bring an economic boost, as people gather outdoors and spend time in their neighborhood. Imagine how many people would stop by Lake Merritt Station or Arizmendi or other local businesses for coffee or a snack on their way to or from the dog park. I'm sure you've noticed on any given weekend the number of dogs being walked up and down Grand and Lakeshore. And at stores like Rose Quartz, where the owner keeps her dog with her in the store during the day,

other pups are welcome. Dogs are already an important part of the fabric of our community. Let Oakland be a progressive leader in recognizing the beneficial effects that a dog park can have!

Please also know that families with young children are NOT opposed to dog parks, even those sited near playgrounds. As a mother of a six month old, I can tell you that my family's weekends are spent at dog areas like the Albany Bulb and Redwood Regional Park (both currently under attack from anti-dog groups), or Point Isabel in Richmond. When we go to Point Isabel we usually stop at the cafe there for a drink or snack. Wouldn't you rather that money be spent in Oakland, generating revenue for Oakland-based businesses and tax dollars for our City?

Please support this dog park.

Thank you,
Ashley Rogers

District 4 resident
Former District 2 resident

From: tara.mcculloch@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 12:29 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

I'm writing to urge you to move forward in approving the proposed new dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur, near Lake Merritt. I am an Oakland resident and a dog owner and I know that I would use this park frequently, as the location is highly convenient. Currently, I drive to Alameda and Richmond (Pt Isabel) if I want to go to a dog park. Adding more well-located dog parks to Oakland would be a great asset to the city and its dog-owning residents.

Now is the time to complete the approval process for the Lakeview dog park; please do NOT try to move the park to another location.

Thank you for your advocacy.

Best regards,

Tara McCulloch
5919 Canning St.
Oakland, CA 94609
From: Nancy Rieser [gofindnancy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2011 1:06 PM
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; Nadel, Nancy; Adams Point NCPC
Cc: Ken Katz; Edy and Michael Robertson; Emily Rosenberg; Paul E. Vidican; Ryugo, Jim; Kernighan, Pat; Hall, Mark
Subject: Re: [CHNeighbors] Ken Katz's response to a Nancy Rieser email concerning history of Splash Pad Park

Attachments: Montclarion political cartoon regarding Lakeshore community politics.tif

Hi all,

See what I mean about the emotional tone of neighborhood discussions? ;o)

Just for ducks, if I may, in response to Ken's analysis (points #1 and 2 are review for both listservers) Just for clarity:

1. The City of Oakland (Park and Recreation Department) first chose Splash Pad park for the dog park, not me. That spot wasn't on the radar screen of neighborhood dog owners at that time. The selection of that site was arrived at by Jim Ryugo of (then) Parks and Rec (and now) Public Works. I believe Jim is the DPW point person working on the current dog park site plans. The Splash Pad choice was done in collaboration with Nancy Nadel's (then) chief of staff, Alicia Perez, who was the primary constituent rep and policy analyst for Nancy Nadel. OPR narrowed the decision down to Splash Pad and Perez brought the site idea back to the Northlake Neighborhood Group for feedback.

Sounded good to us. Dog owners liked it too as, back then, it had cool, rolling burms...which would have been a nice feature for a dog park....and. most importantly, it was the very farthest piece of Lake Merritt parkland away the birds.

2. Neither Jim or Alicia ...or anyone else for that matter...knew at that time that John Russo had recently met a strip mall developer at a Las Vegas convention and apparently started an initial conversation about putting a store complex on the long-forgotten Splash Pad park. Much talk was made of getting a proposed anchor tenant like Trader Joes. There was a lot of support for a Trader Joes in the neighborhood, but not on a park, the land of which was purchased, in the last century, to protect it from development. The "protection" was confirmed in historical documents obtained by the Eastshore Park Preservation Association (EPPA). Even with the historical preservation documentation, it was not really protected in practice as municipalities horse trade that kind of stuff in ways that we won't go into here.

...again, refer to media accounts that chronicled the John Russo vs the neighborhood bru-ha-ha. The East Bay Express did a great investigative piece, wrote at length about the strip mall silliness (and pictured on its cover the core members of EPPA lying down in the Splash Pad grass, grinning and looking devilish.) Big shout out to EPPA buddies Caroline Kim (and her husband), Donna Warnock, the late and wonderful park preservation advocate Harlan Kessell from Adams Point...of course Michael and Edy Robertson....and...and...other rascal troublemakers whose names will come to me after I hit "send" no doubt. (sigh)

3. It is important to note that EPPA had only one core belief: that Splash Pad should not have a building on it. Period. That's it. To that end, the option that we collectively pushed for was a Farmer's Market. It offered quirky retail excitement, it was "walkable" and it involved organic veggies. (That's why we were labeled in the Montclarion political cartoon as Snidely Whiplash. It was our idea)

I, personally, was also supportive of a dog park too, but either choice was fine with me.

4. Yup, Ken Katz was right in his missive about his involvement in the current park developement. As I said before, he led the redevelopment efforts. But that was after the Splash Pad Neighborhood Forum (SPNF) process. That is a small but significant point (see item #5 below) Ken was efficient, and if truth be told (and I think many would agree with me) he was was better at getting the park development plans in the ground than any City of Oakland agency or department.

5. That said, here is the small but important point alluded to in item #4 above: Ken's position during the SPNF forum process (a process that he spearheaded and was fully supported by a (slightly) contrite John Russo) was not for the farmer's market. And you what? That was okay with me and others. The neighborhood was filled with all different opinions. Pros and cons were hashed out. Ken was the lead proponant of the retail building and stated many times he himself wanted to run a business out of a ground level storefront of the proposed building. A ticket agency, in fact. He said it several times during the forum process during those months that the SPNF was active. AND there was nothing wrong with him floating the idea. He identified the ticket agency concept as his idea in the interest of full disclosure. Ken absolutely had a right to suggest that option just as any other option that was tossed into the ring by others. The ticket agency was actually listed one of many options to choose for during the SPNF community voting process.

6. Neither the ticket agency nor the dog park idea eventually won. No one pouted. Ken set his disappointment aside and jumped in on the final community decision, created a design team, fund raised, kicked the City into action and put the park redevelopment plans into the ground. The dog owners were good to go in that the core planners of the Splash Pad Neighborhood Forum suggested another site: Lakeview Park. That was due to the involvement of Councilmember Danny Wan, who by that time had been appointed to John Russo's vacant council seat when Russo left to be the City Attorney.

Danny is a nice, nice guy and the suggestion was so kind and so generous and so out of the blue -- and so emotionally different from the SPNF planning energy up to that point (which really was beginning strike many people as a bit controlling and sour) it was assumed it came from him. And in fact, that bore out to be true.

(Thank you Danny, where ever you are! Last time I heard he was working for the Port of Oakland.)

By the way: the SPNF Lakeview dog park site suggestion was better than Splash Pad in one important respect: it was upwind from the freeway. The fine particulate matter from freeway emissions (the type so small and light it travels with the wind, settles in cells of your lungs and is worse for your health than the run-of-the-mill heavier freeway particulate matter that looks like black dirt on your car)... actually floats westward along with the wind...over Splash Pad Park. It floats away from the Lakeview Park.

(The dangers of floating fine particulate matter is why there is a national effort to not plan school play yards
and atheletic fields down wind from a freeway. The Lakeview Park site is much healthier for the dog owners
and their pets. Too late for Lakeview School, sadly.)

The new dog park site was thoroughly vetted by an official city task force (the Green Link Task Force) and the was adopted into the Lake Merritt Master Plan over a decade ago.

So that's it. Kudos to Ken again, in case he hasn't caught the previous complements.

Oh -- and Ken was quite right in correcting me on this particular point: the presumed lack of support for the Farmer's Market by Pat Kernighan. Pat was Russo's right hand chief-of-staff when she and her boss declined to attend the opening ceremonies. She could have privately supported the market in her heart, but due to the constraints of the job and who she was working for, she could have held those cards close to her chest. But she supports it now and that is a good, good thing.

And, as Ken suggested, we all -- every moment of every day -- we can choose to be the element of change. His comments reminded me of my favorite quote by Ghandi:

Be the change

you want to be in the world.

So, in closing: what ever happens in the next few weeks as the community and city reviews the project, do be kind and generous with others, tell the truth, share and play nice.

Happy Fourth of July everyone,

Respectfully,

Nancy Rieser

PS Thanks to the moderator for reposting guidelines. Just wanted you to know that I didn't snip and eleminate Jim's reposting of Ken's Katz's comments it did not include the original cc's to city staff and a couple of other folks. Thanks for your tolerance and kindness!

From: Jim Ratliff <jim@jim-ratliff.name>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
Cc: Ken Katz <ken@katzpjs.com>
Sent: Fri, July 1, 2011 8:29:31 AM
Subject: [CHNeighbors] Ken Katz's response to a Nancy Rieser email concerning history of Splash Pad Park

I'm forwarding the following response from Ken Katz to the further-below message from Nancy Rieser posted yesterday:

Nancy Rieser really shouldn't be re-writing history when those of us who were actively involved in that history are still around to provide a reality check. I consider the comments she made about me slanderous and an unfortunate

distraction from the legitimate efforts to find and approve a viable location for a neighborhood dog park.

Reality check #1: I NEVER (repeat: NEVER) opposed the farmers market and I doubt seriously that Pat Kernighan did either.

Reality check #2: I've NEVER taken credit for what Caroline Kim and the Eastshore Parks Preservation Association accomplished--nor have I glossed over its significance. Without their efforts, we wouldn't have a revitalized Splash Pad Park--nor a Farmers Market that has become hugely successful.

Reality check #3: Nancy conveniently fails to mention that she was involved in saving the park, but did so with the expectation that the majority of the space would be converted into a fenced-in dog park. If I can take credit for one thing only in my role as Chair of the Splash Pad Neighborhood Forum it was my insistence that we open up a dialogue with the surrounding community and build an unbiased consensus as to how a revitalized park would be used. I was amazed at the extent to which hundreds of residents responded to that opportunity providing reams of data--much of which was incorporated into the recommendations SPNF made to the city. Nancy's outreach, on the other hand, consisted of visits to local dog parks or anyone with a leash in their hands. As I recall, she turned in some one hundred surveys--all but two of which said, "Make it a dog park". If a couple of key votes had gone the other way, that's exactly what would have happened.

Reality check #4: Nancy says people in this neighborhood are resistant to change. That's laughable. All you have do is to look at how enthusiastically we embrace new businesses (particularly restaurants)--not to mention all the improvements that are going on around Lake Merritt as part of Measure DD project.

Reality check #5: Nancy's recent missives are counter-productive. Let's not try to re-write history. Instead, let's make it!

I think we're all agreed that a dog park somewhere in the neighborhood is needed. Now let's build a consensus as to what it should look like and where it should be located. As I said previously, I don't think the current location is ideal but if the proposed alternative is unworkable, I will support the Astro Park proposal. I do, however, think it's paramount that any dog park be designed to minimize the amount of city manpower required for maintenance as it's already stretched beyond the breaking point.

In addition, I think the current plans for the Astro Park location could be improved immensely through the use of different materials and by incorporating improvements to the adjacent areas to make the entire space more attractive and more usable. If push comes to shove, I'll be amongst the first to donate to a fund-raising campaign to make that feasible.

Ken

On Jun 30, 2011, at 9:37 AM, Nancy Rieser wrote:

Note to self: no matter how many cups of coffee one has had at midnight, always hang on to e-mails and proof them in the morning before sending

Apologies for misnumbering my list in my earlier e-mail that I sent last night. I only had two numbered points. That and a couple of other typos are now corrected.

I also am sending this to the Adams Point listserver, my home group. Many of the members on that list (both home owners and renters) have been here for decades and probably carry much of the same institutional memory that I do. I will happily forward any comments that indicate any errors in my email narrative.

It is important to note that still, to date, there has been no kerfluffle on the Adams Point listserver about the location of the Lakeview dog park site. Both Jim Ratcliff and I have cross-posted on that list about the subject a couple of times, just to bring the folks up to speed and invite comment.

Interesting that the list was silent compared to this one.

Now I bear the risk of repeating myself on some points I made many months ago, but there might be a reasons for that, as per a City of Oakland park usage patterns and attitudes study (done in the early prep stages of the Lake Merritt Master Plan.) The study found Adam's Point (the most dense neighborhood of Alameda County, fortified with a diverse, strong middle class rental constituency, living peacefully side by side with homewoners) seemed to:

a. .... "get" the general concept of sharing a city park more than neighborhoods that had high home ownership (and hence more private backyards) and lower percentage of renters

b. support more diverse uses of city parks to accommodate as many folks as possible

c. enter and use city parks more frequently than people who lived in neighborhoods that had private homes (with backyards) and (...and I must stress here that I am not making this up or being sarcastic) ...whose owners, for the most, primarily related to parks from the windows of a moving cars.

Gently and respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rieser

From: Nancy Rieser <gofindnancy@yahoo.com>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
Cc: Paul E. Vidican <pvidican@comcast.net>; Emily Rosenberg <dogpeople@comcast.net>; Lakeview Dogpark Architect <lealcharonnat@gmail.com>; Edy and Michael Robertson <robertson@usfca.edu>; Pat Kernighan <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>; nancy.nadel@oaklandnet.net; Mark Hall <MHall@oaklandnet.com>
Sent: Wed, June 29, 2011 11:48:05 PM
Subject: [CHNeighbors] The newest proposed dog park site. (sigh) [1 Attachment]

Well. Where to start?

First of all: the three newspapers that covered that meeting (EB Express, SF Chron and the Trib) reported the attendees were markedly in favor of the Lakeview site, which makes me tilt my head and wonder about the writer (who claimed a "70%" opposition.) Was she at a different meeting than the press covered?

That said, she totally has my admiration for naming her bar after her dog. My dog -- who loves beer (a fact I discovered back in the day when the Golden Bear on Grand Ave allowed dogs AND some guy kept feeding my border collie Cookie Scraps slurps of Guinness when my attention was diverted) would raise her sheepdog paw in a high five.

Second point: I've been to the horse corral site behind Fairyland. Used to the feed the horses there from time to time. Granted the horse fence can be swapped out for a dog fence, but it just simply is... a small corral designed to walk horses ...in a circle.

Third point: As a previous poster (or two) pointed out, this second site would entail making Lakeview Park an on-leash park as a dog owners would have to walk a good way into the park with their dogs on leash to get to the dog enclosure.

THAT ain't gonna happen anytime soon. Sounds like a perfect dog-park deal-breaker to me... which no doubt probably would delight some who support the newest suggestion.

But I digress.

Fourth: Perseverating on wood chips vs other surface treatments is like ...like ...I don't know....like fixating on the paint color of a building and getting so stuck you can't pick up a hammer to build the structure in the first place. There are so many other surface treatments - decompressed granite...sand... and wonderful "paths" that look like dirt paths but are some strange brown tinted porous paving material that allows drainage. On and on and on. That stuff (to me) is FUN stuff. Like landscaping and ....and...housepaint color.

Anyway.

Fifth: for those who are still concerned about the Lakeview Park dog park site being so close to the Astro Park children's area.

Please drive down to the Hardy Dog Park. After over 20 years of peaceful co-existence, Oakland Parks and Recreation Department has built BRAND NEW, multi-colored play structures 9 FEET AWAY from the dog park entrance.

NINE feet ...after over 20 years of peaceful co-existence. BRAND NEW. NINE FEET AWAY.

Sixth: I have to say this -- and people are gonna get pissed off at me for saying so -- but it is human nature to react with strident opposition change...and then, when change does happen and the surprise and newness rubs off, people start running in front of the parade. This has been somewhat suggested by Pam Drake, the current president of the Lakeshore Merchants Association, who posted on the "pro" Lakeview Dog Park Facebook page back on March 28 wherein she said "...once this play area is established, no one will remember what the fuss was about."

There is a little local history I would like to share here that will underscore Drake's very matter-of-fact point.

Before you read further, please do look at the attached political cartoon for reference This copy was given to me by USF journalism professor Michael Robertson and his lovely wife Edith on the first day of the Grand Lake Farmer's Market. It was from the Montclarion and concerned itself with yet another Grand Lake neighborhood kerfluffle: the creation of the Farmers Market.

Many years ago, Michael, Edy and I belonged to a group that was opposed to building a Trader Joes on top of the Splash Pad park land (then-councilmember, Joe Russo, wanted to build a strip mall on Splash Pad. For those new to our neighborhood politics and would like to brush up, please see the Eastbay Express archives.) Our group's name that opposed Russo's idea: Eastshore Park Preservation Association (EPPA)

We suggested a Farmer's Market instead. No buildings. Fun and healthy commerce one day a week. Organic veggies. Whoopie.

OMG. OMG. The tearing of the chest and teeth gnashing. HIGH HIGH HIGH drama ensued. Most of the merchants fought it tooth and claw, pled their case to the press and used as much political clout as they could muster.

Well, John Russo, much to his disappointment, did not prevail. We tried the market out under the freeway. The Montclarion dryly depicted the whole hullaboo as an old- fashioned melodrama in the attached editorial cartoon. The Cast of Characters:

Snidely Whiplash (the Eastshore Park Preservation Association (EPPA)
Damsels in distress (Lakeshore Merchants) on a rail road track ....who had in turned
been tossed into the air by the cow catcher of a train
The runaway train: "The Farmer's Market Steering Committee" (started by EPPA)

The cartoon came out the day before the Farmer's Market opening. Members of the EPPA choo-choo'd around the farmer's market pulling invisible steam whistles and collectively giggling "wooo---whooo---"

John Russo was not in attendance at the opening ceremony and chose not to send his chief of staff at the time, Pat Kernighan, to attend in his stead. Nancy Nadel was the lone council member at the opening ceremonies.

A very patient and supportive Nancy Nadel, I might add.

FAST FORWARD TO TODAY. Few merchants or residents would ever wish that the Farmer's Market would cease to exist and can't imagine the neighborhood without one. Folks who were against it, once upon a timE, are now it's biggest champions: Ken Katz and Pat Kernighan, bless their hearts, years later, claimed ownership of the community groundswell that brought it here.

Honest to God, really, it doesn't matter who owns the narrative, when you think about it. The passage of time...plus political necessity and convenience can blur the lines of history. Ken hustled park redevelopment monies (after the market's success). Good for him. He brought physical change to the park which now is tailor made for the farmer's market, which couldn't have happened without Russo's eventual support. Pat Kernighan was part of his team. Good for them, too.

And good for all of us, yes? No matter what, the most important thing is that we all work together for the greater good.

BUT there is one additional point I want to make here -- and this is where I know I am going to piss people off. So here it goes:

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IMHO, the dog park saga is deja vu all over again.

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Both of those districts are just as politically savvy as Grand Lake are but historically, the emotional tone of their public discourse and their willingness to simply give the act of sharing ..a chance to succeed ,,all seem to be light years ahead of this particular section of the city.

Why? Dunno.

But next time you drive down Claremont Ave, take a look at the new kids playground equipment installed just nine feet away from the dog park entrance... and ask yourself... is there a lesson to be learned, somewhere in all of this, for the Grand Lake neighborhood?

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy

From: "fritzhoch@aol.com" <fritzhoch@aol.com>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wed, June 29, 2011 11:56:01 AM
Subject: Re: [CHNeighbors] Alternative site option for Lake Merritt Dog Park [1 Attach...

Thank you for the update Maria, I very much agree with you on this issue and what a great alternative spot choice.

Fritz

In a message dated 6/29/2011 11:40:39 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, maria_aldo@yahoo.com writes:

Dear Neighbors,

I'm writing to you about recent updates on dog park proposals for Lake Merritt .

My name is Maria Alderete and I reside on Wayne Ave , right off Lakeshore. I'm also a business owner of the restaurant Luka's Taproom & Lounge. You may not know this but Luka's is named after my late dog Luka, a stray from West Oakland . I love dogs and I love Lake Merritt .

I attended the March community meeting about the Lakeview Dog Park proposal at Astro Park (aka Eastshore Park) . From that meeting I learned, 1) we are divided in the community on the current proposal at Eastshore Park , 2) we agree that dogs need more park space in our community, and 3) we also agree that the current location is not the best.

In fair disclosure, it is my personal position that the current location is just not suitable for a fenced dog run with dirt and wood chips. Even James Vann, the architect for Measure DD said of the Lakeview Dog Park , "the wood chips were unfortunate and that it's not the best place for it." But more importantly, an overwhelming majority (over 70%) of the community that attended the March meeting did not like the location, but were told it was the only location available.

So I'm torn. I don't want to just try to stop a dog park at Eastshore Park from construction. I recognize the hard work ODOG and community members have contributed to this project and want to find another location so we can have a dog park at Lake Merritt in the near future.

With the help of Pat Kernighan's office an alternative location has been identified. It is a peaceful spot next to the lake in an unused area of Lakeside Park . Please take a walk and check it out. It's due west of the bandstand behind Fairyland in a fenced area that was formerly used by OPD for stabling their patrol horses. This alternative location is not only a better fit from a zoning perspective, but also considers the broader community needs in light of the current budget and limited public agency resources. It will also give better access to Adam's Point and Uptown, which have the greatest need due to high density of apartment and condo dwelling. It's really only 5 blocks from Eastshore Park . The dog park design proposal for this alternative site is for 20,000 square feet, very close to the size of the Lakeview Proposal. But only one dog park is feasible right now.

I don't just want a dog park for Lake Merritt , I want more on-leash space for dogs, as well as more awareness of areas that are restricted due to our bird sanctuary. And some day when our city budget will permit, I want to see Eastshore Park realize its full potential as a centerpiece of Oakland pride. Our city planning code recommends gateways, fountains and public art. I don't know about that, but I do know we are an amazing diverse and artistic community and we could come up with something cool. And, I'm also proposing on-leash dog use at Astro Park so we can picnic with our furry friends, while enabling us to preserve the space for something special.

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I have additional information on the alternative location design proposal, as well as a preliminary proposal for on-leash dog use. Please email me directly at dogpark@lukasoakland.com if you would like to see the design plans for the alternative location or have questions.

Respectfully,

Maria Alderete

dogpark@lukasoakland.com

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Daily Digest <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-
digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email%20Delivery:%20Digest> • Unsubscribe
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__,_._,___
From: Nancy Rieser [gofindnancy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 30, 2011 9:37 AM
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; ncpc
Cc: Paul E. Vidican; Emily Rosenberg; Lakeview Dogpark Architect; Edy and
Michael Robertson; Kernighan, Pat; nancy.nadel@oaklandnet.net; Hall, Mark
Subject: p. 2 slight corrections

Attachments: Montclarion political cartoon regarding Lakeshore community
politics.tif

Note to self: no matter how many cups of coffee one has had at midnight, always
hang on to e-mails and proof them in the morning before sending

Apologies for misnumbering my list in my earlier e-mail that I sent last night.
I only had two numbered points. That and a couple of other typos are now
corrected.

I also am sending this to the Adams Point listserver, my home group. Many of
the members on that list (both home owners and renters) have been here for
decades and probably carry much of the same institutional memory that I do. I
will happily forward any comments that indicate any errors in my email
narrative.

It is important to note that still, to date, there has been no kerfluffle on the Adams Point listserver about the location of the Lakeview dog park site. Both Jim Ratcliff and I have cross-posted on that list about the subject a couple of times, just to bring the folks up to speed and invite comment.

Interesting that the list was silent compared to this one.

Now I bear the risk of repeating myself on some points I made many months ago, but there might be a reasons for that, as per a City of Oakland park usage patterns and attitudes study (done in the early prep stages of the Lake Merritt Master Plan.) The study found Adam's Point (the most dense neighborhood of Alameda County, fortified with a diverse, strong middle class rental constituency, living peacefully side by side with homewoners) seemed to:

a. .... "get" the general concept of sharing a city park more than neighborhoods that had high home ownership (and hence more private backyards) and lower percentage of renters

b. support more diverse uses of city parks to accommodate as many folks as possible

c. enter and use city parks more frequently than people who lived in neighborhoods that had private homes (with backyards) and (...and I must stress here that I am not making this up or being sarcastic) ...whose owners, for the most, primarily related to parks from the windows of a moving cars.

Gently and respectfully submitted,

Nancy Rieser

From: Nancy Rieser <gofindnancy@yahoo.com>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
Cc: Paul E. Vidican <pvidican@comcast.net>; Emily Rosenberg <dogpeople@comcast.net>; Lakeview Dogpark Architect <lealcharonnat@gmail.com>; Edy and Michael Robertson <robertson@usfca.edu>; Pat Kernighan <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>; nancy.nadel@oaklandnet.net; Mark Hall <MHall@oaklandnet.com>
Sent: Wed, June 29, 2011 11:48:05 PM
Subject: [CHNeighbors] The newest proposed dog park site. (sigh) [1 Attachment]

[Attachment(s) <> from Nancy Rieser included below]

Well. Where to start?

First of all: the three newspapers that covered that meeting (EB Express, SF Chron and the Trib) reported the attendees were markedly in favor of the Lakeview site, which makes me tilt my head and wonder about the writer (who claimed a "70%" opposition.) Was she at a different meeting than the press covered?

That said, she totally has my admiration for naming her bar after her dog. My dog -- who loves beer (a fact I discovered back in the day when the Golden Bear on Grand Ave allowed dogs AND some guy kept feeding my border collie Cookie Scraps slurps of Guinness when my attention was diverted) would raise her sheepdog paw in a high five.

Second point: I've been to the horse corral site behind Fairyland. Used to the feed the horses there from time to time. Granted the horse fence can be swapped out for a dog fence, but it just simply is... a small corral designed to walk horses ...in a circle.

Third point: As a previous poster (or two) pointed out, this second site would entail making Lakeview Park an on-leash park as a dog owners would have to walk a good way into the park with their dogs on leash to get to the dog enclosure.

THAT ain't gonna happen anytime soon. Sounds like a perfect dog-park deal-breaker to me... which no doubt probably would delight some who support the newest suggestion.

But I digress.

Fourth: Perseverating on wood chips vs other surface treatments is like ...like ...I don't know....like fixating on the paint color of a building and getting so stuck you can't pick up a hammer to build the structure in the first place. There are so many other surface treatments - decompressed granite...sand... and wonderful "paths" that look like dirt paths but are some strange brown tinted porous paving material that allows drainage. On and on and on. That stuff (to me) is FUN stuff. Like landscaping and ....and...housepaint color.

Anyway.

Fifth: for those who are still concerned about the Lakeview Park dog park site being so close to the Astro Park children's area.

Please drive down to the Hardy Dog Park. After over 20 years of peaceful co-existence, Oakland Parks and Recreation Department has built BRAND NEW, multi-colored play structures 9 FEET AWAY from the dog park entrance.

NINE feet ...after over 20 years of peaceful co-existence. BRAND NEW. NINE FEET AWAY.

Sixth: I have to say this -- and people are gonna get pissed off at me for saying so -- but it is human nature to react with strident opposition change...and then, when change does happen and the surprise and newness rubs off, people start running in front of the parade. This has been somewhat suggested by Pam Drake, the current president of the Lakeshore Merchants Association, who posted on the "pro" Lakeview Dog Park Facebook page back on March 28 wherein she said "...once this play area is established, no one will remember what the fuss was about."

There is a little local history I would like to share here that will underscore Drake's very matter-of-fact point.

Before you read further, please do look at the attached political cartoon for reference This copy was given to me by USF journalism professor Michael Robertson and his lovely wife Edith on the first day of the Grand Lake Farmer's Market. It was from the Montclarion and concerned itself with yet another Grand Lake neighborhood kerfluffle: the creation of the Farmers Market.

Many years ago, Michael, Edy and I belonged to a group that was opposed to building a Trader Joes on top of the Splash Pad park land (then-councilmember, Joe Russo, wanted to build a strip mall on Splash Pad. For those new to our neighborhood politics and would like to brush up, please see the Eastbay Express archives.) Our group's name that opposed Russo's idea: Eastshore Park Preservation Association (EPPA)

We suggested a Farmer's Market instead. No buildings. Fun and healthy commerce one day a week. Organic veggies. Whoopie.

OMG. OMG. The tearing of the chest and teeth gnashing. HIGH HIGH HIGH drama ensued. Most of the merchants fought it tooth and claw, pled their case to the press and used as much political clout as they could muster.

Well, John Russo, much to his disappointment, did not prevail. We tried the market out under the freeway. The Montclarion dryly depicted the whole hullaboo as an old- fashioned melodrama in the attached editorial cartoon. The Cast of Characters:

Snidely Whiplash (the Eastshore Park Preservation Association (EPPA)
Damsels in distress (Lakeshore Merchants) on a rail road track ....who had in turned
been tossed into the air by the cow catcher of a train
The runaway train: "The Farmer's Market Steering Committee" (started by EPPA)

The cartoon came out the day before the Farmer's Market opening. Members of the EPPA choo-choo'd around the farmer's market pulling invisible steam whistles and collectively giggling "wooo---whooo---"

John Russo was not in attendance at the opening ceremony and chose not to send his chief of staff at the time, Pat Kernighan, to attend in his stead. Nancy Nadel was the lone council member at the opening ceremonies.

A very patient and supportive Nancy Nadel, I might add.

FAST FORWARD TO TODAY. Few merchants or residents would ever wish that the Farmer's Market would cease to exist and can't imagine the neighborhood without one. Folks who were against it, once upon a timE, are now it's biggest champions: Ken Katz and Pat Kernighan, bless their hearts, years later, claimed ownership of the community groundswell that brought it here.

Honest to God, really, it doesn't matter who owns the narrative, when you think about it. The passage of time...plus political necessity and convenience can blur the lines of history. Ken hustled park redevelopment monies (after the market's success). Good for him. He brought physical change to the park which now is tailor made for the farmer's market, which couldn't have happened without Russo's eventual support. Pat Kernighan was part of his team. Good for them, too.

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IMHO, the dog park saga is deja vu all over again.

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Both of those districts are just as politically savvy as Grand Lake are but historically, the emotional tone of their public discourse and their willingness to simply give the act of sharing ..a chance to succeed ,,all seem to be light years ahead of this particular section of the city.

Why? Dunno.

But next time you drive down Claremont Ave, take a look at the new kids playground equipment installed just nine feet away from the dog park entrance... and ask yourself... is there a lesson to be learned, somewhere in all of this, for the Grand Lake neighborhood?

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From: "fritzhoch@aol.com" <fritzhoch@aol.com>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wed, June 29, 2011 11:56:01 AM
Subject: Re: [CHNeighbors] Alternative site option for Lake Merritt Dog Park [1 Attach...

Thank you for the update Maria, I very much agree with you on this issue and what a great alternative spot choice.

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Respectfully,

Maria Alderete

dogpark@lukasoakland.com

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Attachment(s) from Nancy Rieser

1 of 1 File(s)

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Switch to: Text-Only <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change Delivery Format: Traditional> , Daily Digest <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email Delivery: Digest> • Unsubscribe <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> • Terms of Use <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
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__,_._,___
From: Jennifer Nadler [JNadler@KQED.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 5:09 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Riley, Dana
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Re: Dog Park at Astro Park Lake Merritt

Hello,

I am writing to all of you in hopes to move the dog park at Astro Park on Lake Merritt/Lakeshore along. This neighborhood desperately needs a fenced in dog park where owners can take their dogs off leash in a safe environment. There is nothing within walking distance for this neighborhood. The best we have is on-leash walking where maybe we might meet a dog or 10 and have a little doggie love circle before moving on. During the week when I get home from work I would love to be able to take my two dogs (Tofurky & Mooshoo) to a dog park to get some good running and socializing in. Tofurky needs it especially. Currently if I want to do that I have to gather everyone together, pack them into the car and drive at least 15 minutes to get to Alameda or in the hills up 35th Avenue. Tofurky in particular can not be brought to an off leash trail because he gets overwhelmed (he is special needs) and loses track of us. The Astro Park dog park would be a wonderful addition to this already thriving neighborhood. We all walk the lake, at any given time you will see dozens of dogs walking with their owners. We have all said to each other at one point or another how great it would be if we had some place local to go with them so they could play. I have never met an aggressive dog while walking the lake with mine. In fact Mooshoo is probably more aggressive than most dogs we meet (she is a 6 ½ pound Chihuahua!) and mostly she is just noisy. When I take my dogs to the Alameda Dog Park I also end up doing my shopping in Alameda. How wonderful it would be if I could take my dogs to Lake Merritt then do my shopping errands in Oakland locally. I believe very strongly in supporting local businesses in my neighborhood but since I am forced to take my dogs outside of my neighborhood it ends up being Alameda who gets my tax money and my business. That isn't how it should be.

The park was designed to compliment the area as well as disguise the dog park itself. There is still plenty of space to play and run and romp for the people. It's a small space that we are asking for so that our dogs can get out and play and romp, socialize and get worn out. I hope that you can each see the benefit of this park being added for the city as well as our four legged friends. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Nadler

Oakland, CA 94606

From: Keith McAllister [keithzmca@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, June 20, 2011 1:29 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca
Cc: Office of the Mayor; dogpeople@comcast.net
Subject: Create Dog Park at Lake Merritt

Dear Councilpersons Kernighan, Nadel, and Kaplan:

Please bring to completion the project to establish a dog park at Lake Merritt.

As a senior, I make little use of the recreational facilities in Oakland's parks. But as a home owner I pay a great deal into Oakland's budget to maintain those city parks. This accurately describes many Oakland senior citizens. It is only right that Oakland make provision for us to have the one active, outdoor recreational opportunity that is so important to us—the ability to walk in city parks with our canine companions.

Thanking you in advance for making a dog park at Lake Merritt a reality.

Sincerely,

Keith McAllister

4127 Gilbert St

Oakland

Copies: Mayor Quan

ODOG
From: mlagusis [melissalagusis@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 24, 2011 9:01 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Hi,

Please add me the the list of people who are hoping for an off-leash dog park near Lake Merritt. I hope you can make it happen!

Yours,
Melissa Lagusis
From: suzette davidson [malvenapearl@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 2:40 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I'd like a Dog Park on Lakeshore Avenue. And I don't have a dog.

Dear Pat and Nancy,

I are writing to you in support of the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area. I work in Oakland, pay taxes in Oakland, vote in Oakland and I volunteer for a number of non-profit community service groups in Oakland.

I enjoy seeing the many dogs go by the window of my an apartment right on Lakeshore Avenue. I call it the "dog parade." Dog owners I meet on our street are responsible and clean up after their pets. They keep them on leashes and often stop to say hello.

A dog park would bring more business into this area without creating a need for more parking spaces. The people in our neighborhood who walk dogs, now, walk around the lake on the sidewalk -- but and having a dog play area may get them to shop locally, too. They may stop and get coffee on the way home, or stop at the newly-opened Cana or newly re-opened Kwik Way for some great people food. If you don't believe me, just look at the flourishing business of the "Sit and Stay Cafe" and "MudPuppies" at the Point Isabel dog park on the Richmond shoreline of the Bay. http://www.yelp.com/biz/mudpuppys-tub-and-scrub-sit-and-stay-cafe-richmond

The Lakeshore area of the proposed dog play area s far from the spots that folks in the neighborhood already use for picnics. It's safely placed away from the bird sanctuary area and there would be a fence between the small dog area and the children's play area. It leaves room for people to play soccer or frisbee. It's a nice open space that dogs could enjoy, and their people could enjoy, too.

People in Oakland who have dogs have to keep them enclosed in a yard or drive out to Point Isabel or out to Alameda to enjoy an open park space for their dogs. I think a dog play area would be great for local business.

Thank you for reading this.

Signed,

Suzette Lalime Davidson
small business owner (www.malvenapearl.com)
2244 Lakeshore Ave #3
Oakland, CA 94606

From: Sarah Terry-Cobo [sarahterrycobo@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 22, 2011 7:08 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: I Support the Lakeview Dog Play Area Project

Dear Councilmembers Kerninghan, Nadel and Kaplan,

I live near the proposed dog play area at Lake Merritt, and I strongly support this project. It's been in planning for 11 years, and approved twice. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is something that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, and something that is badly needed. Having a dog park that encourages people to get to know their neighbors is good community building. In an area that is fairly densely populated, kind of dirty, and at times unsafe, this neighborhood needs something to celebrate and get people out and exercising.

Please approve this project.

Thank you.
Regards,
Sarah
--
Sarah Terry-Cobo
reporter, freelance journalist
cell 510-287-6521
Graduate, UC Berkeley 2009
University of Tulsa 2006
http://www.sarahterrycobo.com
http://twitter.com/sarahterrycobo

From: S. Obayashi [peeweebaddog2@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 3:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Oakland Dog Owners O'Dog
Subject: Lake Merrit Dog Park

Yes yes and yes! I support the dog park at Lake Merritt!

I visit friends and frequent businesses in the area, and would be MORE inclined to do so if I knew there was a dog-friendly park in the area. I often hesitate to spend much time in Oakland because of the city's restrictive dog policies (even LEASHED dogs are not welcome in the parks the last time I looked). It's hard to consolidate errands , socializing, and discovering local spots when one member of the "family" is made to feel unwelcome.
East Bay Regional Parks concession Mudpuppy's Dog Wash and Cafe is an outstanding example of private-public partnership; I would think the businesses in the Lake Merritt area would appreciate more foot traffic.
Please let me know your opinion on the dog park at Lake Merritt and what actions you plan to take to make the park a reality. I look forward to sharing your response with the residents and business owners I know in Oakland.

Thank you,
Susan Obayashi, El Cerrito, CA

From: mary lovegadget [mary@lovegadget.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 2:17 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; At Large; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: I Support the Lakeview Dog Play Area Project

Dear Councilmembers:

I love bringing my dog to the park, and he loves it, too!

We usually go over to Alameda's small dog park because I don't enjoy hanging out under the dark, dirty freeway at our nearby Hardy Park. My husband, my dog, and I spend the afternoon over in Alameda. Alameda is getting a lot of our business. While we are out there we also have lunch, do our grocery shopping, sometimes dry cleaning, etc. I would like to do the same in Oakland, but since there are no good dog parks over here (no offense to those who have worked hard to get any space for dog parks in Oakland), we just go where we can.

Dog parks are not just for dogs. They are for people, too. We have made tons of friends at the park, many of whom are from Oakland, as well. We would all like a place that is enjoyable to visit both for us and our dogs.

I think it would be wonderful to spend some time near the lake, breathing fresh air and enjoying sunshine that you can't find under the freeway. I understand that the park has been in the works for 11 years and has been approved twice. I can tell you that I and many other Oakland residents would truly appreciate it if you could approve it once and for all. Oakland really needs a good dog park.

Please approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area!

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Mary Connelly
393 51st Street
Oakland, CA 94609
From: Danielle Schneeloch [danielle@daniellledesigns.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 10:35 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I Support the Lakeview Dog Play Area Project

Dear Councilmember,

Thank you for your most recent update on the Dog park. I am aware that there are compelling arguments on both sides but I would ask again that you consider supporting the dog park. It really comes down to increasing property values and truly making Oakland a place where people want to be. I cannot imagine a more compelling reason to support the Lakeview dog park than simple economics. If you take this into account along with Mayor Quan's courting of major business's to move to Oakland; I do not see how you could not be in favor of supporting this valuable addition to Oakland and the Lake Merritt area.

Thank you for taking the time to consider, and support this important addition to Oakland.

Regards,

Danielle Schneeloch

1937 8th Ave

Oakland, CA 94606

Danielle D. Schneeloch

Principal Designer

Danielle Designs, LLC

Sobel Design Building

680 Eighth Street, Suite 231

San Francisco, CA 94103

T - 415.431.2300

F - 415.704.3295

<mailto:jessica@danielledesigns.com> danielle@danielledesigns.com

<http://www.danielledesigns.com> www.danielledesigns.com

From: Leslie Aguilar [leslie_aguilar@pacbell.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 1:16 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: Dog Park Support

I live in Crocker Highlands and I would *definitely* walk to the park. I already walk to Lakeshore to do my shopping and the Farmer's Market every weekend.

Thank you,
Leslie

On Apr 14, 2011, at 12:32 PM, Kernighan, Pat wrote:

> Dear Leslie,
>
> Thanks for writing. We are also trying to assess the parking impact for
> the proposed dog park. Would you tell me what neighborhood you live in
> (e.g., whether you could walk to the park). Thanks.
>
>
> Pat Kernighan
> Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
> 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
> Oakland, CA 94612
> 510-238-7002
> pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
> www.patkernighan.com
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Leslie Aguilar [mailto:leslie_aguilar@pacbell.net]
> Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:54 AM

> To: Kernighan, Pat
> Cc: Nadel, Nancy; atlarge; Office of the Mayor
> Subject: Dog Park Support
>
> I support the Lake View Dog Play Area!
>
> Leslie Aguilar
>

From: Sarah Kowalski [sarahkowalski@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 10:14 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I Support the Lakeview Dog Play Area Project

Dear Councilmember,
I live near the proposed dog play area at Lake Merritt, and I strongly support this project. It's been in planning for 11 years, and approved twice. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is something that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, and something that is badly needed. Please approve this project.

Thank you.

Sarah Kowalski
Alaya Coaching--Aligning the Body, Igniting the Spirit
(415) 305-4692
sarah@alayacoaching.com

========== Life and Career Coaching + Qigong classes + Feldenkrais Sessions ==========

From: Jonathan Evans [juanito_evans@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 2:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge; Schaaf, Libby
Subject: I Support the Lakeview Dog Play Area Project

Dear Councilmembers,

I strongly support the Lake Merritt Dog Play Area Project. It's been in planning for 11 years, and approved twice. Please help make this project a reality. It is something that will benefit people throughout Oakland, and something that is badly needed. Please support this project.

Thank you.

Jonathan Evans

3800 Bayo ST

Oakland, 94619

From: Gilmore, Mari [Mari.Gilmore@amec.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 11:55 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Dog Park Support

Dear Oakland City Council Members,

I just wanted to write you in support of the Lakeview dog park. I just adopted a rescue dog from a local rescue group, and I would love to have an off-leash, licensed park to take him to close by. I live in an apartment building downtown and need public access spaces available in the downtown neighborhood to exercise my dog.

Thank you for your support!

Mari Gilmore

200 Fairmount Ave. #316, Oakland, CA 94611

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If you receive this e-mail in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete and destroy the message.

From: Betsy E. Baum [bets@bbaum.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Pat,

You heard me speak at the community meeting, but I want to reiterate my support for the Lake Merritt Dog Park at its current location.

I live in your district, and I even voted for you in the election. I was so excited by what you brought to our community - but now I'm totally frustrated with your willingness to let 11 years of planning by City staff and volunteers go down the drain by a minority of NIMBY constituents.

All you need to do is stand on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur (where the proposed park will be) for half an hour during prime dog-walking time to understand just how many of your voters and other neighborhood members would benefit from this location. You'd be lucky to have your name on as a someone who helped put this park into place.

To those who worry about the beauty of it - I suggest you take a look at the tot lot on a rainy day, when it is not in use. Look at the brown sand and the brown mulch there. It's not a work of art by any means. What makes it beautiful is the people and their children that are there, enjoying the space and the sense of community it builds in our neighborhood. In so many neighborhoods in San Francisco, dog parks abut playgrounds - so many families are also dog owners! (Several times last week, I walked by the tot lot to find dogs tied to strollers while parents enjoyed the lot with their kiddos.)

I use a few different dog parks, and sadly drive to them. I meet people constantly. If you read surveys on the benefits of dog parks, one of the most oft-cited benefits is the sense of community that is built. Just google "dog park" and "sense of community" and you'll get hits from dozens of communities that include dog parks in the master plan for this reason based on survey results of constituents.

As for "Save Astro Park" - I'm saddened that a group which claims to value this location so intently has not raised a single dollar towards its beautification, nor existed prior to the final stages of the planning process. If their money is where their mouth is, then I judge them as someone trying to squelch a group of fundraisers and volunteers who have committed over 10 years of building a community resource. I'm at this location multiple times a day, frequently on foot. While there are soccer users (many drive there and aren't your constituents), and a handful of volleyball players, they are there once a week and will continue to have plenty of open space to do what they need to do. In the roughly 25 times in the last two weeks I've walked by there, about half of those walking my dog, I've seen an SAP member once and only once. She was playing volleyball with three others - in the time they were setting up, at least 8 dog owners came by.

The other thought I have for you is a future vision if this is not approved: the sad reality, and a friend of mine who is a member of SAP, will tell you the same thing. Another fight, two or three years down the road, at the next location.

I really hope you decide to support this park. It is needed, it will be used, and the community that gathers there will be a beauty to behold.

Yours,

Betsy

Betsy Baum Block, MPP

510-982-6126 google voice

bets@bbaum.com

From: Danielle Hawkins [danielleohawkins@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2011 10:11 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Councilmember,

I live near the proposed dog play area at Lake Merritt, right on Lakeshore at 2122. I strongly support this project. It's been in planning for 11 years, and approved twice. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is something that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, including myself, and something that is badly needed. Please approve this project.

Thank you,

Danielle Hawkins

From: Peter Lamb [whitehavn@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 8:14 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms Kernighan

I am contacting you in support of moving forward with the proposed dog park at Lake Merritt. I am a longtime homeowner on Mandana Blvd, a dog owner and frequently walk down to the Lake at weekends. As you know, there are many dog lovers in this community and there is shortage of designated dog park space locally. It seems to me having a designated park benefits both dog lovers and non -dog owners alike - it would reduce dog traffic around the Lake and

associated waste issues (unfortunately there are owners who dont pick up- as irritating to me as any one else), it would segregate dogs from general Lake users, so for those less comfortable with dogs this would be a benefit. For dog lovers it would provide a safe an appropriate space for the dogs to mix and play off leash.

I have voted for you repeatedly over the years since I believe you have shown a genuine commitment to improving quality of life in our community and I have appreciated your efforts. This is the first time I have contacted you to express an opinion on a local issue. I understand you may have reservations about the plan and may be seeking a further (!) delay - if this is the case I urge you to reconsider and put your considerable leadership ability behind this excellent proposal.

Respectfully

Peter Lamb
From: jernlight@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 2:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Dog Park Support

Please support the dog park in Lake Merritt!!! I'm tired of going all the way to Alameda and spending time and money there when I could be spending in and using my own neighborhood. It's long overdue.
Lance Lighthall
658 Brooklyn ave
Oakland, Ca 94606

From: Cascade Heights [hausrat911@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 1:18 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Play Area Lake Merritt

I support the location of the dog park. I think it will be a good thing to have both for dogs and for me to meet my neighbors with dogs.

--
Signed, Francesca Austin, Area 2 Cleveland Heights Neighborhood - 658 Hillgirt Circle

"If it came from a plant, eat it; if it was made in a plant, don't." (Michael Pollan)

From: eve g [evek67@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 7:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

i am writing to express my support for the dog park near lake merritt. i think it's about time a city this size has a place for owners to go with their dogs and i cannot think of a better area than that surrounding lake merritt. what a great addition it would make to the citizens of oakland and their dogs. PLEASE MAKE THIS HAPPEN.

signed by a resident living on lakeshore avenue in oakland.
From: Sandy Bredt [sandy@kehillasynagogue.org]
Sent: Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:30 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Hello,
I am writing to urge you to support the dog park proposed for East Lakeview Park. The proposed dog park is appropriately scaled, at a safe distance from the Tot lot (Astro Park) and the proposed landscaping will be an improvement to the area. It seems like a winning deal for everyone; I cannot imagine why one would oppose it.

I do not live in your district, but I shop and spend money there 5-6 times per week. I also use the Lakeview Branch library, and have friends who live in your district and are dog owners.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandy Bredt
Sandy@KehillaSynagogue.org
510-501-4119

From: Cheryl Cleary [cab233@cornell.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 2:11 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park - YES

Dear Council Member Kernighan:

Please continue your support of this project. I live a block from the Lake and I believe not only I, but all users of Lake Merritt, will benefit from a dog park, as will businesses and property owners. Only this past weekend, my spouse, our dog and I spent few hours and nearly $100 in Alameda because, since we have limited time and had to multi-task the weekend off leash time with running errands, we again could not buy local.

If you have not already seen it, please also read the article in yesterday's Oakland Tribune, http://www.insidebayarea.com/ci_17747501?IADID=Search-www.insidebayarea.com-www.insidebayarea.com. And, next time a sweet but kind of dopey on-leash cocker spaniel accidentally blocks your way on the sidewalk, think how much happier he, his mommy, and the passersby will be when doggies can finally hang out at Lakeview Dog Park.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for all you do for Oakland.

Sincerely,
Cheryl Cleary
317 Hanover Ave - 310
Oakland, CA 94606
(917) 415-2897
From: Clark Titcomb [clarktitcomb@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 11:35 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I Support the Lakeview Dog Play Area Project

Dear Councilmember,

I live near the proposed dog play area at Lake Merritt, and I strongly support this project. It's been in planning for 11 years, and approved twice. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is something that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, and something that is badly needed. Please approve this project.

Thank you

--
Clark B. Titcomb, Assoc. AIA
2050 Lakeshore Ave.
Oakland, CA 94606
Cell: (704) 560-0341

From: Judith Gottlieb [judithgottlieb94706@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 02, 2011 8:08 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

Dear Councilperson Kernighan,

I am writing to voice my support of the proposed Lakeview Dog park.
I feel it is important to allow those who live in the Lake Merritt area a place to take their dog off leash.
The proposed site was designated as a dog park in the Master plan created some years ago.
Dog parks create community and an important new way for dog owners to connect with their " family members"
I encourage you to support the proposed dog park that is to be built in your district.
Sincerely, Judith Gottlieb

From: Pamela Keilson [pkeilson@pure-art.biz]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 1:47 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Attachments: image003.png; image004.png

Recently I purchased a home in Oakland at Lake Merritt. I have been stunned at the complete lack of accessibility to dogs in Oakland Parks. I am white, single female and pay more taxes than I can believe. I just got a "supplement tax" statement for PARKS.

I have two Scottish terriers that behave better than most people, especially in this area. We have black males with aggressive bull terriers running the streets. They do not pick up after their dogs, but I do and so do the majority of dog owners in my area. Most singles have dogs, seeing well bred dogs in a neighborhood indicates an upscale neighborhood that is friendly. In San Francisco there are dog friendly parks, runs, grass everywhere, my dogs loved living in SF. They were able to socialize. Here they are not welcomed anywhere.

Dogs need socialization, the opportunity to meet and play with other dogs or they start to become aggressive.

Oakland has to make the decision of whether they want to integrated neighborhoods with white, taxpaying, restraunt eating, whole food buying taxpayers, or to antagonize us into moving back to San Francisco where the streets are not run by aggressive pit bulls but by cute poodles, French bulldogs, and other Expensive dogs.

My young Scottie cost $1500 and she has nowhere to play. Is Oakland ever going to recognize that it needs to enter the 21st century, or continue to be the most dangerous city in the US. Small loved pets need a place to go.

People are afraid of dogs because they don't see the nice ones in Oakland. Small cute dogs improve the city - you need us.

I pay taxes and want something for it!!!

--

PAMELA KEILSON

pkeilson@PURE-art.biz

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

66 fairmount, #207

oakland, ca 94611

510.350.7154

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

www.PURE-art.biz

From: Noah Farb [noahfarb@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2011 12:23 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear All-

It may be a little late to add my input, but I still thought it important that I let my voice be heard with regards to the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area. I firmly support the development of the dog park. The development of a dog park would be a tremendous boon to the Lake Merritt community. It would not only improve the safety of people and dogs in the Lake Merritt area, but also strengthen the relationships and ties of the many dog owners in the neighborhood. I speak to other dog owners everyday, and a common theme amongst all is the need for a nearby dog park. I believe the benefits go far beyond the obvious and the development of the dog park would be a cost effective way to dramatically improve the vitality of the neighborhood. The benefits clearly extend to dog owners and non dog owners alike. Please put me on record as supporting the dog park.

Sincerely,

Noah Farb
322 Hanover Ave.
Oakland, Ca 94606

P.S. I have lived in Lake Merritt for just one year, and love it here. Prior to any knowledge of the dog park proposal, I identified the development of a dog park as the best possible way to improve the area for its residents. I was very pleased to learn that progress is being made.
From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 5:13 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: Lake Merritt Dog Park

From: OaklandNJB <oaklandnjb@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thu Mar 31 16:56:18 2011
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Just a quick note to say I hope you continue to support the creation of an off-leash dog park near Lake Merritt. I was born and raised in Oakland, and I have fond memories of playing at Astro Park as a child; and I firmly believe the establishment of a dog park will not be detrimental to this play area.

Plans for the dog park were approved long ago, and it's really a shame it has taken so long to create this useful area for people and their pets. A well-maintained dog park is a great benefit to the neighborhood, encourages neighbors to get to know each other, and provides a positive environment for animals to play and exercise.

Creating the Lake Merritt dog park is a win-win for the city, the neighborhood and the animals, and I strongly encourage you to do whatever you can to move the plan forward.

Thanks!

David A. Steinberg
382 Orange Street
Oakland, CA

From: Poe Asher [vizluv@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Elders with dogs need space too! Those of us who can no longer walk fast enough to give a dog running exercise need places like the Lake Merritt area to be able to throw a ball and let them run and socialize with other dogs. Those of us in the disabled community should be able to enjoy canine companionship and be able to provide them with the excercise they need for their physical and emotional well-being. While walking with the dog is a pleasureable activity, it's entirely different than interacting with off-leash dogs.
Perhaps a fence is the objection? A hedge might be an option. The fence would be temporary until the hedge grows enough to provide an acceptable barrier. A fence might only be needed at the street side.
Please don't exclude us from our few opportunities for outdoor recreation. Also many of us would be unable to enjoy the experience of having a canine friend if we can't in good conscience provide them with adequate experiences. Poe Asher

From: Shawn Roberts [shawn@entroporium.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 12:03 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Support for Lake Merritt Dog Park

Attachments: wordpress.png; podcast.png; linkedin.png; twitter.png; lastfm.png; yelp.png; email.png; youtube.png; facebook.png; delicious.png; aol.png

Ms. Kernighan,

I'm writing in support of the Lake Merritt Dog Park. I think this is a basic issue of accessibility for dog owners. The only open spaces around that allow dogs offleash are up in the EBRPD areas. If one can not transport their dog up there - and there is no public transportation option - there are very few places in Oakland that allow offleash dogs. The existing options are few and far between. There should be a good safe central point where dog owners with mobility issues - either because of infirmity or transportation challenges - should be able to take their pets.

Very best,
Shawn Roberts

SHAWN ROBERTS
(510) 397-8743
Hear my show Thursdays 8pm PT
FCCFreeRadio.com, Studio 1A
<http://entroporium.com/>
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From: susan oldershaw [lottydah2002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Dear Ms. Kernighan - Since my arrival to Oakland 8 years ago I have been waiting for the promised dog park. I have found Oakland to be the least dog friendly I have lived in. I currently drive to Alameda or Pt. Isabel using more gas and adding to the pollution. Instead, I could actually walk to the dog park from my home. I am a retired senior citizen so this would be an opportunity to draw me out of my house and around other folks, as well as much loved dogs. Thanks for all you do, Susan
From: noahharms@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 10:07 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake View Dog Park

Dear Councilperson Kernighan,

I am writing to urge to stop letting a group of people affect you in allowing the long promised
and designed dog park to go forward. As a homeowner on Acton Place, just off Lakeshore, I
am concerned that this is still an issue. It seem obvious that with so many dog owners who
live in our neighborhood and the fact of the bird sanctuary being so close, this final piece of
land is an obvious choice. All the poetic rhetoric furnished by the SAVE ASTRO PARK people
is ridiculous. There are so many alternative sites for picnicking and playing sports all over Lake
Merritt. The decent and fair thing to do is to let this long promised project to go forward!

Sincerely,
Noah Harms
251 Acton Place Oakland
From: Jay H [jdinsf@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 9:16 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area support

Dear Council Member Pat Kernighan:

I am writing to indicate my support for the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

I have lived on the southwest side of Lake Merritt since 2005, my husband has lived here since 2003. We are dog owners, AND we vote. We have seen an explosion in the number of dogs in the area, but the growth of dog parks has not kept pace. We respect the No Dogs in the park areas around the lake. However, we pay taxes in Oakland, and feel we are greatly underserved as dog owners.

As I understand it, the Lakeview Dog Play area has been approved twice, and will not impact the Oakland General Fund. The park for the planned play area is actually under-utilized in its current design. The dog play area would bring responsible people together, which is always a good thing.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to aid in gaining support for the dog play area.

Thank you,

Jay Hamlin

270 Wayne Ave #201

Oakland, CA 94606

From: Diane Hicks [dianehicks88@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 9:59 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Hello, Pat~

I'm a resident of the Lake Merritt area (I live in an apartment right across the street from the Lake) and I would like to encourage you to support the plan for a dog park in our neighborhood.

When I first heard about the plan, I had my doubts: visually, I thought a fenced area would ruin the beauty of that great GREEN open space. But the more I think about it, the supporters' slogan "Time to Share" resonates. This proposed area is only ¼ of the entire park space, and sharing use is going to be more and more important for us city dwellers.

Let's show that we can come together and co-exist! I have always appreciated the thoughtful work you have done for this area of Oakland. I sincerely ask for you to support this plan.

Sincerely,

Diane Hicks

Diane Hicks | 2122 Lakeshore Ave., #506, Oakland, CA 94606 | h: 510-817-4173 | c: 510-590-1293

From: Sara Bisikirski [sbisikirski@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 5:08 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Riley, Dana
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: in support of Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Oakland City Council Members,

As a West Oakland home owner, social worker and mother of 3 wonderful dogs I am writing to encourage you to support the development of the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Dog parks are good for building positive community relationships and we have a dearth of them in Oakland.

Moving ahead on this project seems like a no-brainer. 11 years of delays is enough!

Thanks for your time,

Sara Bisikirski, LCSW
1421 Peralta Street
Oakland CA 94607

cell: 401.632.6717
From: Danielle Schneeloch [danielle@danielledesigns.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:24 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park (a.k.a. Lakeview Dog Play Area)

Dear Councilmember Pat Kernighan,

- I am writing to you today to ask for your support of the Lake Merritt Dog Park. I am a long time Alameda County Resident and a recent new home owner in Oakland. My Fiancé and I purchased our Historic Landmark home (Tower house) early last year. Even though we were not focused on buying a house in Oakland we found a community and a neighborhood that I did not know existed. We need to take it a step further. We walk Lake Merritt every weekend with our 2 dogs and wish every day that there was a dog park. Oakland, and in particular Lake Merritt has overcome so much in terms of how it is perceived. This is what Oakland needs! Oakland should look to San Francisco as it sets a perfect example of how dog parks and dog owners can add to the beauty, livability, community and not to mention safety of a neighborhood. I can tell you that the dog owners who use Dog parks on a regular basis are mostly educated and professional. These are people that truly care about the health and well being, not only their animals but also their community.

- Please support this Dog park, it can only make Oakland that much better.

Regards,

Danielle Schneeloch

Danielle D. Schneeloch

Principal Designer

Danielle Designs, LLC

Sobel Design Building

680 Eighth Street, Suite 231

San Francisco, CA 94103

T - 415.431.2300

F - 415.704.3295

<mailto:jessica@danielledesigns.com> danielle@danielledesigns.com

<http://www.danielledesigns.com> www.danielledesigns.com

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:20 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Support for Dog Park in Lake Merritt Area

From: Caro Jauregui [mailto:cajauregui@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 1:07 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Support for Dog Park in Lake Merritt Area

Good afternoon,

I live in 1545 Jackson Street, 94612. I wanted to write you to express my support for a dog park in this area. There are not many dog friendly areas here. Going to the current available dog parks is an inconvenience because of their distance. I hope you vote in support of the dog park that has been 8 years in the making.

Thank you.

--

"may you be happy. may you be healthy. may you be safe. may you experience liberation in your life."

caro jauregui
510-557-5283

From: Kristina Yates [krisyat@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 1:48 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Subject: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

From: Jeff Ferren [jeff_ferren@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 10:02 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

I am writing to express my support for the planned Lake Merritt Dog Park. It is a much needed addition to the neighborhood, especially given that dogs are not allowed anywhere within the Lake Merritt park areas. Please don't let a small group of people ruin years of effort to make the dog park a reality.
Thanks,
Jeff Ferren
From: Ellie Gladstone [elglads1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 9:58 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

I was not able to attend the recent community meeting regarding the long-planned Lakeview Dog Play Area, but wanted to express my strong support for the project. I am a dog owner and long time resident of the Lake Merritt area and think the dog park will be a fantastic addition to the neighborhood. For years I have driven to Berkeley, Richmond, or Piedmont to exercise our dog off leash, and I would relish the opportunity to simply walk down the hill. It if unfortunate that a small, but loud group of people is trying to derail a project that has been many years in the making and benefited from broad community support. I urge you to continue to support and fund the Lakeview Dog Play Area.
Thank you,
Ellie Gladstone

From: Eric Hallquist [eric_hallquist@mac.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Hon.
Pat Kernighan,

As an Oakland dog owner, I am writing to express my strong support for the completion of the long-delayed Lake Merritt dog park.

When my partner and I moved to Oakland from San Francisco three years ago (with our two dogs and two cats), we were dismayed by the almost total lack of available dog parks. While we enjoy off leash opportunities at Joaquin Miller, outside of the nice weather months we are forced to go to Alameda dog parks to socialize our dogs. Living in the Glenview, we have looked forward to having this opportunity in our own city at nearby Lake Merritt.

Dog parks encourage responsible dog ownership and well socialized, well behaved dogs. Let's make Oakland more dog-friendly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eric Hallquist
3741 Linwood Ave
Oakland CA 94602
From: Ed Marquette [emarquette@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2011 12:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Subject: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

Hi,

I support the proposed dog park at Grand and MacArthur. This area is seldom used for anything - you can't easily play sports there because errant balls end up in traffic.

Relative to other cities in the area there are very few places for dog recreation without going into the EBRPD areas in the hills. We often go elsewhere to walk our dog and often eat near where we go. It seems preferable to have that money go to Oakland.

Thank you,
Ed Marquette
626 Valle Vista Ave.

Sent from my iPhone
From: Lisa Glicksman [lglix@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Yes to Dog Park!

Hello Pat- As a brand new dog owner, I want to voice my support for the proposed dog park near the Lakeview library. I read Chip Johnson's column today, and none of the objections he presented sounded compelling to me.

There is the Piedmont dog park near us, off of Linda, but it has no small dog area (we got a Maltese rescue- he's 7 lbs) AND Piedmont charges non-residents $40 to use it last I heard. I think the dog park might mitigate overuse of Lake Merritt facilities, and help confine the poop factor. It doesn't seem fair that all of these folks have been diligently planning a dog park, only to have it yanked away.

If this location doesn't pan out, the need for another dog park, with a separate space for small dogs remains. It's ridiculous that we have to go all the way to Alameda to find a dog park with this feature.

Please do all you can do get the dog park approved.

Thanks for all the hard work you do!

Lisa Glicksman
From: Lempi Miller [LMiller@kleinfelder.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 11:06 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; alarge@oaklandnet.com
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area and more

Attachments: image001.jpg

Dear City Council Members,

Beyond the Lakeshore Play Area, which I support and would use, let me chime in and say:

I have a dog in Oakland and find the "no dogs allowed anywhere" policy too restrictive. I would like to see leashed dogs allowed in parks, and stiffer penalties for dirt bags who let their dogs defecate indiscriminately without picking up after them.

Since I moved here from San Diego, a very dog-friendly city, my poor dog has become fat. I see myself as a person who likes to obey the law, but in this case, forget it! My dog is a companion, but also good for protection—you've cut back police, and there's a still a rapist at large in my neighborhood, so running around the lake and through the parks with him is justified. But I always clean up after him, and pick up some garbage while I'm at it.

Lempi E. Miller

Environmental Database Manager

1330 Broadway Suite 1200

Oakland, CA 94612

o| 510-628-8112

f | 510-628-9009

www.kleinfelder.com <http://www.kleinfelder.com/>

From: Naomi Corson [ncdami@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 7:10 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Dog park

Hi,

I was unable to attend the meeting this past week on 3/23 regarding the pre-approved dog park for Lake Merritt that some residents are protesting but I wanted my voice to be heard regardless. I am a dog owner, homeowner, and live on the lake. I walk my pet daily and see numerous other residents walking their animals as well. Currently there is no dog park in Oakland for pet owners to exercise or socialize their pets; when I heard of the approved decision to build a small dog park on the lake it was quite exciting. Now to discover that some residents oppose and want to block the plan to move forward an approved decision is disheartening and upsetting.

As my council members I know you often deal with these types of situations. Often opposing groups are adamant in their opinions, they are homewowners, and taxpayers, both feel they have the right to voice their opinions in the community in which they live. All I can say is if the opposing group is worried about a mess or noise it is unfounded because as non-dog owners they most likely are not frequenting dog parks to view their conditions nor are they exposed to the sounds or environment to form a negative opinion. In addition, why base your decision on what only "could occur" before having concrete evidence. It is speculation and worry that is unfounded.

The proposed dog park is a small area in comparison to what the non-dog owners will utilize on the lake itself. If they do not like dogs then they do not have to approach that area. As far a the possible mess that could occur again it is speculation. I believe the mess would lessen as when dog owners are together they have the "peer pressure" to pick up after their pet as well keep the area clean for themselves as well as their dog. We too take pride in our pets and care about their health as well as the condtions they are exposed to. In saying that I do believe dog owners are clean and do curb their pets; we are not irresponsible nor inconsiderate of others who use the sidewalks and grass areas. Again we live here and it is our community too.

In short, I hope that the approved plan moves ahead regardless of opposition. Do not let the pressure of a minority influence your decisions as the lake is for the enjoyment of everyone and I believe we can co-exist together peacefully.

Thank you,

Naomi Corson
Oakland Homeowner

From: Rachel Beth Egenhoefer [rachel@rachelbeth.net]

Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 5:01 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: atlarge@oakland.com
Subject: I support the dog park!

Dear Councilmembers Nancy Nadel and Pat Kernighan,

I'd like to begin by thanking you for the community meeting last night regarding the dog park. I was great to see so many people come together and meet you both.

I live in District 3 and I am very much is support of the proposed dog park.

I believe that this dog park can help build our community. I am thrilled the Lakeshore Business District supports this dog park and echo their belief that it will bring business and support to the neighborhood. I believe that we all need to work together to share the space - kids, dogs, athletes, relaxers, everyone.

I wanted to express one point of concern and that is I believe the note takers last night tended to skew towards those who opposed the dog park. The night began by both Nancy Nadel the project architect presenting FACTS about the proposal. Yet despite this, many people raised concerns that (had they been listening or present) were addressed in these facts. But this was what was then written down in the notes. For example, it was clearly explained what type of fence will be used, that landscape architects have been consulted, and that greenery will be planted to be in bloom all year long. Yet several people stood up and said they didn't want an ugly chain link fence in their park, so the note takers wrote that down. But it had already been explained that there was no chain link fence in the proposal. There were many issues about the tot lot, the aesthetics, and the reason for the location that people seemed to complain about having not listened to the facts presented at the beginning of the meeting.

I also noticed that some positive aspects were not included in the notes. For instance people complained that they feared kids and dogs would not mix, so that was written down. However there were also several people who mentioned that having a dog park near by actually helps kids become accustomed to dogs, it gives them an opportunity to meet dogs if they can't have them at home, and that there are many examples of dog parks that are even closer than 20' to a tot lot and everyone plays safely together. I hope that you will remember all of the positive additions and positive studies about creating community, increasing property values, and helping the community that having a dog park will bring.

I hope you will honor the promises made to the people for this dog park and that you will listen to the many residents and community members that support this addition to the park. I truly believe it is about sharing. We are not asking for the whole park, or even a majority of the park. We are asking to share a very small portion of the park that goes unused while still leaving plenty of room for people to play soccer and volleyball and for kids to play safely and happily.

Thank you for your time.

Rachel Egenhoefer
100 Grand Ave #1004
Oakland 94612

From: HIGHCRAFTSMAN [highcraftsman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 3:14 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Riley, Dana; "officeofthe mayor"@oakandnet.com
Cc: lakemerrittdogpark@yahoo.com; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Support for Lakeview offleash dog facility

Dear Elected Official:

I'd like to express my support for the proposed Lakeview offleash dog park as a Grand Lake homeowner, tax payer and patron of the many small business and restaurants along lower Grand and Lakeshore Avenues and the Lakepark strip.

Others have stated the community and business benefits better than I. Pedestrian traffic, enhanced safety, human and dog socialization are just a few of the benefits of a dog park.

I'd like to make a few points which have not been reflected on the ongoing discussions online:

1. The area in question is indeed covered by poop (i.e., animal feces). Close observation, however, reveals it to be mostly GEESE POOP, not dog poop. Geese and other migratory species have been found to carry avian flu and many viral and parasitical infections. I have witnessed children picking up geese poop near Astro Park and placing it in their mouths. The extra dog and human presence may curtail geese, duck and loon activity in the area and redirect these birds to the sanctuary area, reducing the large amount of their feces now strewn on the grass, and thus reducing a public health risk, especially to children.

2. The City of Piedmont run three dog parks for as long as I can remember. These parks are either next to schools or in very close proximity to schools. There have been virtually no recorded incidents of child/dog problems. Real estate agents routinely trumpet the virtues of Piedmont schools and dog parks in their advertising. Piedmont parents welcome the dog parks and are in no way less responsible parents than those supposedly threatened by the Lakeway dog park.

The argument that Piedmont residents may be more responsible dog owners than Oakland residents, although widely voiced by opponents to the Lakeview facility, is fallacious, since a very large number of users of Piedmont parks are indeed Oakland residents.

3. Dog owning is a FULLY TAXABLE activity - dog owners spend a lot of their hard earned money for their dogs's welfare. Since almost one dollar out of every ten dollars spent on dogs goes directly to the city and state coffers, dog owners deserve at least as much regard as frisbee or soccer aficionados.

4. The argument "We'd love a dog park, but not here" is hypocritical. Reading further down the posts that start that way, it is obvious that the posters would not welcome a dog park anywhere else within a practicable distance of the proposed park.

5. The argument "all those nasty pit bulls and their criminal owners" besides obvious racist overtones, ignores the fact that dog owners are very good at policing dog parks themselves and they are usually carrying cell phones to report any incident.

6. Although I do not intend to use the dog park often myself (I have a large backyard and my dog welcomes visitors daily - also the Piedmont dog parks are much closer to my house). I support my friends that really need this facility and I think that after the owner spent a hard day at work, their poor pooch deserves some fun for patiently waiting for their taxpayer human all day

I switched my vote at the last minute when an elected official brought Trader Joe to the area, and I don't even shop at TJ. Likewise, if I don't perceive that my elected officials support wholeheartedly this issue, I may not feel they deserve my support for anything else.

From: Ekker, Carole [cekker@orrick.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 12:13 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

I am writing to let you know of my support for the Lakeview Dog Play Area, currently being considered. Please please please do everything you can to approve this and other areas where we, the residents of Oakland, can take our dogs! The streets aren't safe, the least you can do is give us a place to gather with our pets rather than walking the streets and putting ourselves at risk.

Thank you,
Carole M. Ekker
Oakland Resident

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From: Adam Roberts [adarob@eecs.berkeley.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:30 AM

To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please Support the Astro Park Dog Play Area!

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to ask you to continue the progress that has been made towards building a dog park in Astro Park. As a resident of Adam's Point, I am forced to break the law by walking my dog on the paths around Lake Merritt or drive elsewhere so that he can get exercise. I am not alone in this as I see and talk to MANY MANY dog owners who are forced to make the same choices. I was very glad to hear that a dog park was being built, but dismayed to find that there were some people fighting against it. What upsets me even more is that these people (at least those I have talked to) tend to be property owners who have their own space to walk their pets. It is not right for them to take away the space won by others through public processes simply because they see no benefit for themselves. The reasons they advertise for fighting this park are non-sensical because they wish to hide the real reason. However, I discussed the issue with a man handing out fliers in the neighborhood who told me the truth: He said that he and his neighbors on the hill are worried about attracting "people" to the area and lowering their property values. Aside from the obvious fact that property values will likely increase when the park is built, I was taken aback by the fact that these people wish to isolate themselves in the center of a large city. If we want to build a community that values the people who live around us and share our resources, we need to support projects like this dog park. I hope you agree.

Regards,

Adam Roberts
Graduate Student
Department of Computer Science
UC Berkeley
From: leal charonnat [lealcharonnat@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 10:36 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat; Gerard, Jennie
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area = Community Meeting - *clap clap clap clap clap clap

Thanks all for such a great meeting - so much positive energy...no really!!

Am looking forward to the notes taken (apologize for not taking a photo of those pages at the meeting....could have digitized and OCR it...ok)

If you need assistance just turning those large sheets into a more compact form you can share with constituents...well. let me know...I am willing to assist on just a 'transcribe basis' so you are able to share as you see fit.

ok best and such good coordinated work

leal

ps - i really think "dogs" are a great healing energy...and - just my feeling - will help the community find its center. ok...

---sent from my Palm Pre

From: Michele Posner [posnerm@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:51 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support Lake Merritt dog park

Councilmember Kernighan,

I'm writing to send my vote of support for a dog park in Lake Merritt.

As a resident of the Grand Lake and Adams Point neighborhoods for the past 8 years, I feel this would be a a fantastic use of our green spaces and a much needed addition to the neighborhood.

Thanks for listening,
Michele Posner
Grand Lake Resident

From: Eileen Haas [eileenhaas@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 4:50 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: New dog play area (dog park) near Lakeview Library

Hi Pat,

As a former dog owner and dog lover, I applaud any efforts to establish a safe, protected area where dogs can play with each other off leash and residents can walk around nearby without feeling threatened. One suggestion: have separate play areas for large dogs and small dogs, as the former can often attack the latter without warning.

Sincerely,
Eileen Haas (a Crocker Highlands resident)

From: ralph@computermaven.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; rkaplan@oaklandet.com; Office of the Mayor; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: dog park support

We live off Moraga and enjoy time with our child at Lake Merritt for the Farmers Market, eating out and, of course the tot lot. A fenced dog park would be a dandy addition to the park. Ralp Morewitz
From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 3:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Support for Lake Merritt Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: ziskadelic@gmail.com [mailto:ziskadelic@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Ziska Maria West
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:24 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy

Subject: Support for Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Nadel,

I am writing to you today to show my support for the Lake Merritt dog park. I am a long time resident of Lake Merritt and live right off of Lakeshore on Wayne Avenue. I sincerely hope that you will not let a small number of misguided citizens get in the way of this development that will significantly benefit our neighborhood, community, and city overall. Being in walking distance of a safe and secure place where my family can take our dog is extremely important and this park would certainly fill a neighborhood void for dog owners who are not allowed to walk our pets along the lake. This park would in no way limit the use of the space around the lake for other citizens given that individuals are welcome to meet, congregate, and play sports in any number of the many grass and open spaces all along the lake, especially with the plans for the renovation of the canal along the downtown side of the lake. As a resident who passes by the proposed location many times each day, I know that it is very rare that this space is in use at all, and certainly never in a way that would not still be possible next to the proposed park space. As a council member I urge you to think about all residents and our varied needs and understand that this park is critical to the needs of families like mine who currently have no safe space to exercise our dogs within walking distance of our homes. This matter will both influence my future voting as well as my family's decision to stay in the neighborhood and will be looking to see how you choose to handle this situation in the hopes that you will see the importance of balancing public space for all your constituents.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Ziska West

333 Wayne Ave
Oakland, CA 94606
From: ziskadelic@gmail.com on behalf of Ziska Maria West [ziskawest@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Support for Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I am writing to you today to show my support for the Lake Merritt dog park. I am a long time resident of Lake Merritt and live right off of Lakeshore on Wayne Avenue. I sincerely hope that you will not let a small number of misguided citizens get in the way of this development that will significantly benefit our neighborhood, community, and city overall. Being in walking distance of a safe and secure place where my family can take our dog is extremely important and this park would certainly fill a neighborhood void for dog owners who are not allowed to walk our pets along the lake. This park would in no way limit the use of the space around the lake for other citizens given that individuals are welcome to meet, congregate, and play sports in any number of the many grass and open spaces all along the lake, especially with the plans for the renovation of the canal along the

downtown side of the lake. As a resident who passes by the proposed location many times each day, I know that it is very rare that this space is in use at all, and certainly never in a way that would not still be possible next to the proposed park space. As a council member I urge you to think about all residents and our varied needs and understand that this park is critical to the needs of families like mine who currently have no safe space to exercise our dogs within walking distance of our homes. This matter will both influence my future voting as well as my family's decision to stay in the neighborhood and will be looking to see how you choose to handle this situation in the hopes that you will see the importance of balancing public space for all your constituents.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Ziska West

333 Wayne Ave
Oakland, CA 94606
From: Evan Hirabayashi [ehirabay@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:30 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: SAVE ASTRO PARK!

Hi Pat,

My name is Evan Hirabayashi and I work at Berry & Berry Law firm located at 2930 Lakeshore Avenue. I also live in the neighborhood on Boulevard Way. Let me be clear, I am not a dog hater and have nothing against dog parks but this proposed dog park in Astro Park simply DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. Nothing about it makes sense. Along with Lake Merritt, Astro Park is one of the crown jewels of oakland. It is a spot to sunbathe, toss a Frisbee or play a game of soccer or volleyball. It is NOT an ideal space for a dog park.

From a business/neighborhood standpoint, I don't appreciate the fact that nobody has even been notified of this proposed dog park. There is a high school down the street from us behind the church - Bayhill High School. I know that they use Astro Park for their PE activities and flag football games during the spring and summer. Have they even been notified? What will they do?

Aside from the increased traffic, I think most can agree that Grand Lake Farmer's Market has been a great success. It attracts many people to the area and as a result the local businesses on Grand and Lakeshore have benefitted and has completely revived that entire area on the weekends. And to think that Oakland Dog Owners Group originally wanted to turn that area into a dog park as well! It just doesn't make sense!

Best regards,

- Evan Hirabayashi

From: lailan sandra huen [lailan.huen@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:55 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Gerard, Jennie; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Councilmembers & Staff,

I'm writing in support of the Lake Merritt dog park as a D2 East Lake homeowner, and a dog owner.

I understand the process has taken 8 years to get resident input and approval through the parks, and believe this process should be respected. I myself participated in a resident survey conducted by Councilmember Kernighan last year.

I wish that I didn't have to go to Alameda, Berkeley and Albany so often to play ball with my dog and hope that we can build more parks in Oakland that families can use and enjoy to build community.

Thanks for your work on this issue.

Lailan Huen
2222 9th Avenue

From: Cascade Heights [hausrat911@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 7:01 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Dog park

I live at 658 Hillgirt Circle and am on the fence about attending tonight's meeting. I very much want to see a dog park somewhere in Oakland Lake Merritt area. I am not overly fond of the current proposed location and would prefer seeing an unimproved area improved for a dog park rather than an area in use being changed. However, I do believe that access to a dog park will help our neighborhood and strongly believe that the negative arguments against this site, and against dog parks here in general ARE COMPLETELY BOGUS

--
Signed, Cheska

"If it came from a plant, eat it; if it was made in a plant, don't." (Michael Pollan)

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:58 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

----- Original Message -----
From: Matt Paduano <mpaduano@yahoo.com>

To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Sent: Tue Mar 22 21:25:31 2011
Subject: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

Sent from my iPhone
From: Matt Paduano [mpaduano@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:26 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Subject: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

Sent from my iPhone
From: glassgardener@juno.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 7:44 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Hello!

I am unable to make it to the meeting tomorrow night to show my support for a dog park at Lake Merritt. I live within walking distance of the Lake and feel that people with dogs in the area well deserve the space to run their dogs. A dog park is a place of community for those who use it - a meeting place for people of a variety of backgrounds who share in common their love of dogs. I hope you will support the initiative to have a dog park near Lake Merritt.

With best wishes,

Kim

Kim Webster
www.kwebsterglass.com
www.sniffthemovie.com
Cell: (510) 409-8727

From: Carol Nyhoff [cnyhoff@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:48 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park

Hi Pat,
I support a dog park in the Lakeview area. It is suitable for urban dwelling dogs whose owners may not be able to take them on daily trips to the bayside parks such as Pt. Isabel.

Dogs need socialization and play time, given that they are pack animals. They generally do BETTER having exposure to other dogs. And of course, there is always the potential for Romance, among dog owners.All those Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler movies must have been made based on reality, right?

Dog is man's best friend. What the worried world needs now is more wag and less sag.
Let's hear it for the good folks who are trying to bring a green idea closer to those dogs who live in the city.

Sincerely,

Carol Nyhoff
From: Edie Murphy [chayarivka@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 5:37 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I voted years ago for the Lake Merritt dog park and supposedly it passed. It has been disappointing that it has never happened, and now I've just learned that it is being stalled AGAIN. We dog owners are being discriminated against. Dogs need room to run, and there just isn't much of that space available in this city. Now I have to take my dog in the car (and burn fossil fuel) in order to get her some real exercise. I have arthritis and I can't walk nearly as far as my dog wants to. My dog Shoola is a sweet 11 year old yellow lab. She makes me feel safe to walk in my neighborhood at night around Lake Merritt since I'm a single woman and I'm aware of the violence against women that has been happening in the Lake Merritt area in the last seven months.

Please support the dog park. We have so few areas to go. We dog owners pay taxes and vote too. I will support you in your next election if you support Oakland's dog owner rights, and not if you don't. It's as simple as that.

Edie Murphy, PT
www.HandsOnPT.com
Cell 510-599-3345
From: Stephen Day [steve@stephendaydesign.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 4:46 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeshore dog area

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I will not be able to attend the community meeting about the dog play area at Lakeshore and MacArthur, but I would like to take this chance to voice my overwhelming support for this project. As home and business owner in the East Lake neighborhood and responsible dog owner, I think this will be a great addition. I intend to use this play area frequently, once built, and will happily do my part to help maintain it.

Thank you,
Steve Day

Stephen Day Design
1148 E. 18th St. #9
Oakland, Ca 94606

510.499.3687 - mobile

www.stephendaydesign.com

From: Susan Schulman [susanschulman60@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: RE: Lake merrit Dog Park Yes!

Hi Pat,

I live in Rockbridge and would be driving to park or bicycling. I have a special (safe) dog hitch for my bicycle.

Thanks you for your hard work,

Susan

From: Kernighan, Pat [mailto:PKernighan@oaklandnet.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 16:38
To: susanschulman60@comcast.net
Subject: Re: Lake merrit Dog Park Yes!

Susan,

Thanks for writing. I am also trying to assess how many people live close enough to walk to the site and how many would need to drive. Would you tell me what neighborhood you live in?
Thanks,

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA. 94612
510-238-7002
www.patkernighan.com

From: Susan Schulman <susanschulman60@comcast.net>
To: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Mon Mar 21 16:22:31 2011
Subject: Lake merrit Dog Park Yes!

Hi Ms. Kerninghan,

I would like to let you know that I think having a dog park at the Lake Merritt site is a wonderful thing. I am a dog owner and my dog needs places where he can run without a leash. And he needs to be able to play with other dogs.

Currently I use the Hardy dog park which is adjacent to a children's swing area and there has never been a conflict between the two activities. Though I use the Hardy dog park it would be lovely to have another, closer park in the Lake Merritt area.

Thanks you for your attention,

Susan Schulman, Oakland Resident

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:48 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: the ellen [mailto:ellenrocs@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:45 PM
To: Ellen Gierson
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Members of the Oakland City Council and Jean:

I am once again writing to you to let you know that I am in favor of the proposed dog park at Lake Merritt.
Presently dogs are not allowed anywhere at Lake Merritt. It is high time that dog owners get a decent park, not under a freeway,
to exercise and socialize our dogs, as well as meeting and socializing with other dog owners.
This dog park had been approved and now I find that it is again up for approval. What gives?
The planned area for the dog park is a good compromise for all of us. I believe that it does not take away from
any of the activities already ongoing there. Dog owners deserve to have a park here at the Lake. And it is high time that you, our
representatives allow this small park to be built. Thank you for your vote on this important dog friendly area for our pets.
I am so tired of dragging over to the Alameda dog park, where I spend lots of money while there, because they have a really great
dog park! Oh, for Oakland to be so attentive to dog owners needs!

Thank you,
Ellen Gierson

A big Oakland booster!
From: Arnone, Kim Y. [karnone@buchalter.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:56 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Support for Lake Merritt Dog Park

Councilwoman Kernighan,

I am a resident of Crocker Highlands and have always been a big supporter of you and your efforts on behalf of our neighborhood. I wanted you to know that I vote and I am an ardent supporter of an off leash dog park at Lake Merritt and hope that you support it too. I have read that the general feeling is that the residents east of the lake are not in favor of the dog park. That is not my feeling nor the feeling of my neighbors with whom I have spoken. We desperately need an off leash space in/near our neighborhood and such a space for our furry family members. And the park would benefit the Lakeshore Homes Association too, which is always struggling with dog owners who are desperate, ignore the rules and let their dogs off leash in the neighborhood parks. Having an off leash area would reduce the amount of off-leash rule breaking that goes on in my neighborhood parks. I know that there is a vocal group that is always opposed to public space dedicated to pets and their owners and I know that not all of my neighbors like dogs. However, the solution is not to oppose dog parks in the neighborhood because that won't stop pet owners from having dogs, it will only limit where we can take our pets and how happy and well-adjusted are pets can be. I hope to make it to the meeting tomorrow night to provide my views in person but wanted to take the time to let you know my position via email.

Please feel free to contact me.

Kim Arnone
1221 Trestle Glen Road

Kim Y. Arnone | Senior Counsel | BuchalterNemer, A Professional Law Corporation | 333 Market Street, 25th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94105-2126 | Direct Dial: 415.227.3577 | Main: 415.227.0900 | Fax: 415.227.0770 | karnone@buchalter.com | www.buchalter.com <http://www.buchalter.com/>

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From: Gerry Johnson [gerryj56@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 10:45 AM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Attachments: Roo Cutout 2.jpg

Dear Council Members,

My dog, Rasta Roo and I walk 5 miles from West Oakland along with other neighbors to bring our dogs to play in this area. It brings the families of Oakland together...happiness to children of all ages. The Alameda dog park has been working for years. I have run into people from Emeryville with their dogs...something really needs to be done.
--

Life is too short to be unhappy, find the love and joy in all things in life daily ~ gaj

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?????

nam myoho renge kyo

From: Karchmer, Joanne
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:14 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie
Subject: dog play area - in favor

Attachments: Karchmer, Joanne D.vcf

For the tally - Received a voicemail for Leslie Carson, D2 resident, who is a strong proponent for the Astro Park dog area. She frequently goes to Alameda and sees lots of people from Oakland there. She would love to have an a dog play area in her neighborhood. Phone: 590-8122

Joanne Karchmer

Council Aide to

Councilmember Pat Kernighan

City Hall, Second Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

510-238-7021

510-238-2296 (fax)

From: Gene Brtalik [csegene@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: gene@corrigansports.com; Lin, Sarah D2
Subject: Re: Reminder: Oakland Running Festival Press Conference This Thursday

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

Thanks for your well wishes.

Gene

On 3/21/2011 4:13 PM, Kernighan, Pat wrote:

Dear Mr Brtalik,

Thanks for the invitation, but I have a conflicting obligation on Thursday. I do plan on participating in some of the festivities this weekend.

Best wishes with everything and thank you for holding this festival in Oakland.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA. 94612
510-238-7002
www.patkernighan.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Gene Brtalik <mailto:csegene@gmail.com> <csegene@gmail.com>
To: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Mon Mar 21 10:17:19 2011
Subject: Reminder: Oakland Running Festival Press Conference This Thursday

Dear Councilmember,

This email serves as a reminder that the press conference for the Second Annual Oakland Running Festival will take place this Thursday, March 24 at 11 a.m. at the Waterfront Hotel's Spinnaker Room. Lunch will be served afterward. If you are interested in attending please call 410-900-8380. I hope to see you there.

--
Gene Brtalik
Event Director, Oakland Running Festival
Corrigan Sports
510-371-5273
www.oaklandmarathon.com

--

Gene Brtalik

Event Director, Oakland Running Festival

Corrigan Sports

510-371-5273

www.oaklandmarathon.com
From: Robert Marcial [rmarcial@pacbell.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 8:19 AM
To: Office of the Mayor; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park Support

Dear Pat...

I'll keep this very short.

I'd like to voice my support for a dog park near the Lakeshore farmer's market. I'd also encourage you to not be swayed by a "loud" few who claim that the dog park will take up valuable green space and that it will lead to "attacks". Those claims are exaggerated, if not false. A soccer field, playground, and appropriately-sized dog park can certainly co-exist if we take the time and effort to do it right. I trust that you will support a proud resident of this neighborhood.

Thank you.

Robert Marcial
Capell Street
From: vale.la.pena.leer@gmail.com on behalf of Susan Quinlan [susan@baypeace.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 6:32 AM
To: Riley, Dana; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Support Lake Merritt Dog Park!

Friends,
We've been waiting ten years for a small area where dogs and their people can play off leash near Lake Merritt. The space designated for the Lake Merritt Dog Park is small enough that it will not detract from the other uses that people enjoy around Astro Park. Please, I raised my kids at that park and appreciate the sports that go on there, but surely there is room for our dogs as well.
Sincerely,
Susan Quinlan

From: Holly Lim [hollyrlim@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 10:43 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please Approve Dog Park

Dear Councilwoman Kernighan,

My name is Holly Lim, and I am a 4 year resident in District 2 (zip code 94606). I have been voting ever since I legally could since 2009, and I have faith in you because your office has helped me with issues I've had with the city in the past.

I am emailing to ask you to please approve the building of the dog park as approved. I understand that public meetings and public approvals have taken 8 years, and the time for the dog park is now. Please do not go back on the democratic process, and please give dog owners and their dogs a space that they can call their own!

Thanks for your time, and I appreciate your work on this issue.

Sincerely,
Holly Lim

From: Jenna Whitman [jenna_whitman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:24 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Support for Proposed Dog Park at Lake Merritt

Dear Members of the Oakland City Council and Mayor Quan:

I have lived in Oakland off an on (but mostly on) since 2004, and worked near the Lake since 2007. I live - with my dog - only two blocks from the Lake.

I walk on the lake at least twice a day with my dog, and I jog the full perimeter of the lake 3 or 4 times per week (also with my dog). The Lake and its surrounds are an amazing outdoor resource for all of our citizens. I never let my dog off leash at the park, and I always pick up after my dog. I agree that the Lake should be carefully preserved and the wildlife protected, while taking into account the competing needs and desires of different residents and users.

I support the establishment of a dog park at or near the Lake, for a number of reasons.

(1) The Lake is an urban area. Few people who live here have yards that their dogs can run around in and play fetch, etc. If we want to let our dogs run and play with other dogs (which is best for socialization and safety), we currently have to drive to off leash dog parks at least 2 miles away, usually further. Having off-leash space at the park would increase quality of life for resident dog owners, and it would reduce our stress, reduce Oakland traffic, and result in fewer auto emissions.

(2) I understand that the proposed site would take up only a small fraction of the open space around the Lake (a half acre of 155 acres of open space around the Lake). Thus, humans and wildlife would have to give up very little space.

(3) Having an off leash area would be good for the birds. Lake Merritt is one of the oldest nature conservation areas in the U.S., if not the oldest, and a bird sanctuary. I love walking around the lake and watching the cormorants, coots, egrets, herons, ducks, geese, etc. Unfortunately, some dog owners are not respecting the wildlife and are letting their dogs run off leash here, which can result in serious injury to the birds and annoyance of humans. There is no excuse for their illegal behavior, and I usually confront these people and ask them to leash their dogs. But it would be so much easier if we could say: "Look, there's a designated area for dogs just around the corner. Please use it." Having a designated dog area is more compatible with the wildlife refuge purpose of the Lake, not less compatible (as opponents claim).

(4) Of the open space in and around Oakland, the vast majority of trails do not have off leash space for dogs, and many trails/areas do not allow dogs at all. On the other hand, there are plenty of outdoor spaces where people who do not want to see dogs can enjoy nature, jog, and exercise (including around the Lake).

I've seen some people opposing the park online. The only argument that seems to have any merit is that local residents are currently use Astro Park to play soccer and volleyball. As a former soccer player myself, I'm not sure if organized children's teams should be playing soccer on non-regulation fields. The Oakland Parks website says that there are 52 athletic fields available for rent in Oakland, including regulation soccer fields at San Antonio Park, which is not far, and junior soccer fields at Shepherd Canyon. There are also other, informal spaces nearby, like Snow Park (which is used daily by local schools for student physical education) and multi-purpose fields as local elementary schools, which might be accessible to residents, as well.

If you decide not to let the dog park go forward in the current proposed location, please don't abandon the plans altogether. Snow Park would not be a bad alternative, in my view, for a dog park by the Lake.

Sincerely,
Jenna Whitman
1570 Jackson St. #401
Oakland, CA 94612

From: Amy Reber [amy_reber@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:20 PM
To: Office of the Mayor; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Support for the Lake Merritt Dog Park

Good afternoon Council Members,
I am writing to add my support for the new dog park in the Lake Merritt area.

I've lived in the Adams Point neighborhood, next to the lake, for the last ten years. For eight of those I was not a dog owner. For the last two I have owned my own dog. I would support the new dog park whether or not I owned my own dog!

A dog park in the area is urgently needed because:

* Dog owners need an area where it is legal to walk their dogs. The area around the lake is technically off limits for dogs. Although they are tolerated there on leash.
* We need an area where the thousands of dogs who live in the Lake Merritt area can spend some time running off leash. I watched a woman let her dog run up and kill a goose one day. She was allowing her dog to roam off leash in the bird sanctuary. I reported the bird's death to the head naturalist at the bird sanctuary office. If there were a place where this woman could have taken her dog off leash at the lake, her dog may not have killed the bird.
* As I'm sure you know, Lake Merritt was the first wildlife preserve in North America. We need a separate area for dogs away from the Lake Merritt wildlife.

There is plenty of space for walkers, bikers, and runners around the lake, but there is no sanctioned area for people to walk their dogs. And definitely no place for dogs to run off leash!

Thank you so much for considering adding your support to the Lake Merritt dog park proposal. The area is GREATLY needed!

Sincerely,
Amy Reber

From: Zee Wong [zwong8@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 8:12 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Support Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Council Member Pat Kernighan,
I am informing you that I support having Lakeview Dog Play Area. It is important that
there is a venue where our diverse community can bring their dogs to socialize with
other dogs. In addition, it gives people an opportunity to meet others. Thank you
for your support.

Sincerely,
Zee Wong

--
CONTACT INFORMATION:

Zee Wong
PO Box 11363
Piedmont, CA 94611-0363

(510) 479-3999 CELL
zwong8@gmail.com

From: Lesli Zephyr [dogspirit@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 4:25 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

As a woman with a dog in her home, I say we need more places for dogs. Walking a dog on leash around the lake does nothing for their exercise, well being, or spirit. Dogs need to run and play.
We need a park. Many people cannot get to Point Isabel. A dog park where people, and their dogs, can congregate on a regular basis is the very essence of community.
How better to know your neighbor? How better to drastically reduce overly aggressive dog behavior? More and more spaces are prohibiting off leash for dogs, where can they go?

We are all not fortunate enough to have a large backyard, or any back yard for the matter.

We need a park, and we need it now.

Lesli Zephyr
Oakland Resident 94602
From: Susan Schulman [susanschulman60@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 4:23 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake merrit Dog Park Yes!

Hi Ms. Kerninghan,

I would like to let you know that I think having a dog park at the Lake Merritt site is a wonderful thing. I am a dog owner and my dog needs places where he can run without a leash. And he needs to be able to play with other dogs.

Currently I use the Hardy dog park which is adjacent to a children's swing area and there has never been a conflict between the two activities. Though I use the Hardy dog park it would be lovely to have another, closer park in the Lake Merritt area.

Thanks you for your attention,

Susan Schulman, Oakland Resident

From: jernlight@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 3:26 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: support FOR dog park in Lake Merritt

Please support the dog park that's been in the works for 10 years! I've lived by Lake Merritt for 15 years and waited it's been one thing after another. I have 3 dogs and will use it daily. Dogs are allowed no where on LM park land and making a small part available to pets is NOT too much to ask. Please support so many people's efforts over the years and make this a reality.

Barbaree Jernigan
658 Brooklyn Ave
Oakland, CA 94606
From: Karchmer, Joanne
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 3:09 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie
Subject: dog park - phone call

Attachments: Karchmer, Joanne D.vcf

I wanted to pass this in for the tally. I spoke to Susan Oldershaw, China Hill resident. She is a strong proponent of the dog are in the proposed location. She will attend the Wed. meeting.

Joanne Karchmer

Council Aide to

Councilmember Pat Kernighan

City Hall, Second Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

510-238-7021

510-238-2296 (fax)

From: Julie Clemens [julie.clemens@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 3:02 PM

To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Cc: Emily Rosenberg
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merritt

Honorable Leaders of Oakland:
I am writing in affirmation of the proposed fenced off-leash dog play area in Lake Merritt Park (Lakeview) and urge your support of this project.

As Councilwoman Nadel knows, I was involved at the community level in the conceptualization, advocacy, and WOPAC grant writing for the new dog park at Grove Shafter Park. In the brief time that the park has been open, the area has been re-vitalized by the number of dogs and their guardians who are benefitting from this investment.

The guardians of companion animals seem to have to work especially hard to advocate for the rights of animals, and this park, 10 years in the making, is no exception. We are also voting, tax-paying, civic minded members of the community. Why do we need to advocate for our fair share of open space? Off leash dog areas are essential to socializing dogs and make them much better neighbors! As dog guardians, we provide a service to the community-at-large through adoptions, awareness, advocacy and education. The community of dog guardians have proven themselves to be collaborative, cooperative, and civic minded.

There have been many misconceptions recently spread about dogs, their guardians, noise and dog waste, perhaps by under-informed members of the community who do not have dogs in their households.

The community of dog guardians do an excellent job of "policing" themselves and each other when in designated parks. The challenge that all of us face is sufficient space in which to foster responsible pet guardianship. Neighborhood based dog parks provide the same benefits as open space for children and adults alike. Rather than adding to the road congestion and air pollution, most people walk their dogs when when local parks are available.

I urge you to support this cause, and the many years and volunteer hours that have already been invested in this effort, and allow the greatly needed dog park at Lake Merritt to move forward once and for all.

Respectfully,
Julie Clemens
683 35th Street
Oakland, 94609

From: elanaabeles@gmail.com on behalf of sparktakis@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 2:22 PM
To: S. Partakis
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Oakland members,

I am writing in support of the proposed dog play area at Lakeview Park in the Lake Merritt area of Oakland.

I have been a resident of the Lake Merritt neighborhood for almost 12 years. Our neighborhood has been greatly in need of open recreational space for dogs. The entire greenbelt around the lake, and most of all Oakland parks are off limits to all dogs, whether on leash or not, and it is time that they are included in the ability to have recreational space.

Urban dog owners are responsible and reasonable people, dedicated to maintaining their status as respected members of the community. The proposed dog play area at the MacArthur/Lakeshore area is an option that has been on the table for many years, and I honestly believe that many of the issues that are brought up by people opposed to the park would be negligible if the park were finally built.

Dog owners near the Lake deserve to access to Lake Merritt park space on this tiny percentage of land. Being on the end of a leash is a completely different environment for a dog, and the more places for dogs to meet on their own turf creates a neutral environment that greatly reduces the risk of an encounter that many deem aggressive.

Lakeview Park will still have room for the current users. The proposed dog area leaves a lot of prime space for soccer players, volleyball enthusiasts, Frisbee games, and the like. There are NO areas currently in the lake park that dogs are even allowed to romp, when the entire park is totally free for all other sorts of recreation.

Ten years is too long to wait for a basic amenity needed by hundreds of households. The neighborhood is home to many many apartment and condo style houses, homes which do not have a yard for dogs to be in, and being on the end of a leash does not allow for any social interaction.

Social interaction among other dogs and exercise is a basic necessity that encourages well behaved dogs, and this can not happen when they are restricted to a paved sidewalk.

The dog park doesn't change view of the Lake, despite what opponents say. It will be minimally visually invasive, and in fact be a great addition to the scenery and livelihood of the area. Children love to watch dogs play, and who doesn't love to see someone happy and enjoying themselves?

Thanks so much for helping maintain a happy and safe community!

Concerned dog owner,
Sarah Partakis

From: Carole Levenson [carolesl@jps.net]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Dog Park at Astro Park

Dear All,
My dog Sasha and I have been waiting over eight years, very patiently, for this park. We (I) sat through many meetings, jumped through many hoops, and thought all approvals were in order and all parties were on board.
I am dismayed that there now seems to be a snag in the plans.

By law, Sasha and my fellow neighbor dogs are not allowed into the park

at Lake Merritt. We try to be good citizens, pick up after our pets, obey the rules. We dog owners who are property owners have paid our property taxes along with other park user/property owners, yet we are excluded from using and enjoying the parks with our animal companions. Our plea for a small corner of Astro Park, practically under the freeway, should not be too much to ask.

Due to prior commitments, I will not be able to attend the meetings on this issue, but I would like my voice to be weighed in favor of the dog park. In my neighborhood (APAC) on line newsletter, I have not seen opposition to this park, and I do not know from where the opposition to this park arose. It is something many of us have been patiently awaiting for many years.

Thank you for your consideration.
Carole Levenson
Bellevue / Staten

From: Leena Mehta [leena@catchwordbranding.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 10:31 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: I SUPPORT THE LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA

Please allow it to happen.

Leena Sikka

From: Ellis Lighthall [ellisaz674@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:59 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Owners: Lake Merritt Dog Play Area Needs Your Help! (oakland lake merritt / grand)

Dog Owners: Lake Merritt Dog Play Area Needs Your Help! (oakland lake merritt / grand)

www.thebartertown.net <http://www.thebartertown.net/free-classifieds-7/>

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:35 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: Lakeview Dog Park

From: Y. Takata <ytakata@pacbell.net>
To: Nadel, Nancy

Sent: Mon Mar 21 09:26:43 2011
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

Hi Nancy:

I live in the Grand Lake area and am hopeful that a dog park can be created at the intersection of Macarthur and Lakeshore.

Having previously been a part of other communities that have dog parks, I can say from experience that the dog park fosters community cohesion. It's odd, but dogs often connect people in ways that having children does not. I can't explain it, but it's true.

Please support the building of the dog park.

Thanks

yt

From: Terrance_Lee@amat.com
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:13 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Cc: odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lakeview Dog play area

Folks
I am writing in support of the proposed Dog Park at Lakeview (corner of MacArthur and Lakeshore Ave). I am a resident of the Haddon Hill area and a dog owner. I frequently run my dog around the lake to get him exercise. When I can't I take him to other dog parks. Unfortunately there isn't one in my neighborhood. More often, I then take him in my car and then run errands which leads us out of town (pt isabel/costo, emeryville/target, etc). I want you to understand that dog parks bring a greater sense of community as people can see a more rested, tired out dog with a equally calm owner. Thanks for your support.

Regards
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From: Naveen Sikka [naveensikka@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:36 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor

Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

I am eager to have this happen. Thanks so much.
From: Leena Mehta [leenabmehta@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:14 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: PLEASE ALLOW THE LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA TO HAPPEN!

Thank you!

Leena Mehta

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:01 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: Lake Merritt Dog Park

From: Joanne Bussiere <jmbuss@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Sun Mar 20 19:36:33 2011
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Please allow this park to go through! Our dogs need this kind of space it is a great idea!

Off leash sites are so important in an urban environment.

Thank you for your support.

Joanne Bussiere
Oakland Resident

From: Larry J Platt [ljplatt@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 6:39 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: dog park

Pat:

For the past four years I have been looking forward to the construction of a dog park near Lake Merritt. I have been to a number of meetings where this has been discussed; Each time I have left and told my dog, Sam, the good news that it was going up come summer. Each year. and each year goes by with nothing built. Sam no longer pays attention to my optimistic news.

The Lake Merritt area has mostly apartments. Not many back yards for dogs to run in. Because of the high density of people, there are a lot of dogs. Most wishing for a place to run free and play.

The last meeting I was at where the plans were again reviewed and discussed was at the Garden Center. Everyone there (I would guess forty) except for one gentleman was in support of the plan, as was the Parks Board that called the meeting. Once again I left hopeful. I told Sam. Again.

And now, once again, the plan is being questioned. I, for one, don't get it.

The location is ideal; a barking dog (rare) would not disturb anyone, certainly no more than the constant highway noise. it is fairly central to the community. It is open and light. It would be nice if it were larger. It would be nice if it had a stream and woods. It would be nice if there were playthings for dogs to climb on and jump over. But, modest as it is, it would be a wonderful addition to the community's resources. It would not only be good for the dogs who have no other nearby (walkable) place to run off leash and play with other dogs; it would be good for the people living here. A dog park builds community, brings people together, gets them talking with one another.

I understand that there are people who don't like dogs. But they don't have to come to the dog park. Without the dog park, there is no place for dogs in the hood to go and enjoy being the pack animals they (and we) are born to be.

Please count me and Sam as two in favor of the park, the way overdue park.

Thanks.

Larry J Platt
Bellevue Avenue

From: Jay Knecht [jayknecht@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 2:19 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Subject: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

I would love a dog park in the proposed location, and would support it with my vote.

~Jay

From: liliana.sandoval.80@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 1:26 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Subject: Support for Lakeview Dog play area!!

Councilmembers:

As a relatively new resident of the Oakland/lakeshore area I am pleased to hear that a off leash dog play area is on its way. I relocated from San Diego County this past Summer and soon fell in love with my new home. I enjoy walking around the lake and seeing all the diversity in my community. I also am grateful to reside in such a dog friendly city.

Coming from southern california, I was used to having sprawling parks with at least one designated dog area wherever I went. I was surprised that Oakland had very limited dog areas (seeing as it seemed so dog friendly) and that they

weren't necessarily very close. I very recently brought my one year old dog to live with me and he loves meeting new doggies while walking around the lake. I know we would both love having an safe, friendly area close to our home for him to socialize with other dogs.

Please consider my support for the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

Liliana Sandoval
317 Hanover ave
Oakland, CA 94606
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry
From: Anca Mosoiu [anca@anca.tv]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 9:45 AM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Support for the Lakeview Dog Play Area

Hello Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my support for the Lakeview Dog Play Area. Unfortunately I can't attend the neighborhood meeting on Wednesday to represent in person, so I thought I would write to add my voice to the people who support the idea.

I'm not a dog owner, but I support the Dog Park in this location because it would encourage even more use of this beautiful open space. Having taken my friends' dogs to the Piedmont dog park on Linda Avenue, I know that dog parks are great places for community members to meet and talk with each other. This can only be a benefit to our neighborhood, which includes a wide diversity of opinions and backgrounds among our populace.

I do expect that supporters of the dog park will ensure that the area is kept clean, and that dog owners will be responsible enough to keep their dogs from rampaging in the playground and biting unattended toddlers or their mothers - just as they currently do while walking or jogging around the lake.

Thanks for listening,

Anca.

-=-=-=-=-=-
Anca Mosoiu
373 Lester Ave
anca@anca.tv
(510) 220-6660
From: Sefora Janel Ray [sefora@templerising.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 6:52 PM
To: Riley, Dana; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Hello!

I am writing to encourage and plead for the new lake merritt dog park. There are less and less areas for dogs to gather off leash to be socialized. Dog parks provide crucial spaces for dogs to learn good behavior and burn energy so that they are good canine citicens. I know that may sound strange, but it is quite true. We really need this dog park, and it would be a great addition to the lake merritt area.

Thank you,

Sefora Ray

for more information about Sefora Janel Ray and Temple Rising, goto www.templerising.com

From: Alan Taylor [chenalan@pacbell.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 3:16 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog play area

Ms. Kernighan

I'm a District 2 resident (781 Brooklyn) and I support the construction of the "Astro Park" dog play area.

Juliette Chen
From: Thomas Thurston [tmthurston@msn.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:26 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Councilmember Kernighan,

In a dog park, dogs learn to play nicely with other dogs and to encounter strangers safely. These make the dogs safer. Dogs that don't learn to play are more likely to more likely to be aggressive when they feel insecure. Also, in dog parks, children can learn to interact safely with dogs. In East Oakland I find that children often interact fearfully or naively with dogs. Both of these behaviors could put them in danger.

However, dog parks are mostly about joy. The joy that dogs experience in playing with one another spreads to the humans who watch them.

Tom Thurston
1924 41st Ave.
From: Betsy Baum Block [bets@bbaum.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 8:55 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Subject: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

as the subject says, I'm a strong supporter of the dog park at Lake Merritt.

Betsy Baum Block, MPP
(510) 982-6126 google voice

Sent from a mobile device, so please forgive brevity and typos!
From: Christine Chun [cmaylo1@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:32 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

In response to your request for comments on the dog park for your meeting next week, please consider that you have another family of supporters here. While there are options in the East Bay open to us, it would be an extremely nice community 'amenity' to be able to walk our dog to a nearby park and allow him exercise and socializing opportunity. It's enclosed so would not pose a safety concern for anyone nearby or for the dogs themselves to get out into the street.

What I love best about living in upper Lakeshore is that it's a community -- we can walk to breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We can stop by the post office, bank, shoe repair shop and hit the grocery and drug stores in one swoop. We can go on weekly outings to the farmer's market and take a walk around the lake. Not only do we love these things about our neighborhood, we love showing them off to our friends and family who visit. Having a dog park in walking distance would just be another community resource to be proud of.

Shorty thanks you in advance :)
Christine Chun
District 2 resident
From: Shelly Sparks [SSparks@afeconsult.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park/field near Astro Park and Lakeview Library

Attachments: image001.jpg

Here are my thoughts on the park…..

I have a dog and live on Lake Merritt. I would LOVE to have a nearby, off leash dog park (I assume it's off leash, otherwise what's the point?). However, I'm really concerned about the location. It's too high a traffic area and unlike Pt. Isabel for example, where drivers are cautious, drivers on Lake Merritt, especially near a freeway onramp, are not going to be cautious.

Assuming the dogs will be off leash, there's a risk for them getting out. There will be people who may leave the gate open or a dog will simply escape in the brief time it is open. Or, depending on the height of the fence, large dogs may jump it. Sure, these are problems we face all the time as dog owners. But a dog park is a different environment. It's harder to control the dog's reaction, especially when there's chaos. And traffic is the last thing I want to be thinking about.

That being said, I'm still open to it. I just need to see more on the design and layout. See you @ Wednesday's meeting.

Shelly Sparks | Accounting Manager

1999 Harrison Street Suite 2700 | Oakland CA 94612

ssparks@afeconsult.com
510 985 6890 (Direct)

510 985 6700 (Main)

510 301 6666 (Cell)

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From: Diana Sherman [diana.sherman@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 5:32 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: In support of the Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Councilmember Kernighan,

I am writing to encourage you to support the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

We are neighborhood residents who have long been frustrated by the fact that, although we live near one of Oakland's greatest assets, we cannot use any of the park space adjacent to Lake Merritt if our dog is with us. We were extremely excited to hear that the long-awaited dog park on the lake was finally moving forward---and then crushed to discover that, although advocates of this project have been reaching out to our neighborhood and working with the City on this project for years, opponents who have not been involved in this conversation at any of the review stages are suddenly coming out of the woodwork to oppose these years of work.

I understand that some residents are wary of dogs and dog play areas and feel that having dogs in this area will be detrimental to the adjacent parks and open spaces. As an owner of a large dog, I'm particularly cognizant of the need for families and neighbors to have spaces to play where they feel safe and do not feel threatened by dogs. And as a resident of this neighborhood, I'm very aware of how much a part of our community the Lake Merritt parks and open spaces are, and I want to continue being able to enjoy lounging on the lawn by the library when I'm there without my dog.

This is, in fact, exactly why it so critical that the Lakeview Dog Play Area be built, however. A safe, separate space for dogs to play is currently missing and desperately needed in this neighborhood. We are lucky to be so close to Lake Merritt, Lakeside Park, and the amenities that ring the lake---but dogs are not permitted in any of these areas, even on-leash, so we cannot walk our dog around the lake or bring him along on a trip to the playground. We are also fortunate to live close to the City of Piedmont with its many parks---but Oakland dogs are not permitted to play in the Piedmont dog parks without special licensing. This leaves very few options for dogs in our neighborhood, which is one of Oakland's densest, and thus has many homes with very tiny yards (or no yards at all). More often than not, people bring their dogs to play illegally near the lake or in our neighborhood parks. Others run their dogs on the grounds of our local schools in off-hours. We need to create an alternative space where dogs can play legally in our neighborhood.

The Lakeview Dog Play Area has been approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission twice. We have seen that dog parks can co-exist very well with nearby play facilities and park amenities in other parts of Oakland---Hardy Dog Park is immediately adjacent to an unfenced children's playground, and to get to Mosswood Dog Park, dogs walk through open space, sports fields and play areas as well. There are also some excellent examples in neighboring cities, as well: Ohlone Dog Park in Berkeley's Ohlone Park and the Dog Exercise Area in Alameda's Washington Park come to mind as spaces where landmark community parks have been shared and adapted to accommodate the needs of all residents.

Our neighborhood has been waiting for a dog park for many years, and the excitement has grown as we have watched Rockridge and Temescal open their respective dog parks. I respect that Lake Merritt is a citywide amenity and there are Oaklanders who would prefer to keep dogs out of the lake area entirely, but the reality is that this means that many of us who live in this neighborhood cannot use our local parks at all. Please honor the many years of work that so many residents have put into this project and keep this plan on track!

Sincerely,
Diana Sherman

From: Gerry Montmorency [gmontmorency@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 4:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Proposed off-leash dog play area @ McArthur/Lakeshore

Dear Pat,

I can certainly understand a split on this issue--same split we saw with our own Oak Grove park area going to leash only. Dogs generally display same manners as

their owners--and it is only a minority of bad dog owners that ruins it for the rest of us (whether a dog owner, on the fence about it, or just a plain cats-only fan)....

A big issue in this proposed off-leash dog area is parking. Is that going to add to already congested parking areas or just substitute off-leash dog owner's cars for those who may not show up now that the open-for-all area will be reduced in size?

Still seems like the under-highway parking across the street still has a significant mis-marking for permit spaces (many permit spaces remain empty during the day and could be used for local shopping purposes)--although it looks as though there has been an increase in 4 hour parking spaces since last year...

Hope to make the meeting Wed night--if not, looking forward to seeing you for lunch Thursday, 11:30 at Plum.

Gerry Montmorency
From: Bridget Galka [cacville@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 3:59 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: support the dog park

Hi Pat:

I will try to attend the community meeting to voice my support for the proposed dog park. If I can't attend meeting please know that I support the dog park.

Thanks for all that you do.

Bridget Galka
From: Greg Lewis [glewis@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 3:49 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park thoughts (PRO)

I plan on attending the meeting on Wednesday, but I wanted to voice my opinion on the record. I am PRO dog park, and I will make this quick:

* I live on Grand close to the Safeway, but I'm in the area where the proposed dog park would be very often, including weekly trips to the farmer's market. As much as I'd like to have a dog, the apartment I live in now doesn't allow it.
* I think this is a no-brainer:

* Despite what opponents argue, I don't think this would ruin our community's open space, but would rather enhance it. I've never seen any group of people use that corner of the park. This plan would allow the space to better suit the needs of the community.
* More people on the street is good for local businesses, and will create more of a demand to improve pedestrian safety in the area. More eyes also makes the area safer. All of these things will improve the quality of the neighborhood (which is already a great place to live).

Please don't let a handful of vocal NIMBYers stop ten years of planning in an attempt to make Grand Lake an even better place to live. I have reviewed the plan, and it appears well-designed and very much thought-through.

Thanks,

Greg Lewis
454 Weldon Ave
From: Terence Kissack [tersuki@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 2:30 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Support Dog Park (342 Elwood Ave, 94610)

Both my partner, Mark Coleman, and I support the building of a dog park as has been proposed.

best,
Terence Kissack
342 Elwood Ave.

From: Arlene Fischhoff [kabfmd@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 2:30 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park

LOVE the idea of a dog park in the neighborhood. Hope there's a small dog part associated with it.
Thanks, Arlene Fischhoff, MD
From: Paul E. Vidican [pvidican@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 2:08 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd

Dear Mayor Quan and Council members Kernighan, Nadel, and Kaplan,

I live near the Lake, I support this dog play area, and I will be at this meeting. My partner, too.

Thanks!
Paul Vidican.
From: Domenica [domenicadinkheller@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:46 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca
Cc: Office of the Mayor
Subject: COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library - I am PRO

Hi,

Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting but wanted to voice myself on behalf of my dog Kasper.

We both love to walk around Lake Merritt even though there is unfortunately no official doggy area. The location suggested does currently not even allow dogs. Every time we pass it's empty meaning it is not even used by people. The only

'people' that use it are the geese of Lake Merritt that poop everywhere and make it difficult to even walk that area because of all the poop they are leaving behind. I am sure a couple of playful dogs could solve this problem.

In summary

* Oakland has very few dog parks overall,
* The area suggested has not been used from anybody but the geese

I don't see any reason to not turn it into a dog park.

Regards

Domenica

From: Kathy Brown [kathy.brown.spes@gmail.com] on behalf of Kathy Brown [kbrown@spes.org]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:34 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: PLEASE build a dog park

I am not sure if I am going to be able to attend the next meeting, but I would like to really advise towards building the dog park.

I live in the Adams Point neighborhood. I love my neighborhood, but one thing I yearn for more is a neighborhood feel. My husband and I purchased our house 14 years ago. Because we are surrounded by apartments, we do not have a lot of contact with neighbors. Dogs bring people together! The space being sought after is currently used by few, and the dog park would create a community where the space would be used by many!

Our dog, Felton, would ask for the dog park too - but he does not know how to type.

Thanks for your consideration.

Kathy Brown
369 Adams Street
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Deidre Abrons [dabrons@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:20 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

I vote yes for the dog park! That space is barely used and there is nowhere near the Lake where your dog can be off leash. There is

nothing dangerous about a dog park, and this comes from a mom of 2 small children!
Deidre Abrons
From: Alan Taylor [chenalan@pacbell.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:24 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: re: dog park

Pat-

Thanks for setting up the meeting. I'm a District 2 resident, I have not commented through the listserve (CH Neighbors), but I'm in favor of the dog park in the location proposed.

Regards,

Alan Taylor
From: Denise Young [youngdenisej@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:12 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog play area

Thanks for sending the notice about the meeting. Just a few thoughts about my dog park experience.

Although we now have a backyard for our two dogs, for many years we did not. We lived in an SF victorian jammed between a block of victorians with small cement areas. There were no dedicated dog areas in our area and we had no car then. We keep our 50 lb dog on leash on the street and at Dolores Park in the Mission. When we finally got a car, we would drive out to Glen Park dog park or pay for Doggie Day Car when we could afford it. When we then moved near GG Park, the dog owners at the 38th Ave. dog park used to regularly mend the fence, mow the lawn and made benches and other fixtures for the space.

Dog play areas add to the quality of life for the whole community. Dog owners meet and get to know each other. Dogs are contained in a set area so that there is no danger to them with traffic or with frisky dogs bothering non-dog people. You have to have strict adherence to rules such as cleaning up after your pet and that an owner MUST be in the fenced area at all times supervising their dogs. Most dog people will go out of their way to keep up the area.

Denise Young
3787 Park Blvd. Way
From: Christie [conoda@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:09 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park near the Lakeview Library

Hi Pat,
I've been your constituent for 7 years and voted for you. I'm unable to attend the community meeting that you are hosting next week about the dog park. However, I would like to let you know that I fully support the dog park. I live in a condo building near the Rose Garden, and because I don't have a backyard I need to take my dog to parks to get fresh air. It would be great if we had a dog park near by to play at.

Thanks,
Christie Onoda
conoda@yahoo.com
From: Rick Wise [rickwise@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog area

Pat,

These plans look good to me. Possibly the run area for large dogs is a bit small. Also, is a 4' fence high enough for some of those leaping big guys?

Basically I would vote to go ahead with this even if expanding the area is not possible and raising the fence is not possible -- money and NIMBY opposition.

Best wishes,

Rick Wise
--
Rick Wise
Cinematographer
film and video
Instructor Academy of Art University
743 Calmar Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610
510-207-6672
http://RickWiseDP.com
http://www.linkedin.com/in/rwise
From: mjkealy1@aol.com
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:45 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

I pay a Significant amount of Property tax per year.

Give us the dog park.

Mary Joan Kealy
From: Alecia Kurey [aleciakurey@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 9:47 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park - View of a resident

To those involved in the Lake Merritt Dog Park

My husband and I love living in Oakland and spend a lot of our time enjoying what our community has to offer. We also love taking our dog with us about town into all the dog friendly shops and for walks around lake Merritt. I was

initially very excited to hear that there may be a dog park coming to the Lake Merritt area! Then I started reading about all the negativity surrounding this park and am downhearted that this plan may never be realized. I think it would be a true benefit to Lake Merritt and bring more of the community together as there are a large number of dog owners in the area and a shortage of decent dog parks.

I do agree that the area planned is a highly visible area and think the grass should stay with or without the dog park. Just because it is a dog park does not mean it needs to be unsightly. I am a big fan of dog parks but do not even bother with the ones with just wood chips as a surface area as these areas actually hurt dogs feet, don't handle odors well, and don't look as nice. My favorite parks currently are Hap Magee dog park in Danville and Heather Farm Dog park in Walnut Creek. The only downfall of these dog parks for me is their location as it takes a while to get to and from them from Oakland. It would be wonderful to have something similar in our neighborhood. As an example both of these dog parks offer a big and a small dog area, they also have trees, grass, benches, potty stations and water stations available to users. They are nice looking, functional and well regarded dog parks. If we bring a dog park into the lovely Lake Merritt area I hope it is not just a clod of fenced in dirt covered in wood chips. I hope more thought goes into it and it becomes another beautiful asset to the area that will be enjoyed for years to come. I would love to have a local dog park that I am proud to support. I hope the plan to put in this new dog park goes forward with the best interest of Lake Merritt as a whole.

Sincerely,

Alecia Kurey

From: Zona Sage [amazona777@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 9:37 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merrit Dog Park

Dear Councilperson Kernighan,

I am a long time resident of the Lake Merritt neighborhood. I have seen many things over the years that make this a better neighborhood, such as the Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings. Things that draw people to the neighborhood make it a vital and livable place.

I believe that having a dog park at Lake Merritt would be one more thing that would enhance the neighborhood, by making a space for dog owners to bring dogs to enjoy the outdoors.

I would appreciate your support on this matter.

Sincerely,
Zona Sage

663 Jean Street
Oakland, CA 94610
510-654-6056

From: annjmeyer [annjmeyer@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 6:08 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Subject: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

I would like to play with my dog At the same neighborhood where I eat and shop

Sent from my iPhone
From: Paul E. Vidican [pvidican@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 6:05 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Councilmember Kernighan,
I live in your district and I strongly support the Lakeview Dog Play Area near Lake Merritt. It's been a long time in planning, and it's a sorely needed amenity in the area. Right now, there's no place in my neighborhood where I can easily take my dog. I've been chastised by Oakland Police for letting my dog put a paw on the lawn around Lake Merritt. It's a small piece of land, and a small compromise that will make a huge difference to a large number of people in the neighborhood. Please approve this project again.

Respectfully,
Paul Vidican
Haddon Rd.
From: Allison Gossard [allison.gossard@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 12:53 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Proposed Dog Play Area at the corner of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd.

Ms. Kernighan

I am a homeowner, dog owner and parent of a two year old living in the Bella Vista neighborhood. Our family frequently walks down to the lake area and would welcome a dog play area. This would allow us to come as a family, including our dog and utilize the park, both the kid park area and the dog park area. As it stands now, if we bring the dog, one of the adults has to wait with the dog and the other can go to the kid park area. The dog park would allow the dog to go with one parent and our son with the other and everyone can get there much needed activity.

We do use other dog play areas, but all of them are too far for us to get to without driving. I think having a park that so many people can walk to will get more people out walking and exercising and more dogs out in a controlled safe setting, so they can release their energy. Also as a user of other dog play/park areas, my experience has been one of responsible dog owners and growing community. I think this would be nothing but a positive addition to the lake area.

I would attend the public meeting, but due to working full time and having a toddler and dog to tend to in the evening it is unlikely I will be able to attend.

Best,
Allison Gossard
1238 E. 33rd Street
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Jocelyn Sheppard [jossykai@inbox.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 10:22 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Riley, Dana; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: In support of the Lake Merrit dog park

I am thrilled by the idea of the proposed dog park. As a dog owner and resident of a Lake Merritt neighborhood (Cleveland Heights) I feel that this is exactly what this area needs. I have lived in Oakland, Berkeley and Emeryville; often in neighborhoods with less dogs in residence then this one and often within walking distance to a dog park. Having a local dog park was a huge consideration in this last move and the fact that this apartment is not near a dog park was almost a deal breaker. It has certainly been a sacrifice. I walk my dog through the residential areas and around the lake. There are so many dogs here and a lot of them live in apartments. It is imperative that they stretch their legs. Walking is great but being able to run and socialize would make a huge difference. When I have my dog on leash other dogs will approach and try to play, you can tell that these dogs are eager to mix. Having this space would make for happier dogs and thus happier residents. Furthermore, it would be a good use of space. A lot of that park area goes unused. If the argument against a dog park is that it would eliminate a grassy area for people to exercise, picnic, etc I would counter with the fact that I have often utilized the new grass next to the lake for these purposes and have never used the park. This is a space local residents would use every single day - rain or shine.

This area is convenient in so many ways. You can walk to shopping, dining, entertainment. I love being out in my neighborhood and the feeling of community here. I have almost everything I need within walking distance but my husband and I have to drive our dog to Alameda if we want to visit a dog park. We also make the trip to Point Isabel, to Berkeley and even to the run in Mosswood regularly. Dog owners are willing to make a little extra effort to keep their dogs fit and keep them well socialized. This dog park would bring people from surrounding areas into our neighborhood. With these dog owners comes a potential for extra revenue in our shopping areas. This is a chance to increase exposure and make the Lake Merrit area a destination for Oakland dog owners.

Please, support our cause!

-Jocelyn Miller
From: VFolly@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 9:56 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: SUPPORT the dog park at Lake Merritt

Ms. Kernigan,

Thank you for your responce. I would need to drive there, however many of my friends and surrounding neighbors all would be able to walk to the park. The

Lake Merritt area is surrounded by rental property, from homes to apartments to condos. It is for these people that this park is most necessary. Those of us who drive have some options, though frankly this particular city has very few, and to my knowledge we have nothing on the order of Danville with Hap McGee park or Concord with Newhall Park. These two are frankly the best in the bay area with large grass runs for both small dogs under 25 pound and large dogs. They offer something most of us wish Oakland offered. Yet Foster City has managed to create a good artificial turf park for both large and small dogs. It needs to have the small dog side enlarged as it gets the most use and is crowded, but it is very used by it's surrounding apartments and condos.
Most of our surrounding cities have good or decent dog parks, many of them split for different sized animals for safety, and many large enough for real exercise. Alameda, Fremont, San Lorenzo, and others have managed to provide some reasonable space within their park districts, but we, Oakland, a city with more parks than most, have provided small tight one size dog areas without any decent safe running footing for our very large dog population and our owners. One under a freeway and hard surfaced, like anyone wants to spend time in such a place, yet it is one of the most widely used since there are so few.
Oakland is bordered by and contains the largest contiguous park district in the entire world, yet with all our city parks not controlled by EBRPD, we offer nothing really useful. Lake Merritt is the heart of this city, it has a lovely spacious park surrounding it, and we've found space for kids with no objection, for wild animals who deserve to remain there, and horticulturists, buildings and boating. There is something endemically wrong with our society if they cannot allow a reasonable space for people and their pets to commune and also enjoy nature safely and get some exercise and socialization. More and more the activists have tried to make people hate breeding, hate dogs, hate the idea of pets, and the eating of animal flesh. They and their ilk lobby with false information constantly and all one has to do is look around and note the trend to stop animal ownership and rights. It's a sad state of affairs that our city cannot lobby in good faith about an approved dog park, still looking for ways around the final product.

Sincerely,

Vikki Landes

In a message dated 3/15/2011 8:40:50 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, PKernighan@oaklandnet.com writes:

Ms. Landes,

Thank you for writing in support of the dog park at MacArthur and Lakeshore. I am also trying to assess how many users will live close enough to walk there with their dog and how many will need to drive and park their car. Would you let me know what neighborhood you live in?

Thanks,

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA. 94612
510-238-7002
www.patkernighan.com

From: VFolly@aol.com <VFolly@aol.com>
To: Kernighan, Pat; Office of the Mayor
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca
Sent: Mon Mar 14 15:54:07 2011
Subject: SUPPORT the dog park at Lake Merritt

Dear council members and Mayor Quan,

PLEASE support the continuation and efforts toward the Lake Merritt Dog Park. We are fast losing dog rights in the Bay Area, and can not afford to lose any more. We need dedicated space for dogs to be social, their owners to be social and to exercise off leash. This is a city, many people who have dogs do not have sufficient yard space. It is imperative that we continue to socialize animals in a big city and provide space for ALL the city's inhabitants.

Fact: People who have and love pets lead a more balanced and healthy life.
Fact: There are more people who are single and have pets than have children, ie: voters in your area.
Fact: People who take dogs out for exercise also take themselves out for exercise.
Fact: The east bay area is a wondrous place with many public parks and park district places that are available.
Fact: Most of the above are quickly being lost to animal use.
Fact: It was the horse people who ORIGINATED the East Bay Park District trails, built and maintained them for many many years.
Fact: It is already at the point where those same horse people are losing the right to use the trails they built.

Let's NOT do the same thing with the very few available dog parks, which are already too small, and not set up for multiple sized dogs as they should be. We need to add to the minute amount of dog/owner facilities and TEACH responsible dog ownership, not relegate owners to a dog pile.

Thank you for listening and I hope you will support responsible dog ownership in our vast city with amazing public places and more public park areas than some entire countries can boast. Support places for ALL our inhabitants.

Sincerely,
Vikki Landes

From: joe contreras [jojosix@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 1:09 AM
To: Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Dog Park @ Lake Merritt/Astro Park

Attachments: Vauto and morra.jpg

Hello,

I just wanted to express my support for the proposed Lake Merritt Dog Park. I understand there is a small group apposing the park, saying we need to save open spaces. As a tax paying registered voter with two small dogs, I feel dogs need open space in the neighborhood to get exercise. I hope to have your support.

Joe Contreras
1470 Alice st. unit 301
Oakland, CA 94612
510.836.2581

From: marybarnsdale@att.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 12:41 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Please support the planned dog park at Lake Merritt

I am writing to express my concern about a small minority's attempt to derail a long-planned and carefully considered dog park at Lake Merritt.

As you know, Oakland parks are not dog-friendly. Indeed, this is a big reason that many people who are house-hunting have been shunning Oakland or have been forced to locate as close to Redwood Regional Park as possible. This is a regressive city policy. Convenient, attractive dog-walking and dog-play areas are a huge attraction and have been shown to increase real estate values. The presence of neighbors walking their dogs also increases the safety and sense of community of residential areas.

Beyond that, though -- Oakland residents want and need places to exercise their dogs and themselves! These people pay city taxes -- but their chosen form of recreation, benign as it may be, is specifically excluded from the public parks. This is just not right. Please take a stand to approve this very modest new dog park at Lake Merritt.

Sincerely,

Mary Barnsdale

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 9:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: Lake Merritt dog park

----- Original Message -----
From: amillion.sultana@gmail.com <amillion.sultana@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Mon Mar 14 21:16:21 2011
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

I have lived in Oakland my entire life, and as a former Lake neighborhood resident and dog-owner, (we lived near Snow Park on Jackson street), I can attest to how desperately needed this kind of space is for the neighborhood and the community at large.
Thanks for your careful consideration.
-Amelia Nahman

537 37th street
94609
Sent on the Sprint® Now Network from my BlackBerry®
From: Estelle Dong [estellewobble@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 9:21 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park by the lake

Dear Pat,

I have 3 dogs and really love to see the dog park in our neighborhood so the dogs can socialize with other dogs where the human also may have a chance to meet.

Thank you for setting up this poll.

Sincerely,

Estelle Dong
574 Athol Ave

From: amy halio [zekensophie@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:50 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: lake merritt dog park

dear Pat--
I want to register my vote in favor of the dog park to be at Lake Merritt. I have 2 well-behaved dogs, live in your district and enjoy our neighborhood. I always pick up after my dogs and always have them leashed when not in off-leash areas.
thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Amy Halio, MD

From: Thomas Knecht [browndogz@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 7:44 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Office of the Mayor
Subject: Re: Support Lake Merritt Dog Park!

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

Au contraire mon ami! Such terms reflect the reality. As has been said many times, the truth hurts. Every word I said is true, and denial changes nothing in that regard (might I suggest you look at their website, http://www.saveastropark.org <http://www.saveastropark.org/> , and ask yourself how much of their argument is true; I am happy to help you if needed). Help me with the wording if you would like: if lies are told, could I find better words to use than "dishonest", "propaganda", or "nonsense"? The anti-dog voice is loud. I appreciate that. That doesn't make it right. I simply make a choice of doing the right thing, and I am lucky to have a marvelous ethical basis to tell

the difference between right and wrong. If I were not a dog person, my feelings would be the same. I am not a woman, a minority, or underprivileged (although not from a privileged background), yet I vote on such groups behalves and am politically active re. writing to politicians on such groups behalves on a regular basis. Why, you ask, since it doesn't benefit me directly? Because it's the right thing to do for all the people. Politicians in the federal government and many states governments now are doing some very bad things legislatively to abolish social programs, deprive women of their reproductive choice rights, deny prisoners' rights, etc., often in conflict of the right-wing's purportedly beloved US Constitution simply to appease their local constituencies. If doing the wrong thing because it pleases your constituency (or rather a small but noisy subgroup of voters) makes it right, please be sure to let me know. In the meantime, I will ask you once again to do the right thing for this large group of generally gentle, kind, law-abiding (and non-squeaky-wheel) Oaklanders who need this park for their companions to run in. Please do thing right thing. It isn't that hard to do once you get used to it...and it feels good inside.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Knecht, MD, PhD
Endocrinologist
Oakland, California
browndogz@comcast.net

On 8 Sept 2011, at 14:46 , Kernighan, Pat wrote:

Dear Dr. Knecht,

I appreciate your enthusiasm for creating a new dog park, but I don't think it serves your message well to refer to others who disagree with you as "dishonest" or to dismiss their concerns as propaganda and nonsense. I have read over a hundred letters from neighbors who oppose a dog park in that location and many of them voice legitimate concerns, among them the aesthetic degradation of the green space and view to the Lake, the impact of more cars coming to park in an already congested neighborhood, and the very close proximity to a playground for small children. These concerns have a basis in fact. I hope to be able to find a solution to these concerns, but it remains to be seen.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA. 94612
510-238-7002
www.patkernighan.com

From: Thomas Knecht <browndogz@comcast.net>
To: Office of the Mayor; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca
Sent: Mon Mar 14 14:03:30 2011
Subject: Support Lake Merritt Dog Park!

Dear Mayor Quan and Council Members Kernighan, Nadel, and Kaplan,

I am writing as a dog-lover and concerned citizen to urge you to support the development of a dog park at Lake Merritt. There has been a dishonest movement afoot by mean-spirited dog-haters to remove the availability of off-leash dog parks to the dog owners of our east bay communities. We have a history of making space available to our east bay residents who love, own, and/or support humans' best friend. We need an off-leash area at this small section of Lake Merritt so that those of us who live in the vicinity of Lake Merritt can have a small space dedicated to dogs running free. The anti-dog park arguments are pure propaganda and nonsense, and clearly no thoughtful person will be swayed by them. Please support this dog park. We, the people, need it.

Sincerely,

Oakland resident and dog-lover,
Thomas P. Knecht, MD, PhD
browndogz@comcast.net

From: cameron lee [camster.lee@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 5:23 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Riley, Dana; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Hello,

I think we should have a dog park because then our dog Kirby can have a place to play. And because the dog will next to the swings, I can play at the swings and Kirby can play at the dog park. It would be like Hardy Park. That's where I play at the swings and Kirby plays in the dog park. The Lake Merritt Dog park would be even better, since we could walk there.

Also everyday I go to the park, I see people with dogs in the park already. And there's still plenty of room for kids who play soccer. So why can't we have the dog park?

Thank you,

Cameron Lee
From: Gabriel Lee [friendlyguy631@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 5:18 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca; Riley, Dana; odogparks@comcast.net
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Hello,

I think we as a neighborhood need a dog park.Because we need a place where our dogs can play!

Thank you.

Gabriel Lee
From: Darlene deManincor [darwin100@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 4:27 PM

To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: atlarge
Subject: I_Support_the_Lakeview_Dog_Park!

Sent from my iPhone
From: kasakatz [kasakatz@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 4:04 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please support the Lake Merritt Dog Run

Dear Councilperson Kernighan,

I wrote successful grants, designed, and built
a dog run in Mosswood Park. We transformed a garbage
dump and shooting gallery with a dangerous, half-burned building
into a facility that still sees enthusiastic use to this day.
In the process we modernized the water supply for the park
and played a major role in driving drug dealing and crime out
of Mosswood Park.

Today Mosswood Park is used by more people than ever before.
We have seen the dog run followed by an initiative that brought
grant funding for a new tot lot near the dog run (after all, it
proximity to the dog run works fine at Hardy Dog Run). People using
the park see much less dog waste and are less frequently surprised
by dogs roaming freely in the park.

I have been thanked by two real estate agents and told the dog run
has often been used to promote houses in our area.

Dog runs are an asset to our city and serve an under served
portion of our population currently estimated at 40%, households
with dogs. Those who don't own dogs benefit because the dogs in
their area get good exercise and socialization and are therefore
more quiet and safer to have around. And dog use makes parks
safer for humans. I received overwhelming support from neighbors
who do not own dogs for this reason. I haven't heard a single
regret voiced since.

Please support the Lake Merritt dog run and you will see
how a community benefits from a dog run.

Best,

Seth Katz
Oakland

From: VFolly@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 3:54 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Office of the Mayor
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: SUPPORT the dog park at Lake Merritt

Dear council members and Mayor Quan,

PLEASE support the continuation and efforts toward the Lake Merritt Dog Park. We are fast losing dog rights in the Bay Area, and can not afford to lose any more. We need dedicated space for dogs to be social, their owners to be social and to exercise off leash. This is a city, many people who have dogs do not have sufficient yard space. It is imperative that we continue to socialize animals in a big city and provide space for ALL the city's inhabitants.

Fact: People who have and love pets lead a more balanced and healthy life.
Fact: There are more people who are single and have pets than have children, ie: voters in your area.
Fact: People who take dogs out for exercise also take themselves out for exercise.
Fact: The east bay area is a wondrous place with many public parks and park district places that are available.
Fact: Most of the above are quickly being lost to animal use.
Fact: It was the horse people who ORIGINATED the East Bay Park District trails, built and maintained them for many many years.
Fact: It is already at the point where those same horse people are losing the right to use the trails they built.

Let's NOT do the same thing with the very few available dog parks, which are already too small, and not set up for multiple sized dogs as they should be. We need to add to the minute amount of dog/owner facilities and TEACH responsible dog ownership, not relegate owners to a dog pile.

Thank you for listening and I hope you will support responsible dog ownership in our vast city with amazing public places and more public park areas than some entire countries can boast. Support places for ALL our inhabitants.

Sincerely,
Vikki Landes
From: Mara Velez [mara@mjkrilanovich.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 2:54 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: I Support the Lakeview Dog Play Area Project

Dear Councilmember,

I live near the proposed dog play area at Lake Merritt, and I strongly support this project. There are thousands of dog owners in Oakland and not enough play areas for dogs to be safely off-leash.

It's been in planning for 11 years, and approved twice. It's about time to move forward on this project. It is something that will benefit hundreds of people in the immediate area, and something that is badly needed. Please approve this project.

Thank you.

Mara Velez
w: http://www.mjkrilanovich.com
e: mara@mjkrilanovich.com
p: 510.261.7069

"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." -- John Dewey

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Cc: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park

From: Annette Segal [mailto:asegal@thevaliantgroup.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Rep. Nadel,

I am appalled at the number of green spaces around the lake with NO DOG signs. I moved to Oakland from SF and while I love it, the aversion to dogs really upsets me.

While there are playgrounds for children, preserves for the birds, trails for runners, walker and cycling lanes, here is no place within walking distance where I can play catch with my dog.

Snow Lake, Athol Green, The green just before Athol Tennis Courts are all off limits to dogs off-lesh, in addition to the whole of the lake. Why?

I am a conscientious owner who picks up after her dog.

Its ridiculous to force dog owners to get in our cars so that we can find some off-leash dog space!

Please out in a dog park at the lake!

Thanks,

Annette Segal

Annette Segal

The Valiant Group

Courageous conversations. Courageous living.

510.893.3304 phone

asegal@thevaliantgroup.com

www.thevaliantgroup.com

http://www.linkedin.com/in/thevaliantgroup

From: Annette Segal [asegal@thevaliantgroup.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 2:50 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Rep. Kerinighan,

I am appalled at the number of green spaces around the lake with NO DOG signs. I moved to Oakland from SF and while I love it, the aversion to dogs really upsets me.
While there are playgrounds for children, preserves for the birds, trails for runners, walker and cycling lanes, here is no place within walking distance where I can play catch with my dog.

Snow Lake, Athol Green, The green just before Athol Tennis Courts are all off limits to dogs off-lesh, in addition to the whole of the lake. Why?

I am a conscientious owner who picks up after her dog.
Its ridiculous to force dog owners to get in our cars so that we can find some off-leash dog space!

Please out in a dog park at the lake!

Thanks,
Annette Segal

Annette Segal
The Valiant Group
Courageous conversations. Courageous living.
510.893.3304 phone
asegal@thevaliantgroup.com
www.thevaliantgroup.com
http://www.linkedin.com/in/thevaliantgroup

From: Thomas Knecht [browndogz@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 2:04 PM
To: Office of the Mayor; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Support Lake Merritt Dog Park!

Dear Mayor Quan and Council Members Kernighan, Nadel, and Kaplan,

I am writing as a dog-lover and concerned citizen to urge you to support the development of a dog park at Lake Merritt. There has been a dishonest movement afoot by mean-spirited dog-haters to remove the availability of off-leash dog parks to the dog owners of our east bay communities. We have a history of making space available to our east bay residents who love, own, and/or support humans' best friend. We need an off-leash area at this small section of Lake Merritt so that those of us who live in the vicinity of Lake Merritt can have a small space dedicated to dogs running free. The anti-dog park arguments are pure propaganda and nonsense, and clearly no thoughtful person will be swayed by them. Please support this dog park. We, the people, need it.

Sincerely,

Oakland resident and dog-lover,
Thomas P. Knecht, MD, PhD
browndogz@comcast.net
From: darwin100@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 1:46 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

I would like to add my name to the many who have worked for and continue to support the establishment of the Lake Merritt Dog Park. The work for the design and planning of this park has been in process for many years and up until now there had been no input for those who are suddenly opposed.
Every effort has gone into the planning to see that all citizans of Oakland have equal access to the open space. Just as runners, bikers and hikers have to share trails, I think the opposition has to recognize that dog owners, families and sports participants have to also share open space.
As a dog owner, tax payer and voter I fully support the establishment of the dog space at Lake Merritt.

Darlene deManincor, PhD

From: cindy fong [cindyfong1@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 1:18 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Hi there,

I just wanted to say that I am totally for having a dog park at Lake Merritt. I moved to Haddon Rd, this past summer and would find having a dog park in the area a great addition to the other activities around the lake. I understand others wish to keep the open space, but in our area, there are NO AREAS that dogs are allowed off leash. All the areas around the lake are NO DOGs Allowed (even with a leash). Dogs and their owners are only really welcomed around the sidewalk areas around the lake. Seems this just shows the need for an off leash area.

I know Oakland has other dog parks, but those are not places we can just walk to. I moved to the Haddon Hill area because of the walkability. If I wanted to drive, I would have stayed up in the hills where we used to live. Oakland wants to be green. This is a perfect addition to help make it's community be more green. Less driving. More walking. Great spot to help build community. Less grass, means less water usage, better for our environment.

I really think that this is a fair allotment of space. I am an Oakland native. I know that the area needed for the dog park is rarely used. There still will be a large expanse of grass for volleyball, soccer or whatever. Astro park tot lot stays as it is.

Please help the dog park finally come to Lake Merritt! We really need it!!

Thanks,

Cindy

--
Cindy Fong Design + Photography
510-333-1288
www.cindyfongphotography.com
From: taycanda@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 10:52 AM
To: Walter McDowell
Cc: Kenmore & Fairbanks Neighborhood; Richard Elliott; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: Proposed Dog Run Across from Gold's

Hi Walter
I am so sorry to hear that we have dog haters in the neighborhood.
The dog park is so over due. Most, if not all the parks in Oakland are not dog friendly.
Linda is for Piedmont residents only. Mosswood is tucked away in the back of a park, tiny, muddy and next to the noisy freeway. Grove is under the freeway, no sunshine, no grass, only concrete and freeway noise.

Alameda is the only viable choice for dog people to take their dogs to a safe, clean park. I too spend a lot of my money in Alameda as opposed to my neighborhood shops because if the same reasons.
The parking is a non-issue. Where do people park that take their kids to the play ground? Where do people park who go to the farmers market? We walk, dont drive. The same would happen with the dog park at Astro Park.
This one acre minimum is ridiculous, my yard is WAYYYY smaller than 1 acre. I would love to have 1/2 acre for Poppy to play in with her doggie pals.
People that take there dogs to a park so their dogs and play and socialize are people who care about the health of their dogs. They dont let them off leash, they dont want them fighting and take extra precautions to make sure they are safe.
Why isnt this woman worried about the kids getting away and running into the street? At least our dogs are on leash and wouldn't be off leash until they are into the gated park. Why would a dog park make it impossible for the properties to be developed? I think it would enhance peoples shopping experience.
I think anyone who is against the dog park needs to go visit the dog park in Alameda and see what a beautiful, well organized site that it is.
We, the dog owners keep it that way.
Thanks Walter, we plan to be at the meeting on the 23rd.
Annalisa and Chris Tay

----- Original Message -----
From: "Walter McDowell" <walterm2@me.com>
To: fairbanks-kenmoreave@googlegroups.com, "Annalisa + Chris Tay" <taycanda@comcast.net>, "Richard Elliott" <richartell@aol.com>
Cc: "Kenmore & Fairbanks Neighborhood" <Fairbanks-KenmoreAve@googlegroups.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 8:53:14 PM
Subject: Re: Proposed Dog Run Across from Gold's

I, for one, am for a dog park, I usually go to Alameda, which I suggest you anti dog park people should do even if you don't have a dog (and I suspect this is the case), and talk to the dog owners about what a wonderful experience can be had there. I did talk to Pat K. one day I saw her walking by and let here know that I am spending a lot of money in Alameda, cause that's where I go for my dog most often. This dog park has been on maps for a very long time, but where is the dog park? It's about time they built it! I think you are blowing the problems you foresee way out of proportion. Children love to watch the dogs playing and the people who frequent the dog park form a community that I have found, at least in Alameda to quite nice. Bad people, or bad dogs don't last long when you have regulars, as I can see happening here.
I like to enjoy the Lake, I can walk there, which is how most people will do, but when I go there with my dog there isn't much for us. Lots of goose poop, yuk, maybe more dogs around would help send them back to Canada. Lots of signs that say NO DOGS ALLOWED! Nice. Lots of joggers who seem pissed off if I dare get in there way. I love children, I don't have any, but I pay taxes for better schools just like all you parents. I think we dog owners deserve a place in the park. I don't see why this would hurt any business nearby, probably help them. There is not a lot of space, and parking? Well, we all know what that is like in the more condensed areas, nothing is going to change that.
I hate to say it, but me thinks there is a bit of doggie discrimination going on here.
Walter

On Mar 10, 2011, at 7:21 PM, wendy winter <wintermade@hotmail.com> wrote:

> A portion of the beautiful green space in front of the Lakeview
> Library called Astro Park is at risk of being turned into a half acre
> fenced in dog enclosure. I would propose you consider the following
> and attend an upcoming neighborhood meeting on 3/23 at the Lakeshore
> Baptist Church 7PM. Barnett Hall
>
> 1. We will lose open green space. Forever.
> 2. The proposed location is next to—literally *next* to a kids play
> area.
> 3. No additional parking planned.
> 4. A dog park will make the properties across the street on
> Lakeshore nearly impossible to develop.
> 5. If a dog gets loose, it's dangerous to the dogs, traffic and
> kids at the park
> 6. Dog parks exist nearby on Linda, Mosswood Park & Grove Shafter,
> and Redwood Park
> 7. Surrounded on three sides by AC Transit bus stops - imagine a
> parade of dogs back and forth.
> 8. No maintenance planned or paid for by the city - relies 100% on
> volunteers for clean up.
> 9. The proposed run is one half an acre—half the *minimum* size
> recommended by the American Kennel Club.
> 10. Dog parks are not aesthetically appealing. They are normally
> tucked away from people having to look at them.
> 11. Soccer players, pic-nickers, Frisbee players will be relegated
> to a smaller area that's under water half the year.
>
> Consider writing to Pat Kernighan to express your views
> pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
> Whatever your opinion is, please come and express your views on
> Wednesday March 23rd. This meeting will decide what happens to the
> space. More info available here: www.saveastropark.org

From: Larry Schaleger [qubedude@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 9:47 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: SUPPORT for dog park

Pat - I would like to register my strong support for the proposed dog park near Lakeshore and MacArthur. Since City parks exclude dogs, it make sense to provide alternatives. We have two small dogs and would save tons of gas by being able to make use of an area within reasonable walking distance. The plan appears to be well thought out. Go for it!

Larry Schaleger

1321 Holman Road

From: Walter McDowell [walterm2@me.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 9:52 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fwd: Proposed Dog Run Across from Gold's

Begin forwarded message:

From: Walter McDowell <walterm2@me.com>
Date: March 10, 2011 8:53:14 PM PST
To: "fairbanks-kenmoreave@googlegroups.com" <fairbanks-kenmoreave@googlegroups.com>, Annalisa + Chris Tay <taycanda@comcast.net>, Richard Elliott <richartell@aol.com>
Cc: Kenmore & Fairbanks Neighborhood <Fairbanks-KenmoreAve@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: Proposed Dog Run Across from Gold's
Reply-To: <mailto:fairbanks-kenmoreave@googlegroups.com> fairbanks-kenmoreave@googlegroups.com

I, for one, am for a dog park, I usually go to Alameda, which I suggest you anti dog park people should do even if you don't have a dog (and I suspect this is the case), and talk to the dog owners about what a wonderful experience can be had there. I did talk to Pat K. one day I saw her walking by and let here know that I am spending a lot of money in Alameda, cause that's where I go for my dog most often. This dog park has been on maps for a very long time, but where is the dog park? It's about time they built it! I think you are blowing the problems you foresee way out of proportion. Children love to watch the dogs playing and the people who frequent the dog park form a community that I have found, at least in Alameda to quite nice. Bad people, or bad dogs don't last long when you have regulars, as I can see happening here.
I like to enjoy the Lake, I can walk there, which is how most people will do, but when I go there with my dog there isn't much for us. Lots of goose poop, yuk, maybe more dogs around would help send them back to Canada. Lots of signs that say NO DOGS ALLOWED! Nice. Lots of joggers who seem pissed off if I dare get in there way. I love children, I don't have any, but I pay taxes for better schools just like all you parents. I think we dog owners deserve a place in the park. I don't see why this would hurt any business nearby, probably help them. There is not a lot of space, and parking? Well, we all know what that is like in the more condensed areas, nothing is going to change that.
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2. The proposed location is next to—literally *next* to a kids play area.

3. No additional parking planned.

4. A dog park will make the properties across the street on Lakeshore nearly impossible to develop.

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8. No maintenance planned or paid for by the city - relies 100% on volunteers for clean up.

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recommended by the American Kennel Club.

10. Dog parks are not aesthetically appealing. They are normally

tucked away from people having to look at them.

11. Soccer players, pic-nickers, Frisbee players will be relegated

to a smaller area that's under water half the year.

Consider writing to Pat Kernighan to express your views

pkernighan@oaklandnet.com

Whatever your opinion is, please come and express your views on

Wednesday March 23rd. This meeting will decide what happens to the

space. More info available here: <http://www.saveastropark.org>
www.saveastropark.org

From: Walter McDowell [walterm2@me.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 9:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park

YEA! Finally getting our dog park? Don't listen to the dog haters, this will definitely be a good thing for our community. I don't really understand why people are so against this. Reminds me of Tea Party tactics. What is their problem? As I told you one day I saw you, I go to the Alameda dog park all the time, which is a fine example of how a dog park should be, and consequently, I have been doing most of my shopping, and spending in Alameda.
Please help us get our dog park, we dog owners in this area deserve it.
Thank you,
Walter McDowell - 568 Kenmore Ave.

From: Lee Rutter [leerutter@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 8:42 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Play Area at Lakeshore and MacArthur

Dear Pat,

I was at the public meeting where the design was approved and am totally in favor of this dog play area. It carves out a tiny portion of the field that will serve a large portion of the population. I love that it is very near the children's playground as it will allow the kids to view happy dogs playing with each other and their owners.

Peace,

Lee

From: Jessica Sev [j.prairiedog@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:21 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Oakland dog park = Great!

Hello,

I am writing to let you know that I support the idea of having a dog park near Lake Merritt. My reasons are:

1. Dog parks are places where dogs and people can socialize, and the more our community is outdoors, the safer it will be. More eyes outdoors means less places for bad things to happen.

2. A dog park within walking distance of where dogs live is great because it reduces cars on the road driving to other dog parks or off-leash hiking areas.

3. Dogs pooping in the park means less dog poop on sidewalks, which anyone walking on a sidewalk can appreciate.

4. Dogs help dog owners stay more active, healthier, and happier than they might otherwise be. This is great for the mental and physical health of people in our community. Therefore, supporting dogs will make the people who love their dogs appreciate their community even more.

5. Dogs are happier if they can get some off-leash time and run and/or roam. Dogs are migratory pack animals, but don't often get enough exercise simply from walking with their owners. Biking or skateboarding with a dog on-leash is not very safe, and many dogs need more exercise than their owners can provide on a daily basis. The dog park will help some dogs stay happier and healthier both physically and psychologically. This is better for our community, because the dogs cooped up in apartments or homes with small yards will be less likely to be wild/barking/annoying to neighbors/ scary to people walking near them/ etc.

6. A dog park could have a bulletin board advertising dog training classes and dog care advice (vaccinations, annual veterinary visits, spay/neuter programs). A lot of people need help training their dogs, and don't necessarily know where to find this assistance. I have seen many untrained dogs all over the U.S., and untrained dogs can be scary or annoying to other people. The more the city can help promote good dog and dog-owner behavior the better off everyone will be,

including those people who do not necessarily like dogs now. I know this, because over the years people who don't like dogs very much have told me that they don't mind my dog, because she is well-behaved and calm. I think everyone would support dog parks in the community if the dogs and owners were properly trained.

I recently moved to the Lake Merritt area from Davis, and our dog parks in Davis are used extensively. I think any dog park in Oakland would also be used extensively, especially because so much of the area is not dog friendly. I mean 'dog friendly' in terms of places for dogs to romp on some grass, run off-leash, poop in a place where people don't need to walk, etc.

I believe that if it could be arranged, dog owners would be very willing to negotiate rules with the dog park neighbors on the terms of use. For example, dogs must be on-leash until they are in the dog park, poop must be picked up immediately, no barking after 8 pm, or whatever else might come up. I think it's just a matter of allowing the groups to each voice their fears of what might go wrong, as well as things that must be done in order to promote a healthy and long-term relationship.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Jessica
From: Rita Hurault [reet@well.com]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 8:06 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog play, lakeshore and macarthur

Although I have no dogs of my own, I am in favor of a dog play area at this location. More people out and about and using our common areas means increased sense of community and safety for all.

Rita Hurault
Haddon Road
Oakland

--
"Any intelligent fool can make things bigger, more complex, and more violent. It takes a touch of genius - and a lot of courage - to move in the opposite direction." - Albert Einstein
From: MHas4@aol.com
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 7:02 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Proposed dog park are

It is an excellent plan, well thought out and so needed.
Thank you for the meeting to allow for input from the community.

Buffy Hasley
From: Kendra Magnuson [kendrahelene@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 1:11 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Play Area

We, the dog owners and lovers of Oakland, support all varieties of dog parks, big and small, and we know that with the ban on dogs in most Oakland parks, every off-leash area is extremely important.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kendra Magnuson
From: Nancy Tsui [nancy_tsui8@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:08 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

yes, I would like to see a dog park in the area.

Nancy Tsui
Sam Chun
908 McKinley Ave
Oakland, CA 945610

From: LINGOLAYNE@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 9:54 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: I SUPPORT THE LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA

Good Evening...I live in the Oakland Hills but visit the Lakeview Library, Bank of America, Mail Box General Store, weekly Farmer's Market, Trader Joe's, Walgreens, the AT*T Store, The Gap, J&J Beauty Supply, KFC, Lane Splitter's Pizza and numerous other shops in the area. Having a Dog Park near the Lake will be a fabulous addition to the area and one that would enhance the Neighborhood and give me more reason to shop and spend time there. I have just moved back to my hometown of Oakland after living in LA and NY for over 35 years...both cities have had dog parks in central, convenient locales--Laurel Canyon in LA, Central Park in NY--and I whole heartedly look forward to being able to share the locale with Lolly Dama, my very well behaved Lhasa Apso. We both look forward to playing and spending time at the Lakeview Dog Play Area! Please support the Cause!
Elayne Lieberman
484 Lake Park Ave #284
Oakland, CA 94610
From: Julie Skoler [julieskoler@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:33 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: yes on the dog run

Yes, I'm in favor of the dog run to be located at the large grass area next to the Lakeview Library at the intersection of MacArthur and Lakeshore!!!

Julie Skoler
McKinley Ave. at Capell Street.

From: Kassie Rohrbach [kassierohrbach@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:34 PM
To: atlarge; Kernighan, Pat; nnadel@oakland.net
Subject: I support the Lakeview Dog Play Area

Attachments: sad to not be at a dog park!.JPG; happy to be off-lease.JPG

Dear Council Members Kernighan, Nadel, and Kaplan,

I'm writing to urge to you approve the Lakeview Dog Play Area. As a dog-owner that walks and runs Lake Merritt multiple times a week, my dog and I would both greatly appreciate the addition of an off-lease dog play area.

The closet dog park to my house is in Piedmont. I am required to purchase a piedmont dog park permit to take my dog to this park (a costly annual fee for non-Peidmont residents). The closest Oakland dog park to my residence is over 3 miles away. To get to the park and get some good time in, I currently have to drive to a park in Oakland. In fact, there are no dog parks in Oakland that I currently take my dog to. If I bother to get him in the car to take him for a run, we go to Berkeley, Richmond, or Alameda, where there are large, scenic, dog parks for my dog to run around.

Building this dog park would make my neighborhood more livable and walkable.

Attached our a couple photos of my dog that I think demonstrate his sentiment towards this issue.

Thank you for your leadership in Oakland. I greatly appreciate your consideration of this issue.

Kassie Rohrbach, District 2 Oakland Resident
kassierohrbach@gmail.com - 415-290-0129 (c)

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:39 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Support Lake Merritt dog play area

From: Cynthia Laird [mailto:cynlaird@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 11:31 AM

To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Support Lake Merritt dog play area

Hi Nancy,

I am a constituent of yours and live near Lake Merritt. I am also a dog owner and wholeheartedly support the proposed dog play area.

Thank you.

--
Cynthia Laird

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:01 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: dog park around by the lake

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 9:52 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: dog park around by the lake

From: Stephen Mark Hopson <markhopson57@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tue Mar 08 21:44:04 2011
Subject: dog park around by the lake

I am for the dog park around by the lake thank you Stephen M Hopson sr

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:00 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merrit Dog Park

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 10:24 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: Lake Merrit Dog Park

From: Josue Diaz <jdciencia@gmail.com>
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wed Mar 09 10:18:10 2011
Subject: Lake Merrit Dog Park

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to show my support in regards to the proposed Lake Merritt Off-leash Dog Park. As an Oakland resident and responsible dog owner I think that offering an off-leash dog park in Lake Merritt would be a wonderful addition to an already thriving outdoor area. As active people who live in urban areas and may not have a yard for their dogs to play in, off-leash dog parks are sometimes our only option for our dogs to get any exercise when we lead busy and hectic lifestyles and do not have the time to travel to regional parks on a regular basis. Responsible dog owners deserve the right to have accessible off-leash dog areas that are available in our neighborhoods. Not only do having access to these type of areas allow our dogs to socialize and lead healthier lifestyles but these areas offer opportunities for people to socialize as well and create opportunities to build community and enjoy and care for our outdoor surroundings.
Please support the creation of a Lake Merritt off-leash dog park. Responsible dog owners in the bay area and all of our wonderful dogs deserve it.

Thank you ,

Josue Diaz Jr.

Green Academy Co-Director
Chemistry/Conceptual Physics
Oakland Technical High School

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:00 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: go dog park!

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 11:05 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: go dog park!

From: Sabrina Martin <marsabrina@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wed Mar 09 10:26:16 2011
Subject: go dog park!

Just learned about the plan for a dog park near Lakeshore library. Glad to see there is a separate small dog area. I live on Mandana and would welcome a park I could walk to.
thank you,
Sabrina Martin

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:00 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Dog Parl

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:54 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Dog Parl

From: Linda Burgess [mailto:lcburgess@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Dog Parl

Dear Council member,

I am writing in support of the Lakeview Dog Play Area as it is has long been proposed at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

This volunteer-led project has undergone various revisions over the course of 14 years all with compromises to address the concerns and needs of the community. That now, neighbors new to the discussion want to derail these efforts is absurd.

* Forty percent of Oakland households have dogs.
* More Oakland households have dogs than have children.
* We are reasonably entitled to the same slice of the pie based on our percentage of the population as any other group.
* All of the affected groups have been reached out to over the life of this project, several times over in fact, soccer players, moms, library users, exercise enthusiasts, etc.

* Few projects in the history of Oakland have gone through such thorough planning.
* Years and years of bureaucratic hoop-jumping, ADA compliance, design review, and cost raises.
* City staff have set this project back numerous times by increasing the costs.
* At each turn, volunteers have responded by soliciting additional support.

The Lakeview Dog Play Area has been approved by the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission twice. It is unfair for a new group of residents to scare people (jumping dogs! dogs eating children!) as they have now done.

Oakland is better than this, and Oakland deserves a dog park in concert with the Lake Merritt Master Plan.

Please council member, honor the vast majority of resident's wishes, keep this current plan on track without delay!

Sincerely,

Linda Burgess

Sent from my iPhone

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 9:59 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lakeview Dog Park

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 2:53 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: Lakeview Dog Park

From: Johnny Francisco <archjkf@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wed Mar 09 14:16:10 2011
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

Dear Council member,

I am writing in support of the Lakeview Dog Play Area as it is has long been proposed at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

This volunteer-led project has undergone various revisions over the course of 14 years all with compromises to address the concerns and needs of the community. That now, neighbors new to the discussion want to derail these efforts is absurd.

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* At each turn, volunteers have responded by soliciting additional support.

The Lakeview Dog Play Area has been approved by the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission twice. It is unfair for a new group of residents to scare people (jumping dogs! dogs eating children!) as they have now done.

Oakland is better than this, and Oakland deserves a dog park in concert with the Lake Merritt Master Plan.

Please council member, honor the vast majority of resident's wishes, keep this current plan on track without delay!

Sincerely,

Johnny K. Francisco

Licensed dog owner

498 Jean St.

Oakland, CA 94610

Sent from my iPad

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 9:59 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lakeview Dog Play Area

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 10:37 PM
To: 'Scarletbohemian@aol.com'
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Re: Lakeview Dog Play Area

From: Scarletbohemian@aol.com <Scarletbohemian@aol.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wed Mar 09 22:24:17 2011
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Council member Nadel,

I live on Acton Place, near Lake Merritt. I am a 3rd generation Oakland resident and have been active in many local organizations. I sat on the Board of Directors of The Camron-Stanford House for 2 terms, Shakespeare in The Park, and The Bellevue Club. I am currently Chairman of Programs and Events at The Bellevue Club. I am truly a gung-ho Oaklander! (Gertrude Stein, eat your heart out!)

My partner, Noah Harms and I bought a 1902 brown shingle house in 1980 and have lovingly restored it to it's former splendor. I choose to live in Oakland where I believe we are the most diverse, enlightened, tolerant and politically aware community in the world. 1 love my city and I love living so close to Lake Merritt. I support the Dog Park Project that has been in the works for many, many years. So I'm saddened to learn that after an enormous amount of planning, fundraising, designing and hard work there is a small group of people undermining these efforts and spreading fear and negativity.

Since your leadership has been responsible, in part, for the open space has being added with the closing of part of Embarcadero and volunteers have made the Lakeview Library bloom ahead of springtime with glorious flowers, I want to urge you to stay the course, and continue to support this wonderful addition to our community.

People seem to forget that over 40% of Oaklanders are dog owners who are responsible taxpayers who deserve to use a small, VERY small part of Lake Side Park.

Thanks again, for all you are doing!

Sincerely,

Richelle Lieberman

Please count me among the many who support this park.
Please join me in staying supportive of this park.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richelle Lieberman

251 Acton Place

Oakland, CA 94606

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 9:58 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat

Subject: FW: Dog park please

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:26 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: Dog park please

From: David Hornung <david.hornung@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Wed Mar 09 23:20:58 2011
Subject: Dog park please

My wife and I, residents of Lake Merritt, are both in support of the dog park.

Thank you,

David and Katie Hornung

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 9:58 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park Yes!

-----Original Message-----
From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:58 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: Lake Merritt Dog Park Yes!

----- Original Message -----
From: michael wertz illustration <michael@wertzateria.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy

Sent: Thu Mar 10 07:40:36 2011
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park Yes!

Dear Nancy,

my name is Michael Wertz, and I would like to add my name to the list of supporters of the Lakeview Dog Play Area at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur. This would be a wonderful addition to the already-booming Lakeshore Neighborhood!

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter,

Michael Wertz
483 Capital Street
Oakland, CA
94610

*
michael s. wertz illustration / printmaking http://wertzateria.com 510.663.5860

From: Susan Koo [skoobykoo@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: Lake Merritt dog park

Hi Pat,

Nancy also asked me this - I'm a short walk away from the lake in Piedmont near Grand and Wildwood. We were especially looking forward to the park on Saturday mornings when we walk down for the farmers market!

Thanks,
Susan

On Mar 9, 2011, at 3:07 PM, "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

Thanks Susan. I am also trying to gauge how many users of the park live within walking distance and how many would need to drive. Would you tell me the street or neighborhood where you live? Thanks.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
<mailto:pkernighan@oaklandnet.com> pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: Susan Koo [mailto:skoobykoo@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 10:35 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Hi,

I'm writing to express my support for the Lake Merritt dog park. As a resident in the area, I didn't realize the dog park's future was even in flux - it was such a great idea and such a welcome addition to the neighborhood that I've really been looking forward to it. I hope you garner enough support to make the dog park a reality - I think it would be wonderful for the community, its dogs, and its people!

Thanks,
Susan

From: Julie Haydon [juliehaydon@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 4:48 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: Lake Merritt Dog Park Support

I live on Park Blvd in the Glenview Area so I would have a short drive.

Thank you!
Julie

On Mar 9, 2011, at 5:10 PM, "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

Julie, Thank you for writing. I am also trying to gauge how many users of the park live within walking distance and how many would need to drive. Would you tell me the street or neighborhood where you live? Thanks.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
<mailto:pkernighan@oaklandnet.com> pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: Julie Haydon [mailto:juliehaydon@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 8:48 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park Support

Dear Ms. Kernighan and Ms. Nadel-

Just wanted to express my support for building the off-leash dog park at Lake Merritt. I currently use several of the other dog parks in Oakland and find it is a helpful way to be a responsible dog owner. The addition of this dog park would be a great service to the city, and very helpful to dog owners, since we don't have the opportunity to take our dogs into other Oakland parks for exercise. I hope you will support this initiative.

Thank you both for your hard work and tireless efforts on the behalf of the City of Oakland-

Julie Haydon
Oakland Resident

From: Susan Hoffmann [sjhoffmann@bba.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 3:56 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Riley, Dana; seanmichaelsullivan@gmail.com; rubykane@gmail.com
Subject: Support Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Council Members Nadel and Kernighan,

I just want to take a minute to voice my support for the Lakeview Dog Play Area that has been proposed, but not yet built, on the edge of Lake Merritt.

As someone who treks all the way over to Alameda so that my dog, Nova, can get some decent dog-on-dog time, I would love to have this available for her. While I live in Redwood Heights, and appreciate that we do have the dog park at Joaquin Miller, I find I spend more time over in Alameda because the microclimate there is just more attractive. Interestingly, it's similar to what I experience when I take Nova over to walk around Lake Merritt/Grand Avenue area.

I know this proposal was started when I originally had my first dog, Jetson, when we first moved here to Oakland. Sadly, Jetson did not live long enough to have the chance to experience the Lakeview Dog Play Area. I would love to think that Nova, who is currently only 18 months old, will have the chance to play at Lakeview.

Given that dogs are not welcome at most Oakland parks (Redwood Heights, Avenue Terrace, etc.) and I have to drive to a dog park anyway, I would greatly appreciate having one that I don't have to spend 20 minutes getting to - and one close to some of my favorite retail neighborhoods as well.

I look forward to letting Nova run free and off leash at the Lakeview Dog Play Area in the near future.

Regards,

Susan

Susan J. Hoffmann

4320 Atlas Avenue

510.599.6628

sjhoffmann@bba.com

From: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 3:40 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Michael Bailey supports dog park

650-610-4762

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: Johnny Francisco [archjkf@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 2:18 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

Dear Council member,

I am writing in support of the Lakeview Dog Play Area as it is has long been proposed at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

This volunteer-led project has undergone various revisions over the course of 14 years all with compromises to address the concerns and needs of the community. That now, neighbors new to the discussion want to derail these efforts is absurd.

* Forty percent of Oakland households have dogs.
* More Oakland households have dogs than have children.
* We are reasonably entitled to the same slice of the pie based on our percentage of the population as any other group.
* All of the affected groups have been reached out to over the life of this project, several times over in fact, soccer players, moms, library users, exercise enthusiasts, etc.

* Few projects in the history of Oakland have gone through such thorough planning.
* Years and years of bureaucratic hoop-jumping, ADA compliance, design review, and cost raises.
* City staff have set this project back numerous times by increasing the costs.
* At each turn, volunteers have responded by soliciting additional support.

The Lakeview Dog Play Area has been approved by the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission twice. It is unfair for a new group of residents to scare people (jumping dogs! dogs eating children!) as they have now done.

Oakland is better than this, and Oakland deserves a dog park in concert with the Lake Merritt Master Plan.

Please council member, honor the vast majority of resident's wishes, keep this current plan on track without delay!

Sincerely,

Johnny K. Francisco
Licensed dog owner
498 Jean St.
Oakland, CA 94610

Sent from my iPad
From: Liz Muller [oberk516@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:47 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park Proposal

I am a homeowner. I am a dog owner. I strongly support the dog park.

I will probably not be able to use the park with my current companion dog. But I believe if she had had the opportunity for socialization early in her life she would be romping with the best of them. Dog parks are important for both canines and humans. They build community. People take their children to the kiddie park to socialize, people are able to meet at the farmer's market or cafés to socialize. But there are not many places where people with dogs can mingle in the GrandLake neighborhood. Given that most of the lake area is off limits to that constituency, having a dedicated area would greatly enhance their quality of life.

These heated discussions are reminiscent of the vocal few who didn't want the trees culled or the Lake Chalet rehabbed. Change is hard for some people to envision so they just say no. I say we need to offer more opportunities for every resident. I supported and pay taxes for improving this wonderful resource even though I am not able to enjoy most of the park with my dog. By the way, with the exception of the plaza area did you know that there isn't one place in the whole "Crown Jewel of Oakland" where a dog can legally sit with its people? If I had a family that included children we would have to enjoy the park from the sidewalk. Does that seem fair?

This spot is not perfect but it is the right spot for our neighborhood. Ten years of waiting is a long time in dog years. Let's give the next generation a place to play!

Liz Muller

York Street

From: Susan Koo [skoobykoo@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 10:35 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Hi,

I'm writing to express my support for the Lake Merritt dog park. As a resident in the area, I didn't realize the dog park's future was even in flux - it was such a great idea and such a welcome addition to the neighborhood that I've really been looking forward to it. I hope you garner enough support to make the dog park a reality - I think it would be wonderful for the community, its dogs, and its people!

Thanks,
Susan

From: Sabrina Martin [marsabrina@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 10:25 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Just learned about the plan for a dog park near Lakeshore library. Glad to see there is a separate small dog area. I live on Mandana and would welcome a park I could walk to.
thank you,
Sabrina Martin

From: Jordan Breslow [jjbreslow@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 9:29 AM
To: LORRAINE GRAY
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Re: Lake Merrit Dog Park

With the exception of two errant apostrophes, this is excellent. Xo

Jordan Breslow
(510) 418 0264
Typos due to iPhone

On Mar 8, 2011, at 8:54 PM, LORRAINE GRAY <lcoleygray@me.com> wrote:

> Dear Fellow Oakland Citizen,
>

> We are writing to support the development of a neighborhood dog park near the Lakeshore library. We live in the neighborhood and own a small rescue dog who loves to socialize with other dogs off leash. Dog parks give dogs an opportunity to learn how to get along with other dogs thus reducing the number of fights unsocialized dogs can get themselves into. In the dense urban environment dogs provide people with companionship and opportunities to connect with other dog lovers. The people who visit dog parks are vigilant about maintaining them as they understand how fortunate they are to have special areas designated off leash.
> We consistently hear that Oakland is an anti-dog city; approving the Lakeshore dog park is an opportunity to prove these people wrong and show once again that Oakland has all it's citizens
> quality of life as it's goal.
>
> Sincerely,
> Jordan Breslow
> Lorraine Gray
>
> 100 Grand Ave, Apt 712
> Oakland, 94612
From: Debbie [thedebbie@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 12:46 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: dog park

Dear Pat and Nancy,
I am a dog owner and lover and think that a safe and well maintained dog park would be great but if the City does not have the funds to maintain it and to have animal patrol or staff to monitor it we could have issues. If the dogs that go are not well behaved as I've experienced in Point Isabel then I won't go there. It is not at all uncommon to have dogs kill or seriously injure other dogs at dog parks.

I think that a small dog under 30lbs and a big dog area would help and perhaps a requirement for a license to use park if not an Oakland resident. Just like Piedmont does, your dog must be on leash if you don't purchase a dog license for Piedmont park use. This also produces revenue for park.
I would not use the park if the dogs are not separated by size and if the quality of dog was rougher big dogs
It's impossible to please everyone but the effort to do so is appreciated always.
Separate matter, what is happening with excavation at Wesley/MacArthur, are they just filling in for safety of neighbors land and to eliminate the eyesore?
Thanks,
Deborah Rothstein

From: Vilma Reyes [free2b2@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 10:52 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: off leash dog park

Please advocate to preserve and expand the off leash dog areas in Oakland and the rest of the Bay Area. It is one of the most treasured parts of living here

for me and my family. An area in Lake Merritt would make a great addition to Oakland.

Thanks!

Vilma Reyes

From: LORRAINE GRAY [lcoleygray@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 8:54 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: Jordan Breslow
Subject: Lake Merrit Dog Park

Dear Fellow Oakland Citizen,

We are writing to support the development of a neighborhood dog park near the Lakeshore library. We live in the neighborhood and own a small rescue dog who loves to socialize with other dogs off leash. Dog parks give dogs an opportunity to learn how to get along with other dogs thus reducing the number of fights unsocialized dogs can get themselves into. In the dense urban environment dogs provide people with companionship and opportunities to connect with other dog lovers. The people who visit dog parks are vigilant about maintaining them as they understand how fortunate they are to have special areas designated off leash.
We consistently hear that Oakland is an anti-dog city; approving the Lakeshore dog park is an opportunity to prove these people wrong and show once again that Oakland has all it's citizens
quality of life as it's goal.

Sincerely,
Jordan Breslow
Lorraine Gray

100 Grand Ave, Apt 712
Oakland, 94612
From: Julie Haydon [juliehaydon@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 8:48 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park Support

Dear Ms. Kernighan and Ms. Nadel-

Just wanted to express my support for building the off-leash dog park at Lake Merritt. I currently use several of the other dog parks in Oakland and find it is a helpful way to be a responsible dog owner. The addition of this dog park would be a great service to the city, and very helpful to dog owners, since we don't have the opportunity to take our dogs into other Oakland parks for exercise. I hope you will support this initiative.

Thank you both for your hard work and tireless efforts on the behalf of the City of Oakland-

Julie Haydon
Oakland Resident
From: Ireri Lora [ilora03@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 8:40 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy

Subject: Lake Merritt Off-leash Dog Park

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to show my support in regards to the proposed Lake Merritt Off-leash Dog Park. As an Oakland resident and responsible dog owner I think that offering an off-leash dog park in Lake Merritt would be a wonderful addition to an already thriving outdoor area. As active people who live in urban areas and may not have a yard for their dogs to play in, off-leash dog parks are sometimes our only option for our dogs to get any exercise when we lead busy and hectic lifestyles and do not have the time to travel to regional parks on a regular basis. Responsible dog owners deserve the right to have accessible off-leash dog areas that are available in our neighborhoods. Not only do having access to these type of areas allow our dogs to socialize and lead healthier lifestyles but these areas offer opportunities for people to socialize as well and create opportunities to build community and enjoy and care for our outdoor surroundings.
Please support the creation of a Lake Merritt off-leash dog park. Responsible dog owners in the bay area and all of our wonderful dogs deserve it.

Thank you ,

Ireri Diaz

From: Heather Eastwood [heather.eastwood@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 6:36 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: off leash at Lake Merritt

Hello,
I understand that you are considering an off leash dog park near the library and I want to urge you to support the idea. Dogs are part of innumerable Oakland families and essential to the character of our area. Off-leash romping is invaluable to their physical and mental health. Please think of all the happy, sleepy labradors and cocker spaniels (and their happy families) after a good social tumble!
Thank you for your hard work and for your support.
Best regards,
Heather Eastwood

From: jill m. kunishima [jmkunishima@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 2:24 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Play Area

Dear Councilmember Kernighan and Nadel,

I am writing in support of the Lakeview Dog Play Area as it is has long been proposed at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

This volunteer-led project has undergone various revisions over the course of 14 years all with compromises to address the concerns and needs of the community.

Please keep the following statistics in mind as we (hopefully) move forward:

* Forty percent of Oakland households have dogs.
* More Oakland households have dogs than have children.
* We are reasonably entitled to the same slice of the pie based on our percentage of the population as any other group.
* All of the affected groups have been reached out to over the life of this project, several times over in fact, soccer players, moms, library users, exercise enthusiasts, etc.

* Few projects in the history of Oakland have gone through such thorough planning.
* Years and years of bureaucratic hoop-jumping, ADA compliance, design review, and cost raises.
* City staff have set this project back numerous times by increasing the costs.
* At each turn, volunteers have responded by soliciting additional support.

The Lakeview Dog Play Area has been approved by the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission twice. It is unfair for a new group of residents to scare people as they have now done.

Oakland is better than this, and Oakland deserves a dog park in concert with the Lake Merritt Master Plan.

Please honor the vast majority of resident's wishes, keep this current plan on track without delay!

Sincerely,
Jill Kunishima
District 3 Resident and Dog Lover

From: Kathleen Meagher [erisagal@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 1:27 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Pat,

I met you some years ago at a party at Andi Biren's house. I am writing now in support of the Lakeview Dog Play Area as it is has long been proposed at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur. Shortly before the last City Council election, I spoke to your office about this important issue and received a helpful response. I hope that you will give your support to the Play Area and to the interests of the citizens of Oakland who need a place to exercise their dogs.

This volunteer-led project has undergone various revisions over the course of 14 years all with compromises to address the concerns and needs of the community. That now, neighbors new to the discussion want to derail these efforts is absurd.

* Forty percent of Oakland households have dogs.
* More Oakland households have dogs than have children.
* We are reasonably entitled to the same slice of the pie based on our percentage of the population as any other group.

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* At each turn, volunteers have responded by soliciting additional support.

The Lakeview Dog Play Area has been approved by the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission twice. It is unfair for a new group of residents to scare people (jumping dogs! dogs eating children!) as they have now done.

Oakland is better than this, and Oakland deserves a dog park in concert with the Lake Merritt Master Plan.

Pat, please honor the vast majority of residents' wishes and the hard work of all our volunteers for many years and keep this current plan on track without delay!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Meagher
1027 Trestle Glen Rd.
Oakland

From: Gerry Tenney [gtenney@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:41 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

I am a non-dog owner in your district who is strongly in favor of the dog park.
Gerry Tenney
From: Ruby Kane [rubykane@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 2:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Please wait for the community meeting for any further comments on the dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Hi Pat,

I am two blocks from the location, so please count me among the walkers. I would like to know as soon as a meeting or other decision-making event is scheduled.

I believe dog parks are city resources, and I am personally as unopposed to people driving to the dog park as I am to people driving to the Farmer's Market. My daughter's birthday party yesterday was all but derailed because all the guests spent 30 minutes plus looking for parking in my neighborhood. One guest's kids fell asleep while she was looking, so she went home. I do not think that we

should dispense with the Farmer's Market or insist that only people who live nearby come on foot to attend, though, regardless of the inconvenience to me personally.

There are too few dog- or even dog-friendly parks in this city for it not to be a city-wide concern. I am encouraging people to contact their own city council members and copy you. If you would like to discount their opinions, that's your decision. I have also contacted the dog owners I know in the neighborhoods you mention, and will continue to do so.

Many people make Lake Merritt a destination, and I'm sure they would do so with their dogs. I don't care about the congestion and parking problems, because as I mentioned, they're already out of control--this is a drop in the bucket in comparison to Trader Joe's or the Farmer's Market, which weren't even a twinkle in anyone's eye when this dog park was conceived.

Finally, the vitriol in Cleveland Heights against this dog park is outrageous--this is what sparked your poll, and again, that does not encourage a scientific result. Not everyone who lives somewhere is on the neighborhood listservs--and I would venture a guess that the people who are most stubbornly committed to conserving the status quo would be the ones who populate the lists. People with access to a computer on a daily basis and the leisure time to commit to their campaigns, as well. I'm going to work to get the information to the rest of the population, and again I request some time to do that.

Thanks,
Ruby

On Mon, Mar 7, 2011 at 12:55 PM, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

Hi Ruby,

It will probably be some time before truly final decisions are made. That said, my view is that our public announcements requesting email feedback went out to everyone who is on the neighborhood email lists, and that should give notice to dog owners and non-dog owners equally that there is chance to weigh in. My desire for this dog park, should it go forward, is that it would serve people who live within walking distance, thus I am not moved by the support of people who live far away and would drive to this location.

By the way, the responses I am getting in opposition (and support) are very evenly distributed around the surrounding neighborhoods--Grandlake, Crocker, Rose Garden, Adams Point, as well as Cleveland Heights.

Best wishes,

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: Ruby Kane [mailto:rubykane@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:31 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Please wait for the community meeting for any further comments on the dog park

Hi Pat,

It's distressing to me that the tallying of responses arises from the concerns raised by one group of people, those in Cleveland Heights, who, for some reason, seem especially motivated to keep the park from happening. It's not a scientific polling by any means because of that. Had it arisen from a group of dog owners, perhaps the skew would be different. I'm doing my damnedest to get the word out to those groups, but we need some time. I would really like it if we could hold off on any official tallying until both sides have the opportunity to rally our group. They had an unfair advantage here, and I appreciate that you understand that.

Please let us have some time to get organized. I don't know where ODOG is, but I think their group moderator(s) is/are otherwise occupied at the moment. They have a group event planned for later in the month, and I'll attend that and get the word out there. I am planning some activities to inform dog owners, and attempting to get some group interest, but these things are slow.

I am also practicing deep breathing and save draft as often as possible to avoid inflaming the discussion again. I recognize that my reactions have helped further the descent into ugliness that has transpired, and I apologize to those affected.

Ruby

On Mon, Mar 7, 2011 at 11:18 AM, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

I am still encouraging all residents with an opinion of the dog park proposal to send their comments directly to me at

pkernighan@oaklandnet.com

Councilmember Nadel and I will compile all the messages we get and make a tally of support and opposition. It would helpful if people would tell us where they live when they send their opinion. (I am mainly interested to know the opinions of residents of the surrounding neighborhoods--Cleveland Heights/Haddon Hill, Adams Point, Grandlake, Crocker Highlands, Rose Garden--i.e., those who live within walking distance of the site.)

Thanks,

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com [mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of BETSY
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:05 AM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Please wait for the community meeting for any further comments on the dog park

To all my neighbors,

I'm a huge supporter of this news group for distribution of important information - and I value its existence. But I'm greatly saddened by the volume and quantity of comments regarding the dog park, both for its disruption of the informative value this distribution list and the divisiveness it is bringing to a forum which is intended to bring unity to our community - even if we are coming together to discuss an issue on which we disagree.

Voices have been heard, a community meeting is in the works at which I hope critical information will be shared with both sides of this issue and an spirited discussion can be held. I have my opinion as well, but am holding it for that time and am grateful to Councilmember Kernighan's keen awareness to all of the interest in the community discussion.

Please let this distribution list come back to being unifying community tool.

Regards and respect,
Betsy

__.-._'-._.___
Reply to <mailto:PKernighan@oaklandnet.com?subject=RE%3A%20%5BGrandLakeNCPC%5D%20Please%20wait%20for%20the%20community%20meeting%20for%20any%20further%20comments%20on%20the%20dog%20park> sender | Reply to <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com?subject=RE%3A%20%5BGrandLakeNCPC%5D%20Please%20wait%20for%20the%20community%20meeting%20for%20any%20further%20comments%20on%20the%20dog%20park> group | Reply <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJwbXFmb2E1BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBG1zZ0lkAzMwODgEc2VjA2Z0cgRzbGsDcnBseQRzdGltZQMxMjk5NTI1NDkx?act=reply&messageNum=3088> via web post | Start a New Topic

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"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it." — Oscar Wilde

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"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it." — Oscar Wilde

From: suzi goldmacher [goldie49@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 12:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Hi Pat
We are writing you to express our support for a dog park in our neighborhood near Lake Merritt. We have been to the closed in dog park in Alameda and found it to be a wonderful place to play with our dogs. Having one in our area will allow us to walk our dogs to the park instead of driving.
Thanks
Suzi Goldmacher and Amy Halio

Urit Suzi Goldmacher
Cell 510-459-4477
From: notify@yahoogroups.com on behalf of BETSY [bets@bbaum.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: a VERY strong supporter of the dog park

Pat,

Hi! I can't wait to have a dog park within walking distance. I just got married, and a beagle came with the husband.

having visited so many other dog parks, I see people who come together, get to know the neighborhood better, and because they want to take their dog to a beautiful space, can do much to care of the space. The assertion that a dog park is stinky is only made by someone who has never visited one -- dog owners have a stronger interest in keeping a dog park lovely than non dog owners. we're the ones who spend the most time in it!

It's also amusing that these vehement anti-dog folks don't realize that people with dogs regularly violate the No Dog rule in these open spaces, and seem to do so with complete harmony.

I hope several things happen at the community meeting... 1) getting very clear information, about not only what the plans are for this dog park, but also for the experience of putting in other dog parks and 2) discussing ways to make a fantastic dog park that adds some beauty to the neighborhood in a way that will be pleasing to the non-dog owners. i think Alameda did a good job of ensuring there were elements that helped it blend with the open space. We all have a common interest in coming together in beautiful spaces, and I hope the conversation starts THERE.

Several folk talk about Point Isabel as a viable alternative. We do that weekly, but we walk the dog two to three times a day, and an opportunity to get to know other dog owners is helpful -- and builds a rich community. We want a place to bring our dogs that is walking distance.

I'm very sad for how divisive this issue has been in our community. and really hope I get to know my dog-owning neighbors at our new dog park soon.

On a funny note, isn't Astro the dog from the old cartoon Jetsons? Only appropriate the Astro Park should love dogs!

Thanks,
Betsy Baum
742 Wesley Way apt 2C
Oakland, CA 94610
510-444-4061

From: David Flack [mdavidflack@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:37 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Pat Kernighan, Nancy Nadel,

I support the dog park.

I walk by Lakeshore and MacArthur about a dozen times a week. I rarely see anyone in the area proposed for the dog park. Communities benefit when people use outdoor spaces. Nanny Park, Splash Pad and the recently landscaped east side of the lake are valued parts of our neighborhood not because they are land without buildings, but because people use them. A dog park will bring people to this space, and that is a good thing.

I disagree with some of the objections that have been raised.

Swampiness - Public Works changed the grading quite some time ago. This issue has already been addressed.

To close to the playground - Go to the dog park in Rockridge under the freeway. Those children seem to be fascinated by the dogs and get as close to them as they can. I'm not sure why children in our neighborhood would behave differently.

Smell - Go to the dog park in Joaquin Miller Park where wood chips are used. There is no horrible smell. Walk around in the dog park. You won't come away with poop on your shoes. Dog owners visit a dog park more than once. They have an incentive to keep it well maintained.

Too small - Yes, it would be nice if every neighborhood had a dog park the size of Point Isabel. But Point Isabel is the largest public dog park in the country. It seems a stretch to measure any new dog park against the Point Isabel standard.

Parking - Again, go to the dog park in Joaquin Miller Park. There are often 5 or 6 cars parked there. This is a drop in the bucket compared to the number of cars parking in our neighborhood for Trader Joes, the farmers market or the Grand

Lake Theater. I suspect the percentage of dog owners who walk to the park as opposed to drive will be higher in our neighborhood than at Joaquin Miller because there are more people who live within walking distance. The 5 or 6 cars at Joaquin Miller might be only 3 or 4 in our neighborhood.

Bird Sanctuary - Many people walk their dogs on the sidewalks that circle the Lake (I'm talking about the legal sidewalks here - not the paths that are off limits). The dogs come much closer to the birds walking on the sidewalks than they will at the dog park.

Loss of use for others - The dog park will not use the entire open space between Lakeshore and Grand. A large area will remain for other activities. And as I mentioned in the beginning, I rarely see anyone in the area proposed for the dog park. I've been paying closer attention since this subject erupted on the Yahoo group. Since mid-January I have not seen a single activity in this space. The dog park would be an improvement because people would use the space every day.

David Flack
York Street

From: Sjkotch [sjkotch@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:32 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Dear Ms. Kernighanan,
My husband and I live in the Adam Point area (Staten Ave). We would like to voice our resounding support for the proposed dog park near the library, near lake Merritt. We own two small dogs and are avid users of dog parks in other neighborhoods (driving to Piedmont, Alameda and now West Oakland) to exercise and socialize our dogs. We would greatly appreciate a park we could walk to. We feel that dog parks are a great for dogs but also a great way build community. We have met many wonderful people by being park park "regulars" and feel that a park in our neighborhood would help connect with one another.

Thank you for considering our opinion of support for the new dog park.

Suzan Kotch and Ben Washofsky
376 Staten ave.

From: Tracy L. Marcial [tmarcial@pacbell.net]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:26 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park Support

Hi Pat,

I'd like to let you know that I am in support of the dog park at Lakeshore near the farmers market.

I think it's a great use of part of an open space. It takes up a part of the open space, but still leaves plenty of space for the soccer, volleyball, etc players.

There are not enough areas locally for people to take their dogs. All the Oakland parks say "no dogs allowed", so the play area for people and their

dogs is very limited.

I think it's great that it's next to a playground, because all the kids who love dogs and do not have one get a chance to see them play. I have a daughter and a dog, and I fully support this park. I personally do not think that dog parks are ugly, or have to be ugly. I'm not big on chain link fences, but I think with the vines and other plantings, it could look ok. Also, all the dog parks I've been to have low 4' fences, so they do not block views of anyone. Also, all the dog parks I've been to have very conscious owners who diligently pick up their dog's poop. If they don't they are very much scolded by the other owners in the park. Same goes w/aggressive dogs....the owners of the non-aggressive dogs typically scold the others and ask them not to come.

I'm a little concerned about the safety of the dogs on such a busy street, but I understand there will be double gates to help keep them safe.

I also feel like there are a lot of open spaces around the Lake, where dogs would likely never be allowed to go because of the bird sanctuary, but all the volleyball, soccer, runners, joggers, etc have plenty of space available there as well.

Thank you,

Tracy Marcial on Capell St.

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Dog Park at Lake Merritt

----- Original Message -----
From: Robin <robingdfllw@earthlink.net>
To: Riley, Dana; Nadel, Nancy; Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wed Mar 02 18:27:34 2011
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merritt

My little white, fluffy,Bichon Frise entertains and does tricks at schools, libraries, recreation departments and for the elderly. But there are very few places where she can just run around safely without fear of large dogs. She needs a legal, small dog area to run in. When I visit a friend with a grass lawn, she just runs around in figure 8's, she is so delighted with a chance to move around. Please see that the Dog Park finally happens!
Thank you!
Robin Goodfellow and Poochinella
From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Dog park feedback

From: elynch007@aol.com [mailto:elynch007@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 2:20 PM

To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Dog park feedback

Hello,

I understand opinions and feedback are requested of us regarding the proposed dog park.

I support a dog park, and think the current plan is good. I do not own any dogs, but have friends and neighbors who do, and I feel strongly this city needs to be dog friendly. Part of having a healthy community is having it be companion animal friendly. There are few places to bring dogs in the lake area at all..

I offer my support for this project.

My second choice is the area between Park Blvd and 5th Ave. by E.22nd St. That would be fine too.

Thank you kindly,

Ellen Lynch

2119 11th Ave., Oakland

510-978-9345

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Dog Park Feedback

From: Diana Solari [mailto:dtsolari@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Dog Park Feedback

Hi.

I live on Adams Point and am very much in favour of the proposed dog park.

D Solari

295 Lee Street

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Support for the Dog Park!!!

From: skip@adritepromotions [mailto:skip@adritepromotions.com]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 5:25 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Support for the Dog Park!!!

Dear Xiaojing,

We are writing in support of the proposed dog park. Our family has lived in the Grand/Lake part of Oakland for nearly 15 years and been part of an active part of this community.

We are dog owners (two big dogs) and have no where in Oakland where we can exercise our dogs off-leash. I think the proposed plan makes far better use of under-used land and is a perfect spot for a dog park.

We would be happy to contribute to the maintenance of the park.

Please let us know how we can help you to get this park built!

Sincerely,

Skip and Sue Lehman

Adrite Promotions

510-832-6589

www.adritepromotions.com <http://www.adritepromotions.com/>

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area

From: Cheyenne Sylvester [mailto:cheyenne.sylvester@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 7:04 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area

Hello,

As a resident of the Grand Lake area (I live at Prince St. and Warfield Ave.) and owner of two dogs, one large, one tiny, I very much support the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area!

Thank you,

Cheyenne Sylvester

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: Judy/Power User [mailto:judypower@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 7:48 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Xiaojing Wang,

Thanks for soliciting neighborhood input on the dog park issue. I live at 420 Merritt Avenue, and am a member of the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Group through Yahoo. I have been reading the neighborhood comments on this site, but have not participated in the discussion. I attended a Parks Department hearing on the issue a few months ago to voice support for the park, and will definitely attend any future meetings on the issue.

I am a strong supporter of the dog park proposal. I have lived in this

area since 1986 -- about 9 years at my current address. I feel very strongly that the modest dog park is currently planned for the right location. It will be readily accessible to residents of both the Adams Point/Grand Avenue neighborhoods and the Lakeshore Avenue/Eastlake residents. As things stand now (and have for all the years I have lived here), the great lawn in this area is very much under-used. I believe the current users of the lawn -- volleyball players (usually games have only 4 players), soccer pick-up games (generally no more than a dozen people on the field at any one time), and families with children or other unorganized game-playing -- will all still have room to enjoy this part of the park. I currently take my corgi over to the Alameda park almost every day, and have not witnessed any dangerous or even risky interaction between the leashed dogs outside the fences and the many children in the park.

I know many of my neighbors are concerned about parking issues for this amenity, but honestly, I am in this area every day of the week -- often with my dog, but also often walking on my own. There are already many people driving to Lake Merritt to walk their dogs around the lake. With the relatively modest size of the proposed dog park, I am skeptical that there will be a great inrease in the number of drivers to the park. Even though parking is sometimes challenging (especially on Saturday mornings with the market), my experience (with friends driving over to meet me for a lake walk) is that with a bit of effort, one can always find parking.

Some on the Cleveland Heights yahoo group have complained that this will eliminate an area attractive for picnickers and sunbathers. Again, I am at this park every day, at various times of the day. There are so many places to picnic, sunbathe, or just sit on the grass and read a book, that it seems there is not much sacrifice of space for the many neighborhood dog owners to greatly increase the use of this corner of the park. I don't hear the outcry about sharing space with lawn bowlers or croquet players, and the dog park will take up a lot less space than those areas. And please understand -- I don't begrudge an inch of the space for those activities.

As Councilmember Nadel is no doubt aware, it is always the naysayers and Nimby's who are most vocal on the chatboards. I am certain there will be many voices of support for this proposal, once word gets around that Ms. Nadel is looking for input.

Judy Power
420 Merritt Avenue
Oakland, 94610 (Beat 15X, District 3)

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: dog park

-----Original Message-----
From: Ben Greenfield [mailto:bengreenfield@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 10:41 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing

Subject: Fw: dog park

--- On Tue, 3/1/11, Ben Greenfield <bengreenfield@sbcglobal.net> wrote:

> From: Ben Greenfield <bengreenfield@sbcglobal.net>
> Subject: dog park
> To: PKernighan@oaklandnet.com, nnadel@oaklandnet.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com
> Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011, 7:08 AM
> Dear Councilmembers Nadel, Kernigham,
> and Kaplan,
>
> I am a 9 year Lake Merritt resident, living in the
> Cleveland Cascade area. I do not own a dog, though I
> do volunteer at the East Bay SPCA and am concerned for the
> plight of dogs in the East Bay, which strikes me as a very
> unfriendly area for canines in general. I am writing
> to voice my strong support for the dog park project, planned
> to occur in the park adjacent to El Embarcadero, Macarthur
> Boulevard, and the pillars area of the lake. I won't
> be attending the various stakeholder meetings, nor posting
> to the list serves in support or opposition to the
> park. Nevertheless, I feel that the park in that
> location would be a good use of the space, that a local dog
> park is sorely needed, and that use of that location would
> considerably increase pedestrian safety at night (due to
> presence of lots of visible dog owners). Despite the
> protests of many, I have found that that location is highly
> underutilized, typically being empty at most times of the
> day and
> night. I presume measures will be taken to minimize
> risks or exposure to the small adjacent playground, which
> certainly does get a great deal of use. Please include
> my opinions in the record of all supporters/opponents of the
> park. I, for one, support the dog park as
> planned. The opponents are certainly being very vocal,
> but there are also many supporters, some of whom (such as
> myself) do not even own dogs.
>
> Sincerely,
> Ben Greenfield
> Merritt Avenue
>
From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog park

-----Original Message-----
From: Carole Levenson [mailto:carolesl@jps.net]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 11:28 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog park

I have worked off and on with others on this project for years. We were already approved to move forward years ago. Most of the dogs initially involved in this project have died of old age.

It is time to go forward with this park. It is also time to go forward with decriminalizing dog owners who walk their dogs on-leash in city parks. I strongly urge you to propose changes to Oakland ordinances that disallow dogs in city parks, on leash or off. It is time to give responsible pet owners the same access to our parks as other tax payers enjoy.

Thank you for considering my views on these matters.

Carole Levenson
492 Staten Avenue #1103
Oakland 94610

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:49 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: PROPOSED LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA- Feedback from Adams Point Resident

---

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Ru Berry [mailto:ruberry279@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 3:03 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: PROPOSED LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA- Feedback from Adams Point Resident

PROPOSED LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA

Councilmember Nadel is requesting feedback from District 3 constituents living in the Lake Merritt/Adam' s Point/Cleveland Heights neighborhoods on the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area.

Hello!
I live on Lee St. in Adams Point. I fully support a dog play area as described in the plan. While I don't have a dog, I support those who do. Having an off

leash area where dogs (and owners) can socialize will foster happy, well-behaved dogs and friendly people interactions. These positives will serve to make the neighborhood more congenial overall.

Thank you!
Maura McLoughlin

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:49 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lakeshore dog park

-----Original Message-----
From: Mary Eisenhart [mailto:marye@yoyow.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 3:20 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: dogtalk@comcast.net; seanmichaelsullivan@gmail.com
Subject: Lakeshore dog park

To put it mildly, it is outrageous that a park that has been approved for five years is being held up by yet another round of mean-spirited naysayers whose dog-in-the-manger attitude has now risen to such heights, as evidenced by the "Save Astro Park" board, that they actually say with a straight face that they would rather have nothing there than have a dog park. (Noise from barking dogs at the corner of Macarthur and Lakeshore? Puh-leeeze.)

Sorry. Forty percent of Oakland households have dogs. More Oakland households have dogs than have children. We are sick and tired, as taxpayers, of being treated as bastard stepchildren when the resources are handed out. We are reasonably entitled to the same slice of the pie based on our percentage of the population as, say, the parents of soccer players, and this business of having to go through years and years of bureaucratic hoop-jumping, ADA compliance, design review, and now yet another battalion of mean people to get another postage-stamp-size piece of land that will be too small for dogs to get decent exercise anyway is just ridiculous.

One of my dogs has already died in the decade we have waited for this park to be built. I have long since lost hope about it, but I weigh in on the subject anyway in hopes of sanity finally prevaling. Thank you.

Mary
From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:49 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lakeview Dog Park area

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Janet Magnuson [mailto:tenaj414@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 11:24 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park area

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Lakeview Dog Park area near Lake Merritt. I am a resident of Adams Point since late 2004 and am writing this email in strong support of the dog park area at Lakeview Park.

I moved here from San Francisco and at that time was told there would be a dog park in this area, so here we are 6 years later, and we are still debating this. The area around Lake Merritt is extremely dog unfriendly. Everywhere I look are signs that say No Dogs Allowed. It is actually very confusing to know where I can and can't walk my dog even on-leash. In terms of off-leash, there are many benefits to having dogs play and socialize together. And many problems when you don't allow this to happen. I would say at least 50% of the folks I see walking their dogs in my neighborhood say "my dog is not friendly" in other words, not socialized properly. This is not good for anyone, these dogs are more aggressive and more likely to bite humans, as well as getting in fights with other dogs. The only area close by my house (walking) is in Piedmont. Why should I have to go to the Piedmont parks to take my dog off-leash? I live in Oakland, I pay Oakland property taxes and I vote in Oakland, not Piedmont While we have great recreational areas at Redwood park that you can bring your dog to, you have to get in a car to get there (at least from where I live). I shouldn't have to drive to take my dog somewhere to play.

Not only is off-leash recreation important for dogs, but it's important for people too.

When I lived in San Francisco, I had access to Dolores Park and I went there every day. I met lots of my neighbors, friends that I still keep in contact with. Since moving to Oakland, I've never met a fellow dog owner that's become a friend, and that is because I never get a chance to interact with them. I think having a dog play area fosters neighbors getting to know each other, and that's very important to our neighborhood. We already have at least two parks for kids around Lake Merritt, an extremely aggressive anti-dog sentiment around

the Lake, why can't we have one (albeit very small) off-leash area for the dogs to play?

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please don't allow a few individuals who are anti-dog take over the conversation. This park was promised to us a long time ago, let's move forward with it.

Sincerely,

Janet Magnuson

Orange Street, Oakland, 94610

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:49 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park

-----Original Message-----
From: David McGee [mailto:davidhmcgee@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 1:51 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Dear Ms. Wang:

I am writing in support of the proposed dog park near the Lakeview Library at Lake Merritt. I feel it would be a much-needed addition to our neighborhood. I'm sure you're familiar with the Alameda dog parks in Washington Park? This park has large and small dog parks which I visit often, but it would be nice if one were convenient and in walking distance from where I live near Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland. The Alameda dog parks appear to function well. None of the predicted negative effects of a dog park brought up by those opposing the proposed Lake Merritt dog park are in evidence in Alameda. A community has formed around the Alameda small-dog park. It has a website and frequent events, such as a Halloween costume contest, fundraisers, picnics, barbeques, and a Fourth of July Parade float for the annual Alameda parade, just to mention a few. I enjoy the social connections I find in Alameda, as does my dog. I would love to have the same type of community experience for Lake Merritt.

Some of arguments against a proposed Lake Merritt dog park just don't hold up to scrutiny. For instance, lack of parking: the premium on parking around the library I feel would encourage walking to the proposed dog park. There are hundreds of dog owners within a mile or two of the proposed location. Walking to a dog park would promote physical exercise both for the dogs and their owners. A park would complement other events around Lake Merritt like the farmer's market on Saturdays--dogs are not allowed at the market. A family or group of friends could walk to the market on a Saturday while some family members or friends visit the proposed dog park with their pets. The same argument about lack of parking for the proposed dog park would apply to the farmer's market. I've never heard it raised as a reason not to have the farmer's market. Hundreds attend the

market weekly--most people (excluding vendors) I believe walk there, as there's little parking available. If you observe the farmer's market on any Saturday, there are numerous dog owners on the outskirts of the market with leashed dogs--they would definitely make a visit to the dog park if there was one.

Those against the park say it will hinder the open space available in the area. There's plenty of open space to enjoy at Lake Merritt, acres and acres of it. I cannot understand how the proposed dog park would encumber the available open space at Lake Merritt, in which dogs are not allowed. Those against the proposed dog park say it would infringe on a wild-life refuge. How would this be possible when the dogs will be contained by a fence when off leash and remain on leash when outside the proposed dog park? The Alameda dog parks are adjacent to a wild-life refuge, and I have not observed any conflicts between dogs and the wild life there. There are few off-leash areas in the Grand Lake area--the only ones are the dog park at Oakland Ave/Linda St and Mosswood park--a long distance from Lake Merritt. The dog run adjacent to Mandana St. requires dogs be leashed.

People have protested an anticipated increase in smell from dog waste and urine that would somehow cause unpleasantness in the area. That certainly is not the case with the Alameda parks which represent two to three times the size of the proposed Lake Merritt park. In Alameda the rules are that owners clean up after their dogs using the parks' scoops and deposit waste in receptacles provided there. This works very well. What's nice is the dog park users collaborate on the upkeep of the parks along with city services and keep them running smoothly. It becomes a community asset, something people cherish and take care of. I would only wish the same for Lake Merritt.

Regards,

David McGee

From: Catherine McBride [cmcbride@pacbell.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 10:13 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

I support the proposed dog park at Lake Merritt as included in the Lake Merritt Master Plan.

I've lived in District 3 since Feb of 1982 and I've always had at least one dog in residence. In addition, I've fostered many dogs and worked to make those dogs more adoptable and better members of future families and communities.

I've been reading the on-going exchange on the Cleveland Heights listserv about the dog park with great sadness and confusion. The topic, I had thought, was long resolved and slooooooowly working to its final conclusion as a realized part of the Lake Merritt Master Plan.

First, this is NOT a decision which is the sole right of one neighborhood group. I see that Ms. Nadel has reached out to the Adam's Point and HarriOak communities through the "D3DTownLake" listserv. However, unless all persons on various listservs are included in the "D3DTownLake" list, would also be helpful to do an email to harrioak@yahoogroups.com, APAC_14X@yahoogroups.com, and to the Gold Coast list, etc., for more responses. Reach out to the largest audience - and even that might be insufficient since many residents from city wide might like to visit the lake dog park.

Second, I attended many a meeting, plowed through a great of literature, and kept up with online plan information relative to the Lake Merritt Master Plan to come to this point where a small group of neighbors seem to have veto power over what was an inclusive, citywide, planning effort represented in the final plan. Participate when it counts - please advise on the purpose of public participation and planning if latecomers ARE the decision-makers.

Third, a huge effort in volunteer time and in-kind contributions, and the precious use of council member time, staff, district funds, and city resources has been expended to painfully inch this project along over a considerable time. Are these efforts and costs, and the municipal plans that actualize those ideas, to be suspended because of a few neighbors in one area. Don't throw away public many and public participation - how careless can it be to waste precious city resources already expended?

I haven't read one rational reason against the dog park although the irrational is in mighty evidence from dog dirt left in yards, the nighttime use of dog parks for nasty nasties, the complete loss of all open space, the noise, to child endangerment to cover just a few. Not to mention the terrifying level of meanness in the exchange of opinions.

So, we better drain the lake because of child endangerment, kill all the ducks because of feces, rope off the area because of trash, cut down the trees because if the vandals don't get them the toxins from the freeway will, take out the benches because they could be used for nasty nasties, and get rid of all the damn people who cause so much noise its hard to hear the traffic from the freeway and the many, many high traffic streets that surround the whole dangerous mess. Its a wonder people don't fall off the walking paths by the thousands since they are so foolishly and dangerously located RIGHT NEXT TO THE LAKE - which is FULL of water. Sigh. Sorry. But, yes I do feel a tad better.

You have my best wishes -
Thanks - Catherine McBride
510-465-6605

From: PAMELA A DRAKE [pamelad205@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 8:47 PM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Why I oppose the dog run and favor the open space

I am still surprised by all of the hyperbole on this issue.(I know I shouldn't be. We often get exercised over any change in our neighborhood). According to this letter writer, a dog park would "effectively privatize" this area. Privatization is a term guaranteed to get the blood boiling in many of our progressive hearts. But this is the basic definition of the term-

to change (as a <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/privatize> business or industry) from public to private control or ownership, generally for profit.

Turning part of this largely unused "commons", another term that leaves me a little queasy in this case, into a dog park would not privatize it in any of the

meanings I understand. Nor is it the front lawn of the library. It seems to me that it is a fairly unused corner and that the rest of that very large lawn would still be a space usable for soccer, volleyball, or other team sports-a special interest group of which I'm also not a member.

This noisy spot is also not my idea of "prime", that is, first in excellence, quality, or value. It is actually "adjacent", that is, next to or adjoining something else, a busy intersection, not the wonderful wildlife sanctuary.

Parking problems have been used to try and keep everything and anything out (including the TJS) but I belive many will walk to it. If they don't, they'll have to look for parking like everyone else and will likely not affect the Grand Lake shopping area which is too far for shoppers from the park. Most likely, it will increase visitors and shoppers to the area, but I can't prove that either.

My only concern has been that the area have proper drainage in its swampiness, but knowing that wood chips will be used has assuaged that somewhat.

I am not a dog owner nor do I think I will become one. My cat walks himself and doesn't even care for the company of other cats. Dogs are quite charming in a different way as they crave and actually need to socialize with their kind. But like many well-adjusted creatures, they prefer not to live in a monoculture and for that I bow to them and wish them a tiny park in which to frolic. I presume I'll enjoy observing their joyousness as they are so open with it.

Can we at least give this little change a try, folks, or at least tone down our panic to fit the source?

Sincerely,

Pamela

--- On Sun, 3/6/11, bradmccrea@comcast.net <bradmccrea@comcast.net> wrote:

From: bradmccrea@comcast.net <bradmccrea@comcast.net>
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Why I oppose the dog run and favor the open space
To: "ClevelandHeightsNeighbors" <ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com>, "GrandLakeNCPC" <GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com>
Cc: "Pat Kernighan" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Date: Sunday, March 6, 2011, 6:57 PM

The following is why I'm opposed to the dog run at the corner of MacArthur and Lakeshore.

Please email pkernighan@oaklandnet.com to give her your opinion.

The public benefits of the dog run project do not clearly exceed the public detriment from the loss of unprogrammed open space.

Unprogrammed public open spaces are vital to dense urban areas. When located in the heart of thriving neighborhood districts, open spaces provide a place of respite within the context of their vibrant residential and commercial surroundings. Astro Park is no exception.

A growing number of dog owners and non-dog owners alike are responding to the unreasonable proposal to eliminate shared open space for the purpose of creating a fenced dog area within this prime park location. I firmly believe that the proposed dog park is detrimental to the existing uses at Astro Park and must not be approved, even with conditions.

The historic open space serves as the front lawn to the Lakeview Library and the gateway to the Grand Lake District. But it does much more than that. Astro Park is currently "the commons" for our neighborhood, a public resource that is collectively shared between the diverse Lake Merritt neighborhood populations. It is unfenced, unenclosed and available to the majority of Oaklanders. Changing the use of the park to an enclosed dog run would effectively privatize a significant portion of the public open space.

The green space at Astro Park is currently available to nearly everyone: joggers, walkers, volleyball players, soccer players, excercisers and families. Individuals and groups, old and young use the space. The site has few physical improvements. However, the simple design of Astro Park and its flexible program are precisely the reason that the open space has been successful for generations. This is why it is entirely unacceptable for the larger community to lose this amount of unprogrammed open space for the sole gain of one special interest group. It's too much. I would feel the same regardless of whether it was for dogs, soft ball, tot lots or lawn bowling. Dog parks can be sited in many locations - and should be. But not here.

The proposed dog park would have adverse impacts on other public benefits besides open space. The proposed use would increase parking demand in the immediate area, including an additional burden on the Lakeview Library parking lot and the parking for Grand Avenue restaurants. Additionally, the proposed dog use appears to be incompatible with the adjacent wildlife refuge, a National Historic Landmark. Further, the proposed use would come with no funding for operations and maintenance, thereby diverting resources from other City parks. Finally, the odors resulting from the proposed dog use (dog urine and feces) may adversely impact existing public spaces, especially after periods of rains or irrigation.

This historic park at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue is a vibrant neighborhood space where informal, active recreation takes place. More importantly, it is an inviting, uninterrupted greensward at the northern end of

Lake Merritt where residents, all residents, are welcome. Currently, Astro Park serves the greater community. Conversely, the proposed dog park use would result in the direct loss of a large amount of unprogrammed public open space in a prime location within the City of Oakland. This action cannot be mitigated.

For these reasons, I believe the proposed use of Astro Park for an enclosed dog area is unacceptable and that the minor conditional use application, when formally submitted, should be denied.

Thank you for you time.

Brad

__._,_.___
Reply to
<http://us.mc814.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=bradmccrea@comcast.net&subject=Re%3A%20Why%20I%20oppose%20the%20dog%20run%20and%20favor%20the%20open%20space>
sender | Reply to
<http://us.mc814.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com&subject=Re%3A%20Why%20I%20oppose%20the%20dog%20run%20and%20favor%20the%20open%20space> group | Reply
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJwZXAwNjhrBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBG1zZ0lkAzMwNzgEc2VjA2Z0cgRzbGsDcnBseQRzdGltZQMxMjk5NDY2Njcx?act=reply&messageNum=3078> via web post | Start a New Topic
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJlNWprMnZvBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA250cGMEc3RpbWUDMTI5OTQ2NjY3MQ-->
Messages in this topic
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Recent Activity:

* New Members
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/members;_ylc=X3oDMTJmMXVwMG45BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwN2dGwEc2xrA3ZtYnJzBHN0aW1lAzEyOTk0NjY2NzE-?o=6> 2

Visit Your Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC;_ylc=X3oDMTJlYWxrNnE1BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwN2dGwEc2xrA3ZnaHAEc3RpbWUDMTI5OTQ2NjY3MQ-->

<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJkcmszMnByBF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA2dmcARzdGltZQMxMjk5NDY2Njcx> Yahoo! Groups
Switch to: Text-Only
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<http://geo.yahoo.com/serv?s=97359714/grpId=7331736/grpspId=1705043011/msgId=3078/stime=1299466671/nc1=1/nc2=2/nc3=3>

__,_._,___

From: Judy/Power User [judypower@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 4:55 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merritt -- In favor of proposal

Dear Ms. Kernigan,

I have sent the message to Xiaojing Wang for Nancy Nadel's attention. I hope you'll forgive any duplication.

Thanks for soliciting neighborhood input on the dog park issue. I live at 420 Merritt Avenue, and am a member of the Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Group through Yahoo. I have been reading the neighborhood comments on this site, but have not participated in the discussion. I attended a Parks Department hearing on the issue a few months ago to voice support for the park, and will definitely attend any future meetings on the issue.

I am a strong supporter of the dog park proposal. I have lived in this area since 1986 -- about 9 years at my current address. I feel very strongly that the modest dog park is currently planned for the right location. It will be readily accessible to residents of both the Adams Point/Grand Avenue neighborhoods and the Lakeshore Avenue/Eastlake residents. As things stand now (and have for all the years I have lived here), the great lawn in this area is very much under-used. I believe the current users of the lawn -- volleyball players (usually games have only 4 players), soccer pick-up games (generally no more than a dozen people on the field at any one time), and families with children or other unorganized game-playing -- will all still have room to enjoy this part of the park. I currently take my corgi over to the Alameda park almost every day, and have not witnessed any dangerous or even risky interaction between the leashed dogs outside the fences and the many children in the park.

I know many of my neighbors are concerned about parking issues for this amenity, but honestly, I am in this area every day of the week -- often with my dog, but also often walking on my own. There are already many people driving to Lake Merritt to walk their dogs around the lake. With the relatively modest size of the proposed dog park, I am skeptical that there will be a great inrease in the number of drivers to the park. Even though parking is sometimes challenging (especially on Saturday mornings with the market), my experience (with friends driving over to meet me for a lake walk) is that with a bit of effort, one can always find parking.

Some on the Cleveland Heights yahoo group have complained that this will eliminate an area attractive for picnickers and sunbathers. Again, I am at this park every day, at various times of the day. There are so many places to picnic, sunbathe, or just sit on the grass and read a book, that it seems there is not much sacrifice of space for the many neighborhood dog owners to greatly increase the use of this corner of the park. I don't hear the

outcry about sharing space with lawn bowlers or croquet players, and the dog park will take up a lot less space than those areas. And please understand -- I don't begrudge an inch of the space for those activities.

As you are no doubt aware, it is always the naysayers and Nimby's who are most vocal on the chatboards. I am certain there will be many voices of support for this proposal, once word gets around that you are looking for input.

Judy Power
420 Merritt Avenue
Oakland, 94610 (Beat 15X, District 3)

From: Laura Sutta [4sutta@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 1:25 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: For a new dog park on Lakeshore

Hi,
Just want you to know I'm for the dog park there. I think alot of the opposition is because change is always threatening to people.
Thanks.
L. Sue Sutta

From: Ashley Rogers [agrogers@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 1:18 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Riley, Dana
Subject: Support for the Lake Merritt Dog Park

As a former resident of your district and a frequent visitor to Lake Merritt and the Grand/Lake area, I'd like to voice support for the Lake Merritt Dog Park. Off-leash dog parks are an important and needed resource in our communities in that they provide safe places for dogs to run freely, separate from other park user groups. A well exercised and socialized dog makes for a calm, friendly, and well behaved dog. At a time when other off-leash park spaces in the East Bay are coming under attack and facing restrictions (e.g., East Bay Regional parks, Albany Bulb), it is more important than ever to create dedicated dog parks. And as a mother of an infant, please know that families support dog parks!

Sincerely,
Ashley Rogers
District 4 homeowner, dog owner, and mother of one

From: meshellysnow@gmail.com on behalf of Michelle Dong [dong.michelle.r@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 12:35 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Re: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Dear Councilmembers Pat and Nancy,

I live in the Cleveland Heights neighborhood (down the block from Cleveland Elementary, which I also attended while growing up here) and thought I would submit an e-mail for your tally. I have three dogs and no car, and would

absolutely love to have a park within walking distance where I could not only socialize them with others of their own species, but get to meet more people in the neighborhood using the medium of our pets. I do get to talk with some other people while walking, but the bustle of the sidewalk usually keeps conversations to a minimum.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Michelle Dong

--- On Mon, 2/28/11, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com <mailto:PKernighan%40oaklandnet.com> > wrote:

From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com <mailto:PKernighan%40oaklandnet.com> >
Subject: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors%40yahoogroups.com>
,GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC%40yahoogroups.com>
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011, 11:13 AM

Dear Cleveland
Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am
keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com <mailto:pkernighan%40oaklandnet.com>
www.patkernighan.com <http://www.patkernighan.com/>
From: Janet Whittick [jwhittick@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 10:07 AM
To: Riley, Dana; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Schaaf, Libby
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

To Assistant Director Riley and The Honorable City Council Members Nadel, Kernighan and Schaaf,

As a resident of Oakland and dog owner, I write to lend my support for the planned dog park at Lake Merritt. Please consider these points:

* Dog parks help infill development. Responsible dog owners are dedicated to daily walks, and off-leash areas are critical for a dog's socialization and health. Parks encourage dog owners to forgo suburbs and large lots, instead opting for urban neighborhoods. Someone living by Lake Merritt could easily forgo a car completely with the right amenities. I've actually thought of this for my family, but have not done so because of the lack of a dog park in the area.
* Low-income families living in East Oakland and near the lake would have a dog park of their own. Many of these families do not have the resources to drive up the hill every day, and very few could afford to live near the excellent hilltop parks.
* Dog parks help keep dogs out of restricted areas. Everyone loves the lake -- this let's dog owners be responsible about it. It would also increase foot traffic to shops and restaurants.

I've often thought about how excellent the parks are in the wealthy neighborhoods, as compared to the low-income ones. In the flat lands, only Albany Bulb/Pt. Richmond to the north and Oyster Bay to the south allow off leash walking. Oakland has no off leash parks anywhere in between. I go daily up the hill, but am blessed with both a car and time to do so. Having lived in E. Oakland for some time, I know how both halves live -- when anti-dog advocates point up the hill, I think it's a bit akin to Marie Antoinette asking the French to eat cake.

Thanks for considering my views,

Janet Whittick
3719 Cañon Ave.
Oakland, CA 94602
From: karenengel09@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 4:47 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park OK

Hi Councilwoman Kernighan,

As a Grand Lake resident for 25 years, a senior citizen, and a library volunteer at Lakeview Branch, and also the "grandma" of my daughter's boxer, I am 100% in favor of sectioning off part of the big field at Lakeshore & MacArthur for the doggies.

For years I have wondered why the whole lake park had no place for dogs.

I speak only for myself, not for library staff. But be it known that Lakeview is dog-friendly several times a year, when we host a program for beginning readers called "Paws to Read." At this program, children read to friendly Service Dogs which are certified to be patient, non-critical listeners.

Sincerely, Karen Engel
From: Riley, Dana
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 3:05 PM
To: raylene; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy

Subject: RE: request

Thank you for expressing your thoughts regarding the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area. The Park and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) approved the revised design for Lakeview Dog Play Area on Dec. 8, 2010. PRAC agendas and the plan submitted can be found at http://www.oaklandnet.com/parks/news/prac.asp

The next step is to process the Conditional Use Permit. Keep a look out for a yellow sign with design plans at the proposed location of the Dog Play Area. This yellow sign will inform you of the time, date and venue for the public meeting.

Best Regards,

Dana

Dana Riley

Office of Parks & Recreation

510-238-6495

From: mail.raylene@gmail.com [mailto:mail.raylene@gmail.com] On Behalf Of raylene
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 12:19 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Riley, Dana
Subject: request

Hello -
I'm writing to request that you move forward on the plans for the Lake Merritt dog park. As an Oakland homeowner and single-working mom to a toddler and rescue dog, I would like to see my tax dollars go to a park area that my entire family can enjoy. Our local park, Dimond Park, does not allow dogs so we literally never use the park. Being outside and social together is very important for all of the members of my family and this park would provide a much needed location for that to happen.
Thank you for your support.
Best regards, Raylene Samson

.....
Raylene Samson, PI
415/509-5889
raylene@samsonpi.com

PI license #23857

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From: Terry Boom [terryboom@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:35 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: for the Lake Merritt dog park

I am in favor of the dog park at its proposed location.

Terry Boom
348 Haddon Road #4
Oakland, CA 94606

From: Ellie Gladstone [elglads1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 8:52 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Riley, Dana
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

Dear Councilmember Kernighan,

I am a member of the Cleveland Heights Neighbors Yahoo Group and wanted to respond to your invitation to email you directly regarding the long-planned dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. My family has lived in various neighborhoods around Lake Merritt (all represented by you) for over a decade and wholeheartedly support the "new" dog park.

When the dog park was first announced, we were apartment dwellers who had to drive long distances (Berkeley marina, Pt. Isabel in Richmond, Tilden Park) to exercise our dog off leash. I was thrilled at the prospect of being able to walk (or sometimes drive) from our apartment off of Santa Clara Avenue to a nearby open space dedicated to dogs. Our dog is now too old and infirm to be off leash at a dog park (or even the yard at our house on Haddon Hill), but that has not changed our strong feeling that a dog park is an excellent addition to the Lake Merritt area.

I have been disappointed by the content and tone of the discussion on the Cleveland Heights Neighbors Yahoo Group and so wanted to speak up in support of the park and in thanks for the great time and effort expended by the City and volunteers in trying to add another valuable resource to the Lake Merritt area.

Thank you,
Ellie Gladstone

From: Leslie Tenney [auntles@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 12:30 AM

To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Hi,

I have noticed that the anti-dog park folks have been very vocal and tending to speak as though they represent a majority. I am really glad you are taking a tally. My sense is that there are about equal numbers on both sides of the issue. I don't have a dog and consider myself neutral, but I really liked Don Link's email and thought it was a very clear description of the issue. Nancy Nadel's comments about the funding, and knowing how long this has been in the works, have convinced me that it's a perfectly reasonable idea to have the dog park where it is proposed. So I would like to be counted as supporting it in the current proposed location. I don't think there are any insurmountable problems and dog owners should have some rights in our neighborhood.

Thanks,

Leslie Tenney
From: MF Leopold [mfleopold@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:32 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

I for one vote and the boyfriend is two votes for the dog park.

The cats and dogs would vote too if they could.

thanks for this and I hope to make it to the meeting - please give us pleanty fo time to put up fliers
From: skip@adritepromotions [skip@adritepromotions.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 6:26 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Hi Pat,

Thank you for replying to the Grandlake listserve. My wife, Sue, and I are strong proponents for the dog park. I think we would use it several times a week, if it is built.

I walk by or drive by that park almost every day and the majority of the open area is unused (including weekends). I can understand the concerns of others that there may be an issue with smells and maintenance, but I don't agree that we should leave open spaces that large alone, simply to go unused. There are far too many people who live in this area that would benefit from a dog park.

From the folks that object, I keep hearing that they don't want anything built there, but that just doesn't make sense to me. If it's not used by people, why not let it be used by dogs?

Skip Lehman
Adrite Promotions
510-832-6589

www.adritepromotions.com <http://www.adritepromotions.com/>

From: Rachel Matthews [coconut1@pacbell.net]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 12:37 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

YES, dog park PLEASE.

Thanks,

Rachel Matthews
994 Vermont Street

From: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Mon, February 28, 2011 11:13:05 AM
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

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<http://geo.yahoo.com/serv?s=97476590/grpId=7331736/grpspId=1705043011/msgId=3060/stime=1298920398>

Your email settings: Individual Email|Traditional
Change settings via the Web
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/join;_ylc=X3oDMTJmbjlqZXVhBF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA3N0bmdzBHN0aW1lAzEyOTg5MjAzOTg-> (Yahoo! ID required)
Change settings via email: Switch delivery to Daily Digest
<mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email%20Delivery:%20Digest>
| Switch to Fully Featured <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-
fullfeatured@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change%20Delivery%20Format:%20Fully%20Featured>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC;_ylc=X3oDMTJkaHNqbGtzBF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA2hwZgRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwMzk4> Visit Your Group | <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/> Yahoo! Groups Terms of Use | <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-
unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> Unsubscribe

From: Ruby Kane [rubykane@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:57 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please help dog owners have a local place to run their dogs.

Hi Pat,

There's some small movement to halt the plans to create a dog park at MacArthur and Lakeshore. One of the reasons I moved here (Rand, between Lakeshore and Grand) with my two dogs was because of the promised dog park as a remedy to the difficult situation for dog owners--are there any parks in the city where they can be walked on-leash? Because if so, I haven't lived near enough to one to walk there.

That said, we love it here. We could not be more thrilled with the neighborhood. And a dog park will make it even better. I know that you'll get a bunch of email from the small, vocal minority that wants to "save" a park that doesn't actually exist. It's a lawn. And when I point out to people that there's lawn there, and there, and there, and there, in a great many places including immediately adjacent to the proposed dog park, yet absolutely nowhere for a dog to set foot on grass--unless you want the wrath of your neighbors, they get fiercely defensive about it.

I'm not here to talk about their points, though. I'm here to talk about my own.

* In the interest of creating a more livable community, a dog park in this location offers these advantages:

* From that location, a great many people can walk to the park--not just "within walking distance," either, because people can combine a walk around the lake with a trip to the dog park. This increases the health of residents and decreases our use of fossil fuels. As of right now, there is no dog park I can walk to--indeed, no park my dogs are allowed to go to that I can walk to. (For info on the relationship between dog ownership and BMI, click here:
http://www.acsm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home_Page
<http://www.acsm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home_Page&template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=7486> &template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=7486.)

* The 580 creates a huge barrier between the north and south sides of the freeway. I've personally never walked to the library or the playground (we have one closer), but I would walk to the dog park. At least a few times a week.
* Dog parks provide a meeting place for neighbors. As we know, connected communities are safer communities. Are people going to meet up in the patch of lawn across the street from the 580? No, they're just not.

* This dog park has been, according to advocates and others, in the making for 10+ years. We stop this one, and my dogs will be dead by the time the next one gets almost built and then stopped by lawn-loving neighbors.
* If the dog park was conceived before Trader Joe's and the Farmer's Market at Splash Pad Park, which have increased parking and congestion problems for the neighborhood, then shouldn't it take precedent? I'm to understand the opposite argument correctly, commerce gets to take all the parking while recreation gets shoved out. Even though recreation was "there" first, in the form of a plan, at least.
* There are a great many apartments with dog owners in the Lake Merritt area, including the one I occupy. The rights of renters and condo owners are not eclipsed by influential homeowners who would rather all the inconveniences of city life just go away. There are more of us than there are of them; it's that simple. And we do more to spare our environment and prevent sprawl than those who feel that they "would never acquire a dog if I didn't have my own living space to accommodate all needs of my pet; for example, a back yard sufficient to allow the dog to have plenty of room for exercise and play." [Direct quote from the Grand Lake listserv.] This is NIMBYism, and we shouldn't allow ourselves to be pushed around by this kind of selfish thinking. We are a community--what's best for all of us is in fact best for all of us.

Thanks, and whatever else you read of the above, count me as a plus one FOR the Lake Merritt Dog Park. (Which I really think should be called Astro Dog Park, but that's a complete aside.)

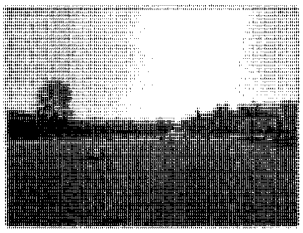
Ruby

--
"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it." — Oscar Wilde

Clevenger, Ann

From: Save Astro Park [saveastropark@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 7:35 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Save Astro Park shared an album with you.

You are invited to view Save Astro Park's photo album: A beautiful day in Astro I



A beautiful day in Astro Park
Astro Park, Oakland CA - Apr 7, 2012
by **Save Astro Park**
7th April 2012

View Album
Play slideshow

Message from Save Astro Park:
Scott, Ann and Robert, these are photos and a few short videos taken during our stake-out last Saturday where
210 new people sign up to Save Astro Park. In a few hours we had Soccer Shots (toddler soccer), adult soccer,
lot, Circles Rules Football, backstop play, pedestrians, frisbee players, Girls On The Run, aerialists and more us
and sharing the field. The yellow tape we used (exactly to 2010 design approval plan) shows how expansive the
footprint of the dog run is. The photos also show how beautiful our gateway is, how amazing it is to see kids froli
in a green field and how it is beautifully shared and used.

You must have a Google account to view this album. Login or get a free account.

If you are having problems viewing this email, copy and paste the following into your browser:
https://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sredir?
uname=103670861200162547966&target=ALBUM&id=5729207507120623809&locked=true&authkey=Gv1sRgCLK64fTk56i1bA

To share your photos or receive notification when your friends share photos, get your own free Picasa Web Albums account.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 11:26 AM
To: Miller, Scott; Clevenger, Ann; Merkamp, Robert
Cc: Debbie Cooper; bradleymccrea@comcast.net; Pgru@Sbcglobal.Net
Subject: Save Astro Park-Recent Letters To Ann, March 1, 2012-To Date, Compiled
Attachments: SAP_Letters_March_2012.doc

Hi Scott, Ann and Robert,

We thought it might be easier for you to read the latest emails if they were consolidated and put into one document. We began asking our membership to write to Ann on March 1st, shortly after we were given notice that the dog park proposal had been submitted. See document attached. Note that this document is not 100% inclusive as these are only letters where we have been cc'd.

Even given that, there are approximately 150 unique current letters here. None are form letters. And nearly all identify where the person lives (very close to Astro/Eastshore) and/or their use or connection to the space.

We urge you to read these letters as soon as possible. They communicate how passionately this neighborhood feels about the space, how we use it and how intensely people feel about keeping the space open, green, un-fenced and free of a dog run.

This is obviously not a smattering of a few neighbors who are disgruntled. This is an outcry. The 150 letters, 15 of which were just sent yesterday, represent approximately 10% of the 1500 members now in our database. □We strongly believe these numbers are only the tip of the iceberg as each time we go out to the space we get more and more people who are extremely unhappy with the proposal.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sue

Sue Levin
sue@heragency.com
510-663-4693
510-827-6419 (cell)
President
HerAgency.com
BabyForceMedia.com

From: **Joy Hillriegel** <joy.hillriegel@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 1, 2012 at 12:42 PM
Subject: please no dog run near Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I love dogs and want them to have a great place to play... but I feel strongly that this is not the right place.

I'm concerned about the smell. Over time dog parks definitely get a strong urine/ammonia smell... and this location is so close to the little playground, that I worry there could be a significant impact on the ability of children and parents to enjoy the area.

Additionally, the fenced off area would have a significant impact on the open, welcoming feeling that the end of the park currently has.

Perhaps there is another part of the park that would work instead? Maybe in the green space between Fairyland and Bellevue Avenue?

Thank you for taking these concerns into account when making your decision, and I hope we can find a better location for the dog park.

-Joy Hillriegel
484 Merritt Ave

Oakland, CA 94610

From: **Steve B** <sbreg82@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 1, 2012 at 5:34 PM
Subject: SAVE ASTRO PARK
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

I love Astro Park and think a dog park would be a blight on the park and surrounding area. I request that you all DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in my neighborhood park. I live on Hanover Ave. located off of Lakeshore Ave. less than a half mile form Astro Park and walk by, use, and enjoy almost daily.

Respectfully Your,

Steven Bregante
322 Hanover Ave.
Oakland, CA 94606
925-785-1487

From: **Joshua Drake** <jdjd123@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 2, 2012 at 9:26 AM
Subject: Please save Astro Park --- no dog park!
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Ms. Ann Clevenger,

Please vote to deny the effort to convert Astro Park into a dog park. This is the only green place in my neighborhood to play sports! Astro Park is

beautiful now as open space with no fences. Please don't let the dogs turn it into an eyesore.

Sincerely,
Joshua Drake
637 Beacon St, Oakland

From: **Matthew Tanner** <aacdebo@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 2, 2012 at 9:30 PM
Subject: Astro Park Off-leash Area
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park, as it is already a long-established family and recreational park in a very central area of town. I love having dog parks, and I know there are a lot of dogs around Lake Merritt that need a place to go; I just don't think Astro Park is the right choice for reasons like safety and sanitation. Maybe trying to decentralize it is the answer. There are parks and locations around that would be better suited for this use.

Thank you,

Matthew Tanner

From: **Shigeo Watanabe** <shigwatanabe@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Mar 3, 2012 at 11:36 AM
Subject: please don't ruin Astro park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I am begging you to not allow the proposed dog park to ruin Oakland's wonderful Astro park. It is so inspiring for me to see so many people and

children running around playing soccer, baseball, volleyball and just exercising in the space that the well wishing, but misguided dog park people want to claim. Even most dog owners that I know think that it is a bad area for a dog park and would much prefer the old stable area behind Children's Fairyland. Please keep Astro Park the way it is.
sincerely, Shigeo Watanabe

From: **Benjamin Adkins** <benjamin_adkins@hotmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 4, 2012 at 2:51 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Ben Adkins and I live in the Adam's Point neighborhood next to Astro Park and Lake Merritt. Astro Park and the Lake is the best thing about this area of Oakland. It is truly the gem of Oakland! Please do not allow this beautiful green space to be turned into a dog run. Please deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in my neighborhood park! I have many reasons for pleading with you to not allow this to happen. My wife and I moved to Oakland within the last year because we are volunteers with the International Rescue Committee, an organization committed to helping displaced refugees from around the world to successfully resettle here in Oakland. My friends, our new incoming refugees, are arriving from all over the world: Bhutan, Nepal, Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and so many more! We use Astro Park - one of the few large green areas that is within walking distance near my neighborhood - to host weekly and daily events. For example, every Friday we teach a free English class for new refugees and afterwards we play soccer with our students. We walk to Astro Park and use this beautiful green space to play soccer and build relationships with our students. Our students describe this as their favorite time during the week. It is therapeutic for them! For many, they come from rural areas that are usually lush and green, so coming to a modern city like Oakland is hard for them. Yet, this little space called Astro Park allows them to remember what green space looks like. I distinctly remember one of my Bhutanese friends on his first time to Astro Park reaching down to the grass and dirt at Astro Park and smiling. I asked him what was going on because here was this 30 year old man standing in the middle of Astro Park bent over in half touching the earth. I will never forget

what he told me - he looked up at me and said in his broken English - "Ben, I feel the earth again." I asked him, "what do you mean?" He told me that this was the first time since he moved to Oakland (about four months prior) that he was able to touch the grass, the soil, and the earth. He was so excited and happy to be able to have a green place to come to. He came up to me and gave me a big hug and said: "thank you!" This is why Astro Park is important. Living in a modern city, we have to protect our green spaces. If Astro Park had been a dog run, my new friend would have never had this experience.

In addition to this experience, we use Astro Park every Sunday at 3pm to play soccer. A group of around 20 show up and play soccer from 3pm till around 6 or until it gets dark. This is not just a group of your average American guys playing soccer. This is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-religious group. Here is a group of Muslims from Afghanistan playing soccer with Hindus from Sri Lanka, Buddhist from Bhutan, and Orthodox Christians from Eritrea - laughing and playing soccer. They are the future of Oakland. They are the future of our nation. Allowing green spaces like Astro Park to exist allows for connections and bridges to be built across cultural, language, religious, and social barriers. It is one of the few green spaces in Oakland big enough to host a group like ours.

Besides using this beautiful green space for sporting events, we host family events here as well. For example, last Spring we hosted an Easter picnic and egg hunt for refugee families. We had over 30 families show up for the event. We had food from all over the world. We had games for the children. And we had a good 'ole American Easter Egg Hunt for the young children. Well, ... we thought it was only for young children until our adults, who had never experienced an Easter Egg hunt ran out to find eggs for themselves. Many of the families had never experienced an Easter Egg hunt and were so happy and excited to be able to experience an American "tradition." For weeks afterwards, many of our friends kept asking us when we could go back to Astro Park and look for eggs! If Astro Park was a off-leash dog run, where else could we go? Please, don't allow this space to be turned into a dog-run. Not only do we use this space for large group gatherings, we also use it for small group gatherings as well. We have taught English in the park. We have small picnics in the park. It is such a wonderful place. And we love it!

Commissioners, I beg of you, please deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in my, no, "our" neighborhood area park.

Sincerely,
and in most respect,

Benjamin S. Adkins

From: **t monnin** <tev.monnin@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 4, 2012 at 3:55 PM
Subject: please DENY permit application for fenced dog area
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Ann Clevenger:

I am writing to urge the commissioners to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This area is used by individuals, families and communities for many different outdoor activities. The space promotes exercise, health, and community. Please keep it this way by denying the permit application for fenced off leash dog area.

thank you,
Tev Monnin

From: **Jay** <jamesetjackson@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 5, 2012 at 2:50 PM
Subject: Astro Park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed dog run project at Astor Park.

I am a 47 year resident of Oakland, and my earliest memories include activities at Astro park. I have now had the pleasure of bringing my own children to Astro to play, and that would be severely compromised by the plan that has been put forward.

There is a shortage of grass play areas in the City, and it would be a disservice to the community to take more away and make this a dog run. I am confident that there are underutilized areas elsewhere that would better lend to the proposed use.

I respectfully request that you deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park, our neighborhood park.

Sincerely,

James Jackson
2069 Braemar Rd.
Oakland, CA 94602

From: **M.Kourjanski** <mkourjanski@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 5, 2012 at 7:00 PM
Subject: Please, no "dog park" dirt pit by Lake Merritt
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com, pkernighan@oaklandnet.com, NNadel@oaklandnet.com

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express our entire family's strong opposition to the plans of some apparently small but very vocal activist group to place a dog park in the middle of the open green by Lake Merritt.
We reside in the neighborhood since 2003, and had many, many wonderful moments of going to the playground or kicking the ball on the green.
This open green is the face of the city, it shows charm and beauty.

When we talked within our family about the strange plans to spoil this open green space, my now 10-year old son asked – who could possibly come with this weird idea? My now 18-year old daughter asked – how come this idea found its way into the city government? My wife just shook her head because she is aware how dysfunctional the governance of this city is.

And from my own point of view I would add that we've seen many cities and governments through our life – from former USSR, through Europe and to quite a few places in the US – and Oakland unfortunately shows the most staggering incompetence in terms of architectural planning and strategy of all places we've ever seen.

Me being a Block Captain for the Neighborhood watch, I discussed the publicized plans around the dog park with our neighbours. The reaction was overall between strongly negative and somewhat neutral (with the unanswered question – who is going to pay for and do maintenance). Mind you, many of them own dogs.

I would like to ask you to DENY the permit application for the dog park proposal; if it moves forward it would be an enormous disservice to our community.

Finally, I simply cannot resist to mention:

☐ It is amazing how difficult it is to even obtain simple facts about the proposed upcoming changes;

☐ It is nearly impossible to determine what is the decisioning workflow and public commenting process at the City commission, with very low transparency and visibility to local residents (who by the way pay your salary with their property taxes).

☐ It is amazing to note that city officials were making order-of-magnitude mistakes in quoting estimated budgets for the new feature development and continued maintenance.

☐ It is amazing to see an utter and complete disregard by some of the Representatives of the voice of the community expressed in thousands of negative opinions, along with a pretty rude communication style.

☐ And last but not least – it is amazing to see the lack of elementary logic in the arguments from the small group of pushers of this poor idea.

Thank you for your attention.

From: **Patricia Littlefield** <norcal532001@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 at 8:56 AM
Subject: Proposed Dog Park

To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

I am against the development of the Astro Park as a dog exercise area, even though I am a small dog. The area is inappropriate for a variety of reasons.

First, there is a nearby dog park on the Oakland/Piedmont area near the Rose Garden.

Secondly, vestiges of a number of old creeks draining into the lake result in water pooling in that field, and it will be a muddy mess. It also portends for remnants of dog waste draining into the lake.

Thirdly, the neighborhood , in general, is becoming too busy on Saturdays in particular, with the crowds that come in to frequent the Farmes' Market, the sidewalk vendors on the margins of the Farmers' Markets, the restaurant clientele on Lakeshore, and the number of people trying to exercise in the lake area. We don't need more activity in the area. Many of the people who will bring their dogs will drive over to the area, and then park, contributing to congestion and decreasing the overall effort in the area to get people out of their cars.

Fourthly, the mentally handicapped have been long term users of that space on the weekends to play soccer, not to mention others who work out on the edges.

Fifthly, I don't think the city needs to be paying for this given the budget.

If you are still insistent in doing something in the area, why not look into using the school yard of Lakeview Elementary School which will be closing after this year? You have parking, you have space that you can easily modify for a dog run.

The neighborhood is getting to be too busy on Saturdays and a bit of a drag for anyone living in that area. A good thing can become too much, just like what happened with the Festival of the Lake. It started out smaller and manageable, and over the years, it became larger with too much activity for the area. The mix we have now is tolerable, but on the verge of becoming too much.

From: **Jerry Wolfe** <wingate63@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 1, 2012 at 2:22 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park: Please NO DOG PARK
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger,
I have been a proud Oakland resident for the past 40 years and truly love the diversity and beauty of our city. For thirty of those years I worked in the Oakland Public Schools, and now serve on various community boards, including the Downtown Oakland YMCA, and La Clinica.
I mention these experiences to give you a sense of my perspective of what is of great value to all the citizens of Oakland, especially our youth and families.
The green open space area known as Astro Park, is a rare and much used city gem. Most urban areas around the country are working diligently to preserve the few and limited green open spaces in their cities, knowing the value to the whole community which these spaces provide.
The space at Astro Park is a city wide gem. I have spent countless days viewing the vast array of families, youth, high schools, community groups and sports teams who use that space and cherish its availability. Even to just drive by the spot and see the green beauty gives Oaklanders moments of peace and calmness.
<u>The outpouring of opposition to the outdated and limited view of those proposing an ill conceived dog park and thus elimination of a major part of this space, shows the overall community desire to keep the gem as it is.</u>
I am certainly not a dog hater(as often portrayed by the group pushing this dog park), nor unaware of the needs of dog owners in our city. Yet this is the wrong place and time for such a project. As I am sure you are aware, our city faces major financial shortages, and despite supposed assurances

from "volunteer" dog owner groups, the city is not in a position to spend any public funds on a badly place project.
I strongly urge you to oppose this dog park, not just for the hundreds if not thousands of Oaklanders who have voiced their opposition but for all those who use, view and value this rare open space in our city for years to come.
Sincerely,
Jerry Wolfe

From: **Miss Rootes** <missrootes@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 5, 2012 at 10:09 AM
Subject: Astro Park Planning
To:
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear City Official,

It has been pointed out to me by a group of concerned citizens that Astro Park may be turned into a dog park. I have been a Lake Merritt resident for over 7 years and I would vote no for a dog park in this area. I often marvel at all the different groups of people that share that space for sports and recreation, from toddlers learning their first soccer moves to co-ed adult groups who need a physical release from stress on weekends. I hope that you will see the logic and humanity of prioritizing human use of the playing field over animal recreation. People who chose to have dogs in the city should be conscious of the fact that they will have to take their animals to more remote locations to let them run off leash. I am also concerned that the space will not be cared for and will become another part of the lake that is spoiled by animal waste. Please **do not** turn Astro Park into a dog park.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Rootes

From: **stephen cunningham** <stephent_94606@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 at 10:32 AM
Subject: Please save our open space at Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello,

I am a 40 year resident on Haddon Hill and I am opposed to transforming the wonderful open sapce at Astro Park into a doggie park. This open space is currentlywell utilized by many groups and should not be made available to a select few.

Thanks
Stephen
Haddon Hill

From: **Lea Therianos** <leatherianos@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 at 1:08 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to support the efforts to save Astro Park. I'm a dog owner, and have lived in the Bay Area for almost 28 years of my life. There are many wonderful dog parks, and out door areas for dog owners to take their pets in the Bay Area.

I'm almost always supportive of creating new spaces for outdoor off-leash dog parks, but I feel that it's unnecessary to turn Astro Park into one because the area is not suitable for a dog park. There are too many cars, and man-made dog runs are hard to maintain and keep clean. Parks such as the one they're proposing to make in Astro Park is usually the

last place I enjoy taking my dog for exercise. I enjoy taking my dog to parks such as Fort Funston in San Francisco, and Point Isabelle in Richmond. I'm a Berkeley resident, and the drive to both of these places is completely worth it for me because the land is a suitable place for families to spend time with their beloved pets.

Astro Park is a place where many people and families, mine included, enjoy playing outdoor sports, join fitness groups, have picnics, and participate in many other outdoor activities. It'd be a shame to do away with the green grassy area that gets so much great usage now, and to fence this area off to make a dog park when there are so many other wonderful places to take our pets.

Thanks for taking time to read this letter.

Best,
Lea Therianos

From: **Heather Ehmke** <hehmke@walkuplawoffice.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 at 1:54 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners:

I understand that the application for a DOG PARK at Lakeside Park near MacArthur Blvd. (also called Astro Park) has been completed. Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This area is used by many people for soccer, frisbee, volleyball, and children who enjoy the grassy area. It also is a great open space that would be stunted by fences. Children would be playing side by side with dog poop. It's just not an ideal place for a dog run. I love dogs and believe there should be more designated areas for

off-leash play, but this is just not the right place! Go check it out and see for yourself. It's simply illogical to fence off this expanse of grass for dogs.

Thanks for your consideration.

Heather Ehmke
Secretary to Douglas S. Saeltzer, Esq. and Kevin L. Domecus, Esq.
(415) 981-7210
(415) 391-6965 (fax)
www.walkuplawoffice.com
www.wrongfuldeath-law.com
www.neuroinjurylaw.com

From: **Sam Markewich** <shmullyop@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 at 4:39 PM
Subject: Astro Park dog park proposal
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park (Astro Park). Both me and my partner, Tess Ouellette, believe this is simply and absolutely not only the wrong location for a dog park but also a complete affront to the many people who now FREQUENTLY use the park for neighborhood-invigorating activities such as team sports and group fitness activities.

Additionally, this is a chunk of beautiful OPEN green space in the middle of an otherwise busy and high car traffic area. Closing that space off for dog owners would have a substantially deleterious effect on the look and feel of the area.

Also, placing a dog park so close to an area set out for a young children's playground is a recipe for constriction on the kids' freedom to play and could also result in young children having scary interactions with dogs.

I do not think that a dog park so close to a small library makes any sense at all. Noises and smells associated with the dog park will easily make their way into the library. As well, it is likely that many of the dog owners will go to the library with their dogs, it being so close to the dog park, and tie their dogs outside the library creating a chaos of dogs in a very small place.

Finally, those of us who do not enjoy interacting with dogs but do enjoy the library, the farmer's market, and the freedom to walk in the area will also of a sudden be forced to interact with many dogs as the owners walk them to and from the park. In that area, the sidewalks will become likely WAY overcrowded with dogs and dog owners blocking pedestrians as the dog owners and dogs schmooze as they often like to do. This is already too much of an issue for those of us who cycle and jog around the Lake. Don't make it worse.

This is simply not the right space. Nor, for that matter, should the city in these hard times spend a dime on anything less than urgent.

Sincerely,
Sam Markewich and Tess Ouellette
378 Jayne Ave
Oakland 94610

From: **Michael Nasif** <mnasif1@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 at 5:25 PM
Subject: Please Save Astro Park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Michael Nasif
1181 Holman Road
Oakland

From: **stan lee** <islandboystan@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 9:53 AM
Subject:
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I am voicing my concern that you NOT put a dog park at Astro Park. I believe that a dog park at that location is not the best use since there are many others who use it for picnics, volleyball or other games. I also think that its too close to the children's playlot. Why can't the city consider a area behind Fairyland? I believe it would be less intrusive. Please save Astro Park from going to the dogs!! Thank you, Stan Lee

From: **Patti Byram** <patti@trademarkevents.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 1, 2012 at 12:17 PM
Subject: SAVE ASTRO PARK! No dog park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners: Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This green park is beautiful as it is and used in many ways by children, adults, families, Lake Merritt wildlife. This is not the place for a dog park. Thank you.

Patti Byram
Resident of Grand Lake area□

From: **Jennifer Chin** <jentchin@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 10:30 AM
Subject: Please deny permit for fenced off off-leash dog area
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

Thank you for forwarding my email below to the Planning Commission.

Dear Commissioners:

I've been an Oakland Lake Merritt resident for nearly 15 years. I love dogs--I've owned a dog, and I've cared for others' dogs. I'm also a parent with a 4-year old who loves the green area of Astro park because my son can run around the field and play soccer on Saturday mornings before we walk over to the Farmers' Market. We can fly kites and play baseball there on Sunday afternoons. We play in the sandbox, but sometimes my son just wants to run on the green, green grass. All of these things will be changed or not even a possibility if there is a fenced, off-leash dog run built. **I respectfully, but strongly request that you deny permit to allow for a fenced-off dog park area in the park, on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.**

With all the wonderful park upgrades and road and walkway improvements done under Measure DD, I'm finding it very hard to imagine how a off-leash dog run with a wrap around fence, RIGHT on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur is even a consideration. So many people use this space--adults have their own soccer games along side the kids. Little toddlers run and chase the geese, kites are flown, There isn't enough room to push the soccer and field games to the area near the library parking lot. There are many dog parks in walking distance. Why do we need to have a chain fenced obstruction right in the heart of the busiest part of Lake Merritt? Why are we going to put in something that will take away the green grass, block park access, increase traffic, and put off-leash dogs closer to tots?

I'm a single mother who is finding urban Oakland harder and harder to raise a child in. I own my property and I pay Oakland taxes. I support Oakland businesses because I believe in this city. I will be extremely disappointed if this permit is allowed to push out more recreational space for residents and children where it is needed most. Why are we pushing out the people and children and making room for dogs? Dogs can have space--it's just not appropriate here.

To avoid sending large files, I'm including a link to photos of my son and his buddies making good use of this space. Please don't take that away.
https://picasaweb.google.com/107385679758804445215/AstroPark?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCP_j27T-u5f6cA&feat=directlink

Respectfully,
Jennifer Chin (Oakland Lake Merritt resident since 1997)
Alex Chin (Oakland Lake Merritt resident since 2007)

From: **Kamala Leslie** <repdiva@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 6, 2012 at 11:31 AM
Subject: Please DENY permit application~Astro-Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I have lived in the Lake Merritt neighborhood for several years now and really appreciate the open grass area. It adds to the beauty of the area. Turning it into a fenced off-leash dog area makes it available for use by limited number of people, that is dog-owners. The rest of the people~ the soccer players, the parents with children, the Lake Merritt enjoying resident, the out of area visitors looking to enjoy the lovely grassy park by the Lake... the rest of us.... will be cut out from further use of this park. This to me feels very unfair. It changes not only the appearance of the area but the accessibility and use. We need open areas in urban settings for the simple enjoyment of life and nature. Please consider this and DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood. There are plenty of other places for those who consciously choose to take on the responsibility of pet-ownership to take their dogs, including the dog park at Redwood Regional, just a ways up the road.

Thank you,

Kamala Leslie Davis
Lake Merritt resident

From: **Mclaughlan, Kristina** <Kristina_Mclaughlan@intuit.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 11:57 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park!! - Please DENY conditional use permit application
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood Astro Park!!!

My family, friends and I enjoy this park on a weekly basis for large games of soccer, Frisbee, boot camp and many other sports. My small children enjoy playing on the outdoor play structures, and we would be devastated to lose field space and have an off-leash dog area. We are all completely opposed to this conditional use permit application.

Please do NOT allow the conditional use permit application to go through.

Thank you,
Kristina McLaughlan
71 La Salle Ave, Piedmont CA 94611

From: **Steven Boranian** <stevenboranian@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 7:56 PM
Subject: NO to the dog park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: Pat Kernighan <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>, Rebecca Kaplan <atlarge@oaklandnet.com>, saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please DENY the misguided application to convert our beautiful neighborhood park into an off-leash dog park.

What a sad day it would be if you were to take this wonderful resource that is enjoyed by so many and turn it over to dogs and their owners, who care about no one other than themselves. The most sad part is that a dog park is completely unnecessary. Every dog owner in Oakland is free to have his or her dog in her or her own home, and there is no need, and certainly no entitlement, to have premium public space fenced off for their exclusive use.

I have lived in the neighborhood for 16 years and have raised my three children here, walking often to the park and to the nearby library. I also drive by the park on a daily basis, like thousands of others, and it is a wonderful gateway to the neighborhood. Imagine if the open green space is replaced by a fenced-off brown patch filled with dogs and their droppings. If you approve this application, you will literally be dumping on

our neighborhood. In fact, the weather this weekend is supposed to be nice and clear. Why don't you drive by and see for yourself how well this space is used and what a tragedy it would be if you put an end to the open use of this public space.

Please do not give in to the selfish dog owners. There are bullies and will insist that the entire city needs to embrace and accommodate their precious pets. They must not be allowed to appropriate for themselves one of the nicest spots in our neighborhood.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Steven Boranian
780 Trestle Glen Rd.
510-893-1402

From: **Tom Elke** <tom.elke@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 8, 2012 at 12:07 PM
Subject: Astro Park Proposed Dog Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

I am an Oakland resident writing you in fervent opposition to the proposed dog park in Astro Park, approximately 5 blocks from my family's home. I come from a long-line of dog-lovers. Indeed, over the holidays there were no less than five dogs in my home. From childhood, dogs have played a very important role in my life. Nevertheless, my family and I adamantly oppose any proposed dog park in Astro Park. I have never in my life attended a city council meeting nor contacted an elected official, but this so potentially damaging to my community I felt compelled to express my opposition.

I love dogs. But this dog park is a bad idea that will hurt my community. My family and I oppose this proposal completely.

Sincerely,
Tom Elke
704 Calmar Ave.

From: **StephandTrav Bethune** <stephntrav.bethune@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 8, 2012 at 1:02 PM

Subject: Please Deny the Conditional Use Permit for the Dog Park Application for Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Please do deny this application for permit use of Astro Park to set up a dog park. As an Oakland resident and frequenter of the Lake Merritt area, there are few central places in this area that are available for people, especially children, to make full use of that green space for recreation. Having been a dog owner, I can say there are a variety of dog park options in Oakland, and Alameda County, for folks to walk their dogs off-leash. Please do not compress the Astro Park space for "people".

Best,

Travis Bethune
760-258-6986 - cell.

From: **Francis Upton** <francisu@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 8, 2012 at 1:57 PM
Subject: dog park proposal for Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com, Martha Lyman <martha.lyman@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Cleavenger:

I'm writing to oppose the proposal for the dog park at Astro Park. Our daughter regularly uses the park to play soccer, and we are there nearly every Saturday in conjunction with the Farmer's market where most of the time the park is fully used.

This tract of green space is very important both visually and functionally given its central location. To have an enclosed dog park would change it in a negative way.

My understanding is there are some alternative locations for the dog park that are possible and have not been fully investigated. I urge you to consider another location.

Kind regards,

Francis Upton IV
567 Walavista Ave
Oakland, CA 94610

From: **Susan Stanley** <sstanley727@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Thu, Mar 8, 2012 at 9:37 PM
Subject: Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com, jon.stanley@sbcglobal.net

Dear Commissioners,
Please preserve Astro Park for multi use by Oaklanders. We do not want to see a designated dog part take over one of the few lovely green areas we can all enjoy. Please DENY the conditional use permit for the fenced off-leash dog area in the park and keep it clean, green and open for use by children, families and anyone wanting to enjoy a nice urban outdoor space.

Susan Stanley

From: **David L. Hurty** <dave@hurty.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 10:36 AM
Subject: Dog Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I live near this park and pass it often. Many small children and parents use the area for soccer and other field games. It is

one of few areas where it can be used for such play activities in this neighborhood.

Cordially,

David L. Hurty

Rev. David L. Hurty
565 Bellevue Avenue, Apt. 707
Oakland, CA 94610-5016
Home: 510.465.3301
Fax: 510.465.3301
Mobile: 510.435.1568
dave@hurty.com

From: **peter grube** <pgru@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 10:59 AM
Subject: Fw: Dog Park At Astro
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: PKernighan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing today to urge the Planning Commisioners to **deny** the conditional use permit for a fenced dog area in Eastshore Park (Astro Park). This small neighborhood park is well used and has been enjoyed by generations of Oaklanders. Many groups use the space for organized sports activities. Soccer, volleyball, flag football, frisbee, baseball (at the backstop), boot camps, Brazilian Martial Arts, circle rules football, hoolahoop, yoga and slack lining are just some of the groups recently using this marvelous open space. There are also adults and kids overflowing from the tot lot, people playing with their kids, and some folks who just like to walk across the grass. These activities are so varied that they

require a large open space. The beauty is we already have this level open space at Astro Park.

Please don't allow a fence to be put up and subtract almost half of the open field. The proposed fence would not only compress all these activities into half the available space, but it would also ruin the impressive sight lines for those who are simply passing by. Where else in Oakland do we have an uninterrupted view of a large lawn in this type of urban area? Old google maps show that the open space, at one time extended all the way to Lake Park where the Kwikway and Grand Lake Theater are located. When the highway came through, that open space was cut back to what is now Astro Park. Astro Park is all that is left of our gateway to Lake Merritt. Let's not further divide this unique and valued space.

A fenced dog run at Astro Park would dominate the space and invite hazards and nuisances. Service trucks would be required to back in from busy Lakeshore Avenue and cross a congested sidewalk in very close proximity to toddlers. The fence line would run directly along the foul line of the baseball backstop and extend along the perimeter of the tot lot forcing users to adjust their play to avoid interference from the new structure. Freedom to participate in a variety of activities would be restricted due to new space constraints. All sports field users, pedestrians passing by, people waiting for buses and tot lot users would be subject to smell, noise and dust from the proposed dog park. Visually it would be a downgrade for everyone, even the thousands who pass by in cars and on bikes every day.

This neighborhood park and in fact the entire area is heavily used but at the same time enjoyed for its accessibility. Please don't place a limit on this enjoyment by overburdening the location with a dog run development. We don't need to cover every available space with fixtures. In this case the beauty is in the availability and openness provided to everyone.

Lastly, Oakland has been my home since 1981 and I have always had dogs. Oakland is a fabulous place for dog owners with no less than five fenced off leash dog runs and thousands of off leash acres available in the Oakland hills to take our pets along with many more options nearby. The notion that, as dog owners, we are somehow being discounted or denied access is ludicrous.

Please deny the conditional use permit for an enclosed off leash dog area in Eastshore (Astro) Park. Keep Astro Park open and available for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Peter Grube
Casterline Road
Oakland

From: **Christopher Wike** <chrisjwike@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 2:18 PM
Subject: Dog Park near Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Ms. Clevenger

Good afternoon

I and my family are local to Astro Park and use the park on almost a daily basis.

I am writing this email in regards to the proposed off leash dog run near the Astro Park playground. Please DENY the approval of the conditional use permit, for the following reasons: as the enclosed area becomes over used the grass has no chance to recover, becomes hard and turns to none

vegetative soil. The maintenance of the area increases because the wind and water erosion needs to be controlled so that the area sediment does not run into the drains and increase the turbidity of the surrounding water. The side affect of closing off the that much area is the proposed open space will also see a more concentrated use and may not have a chance to recover either. In turn this will produce the same result as the hard soiled dog park or the open space closes for a period of time to allow for the ground to recover and the dog park stays open. Which I believe is not an equitable solution seeming that the status-quo does not produce the negative results as adding a dog park. The park houses a multitude of uses,i.e. soccer, volleyball, baseball to name a few.These activities would not be able if the open space was decreased, because many of them occur at the same time. Lasty and probably most important is safety! Increased concentration of dogs means increased chances of dog fights, dogs biting children, increased dog defecation on public areas. This in-turn can lead to more lawsuits that the city has to deal with or is involved in.

I love dogs I have grown up with dogs most of my life. I think a local dog park could be a good idea, but the benefit of the few should not burden the many.

Regards,

Christopher Wike

From: **Liz Sand** <lizsand@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 10:19 PM
Subject: Save Astro park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Hello Ann and Dear Commissioners, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I suggest an alternative place for the dog park. Across Lakeshore is an empty lot that was a gas station. This space is almost as large and is not an infringement to anyone using the existing park. My problem with the proposed space is aesthetic and safety. Please do not take away the existing park.
Thank you.
Liz Sand

From: **Lisa Robesch** <l.m.robesch@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Mar 10, 2012 at 9:48 AM
Subject: Regarding the conditional use permit application for fenced off-leash dog area Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. Astro Park has this great big space of green. We play frisbee there and hang out in the sun. It's one of the only big free spaces of green for miles. I like it the way it is. I use it. Please don't take it away from the community. I love dogs and am all for an off leash area, just not there! The fence will not help the feeling of community. There are plenty of other places much better suited for a fenced in off-leash area. Please consider my voice in your decision.

Thank you,
Lisa Robesch
671 Vernon Street
Oakland CA 94610
510-520-9649

From: **Felicia** <mai.felicia@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Mar 10, 2012 at 2:06 PM
Subject: No dog park in Astro park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com, nnadel@oaklandnet.com, atlarge@oaklandnet.com, pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,
I am writing you today, to ask you to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood Astro park. I am a working

professional and mother of a 2 year old. My family frequents the playground, the nearby library, and the open field on a daily basis. We believe that by allowing the proposed dog park to go through, you would be negatively impacting the community in many ways. There are not any other open fields in the vicinity, however there are at least 6 other dog parks in the area. Many children and adults use the open fields for picnicking, chasing geese, sunbathing, games of three-flies-up, soccer, volleyball, capture the flag, and more. By taking away this space and redesignating it for running dogs, you'd be doing many humans a disservice.
Please save our Lakeview/Astro Park!
Sincerely,
Felicia Hashimoto

- Locating a dog park in the middle of a highly visible, high density retail environment is inappropriate and unwise fiscally and aesthetically
- The dog park would remove 50% of an open playfield currently depended upon by residents and schools.
- Active recreation use is identified by OSCAR as being inadequately served in the Lake Merritt area.
- Maintaining a dog park in this location is not sustainable. The high visibility requires maintenance standards that could not nor should be left up to a volunteer group.
- Parking is already stressed in the area. The dog park proposal would only add to the parking demand.
- The area sits atop two major watershed creeks and is saturated with rain water during winter and spring months.
- The proposed location is next to a tot lot, raising concerns regarding incompatibility and safety.
- Open Space (OSCAR) guidelines mandate that at the most, only 15% of this space be evaluated for change of use. The current proposal would change 24% of this neighborhood park.
- OSCAR guidelines described above mandate that new dog parks be located in underutilized spaces, not high value, existing playfields.
- The original dog park proposal followed appropriate process by being reviewed in 2004 and 2006 community meetings, but the design proposal at that time was for a highly improved $400,000 dog park.

- The cost estimate for the current proposal is $45,000 —only 11% of the original budget. No pre-development community meetings were held to gather input, even though concerns began surfacing in community email groups in mid-2009.
- A dog park with a small capital budget and a dubious maintenance strategy should be located in a less visible location.
- The location is too noisy and too busy for dogs and too dangerous if a dog were to get loose off-leash.
- There is a much better alternative location for a dog park at Lake Merritt that avoids virtually every concern brought up with the Astro/Eastshore Park location.
- http://www.saveastropark.org/

--
Felicia Mai Hashimoto
510.517.0051
mai.felicia@gmail.com

From: **Evelyn Williamson** <may.williamson@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Mar 10, 2012 at 3:47 PM
Subject:
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask that you please deny the conditional use permit that would transform Astro Park into a dog park. I grew up in Oakland I I think it would be a huge mistake to turn that area into a dog park for many reasons.
It is a space constantly used by the public in a variety of ways; pick up soccer games, volleyball, and kids playing ball with their parents are just a few. People do not talk about it much, but it is evident through observation that the area functions as a center of the community. Also, from a aesthetic stand point, it would be an eye sore. Dog parks inevitably become dirt patches that are always a little smelly. That location is basically the gateway to Lake Merritt from the Lakeshore business strip, a big fenced in lot wouldn't provide the warmest welcome.
It seems to me that there are other areas around the lake that could serve the needs of local dog owners without taking away such a loved feature of the neighborhood.

Thank You for Your Consideration
Evelyn Williamson

From: **Michael Recknor** <michael@recknor.net>
Date: Sun, Mar 11, 2012 at 7:18 AM
Subject: Please DENY the permit for the off-leash dog park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners:

The plans for the proposed off-lease dog park near Astro Park will turn a bright open space into a chain-linked prison yard. Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Michael Recknor
6153 Castle Drive
Oakland, CA 94611

From: **Leigh McDougall** <leighnan@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 11, 2012 at 9:50 AM
Subject: Dog Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ann Clevenger,
I wanted to express to you my opposition to the proposed placement of a dog park currently under consideration. I feel it would be a detriment to the open green space we all enjoy- while I am sympathetic to the need for a dog park, I feel a better location would be at the old stable area near the children's fairyland. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leigh McDougall
377 Santa Clara Ave #103
Oakland, Ca. 94610

From: **Diane Wallace** <moongoddess13@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Sat, Mar 10, 2012 at 11:25 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park from going to the dogs
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ann,
Please stop the proposal that would turn Astro Park into a dog park. This is a
beautiful grassy area where people play sports, dance, exercise and enjoy themselves in a scenic location. Dog parks are messy and ugly with bare earth
and ugly fences. Please don't allow a noisy, messy eyesore to be installed where
there are now beautiful green open spaces. There is no reason why dog owners
can't walk their dogs on leashes near the lake. There are other dog parks within
driving distance that don't impact as many people.

Please keep Oakland's Lake Merritt beautiful and deny this dog park proposal.
Sincerely,
Diane Wallace
Oakland resident

From: **Alan L Lin** <alan@zot.net>
Date: Fri, Mar 9, 2012 at 10:46 AM
Subject: Astro Park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

Astro Park is a public area, and the use of this area should be subject to a vote by Oakland residents. Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in the park until it can be voted on as a ballot measure.

Thank you,
Alan Lin

Oakland resident

From: **Peter Torsiello** <Torsiello43@msn.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 11, 2012 at 5:54 PM
Subject: Astro Park permit
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello,
I am writing this email to protest the placing of a dog park in Astro Park. Please deny the use permit when this item comes before you in April.

I have written to the City Council members in the past to protest this misguided idea. There are many reasons why this location is inappropriate.

1) This is a totally congested area in the first place. With the movement of people in the area for use of the playground by toddlers, use of the parkland as a recreational area for the Clausen House clients, Soccer and baseball, volleyball, exercisers, runners, and as a staging area for meetings and gatherings, The Christmas Tree lot in Nov. and Dec., and the Saturday market, more congestion cannot be a healthy thing for this area.

2) After walking the lake every day for the past 30 years (that's right every day) and observing the traffic patterns that result from the movement of cars coming off the highway, traversing the Lake from one side to the other, parking to reach the shopping areas on Grand and Lakeshore, and the numerous buses that take people through that area, to add more cars bringing dogs to the site is an obvious burden to the neighborhood.

3) I know that the streets around the Arbor and in front of the library (another place that brings cars to the area) were reconfigured to help in traffic flow, but It is my opinion that they impede car movement even during non commute hours; it has not been an improvement and creates even more congestion.

4) Putting dogs next to little children using the playground is asking for trouble, fenced or not.
5) Noise at this location is terrible as it is. To add barking to this cacophony of sounds is ludicrous.

6) AND MOST IMPORTANT - This area is part of the Lake Merritt Waterfowl Reserve, The first such Reserve ever set aside for birds in America.
Dogs are a natural enemy of Waterfowl and other birds. They have no business being in the same area designated for waterfowl.
7) Everyday, I see owners and their dogs around the park off leach. Every day - Off Leach. This is a misdemeanor going completely unticketed. If owners are ignoring this law, how can we rely on their obeying any dogpark rules. Who would enforce these new rules? Nobody!

Why don't you use the parkland out by the estuary where the port and the bay come together. It is far enough away from the waterfowl and almost unused since it was put out there some years ago.

This is a BAD BAD BAD idea and I am surprised that our Planning Commission would even consider such a thing. Why don't you walk around the Astrto Park area and do a survey of the numbers of cars and people using that area right now. We do not need more congestion at this location. Find another spot!!!!!!!.

Peter Torsiello
1200 Lakeshore 10C
Oakland, Ca 94606

From: **sunnywindow@juno.com** <sunnywindow@juno.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 11, 2012 at 7:01 PM
Subject: Please keep rare, wondrous grassy Astro Park as it is.
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Oakland Planning Commissioners ~~

This is to ask that you keep Astro Park as it is: Invitingly Vast and Green. It is Our Urban Meadow, gladdening and soothing all people. We smile at the sight of it and at the feel of it under us. Its healing civic benefit would be lost if a dogpark were put in it.

Thank you ~~

Gayle Mohrbacker, sunnywindow@juno.com

From: **Martin Rosson** <mrosson@pacbell.net>

Date: Sun, Mar 11, 2012 at 7:03 PM
Subject: dog park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

"Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park near the Grand Lake theater. Among other things, it is to massive and restricts land use for people that play sports and create a health hazard with the dog feces dust that will be created next to a children play area.

Martin M. Rosson, P.E.

From: **Marcia Lovelace** <marcialovelace@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 11, 2012 at 9:28 PM
Subject: Proposed dog run in Astro Park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. The area in question is in constant use for games, drum circles and the kinds of eclectic gatherings that give Oakland its unique flavor. The proximity to the children's playground, library and bird sanctuary at Lake Merritt makes it the wrong site for an off-leash dog run. I own and like dogs--and sympathize with those looking for such a facility. But this is not the right place for it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Marcia Lovelace
307 Jayne Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

From: <karenengel09@comcast.net>
Date: Sun, Mar 11, 2012 at 10:03 PM
Subject: Astro Park Dog Area
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.net, saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

I am a Grand Lake area resident and a volunteer at the Lakeview Branch of the Oakland Public Library. The library branch adjoins Astro Park, part of which is being considered by the Planning Commission to become a dog park.

After years of observing how the park is used by adults and children in our neighborhood, I feel that there isn't enough space available for a dog park there without cutting into current uses.

I hope the Planning Commission will look into other spaces for a dog park.

Sincerely,

Karen Engel
811 York St #114
Oakland CA 94610

From: **Jesse Nachem** <jlnachem@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 1, 2012 at 10:58 AM
Subject: NO dog park in Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I have written before about this issue, but I just heard that an application was just completed for a conditional use permit for a fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park.

Please DENY this permit.

Astro Park is a neighborhood park that is constantly used by our community at Lake Merritt. A dog park would impede on the space used regularly by children and families, developmentally disabled groups, and exercise groups, among others. It is a vital and beautiful community space.

In addition, using this space as a dog park seems unsafe for dogs - being close to two busy intersections, I would not bring my dog un-leashed to this space for fear of car accidents or dogs jumping fences into traffic. There are numerous other dog parks in the area that I frequent and enjoy without fear for safety.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. Again, I implore you to deny this permit.

Sincerely,

Jessica Nachem

420 Merritt Ave
Oakland, CA 94610

From: **Greg Macchi** <gmac619@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 10:16 AM
Subject: Please Deny application for dog area at Astro Park (Lakeshore)
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area at Astro Park on Lakeshore. My family use the large green area

for recreational activities and feel the large dog area would detract from the usable space as well as create an eyesore in the community. Again, please vote to not allow for the dog park at our park.

Best regards,

Greg Macchi
452 Newton Ave.

From: **Sarilee Janger** <sarileejanger@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 11:05 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This neighborhood does not need another off-leash dog park...there are enough nearby to satisfy those needing to let their dogs run free. What we do need to maintain is the free space, a multi-use big splash of green in the middle of our neighborhod. What a shame it would be to lose it!
Thank you,
Sarilee Janger

From: <MNocon@fbm.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 11:43 AM
Subject: Please DENY the permit application for Astro Park!!
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This open space is a beautiful anchor to the surrounding neighborhoods and shouldn't be cut up and fenced off to only be used by dog owners. I am a dog lover, but know for a fact that the City of Oakland already has plenty of off-leash areas for dog owners to take their pets. This will be an complete eye-sore and will

selfishly take away vital space that is now used by many, and will then only be available to a few. Please, please don't let this happen!!

Monica J. Nocon
Time & Billing Supervisor

Farella Braun + Martel LLP
RUSS BUILDING
235 MONTGOMERY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO / CA 94104

Main Line 415.954.4400
Direct Line 415.954.4715

Acct. Dept. Fax 415.291.8212
or
Main Fax 415.954.4480
www.fbm.com

From: **Rose Works** <workspaz@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 1:21 PM
Subject: Planning Commission-Save Astro Park
To: "vienv.truong@gmail.com" <vienv.truong@gmail.com>, "blake.huntsman@seiu1021.org" <blake.huntsman@seiu1021.org>, "michael.colbruno@gmail.com" <michael.colbruno@gmail.com>, "mzmdesignworks@gmail.com" <mzmdesignworks@gmail.com>, "jaw1123@aol.com" <jaw1123@aol.com>, "pattillo@PGAdesign.com" <pattillo@pgadesign.com>
Cc: "nnadel@oakalndnet.com" <nnadel@oakalndnet.com>, "pkernihan@oaklandnet.com" <pkernihan@oaklandnet.com>, "atlarge@oaklandnet.com" <atlarge@oaklandnet.com>, "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>, "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>, "eangstadt@oaklandnet.com" <eangstadt@oaklandnet.com>, "smiller@oaklandnet.com" <smiller@oaklandnet.com>

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please find my letter in opposition to the Board granting a conditional use permit at Astro Park in the Lake Merritt area.

Please take a moment of your time and read the rationale for not granting this permit as it adversely impact our neighborhood in a number of ways and in inconsistent with the General Plan.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 510-325-9974 or workspaz@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Rose Works

cc: Oakland City Councilmembers Nadel, Kernighan, and Kaplan
Ann Cleavenger

From: Christopher Flores [mailto:chrisf@sbcglobal.net] **Sent:** Monday, March 12, 2012 3:50 PM **To:** 'aclevenger@oaklandnet.com' **Cc:** 'saveastropark@gmail.com.' **Subject:** Astro Park Usage

Dear Commissioners,

I am a resident of Lakeshore Ave and make regular use of Lake Merritt and the adjoining spaces to walk, read, relax, and enjoy the beautiful vistas. All the improvements ongoing under Measure DD are only making the area more beautiful and attractive.

Hence, I am somewhat dismayed about the proposal to have a dog run build at AstroPark. It seems totally inappropriate since the area is used for picnics, pickup games, children and relaxing. Plus it seems an awfully small area for a reasonable dog run. I do believe there are other areas for dog runs in the city more suited to those activities - longer distances, more varied landscaping (e.g., off Oakland Ave). Dogs need space not vistas.

I request you deny any application to build a dog run in Astro Park.

Regards.
Christopher Flores

Christopher Flores
4114 Lakeshore Ave
Oakland, CA 94610
Tel: +1 (510) 834 4046
Cell: +1 (510) 599 7353
Email: chrisf@sbcglobal.net

From: **M. Rose** <mrose@prodigy.net>
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 6:14 PM
Subject: Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This dog area takes up too much of the space, which is actively used by kids and adults. I am a dog owner myself, but do not believe this is a good use of space.

Marsha Rose
Haile Girma & Co.
phone 510.420.1626
fax 510.653.6450

From: **chad marshall** <chadmarshall@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 6:38 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please do not allow our beloved park go to the dogs. Let's face it, dogs are already everywhere. I see them in Starbucks. In the bread isle at Safeway. On the counter of La Farine bakery. In restaurants with their obviously fake "Service Animal" vests on. Heck, I already see some dog

owners using Astro Park without a care. Scofflaws! Can we please have a place, just one place that is for people only? Where kids can run and play without listening to incessant barking and owners screaming "NO!", "WHAT A GOOOO BOY!" et cetera et cetera. Now is your chance to take a Stand! Sit! Stay! Please keep the park for the people.

Thanks for your time.
Chad Marshall
415.205.8056

From: **Elijah Pfister** <elijah.pfister@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 12, 2012 at 9:08 PM
Subject: Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello,

Every week, without exception, I take my family to Astro Park to play in the playground and run in the grass. We play soccer, baseball and football for hours. Please, please deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off dog park. I love dogs but this area is used by people every day of the week. If anything find a way to eradicate the geese so we can enjoy the park further - find the money to improve the play area.

Thank you,
Elijah Pfister
Atlas Ave, Oakland, CA

From: **Chris Willging** <cwillging@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 11:54 AM
Subject: Proposed dog park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>, "pkernighan@oaklandnet.com" <pkernighan@oaklandnet.com>, "nnadel@oaklandnet.com" <nnadel@oaklandnet.com>, "atlarge@oaklandnet.com" <atlarge@oaklandnet.com>

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park near the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

I have been using this park with my children for about 6 years, and have found that the space to run and play next to the playground adds to the sense of freedom that the kids have there, especially as they grow older and find the playground less interesting. I also appreciate having some open green space in this very public and central location. In addition, I have a lot of concerns about the maintenance of the dog park, since there is no budget for that. Even if the park is well-maintained, the odor from dog urine soaking into the wood chips and the ground may become unbearable over time.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Christine Willging

From: **Mr Steve A** <srabeyta@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 12:50 PM
Subject: Astro Park - concern over dog park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commisioners,

I would like to encourage you to deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park.

I am writing on behalf of myself and my family. My wife and I lived near Lake Merritt for 5 years and grew familiar with this

neighborhood. We have spent many weekends at Astro park either playing pickup soccer, or just enjoying the large expanse of grass. Now that we have kids we use the park for Saturday soccer camp and the nearby playground.

What I love about this open space is its proximity to the neighborhood just East of the freeway. We lived in this neighborhood and Astro Park was the closest and best open grass field. It serves as an open and inviting space to the hundreds of households that live on or around Grand Ave East of 580. Additionally, it serves as a convenient area for farmer's market patrons on the weekend.

By fencing off a dog park area, we would lose a rarity in this area: A close, convenient space to the East Grand Ave neighborhood, and a beautiful, very large, open and unobstructed green area seen from the freeway, farmers market, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Steve Abeyta

From: **Swetta Abeyta** <swettabeyta@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 12:55 PM
Subject: Dog park concern
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

I have lived in the Grand ave area for 5 years. I encourage you to NOT approve the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Please consider that although there are many dog lovers in the world, there are also many people that don't share this enthusiasm. There are always a few owners that don't have control of their

dogs and also don't pick up after their dogs. Astro park is not a good location for dogs due to the fact that the patrons using the kids park and remaining open grass will be forced into close proximity with these owners/dogs. In my opinion a dog park should be placed in an area that doesn't force a large amount of unintentional interaction between dogs and others.

Is seems as if there are better alternatives to the dog park location. Some, within the lake Merritt area. However, Astro Park has a steady user base of kids, athletes, and farmer's market patrons. It would be a shame to alter this beautiful green, family friendly space.

Thank you,
Swetta Abeyta

From: **Omar shah** <omarshah@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 1:08 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park!!
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This park is frequently used for many fun activities for kids and adults including soccer, volleyball, etc. Given that there is a kids park next to it, it is a fun and safe place for kids to run around in the green grass. Allowing dogs in the park would make it unsafe for little kids and also ruin the green grass due to dog feces. Please consider keeping this park for residents to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

Thanks
Omar

From: **Tiko Shah** <tikoshah@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 13, 2012 at 1:39 PM
Subject: Astro Park

To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hi, I wanted to write to tell you that I would love to keep Astro Park as it is, as a wide open, beautiful space, available for people to play in, and not have it become a dog park. I would like to request that the commission DENY the application to convert it to a dog park. Thank you!

Tiko

From: **Michael Sasso** <michaelwsasso@hotmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 10:26 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Commissioners,

Please do not turn Astro Park into a dog run. Very few large open grassy places in our area of Oakland exist which are suitable for soccer and other field games. Converting a large area of the park into a dog run will severely impact these activities in a negative way. There are many other suitable dog run areas which would not displace play areas for our neighbors and children.

Thank you ,

Michael Sasso

492 Staten Ave., #501
Oakland, CA 94610

From: **Victoria A. Barbero** <vabarbero@comcast.net>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 11:01 AM
Subject: Please Save Astro Park for Children
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

To the Commissioners:

Please **deny** the conditional use permit for the fenced- off leash dog area in our neighborhood park. We have lived in the area for the past 30 years and take special delight in seeing the children and adults enjoying the playground and the greenery. Many of them live in apartments and have nowhere else to play. Please do not take away that joy. The dogs would bring dirt, noise and danger to a place of peace, beauty and relative quiet.

My husband and I strongly urge you to deny this permit and allow the majority to enjoy the greens.

Victoria and Reinaldo Barbero

1010 Trestle Glen Rd.
Oakland, CA 94610

From: <HARDYIC@aol.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 1:20 PM
Subject: Astro Park Dog Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners

Please deny the conditional use permit application for the fences off-lease dog area at Astro Park.

I have lived in the Grand Lake District for 28 years as a home owner and have come to enjoy the one and only open green space proximal to my home. It is a multi use space used by many on a daily basis. The space if used as a dog park would be far too small. Other dog park encompass acres of land, wherein, this space is far less than one acre.

The location is adjacent to a freeway. It is also sandwiched between one of the busiest Muni stops in all of Oakland and a toddler park. The safety of children is at risk as well as the safety of Muni riders.

I am opposed to a dog park in that location.

Jana Hardy
441 Elwood Avenue
Oakland, Ca

From: **Ronna Benjamin** <ronnabenjamin@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 2:42 PM
Subject: Astro Park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Planning Commissioners,

Please deny the permit for the fensed-off dog park within Astro Park. It is a wonderful green space in a busy, high-traffic area, and a highly-used extension of the public space--with library, playground, walkways and benches--connecting to Lake Merritt. Lake Merritt has recently been renovated into a beautiful area. This complex is an urban space that any city would be proud to have. Other cities have renovated river and lake-front spaces that attract residents and visitors alike. Oakland should treasure this, not destroy it.

I walk from my home in Adams Point to the farmers market every Saturday and take my granddaughter to the playground and Lakeshore library. I see young children playing soccer, young adults playing soccer and frisbee, families with children, tight-rope walkers, people working out on the bars--all in this green space. It is a wonderful mix of people and activities. It is the kind of public space that Oakland needs in every neighborhood.

On the other hand, I have seen dog parks in FORG park and on Linda Ave. which are chain-link fense, barren dirt, smelly eye-sores. We do not want this to happen in our neighborhood.

Please save our open space and strengthen our neighborhood.

Ronna Benjamin

From: **Pat Hea** <patheaphy47@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 4:06 PM
Subject: Regarding Application for Dog run in Park Near MacArthur and Lakeshore
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>

Dear Commissioners,
I am apposed to an off lease dog park. **Please stop and deny any permit for use of a dog**
off lease area in the park at the corner of MacArthur and Lakeshore.
I have lived in the neighborhood for 30 years. I know how important this open space is.
I live on Haddon Hill/China Hill. We have no parks or public spaces on the hill so this
area is very important for the neighborhood and community.
Again I am very opposed to an off lease dog park at Astro Park in Oakland.
Thank you
Patrick Heaphy
614 Alma Ave
Oakland, 94610

From: **Mark Popple** <markpopple@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 9:36 PM
Subject: The proposed dog park at Astro Park.
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

To the Commissioners.
Please DENY the permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area.
I am totally opposed to this for many reasons. This is currently an open space for everyone to use. Many football players use this area. It is just big enough for two simultaneous games at present; if any part of it is fenced off that capability will be gone and there are very few places where people can play.
It is used as a playing field for the special school just up the hill from there. Last year they had a special needs games day there and they will be devastated at the loss of this facility.
Are we seriously proposing to spend money on a dog park when we cant keep libraries open? I know that this is supposed to be privately funded

and not cost the city but I cannot see how that is possible.Even assuming no city funds are used to build the park, and it is maintained by volunteers (both assumptions that I would dispute) the city will still be on the hook for maintaining the dog mess bins and having them emptied. Will the proponents pay for this service?
Whilst we are on the subject of mess, is it wise to have that much dog mess right next to a children's playground? It will hardly be very pleasant for young children and their carers to be subjected to that stench. Having visited some of the many other dog parks in the area I am NOT impressed by the standard of maintenance, the smell, or the look of them. The proponents hold up the Ohlone dog park in Berkeley as a fine example of a dog run. When I visited there was un-picked up dog muck in numerous places and on the fence was a sign that said " please stop the incessant barking of your dogs" that the residents of the area had posted in obvious disgust and distress. Or will this one go the route of the Alameda dog park in which there are white plastic lawn chairs scattered around the dog urine stunted shrubbery and scraggy grass.
But perhaps the biggest reason for keeping the park as it is, is the fact that it is the entrance to the city's jewel, Lake Merritt. Nearly everyone who comes to the lake passes this corner. Why should we spoil the open space, that is enjoyed by everyone, to fence it off for a few people with dogs. I thought Oakland was supposed to be against special interests and favouring the few.
Please leave our park alone.
Mark Popple.
Oakland resident. Cleveland Heights.

From: **carol shepherd** <carolsheph@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 8:43 AM
Subject: Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms Clevenger,

I am writing to ask the Planning Commission to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park.

I have lived in the area for over 30 years. An off-leash dog

run will destroy the current open-space provided by Astro Park for multiple human uses: volleyball, soccer, picnics, strolling, and others. If the proposed dog-run is approved, other uses of the designated space will be permanently lost. A unique Oakland attraction for all its residents will become the exclusive venue for a restricted number of dog--owners.

The area, as you know, represents a combined residential/commercial part of Oakland, with a lot of foot traffic (especially on Saturdays during the farmer's market next to the freeway overpass across the street). Dedicated off-leash dog runs should be located elsewhere, where people are less likely to be pursuing various daily activities.

Dog ownership means taking responsibility for your pet. Sometimes, it requires a bit of inconvenience, like taking your dog to an already existing site for exercise or making the effort to locate a suitable area that will not inconvenience other people or deny them access to public space in a densely-used public park in the heart of Oakland.

I urge you and your colleagues to stop any further planning for a dog run in Astro Park, a bad idea that should be abandoned now.

Thank you.

Carol Shepherd
620 Spruce St
Oakland CA 94610

From: **Ashley Ziegler** <Ashley@sfhoundlounge.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 12:31 PM
Subject: save the park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I have submitted letters in an effort to save Astro Park before and I am now sending another message but will keep it brief. The park is used as it us by many. It is a cherished area that should remain as is. Thank you for considering my high priority request.

From: **Anne** <gordon.anne@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 1:23 PM
Subject: No Dog Park at Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

To the Planning Commission,

I am a concerned mother of two who loves to take her kids to Astro Park. The park, in fact, is one big reason that we have chosen to live in the Grand/Lake neighborhood. My partner plays frisbee on the grass, we have picnics near the library, and not a week goes by without me taking both children to the playground. It would be truly tragic to replace a beautiful stretch of green with a fenced-in, non-grass dog park. Moreover, my toddler is scared of dogs, and it would cut down on our enjoyment of the playground immensely to constantly be having to reassure her that the dogs will not come over to the playground.

Please reject the proposal for the dog park.

Thank you,

Anne Gordon
460 Valle Vista Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610

--

Anne D. Gordon
gordon.anne@gmail.com
773.895.1609

From: **Mirabai Deranja** <morticia.atoms@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 2:05 PM

Subject: Astro Park! Please keep it green.
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

Please keep our park green!!! Don't let the Dog park ruin it. Please keep it the way it is.

Thank you
Mirabai

--
Aspire to inspire before you expire.
www.miratango.com

From: **Peter Cole** <peter.cole@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 12:31 PM
Subject: Dog park at Astro Park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Ms. Ann Clevenger:

Subject: Proposed dog park at Astro Park

Dear Ann:

I am resending a letter dated November 1, 2011 sent to the following persons by email.

Ms. Ann Clevenger
Ms. Pat Kernighan
Ms. Rebecca Kaplan
Ms. M. Nadele

Dear Ladies:

I urge you to drop plans to construct a dog park on the playfield at Astro Park.

I am a man in my seventies and was saddened to learn that you all propose to create a dog park in the middle of the playfield at Astro Park. I walk to the park almost every day and today was no exception. I saw no dogs or persons walking dogs in the area of Astro Park but I did notice that right where you propose to construct the dog park there were a meaningful number of young adults playing. This is often the case. So it seems to me that while persons of all ages use the proposed dog park area for recreation purposes, a dog park would substantially limit recreation space for persons. While on weekends the dog traffic is likely heavier there is ample area around the lake for persons to walk and exercise their dogs on leash. Worse still is the possibility that the dog park would not attract the number of dogs the proponents may argue but it certainly would deprive people use of the area for recreation. In effect the proposed dog park gives priority to dogs and/or dog owners, which I do not think is appropriate given that there are alternatives places for dogs.

Secondly, while it does not occur frequently there I have witness times when certain dogs became unruly and a threat particularly to small children who sometimes stray from their central play area. A dog park would presumably increase the number of dogs present and thus increase the chance of a dog attack.

For the reasons stated above I urge you to please deny the conditional use permit application for a fenced off-leash dog area at Astro Park.

Sincerely,

Peter Cole

CC: saveastropark@gmail.com

From: <chrmaine@wellsfargo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 2:39 PM
Subject: Please perserve open space at Lake Merritt
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

It has come to my attention that a conditional use permit has been submitted to create at fenced off-lease dog area in our neighborhood near Lake Merritt. I have been a resident of Oakland and Piedmont for nearly 25 years. I cherish the beauty of Lake Merritt and often walk or run around the lake, bring my kids there to play, and show it off to my out of town friends. It is a city jewel!

We need the open space and greenery that the park has today. The open space for people to play Frisbee, soccer, or simply sit down and have a discussion or lunch is cherished. There are fewer and fewer areas like this for recreation and relaxation. Please preserve it!

While I like dogs, I do not agree this is the best use of that site and do not support it. Please do not approve a dog park there – it is a beautiful site the way it is today.

Thank you,

Charmaine Clay
510 Boulevard Way
Piedmont, CA 94610

From: **Michael Kissam** <bandini4@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 3:09 PM
Subject: Proposed dog park at Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oakland.net, pkernigham@oaklandnet.com, nnadel@oaklandnet.com, atlarge@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello,

I have just heard that the proponents of a proposed dog park at Astro Park have completed their application. I am writing to express my *extreme* disapproval of this proposal. I have read the flyer from the people attempting to further this plan and they like to state that they "simply want a small slice of the thousands of acres of Oakland Park space available". To say that the area they suggest be used as a dog run is just some random slice of Oakland park space is ridiculous. It only takes a casual familiarity with Lake Merritt to know that the grass by Astro Park is by far the single most heavily used area around the lake. It's the most heavily used slice of park for miles in any direction for that matter.

My daughter takes soccer classes at this location every Saturday and when we are there there are always several other groups teaching soccer there as well, including one group that specializes in organizing games for the mentally handicapped. There are groups that do tai chi there. There are groups that do various forms of cardio and resistance training there. We regularly meet friends there to kick the ball around with our children. We fly our kites there. There are almost constant soccer, volleyball and frisbee games going on there. The list goes on and on. On weekend mornings you are lucky if you can even find a place to play, there is so much activity going on there. Again, it only takes the most casual familiarity with this area to know this, so why anyone would propose taking this area away from children of Oakland is beyond me.

I want to be clear that I have nothing against dogs and would even potentially support a dog run at another location should it be deemed to be truly an important societal asset, but to take away the most popular children's play area in the Lake Merritt area and give it to dogs seems to be a horrible idea on every level. Not to mention the inherent risks involved in having a childrens playground and a dog park side by side.

Oakland, while a wonderful city, has many many problems to deal with and many of these problems directly effect our youth. This park has consistantly provided a safe and fun environment for kids to play, learn and be positive in. Please do not communicate to the children of Oakland that they are literally less important than a dog. Please do not take our park away.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Kissam

From: **Casey Law** <caseyjlaw@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 4:00 PM
Subject: comment on Astro park dog area
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com, Jessica Law <jessica.s.law@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,
We are writing to express our opposition to the conditional use permit for a fenced off-leash dog area near Astro park (a.k.a. Lakeview dog play area). As a resident of the neighborhood, we ask that you deny this permit.
The park is a valuable green space available for many uses, from soccer to fitness to enjoying the sun. The plan for a fenced area will lock up half of the green space in the park for a smaller number of users. While we are sympathetic to the needs of dog owners, we feel this is not the best use of our limited open space.
As a free, open space, the park creates a green "heart" for the Grand/Lake neighborhood. Being able to see and walk freely through that space is necessary for it to serve that function. This is especially important given that the freeway already cuts our neighborhood in two.
For these reasons, we hope that you will reject the conditional use permit. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Casey and Jessica Law
570 Boden Way
Oakland, CA

From: **Alaina Eldridge** <alainaseldridge@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 5:35 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please don't accept the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area at Astro Park. I live in the neighborhood and have

enjoyed the large grassy area for many years now. Every weekend I walk by the park, on my way to the farmers market, and often take the child I babysit to the park to play on the grass. The park is almost always being used by families or people playing sports. Getting rid of all the grass and putting in a brown dog area would make the neighborhood less attractive and appealing. I also think it's a poor spot for a dog park and wont be very successful, especially since there are much better dog parks just a couple miles away. So please deny the conditional application for the fenced off dog area and keep the park green. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Alaina Eldridge

From: **Marcus Keay** <marcuskeay@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 7:51 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park - Deny Dog Park Permit
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Miss Ann Cleaver

As a resident of the Lakeshore area "1177 Holman Road" and the father of a 17 month old child, my family and I frequent the children's play area adjacent to the proposed dog park regularly. As an observer of the activities that take place in the proposed area for the dog area I strongly oppose the area to be designated for dogs. The proposed area is regularly used by children and adults alike for multiple open area activities such as children's and adult soccer, running, bootcamp and volley ball to name a few. There has to be a better location for the dog park than this site.

Please help keep our limited open park areas for people and reconsider this proposal and find another location.

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Keay
1177 Holman Road,
Oakland, CA, 94610

Sent from my iPad

From: **Eduardo Portal** <eportal@elword.com>

Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 8:02 PM
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Merrit Site: Terrible Idea.
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Please let the Planning Commission now that I add my voice to oppose the use of the grassy area between the Lakeview Library and McArthur Blvd as a dog park.
The proposed dog park will be not only a nuisance, an eyesore and a liability to the city; it will endanger the children playing in the nearby play structure and the dogs themselves due to the high traffic intersection where it will be located.

Respectfully,

Eduardo Portal.
697 Calmar Av.
Oakland CA 94610

From: **Anna Fisher** <afisherca@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 8:14 PM
Subject: proposed dog park near Lake Merritt
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Planning Commission members:

I've lived in Oakland for several years, and have spent many hours near or by Lake Merritt. I was very disturbed to learn that a dog park has been proposed to take up (and take away) space from that lovely picturesque recreational area near the Lake.

On weekends, children use the space, often after visiting the Library. Residents play soccer, stretch before a run around the Lake, or just arrive to sit and chat with friends. People coming from or going to the Farmers' Market stop there, enjoying the setting on a Saturday morning. I've played frisbee, had picnics, played tag with my little nieces and more in the exact place this **terrible** proposal would transform into a 21,000 square-foot dog run.

What a **horrible** idea, to ruin this setting with a dog park that can hardly be called pretty, relaxing or healthful for Oakland residents. Have you noticed how much space the intended dog area will actually take up? I've seen the plans, and it is a **large, ugly, intrusive** area that will surely detract from the current green grass and play space we have now. I wonder, too, how that dog run will look a few months after it is built, and who will really take care of it, keep it clean, maintain it...

I love dogs, but a dog park is not the sight I want to see as my first view of Oakland when I come off Route 580 and down the hill toward Grand Avenue. There are other areas that are much more suitable for this proposal. Besides, the dogs won't care where the Park is, so long as they have some space to run. Surely you can find another less-used space in Oakland for the dogs, and save this space for the rest of us

So please...STOP this proposal, deny the conditional use permit application for the off-leash dog area in our precious neighborhood park. It is a **BAD IDEA** for this neighborhood space.

Respectfully,
Anna Fisher

From: **kathleen gillis** <kathleengillis@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Wed, Mar 14, 2012 at 11:05 AM
Subject:
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Planning Commissioner, Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leasch dog area in our neighborhood park. It is a totally inapropritate place to have a dog park. I truely hope that you have the far-sight to see this.

Thank you,

kate gillis

From: **Kevin Duncan** <kevinduncan2@gmail.com>

Date: Sat, Mar 17, 2012 at 9:36 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Planning Commission --
My name is Jean-Philippe and I live in the Crocker Highlands area in Oakland. Prior to purchasing a home in Oakland, I lived almost a decade in San Francisco. When it came time to have a family and settle with wife and kids and such, I carefully considered several areas around the Bay and Peninsula. To be honest, Oakland was not on top of my list (Piedmont and San Mateo were). But then a friend took me to Gold's Gym one Saturday morning (I had never been around there before). After our workout, we made it to the green grass where a lot of young people from different backgrounds (Latin America, Brazil, Spaniards, French etc..) were playing soccer (I grew up in Europe and I am a decent soccer player) and I joined in. After the play, we headed to the Farmers Market nearby.

It is then that I realized Oakland could be a gret option to start a family: I could imagine my (then-future but now quite real) kids playing in the green grass area, kicking balls with me and my friends, running to the playground towards the lake. I was sold and bought a house in Oakland.

So it with absolute horror that I heard a group of my fellow proud Oaklanders have decided to turn the green grass area that lured me to Oakland into a ...dog park? Why should we destroy what is probably one the best open spaces in Oakland and probably in the Bay Area into a dog park? Is there any other space anywhere in teh city to accommodate a dog park? How can we take we consider taking a green, gorgeous space, open to all to do whatever one feels like and turn it into a potentially dirty space, reserved for the few of us who have dogs?

I strongly urge (ok, beg) you to not approve this plan, to not allow a dog park in this area close to Lake Merritt, the Farmers Market and the best of Oakland. Help dog owners find another space somewhere else but not so close to what is the heart and pride of Oakland: our gorgeous Lake Merritt area with it green open space, "do whatever your heart fancies" grass area.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to chime in.
Jean-Philippe

PS: in case you wonder, yes we do own dogs, two of them; we love them but we believe Astro Park is too useful to too many people from too many walk of life to turn it into a dog park useful only to those who are dog owners!

From: **j v** <ja_7_4@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 18, 2012 at 5:05 PM
Subject: Please preserve Astro Park as it is
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Planning Commission,
Please reject the application to replace a beautifully green and tranquil Lake Park (aka Astro Park) area, used by a majority of Lake Merritt residents, with a dog area that would cater to a small number of dog owners. I have two dogs, but believe this proposal is short sighted and selfish; it denies the majority of residents of the enjoyment they have enjoyed for generations. It would deny residents of the many current uses it provides by chopping up and negatively impacting the park. It is a beautiful space that should be preserved as a destination location for Oaklander's and visitors alike.

What began slightly more than a year ago with less than a dozen concerned Oakland citizens in the Lake Merritt area, opposed to changing the current use of the park, has grown into a movement of astounding proportions. The reason is simple; it's a bad idea and the wrong location for a fenced in and ultimately ugly and smelly dog area.

I have enjoyed this park as a child, adolescent and adult. It is a rare jewel that sparkles like no other place in Oakland. Located in the heart of a thriving business and residential neighborhood, it provides a much needed respite to us all from the hustle and bustle common to an area with such heavy and diverse use.

Please vote to preserve this park in its current and pristine condition and deny this dog proposal.

Thank you,

Joseph Villatoro

From: **mejonathan@netzero.net** <mejonathan@netzero.net>
Date: Sun, Mar 18, 2012 at 8:24 PM
Subject: Astro dog park proposal
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello -

I live on Haddon Hill and have resided there since 2005. In that time I have seen welcomed changes - Trader Joe's being one.

I could write so much on this topic but will be brief. I am not against change. I am not against sharing common areas.

A fenced-off dog park is a taking of common property for an exclusive use - a use that, by definition, _excludes_ other uses. It also removes open green space that has an aesthetic appeal, as well as utility.

It is taking. Not sharing.

This is change that I am _against_. Let me be clear: I am _not_ against household pets. People love their cats and dogs and other domestic friends. That is fine by me. I encourage responsible human-pet relationships. I do not believe that denying an exclusive use dog park will deny people the ability to continue to have such in their lives. By contrast, allowing an exclusive use dog park will deny _all_ residents a precious swath of rare shared green space.

Jonathan

P.S. My thanks to those who are taking an active role in monitoring this situation so that us "regular citizens" are kept apprised.

From: **Ricky Alperton** <ealpe2004@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 18, 2012 at 9:22 PM
Subject: Dog Park by the Lake
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioner,

Please consider denying the conditional use permit for an off leash dog park near Lake Merritt. It is a wonderful spot already used by the community, I am sure some of whom pay taxes. There are children, soccer players, boot camp people, sun bathers and people like me who just like to walk and watch all the socializing and activities in my neighborhood.

The Lake is a beautiful open space. I do not consider fences, dusty soil and excrement smells to be an asset to our Jewel. This is one of the first places that visitors see when entering the Grand Lake area. Please do not allow for destruction.

It is unfortunate that Lakeshore is getting overrun by the homeless and you have to already walk around people's dogs. A dog park will only bring more dogs. I would like to see more shoppers!

I have been a home owner in Cleveland Heights for 13 years. I just sold my big home to downsize. I am strongly considering buying my next home in another city. Diversity is good but you have to choose what is better for all, not just a few.

Oakland has its troubles. We need to attract people who

have money and can buy homes in this area and are invested in making neighborhoods better. Who are these people who want the Park. Are they homeowners? I know that homes usually come with some yard. Are they transient renters? Hmmmm? I can take a guess.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eleanor Alperton

From: **Sufen Chang** <sufen@structurespace.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 9:34 PM
Subject: stop the dog park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. We love our little park with the green area. My family has lived in this neighborhood for 14 years and both of my kids grew up in this park. This is the gem that's part of Lake Merritt. Please save this beautiful green area and do not ruin Lake Merritt which is the most beautiful iconic scene in Oakland.

Having an area that is FENCED off is the last thing we need. One of the main reasons that the farmer's market is so successful is how porous it is in its entire perimeter. Similarly, we need a natural green space without fences to bridge and connect the lake and the businesses on the other side of the freeway, as well as providing the most versatile and open use for all residents.

Thank you,

Sufen Chang
Resident at Adams Point and Jean Street Condominiums since 1998.

From: **Maida Counts** <countsmd@aol.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 18, 2012 at 10:05 PM
Subject: Save a little bit of nature for all
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

Similiar to the beauty of Central Park that wonderful place in the middle of one of the world's greatest cities New York City, please reserve a bit of nature's beauty at the corner of Lakeshore Avenue and East Shore Pkwy in Oakland for the human soul to be refreshed.

When I have had a stressful day, it is a pleasure to drive along Lakeshore Avenue toward my home. The trees and open green space near the tot playground and library are a balm for me. There are no buildings or fences to shut out the view toward the lake. I am thankful to have Astro Park there.

As a resident of this neighborhood for more than 15 years, I have witnessed the many uses of this valuable open space. From families with small children running on the grass to soccer teams practicing or young adults playing frisbee, it is enjoyed by many.

To dedicate a large portion of this park area to a dog run is to destroy a jewel in the City of Oakland. I have driven by other dog runs in the East Bay. They are dismal in appearance. The ground is packed dirt at best or mud during the rainy season. It has been noted that the Astro Park area is especially wet due to underground water conditions. Will there be an odor from dog feces accumulating in this area in the warmer weather as well?

Although the dog run volunteers are enthusiastic about maintaining the area, how long will that last? Will they be here in 2 years - 5 years - 10 years? We have a mobile society. Will the City of Oakland have to step in and maintain the run at a cost to the taxpayers?

Where will these dog owners park their cars? Nearby residents will not be the only ones bringing their dogs to a run here. Parking is already difficult in this area especially on Saturdays with the Farmers' Market. The local theatre and merchants have already been impacted by lack of parking. During fair weather the majority of the parking along Lakeshore Avenue is utilized each day by joggers enjoying the path around the lake.

There is also the concern of safety not only to the small children nearby in the swings and slides of the tot playground but to people using the area near Grand Avenue. Will all the dog owners using the run have insurance in case of any incidents or will the City of Oakland be responsible?

Hopefully, another site will be found that benefit dogs and their owners. It might also be mentioned that the Oakland Hills have a number of trails in the East Bay Regional Park system that allow dogs. If people want to provide open space for their dogs, perhaps they should make an effort in this direction.

Let's keep the gateway to Lake Merritt as beautiful as possible for all visitors and residents.

Maida Counts
468 Stow Avenue, # 7
Oakland, CA

From: **Victoria Wong** <vwoakland@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 20, 2012 at 9:55 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park!
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners and Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing to oppose the proposed dog park at Astro Park. I am a long time resident of the Grand Lake neighborhood, and I feel strongly that the open space at Astro Park is an integral part of the community that needs to be preserved. This area is highly visible and attractive, and heavily used and enjoyed by many neighborhood residents, including me and my family, who live

within half a mile of the park. Every weekend there are people using that open space for soccer games, stretching and calisthenics, and children's activities. A dog park at this location would eliminate the open space that is important to our community, in an area with relatively little park space for recreation like soccer games. There is no place for those types of activities around the lake or up either Grand or Lakeshore Avenues. It also would impact safety for children, as the dog park would be right next to the heavily used playground and library.

That open space also serves as a transition between SplashPad Park and the Lake, significantly harming the aesthetics of the park. I do not want a dog park in that highly visible location. It would be a visual blight on the neighborhood, which has worked hard for years to improve itself and attract pedestrians and shoppers.

Furthermore, despite ODOG's promises that its volunteers will maintain the park, there is no guarantee it will happen, and the City will not have the resources to maintain the park. If it becomes dirty and smelly, the community will have no recourse for correcting the problem. Furthermore, I believe this dog park, if it is to be located anywhere, should, like most dog parks, be placed in an underutilized area, as the Linda Park dog park and the dog park near FROG Park are placed (on a steep hillside and under a freeway, respectively), rather than in a highly used, attractive and visible area.

As it is, Oakland does not have the resources to maintain existing parks, even with volunteer assistance. For example, the Oakland Rose Garden's condition has deteriorated severely since gardening staff was reduced, despite regular volunteer efforts. I do not want to see a new dog park, in a highly visible and highly trafficked area, blight the neighborhood. In fact, I am opposed to even the capital expenditures proposed for the park, given Oakland's dire budget situation. That money would be far better spent

maintaining existing parks than creating another park that much of the community opposes, and for which the City cannot afford maintenance.

Arguments that this location has been in the works for a long time and that the City should not spend additional money on planning a new park are irrelevant. The fact that this not a suitable location for a dog park remains true regardless of how much it would cost to plan an alternative location. As you know, based on the strong community opposition to the park, many local residents had no idea about the plans.

In sum, I oppose the proposed dog park for many reasons, including children's safety, aesthetics, and the elimination of an important and heavily used open space, where Oakland has a shortage of open, accessible park space already. Please vote against the proposed dog park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Wong

From: **christina mastrangelo** <christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Nov 14, 2011 at 5:28 PM
Subject: NO On Fenced Dog Run Astro Park
To: pkernighan@oaklandnet.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com, nnadel@oaklandnet.com, aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Council Members and Staff,

I am writing to voice concern and vote against having the fenced dog run at Astro Park at Lake Merritt for the following reasons:

SAFETY!! - Too close to the Children's Playground and Street which is not good for the kids or the dogs.

Not sanitary for the location

Not the best use for the greater public

Destroys the Oakland Culture of that use in that park.

This will deter the greater public from use and enjoyment of the park. Please put the dog park else where. **In addition most of the dog owners currently walk there dogs around the Lake and those that I have talked to said they would not use the dog park and that they would continue to walk there dog around the lake.**

--

Very Concerned Oakland Resident

Christina Mastrangelo

MOBILE: 510-459-2653
EMAIL: christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com

From: **jere martin** <jpmartin59@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 20, 2012 at 10:59 AM
Subject:
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

While riding BART from the Coliseum yesterday, I rode through the industrial wasteland of Oakland. I thought what a nice place this would be for a dog park--plenty of space, parking, no residents, enclosed large lots. Best of all, no prime parkland converted to a noisy, dirty activity which will affect unfavorably children, bus riders who use the busy two stops, soccer players, library users et al.

There is no reason why this nuisance should be foisted upon people who love and use Splash Pad daily. Let's find another place. Really, the dogs won't mind at all.

Jere Martin
Dimond District

From: **Tom Willging** <twillgin@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 20, 2012 at 6:14 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com, Chris Willging <cwillging@yahoo.com>

Dear Commissioners:

Please vote to deny the application to create a dog park on the Astro Park grounds. With the layout of the park, having dog runs will interfere with the many activities that take place there now. I am especially concerned about the effect of a dog park on the children's playground that will border the dog run. My two grandsons, ages 2 and 6, have enjoyed the park throughout their young lives and would like to continue to do so.

I appreciate the need for a dog park and hope that you are able to locate a suitable area in the neighborhood. My only objection is having the park so close to where children play and to the soccer and athletic fields.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Willging
177 19th Street, Apt. 2D
Oakland, CA 94612
510-835-0159 (home)
202-491-4747 (cell)

From: <ouija@spaz.org>

Date: Thu, Mar 22, 2012 at 6:37 AM
Subject: please deny permision to make fenced off dog park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

please , deny the fenced off dog park . i live in front of the park at perkins , and i feel its the last thing needed . we use this park all the time to play with our children ,frisbee, and sports. the area around the lake is aprotected wildlife area , and not sutable for sports etc. its allready good . whats needed is awareness for dog owners to understand the
area there in front of bellevue is a bird migration protected zone . a reserve for these birds whos habitat is indangered. the dog owners and others dont know this , because no signs or anything to tell them. thank you.

From: **cody eriks** <codyeriks@hotmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 22, 2012 at 9:50 AM
Subject: Vote No on the Lake (Astro) Park Dog Proposal
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,
Please vote to DENY the proposed dog area for Lake (Astro) Park. Without a doubt, it is the worst possible idea that could have been proposed for this wonderfully beautiful location. An off-leash, fenced-in dog area will reverse the great strides the city has made and invested millions of dollars into to improve the lake area. These improvements were designed to and have been successful in encouraging commerce and has created an area that is both inviting and a desired location for a great many wonderful uses. This dog proposal is a black-eye on an otherwise great lake area concept.

I have recently become aware of the history of how this dog area proposal came to where it is today. What a tragic process of secrecy and mis-information this project has engaged in to further a very short-sighted agenda. To be sure, trancparency was NOT part of how this proposal developed.

This park provides recreation to a great many organizations and individuals alike, yet until recently, there has been no outreach to identify

exactly who the organizations are, how they utilize or benefit from the park or what multiple unprogrammed uses the park provides for everyone on a daily basis. This is a horrible omission of information that really should have been identiied at the beginning of this whole ordeal. It was not and I must ask why?

Beyond the many reasons to keep the park as is and utilized as a great resourse by a great and diverse population, blight is yet another strong arguement against a dog area here. Blight is what will result because there are no sustainable provisions or budget for maintenance or care contained within this ill-concieved dog area proposal. Yes, it does say volunteers will be responsible for maintaining the area but, in truth, depending on volunteers to maintain this area of vines, feces and urine smells, year after year, and next to a childrens play area too, is irresponsible.

Please deny the off-leash, fenced-in dog area at Lake Park; it erally is a bad idea for this park.

Thank you,

Cody
Adams Point

From: **Steven Belcher** <swbelcher007@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 25, 2012 at 10:29 AM
Subject: Proposed Dog Park at Astro Park (Lakeshore)
To: Pattillo@pgadesign.com, vienv.truong@gmail.com, Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org, michael.colbruno@gmail.com, mzmdesignworks@gmail.com, jaw1123@aol.com

Steven W. Belcher
630 Longridge Road
Oakland, California 94610
(510) 301-5321
swbelcher@msn.com

Re: Opposition to Proposed Dog Run at Astro Park

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

Please "google" "off leash dog parks in Oakland" and you will see a great Yelp site rating **37 off leash dog parks in and around Oakland**. Now search for programed play fields near Lakeshore and they list places such as "Gilman" which is in Berkeley and scheduled to the hilt and Mosswood which is not flat. Astro Park (Lakeshore) is one of the few remaining pieces of unprogramed playing field left in Oakland. That means, that you can see groups of pick up soccer, baseball, football, play without driving to a field, paying for a permit...or waiting for a permit.

In that vein, yesterday I passed the park and there was all the above activities go on at the same time, no stress, just having fun. Where will these citizens go for their outdoor fun? It also occurred to me that most of those children and young adults do not have a clue that their play fields are about to disappear or have the means to drive to an alternative.

Please leave one of the last big open green spaces, open and green. Some have this compulsion to fill empty spaces...let this one be. By the way, with the City budget on life support, how will the proposed dog park be financed and maintained?

Sincerely,

Steve Belcher

Planning Commission: vien Truon, C.Blake Huntsman, Michael Colbruno, Madeleine Zayas-Mart, Jonelyn Whales, Chris Pattillo

From: **Milton Andersen** <budandersen@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 26, 2012 at 8:05 PM
Subject: Astropark should not become an ugly dog-run
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

To the Commissioners of the Planning Commission:
Please DENY the conditional use permit that would allow the beautiful and much used Astropark to become an ugly dog run. THERE ARE MANY REASONS TO DENY THE PERMIT. You have probably heard about or read about most of the reasons. So I will mention just one reason that shouldn't be neglected. It is the issue of possible health hazards of a dog

run with wood chips, and the possibility of dog poop being mixed up with the wood chips, and the difficulty of a person to quickly identify a piece of dog poop mixed up with the wood chips.

Dogs are carnivores, and carnivores have in their feces high levels of pathogens. There is a kiddie playground very close to the proposed dog run. Will dust, containing small particles of dog feces, drift over to be breathed by children in the kiddie playground? This is a possibility.

So, for the above reason, and many other reasons, PLEASE DENY THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT.

Sincerely,
Milton(Bud) Andersen

budandersen@gmal,com
510 625-0831

From: **Brian Auerbach** <auerbach.brian@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 27, 2012 at 8:30 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park as a green space for all
To: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Rebecca,

I live in the neighborhood that includes the Astro Park green space. This green space is a gem in the neighborhood that creates a beautiful and unmistakable vista for all citizens to share. There is nothing more pleasurable after a long day at work in San Francisco and a commute bus ride home than to look out of the bus window and see that wide vista with all kinds of people walking, playing soccer, kids playing, people exercising and, of course, just the open space dedicated to all.

A dog park in this location would be a tragedy for all concerned. I am not against dogs or dog parks per se, but this prime resource set in such a prominent part of our neighborhood is just wrong for dog usage and would be a city planning error. I ask you to please deny the proposal to put a dog park in this wonderful, shared location.

Sincerely,
Brian Auerbach

From: **Natalie West** <buglight2010@hotmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 27, 2012 at 9:01 PM
Subject: Opposing Dog Park at Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

. Please convey this message to the Planning Commission:
Dear Commissioners:
It is imperative that Oakland conserve its level park lands for human recreational use, not for dog parks. Please deny the proposed dog park at Astro Park, and direct staff to explore alternatives such as the underutilized park at Lakeshore/Hanover/Wayne.

Oakland is chronically short of parks for soccer, volleyball, and other sports that need to be played on turf. We are not a community like Piedmont, where private donors can pay millions of dollars to excavate a canyon and provide expanded facilities. (Blair Park proposal in Piedmont.) In Oakland, we must protect and preserve our level grass areas so that children and adults can stay active and involved in our community. The area that has been proposed for a dog park is almost always in use for frisbee, volleyball, soccer and other human activities; the area must be preserved for such activities.

A few short blocks away, there is a park on Lakeshore/Hanover/Wayne that would be a great dog park. This area has benches, some trees providing shade, a slope overlooking the lake, onstreet parking, and adequate space for a dog park while preserving a buffer for adjacent areas. A dog park on this area would make the neighborhood a safer, more pleasant area for all.

Thank you for denying the proposed Astro Dog park. Best regards, Natalie West (Oakland resident for 35 years, raised 2 children here - always looking for soccer, baseball, and other playing fields for the youth of our community.)

From: **Debbie Cooper** <debjoy.cooper@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 28, 2012 at 7:58 AM
Subject: No to the dog park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com, NNadel@oaklandnet.com, pkernighan@oaklandnet.com, RKaplan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger and Councilmembers Kernighan, Kaplan, and Nadel:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Lakeview Dog Park proposal for three primary reasons.

1. It is going to be UGLY. There's no doubt in my mind about this. I am a highly skilled architect and I spend all my time evaluating design. It is incomprehensible to me how such a bad proposal is even being considered on a site adjacent to all of the very successful improvements around Lake Merritt and at Splash Pad Park, and in such a prominent focal point of the neighborhood.

   And there's nothing that will convince me that urine-soaked wood chips won't smell.

2. The community doesn't want it. I've been working with SAVE ASTRO PARK for almost a year to inform my neighbors about this plan. I've told hundreds of people that this green space will be fenced and filled with wood chips, and I've watched shock and disgust come over their faces every time.

3. ODOG doesn't understand what they are asking for. SAVE ASTRO PARK has staked out the dog park area to show the neighborhood where the new dog park will be located on several occasions. We have repeatedly had members of ODOG state that the area staked out is larger than their proposed plan. But we have made every attempt to show the location accurately based on ODOG's plan. This was done by a landscape architect, a contractor, and me – an architect. We know how to read plans.

   If they can't visualize the size of the space they are asking for, they certainly don't understand how truly detrimental a fenced, brown space will be.

Please keep Astro GREEN. I sincerely and strongly request that you DENY the proposal for the Lakeview Dog Park.

Thank you.
Deborah J. Cooper, AIA, LEED AP
681 Spruce Street
Oakland

From: <stephenparente@comcast.net>
Date: Sat, Mar 24, 2012 at 6:10 PM

Subject:
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

To the Attention of the Commissioners of the Planning Commission,

Dear Commissioners, my wife and I are writing to urge you to DENY the conditional use permit for the fenced off leash dog area

in our beautiful and much used and appreciated park at Lake Merritt! It's a mystery to us that the moneys being spent to improve

access and open space at the Lake should be closed off and encumbered by a 28.000 SQ, FT dog park.!

Thank you for your consideration of this matter, and please DENY the petition for a dog park at Astro Park!!

Sincerly,

Stephen and Margaret Parente

From: **Gilbert Vahanian** <gvahanian@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 28, 2012 at 3:01 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: "aclevenger@oaklndnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklndnet.com>, "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please forward this message to the Planning Commission.

Thank you.

Dear Commissioners,

Please vote to DENY fencing off a portion of Astro Park for a dog run.

This beautiful, serene, green space provides utility not just to the many active users of it, but also to thousands of daily passer-by who derive peace and satisfaction from seeing a tranquil, green oasis in the midst of what otherwise would be a desolate urban diaorama of buildings and concrete.

If we must appropriate valuable, open, flat, green, unprogrammed space for any other purpose, then let's ensure that the utility provided by that proposed use FAR outweighs the cost of relinquishing this green space. Decimating this beautiful space with woodchips, dust, and chicken-wire does not come close!

Moreover, this well-intentioned, but utlimately horrifically flawed proposal, will be an eye sore, nose sore, and ear sore for all visitors to the lake, IN PERPETUITY!

When I saved a deaf dalmation puppy from sure extermination by a breeder in San Leandro, I relocated to Concord to give the sweet soul a back yard to run in. No, I did not have a car, and rode to Bart on my bicycle. I'm all for dog parks in Oakland, but to put a dog park at this vital patch of green adjacent to a tot lot and an important, highly trafficked corridor that connects many districts strikes me as sophomoric.

And I haven't even touched on the notion that this land is part of the first US national wildlife refuge and an important bird sanctuary!

Please, let's kill off this proposal, and start working on proposlas on how to preserve our valuable open space from similar future land grabs.

Let's not be the ones future generations of Oaklanders and Piedmonters look back to as having woodchiped paradise and put up a dog crapper.

Thank you for hearing my voice.

Kindest regards,

Gilbert Vahanian

Oakland Homeowner since 2005
635 Spruce St.
Oakland, CA

From: **mike evans** <mikeevans1@earthlink.net>
Date: Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 6:31 PM
Subject: Please DENY permit application for fenced dog area at Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms.Clevenger,

Please forward my email below to the Planning Commission.

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off lease dog area in Astro Park. This area is used by individuals, families, and communities for many different outdoor activities. The space promotes exercise, health and community. It is also very prominent to visitors to the City coming from the freeway. And a large chain-link, wood-chip covered area at this location will be an eyesore to both the neighborhood and visitors. One last, but very big concern, is the runoff from this area flowing into Lake Merritt during wet weather.

Please keep Astro Park in its current use as a healthy neighborhood park by denying the permit application for a fenced off lease dog area. I think an

area like where the old Police horse stables were makes more sense as a dog park.

Respectfully,

Pat Evans
Oakland Homeowner since 1990
Piedmont Pines

From: **William Rogers** <william@ix.netcom.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 29, 2012 at 11:58 PM
Subject: Proposed Dog Park at the Astro Park Site Location
To: Clevenger Ann <AClevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

March 29, 2012

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am a resident of the Lake Merritt area and have two boys ages 10 and 12 who use Astro Park regularly. While I am generally supportive of dog parks in urban communities, I am strongly opposed to the reconfiguration of Astro Park for this purpose.

First, a dog park in this location destroys a primary (and much needed) feature of Astro Park – un-programmed open space. Adults and children need open space areas to run, exercise, play games and engage in sports. The elimination of well-used, un-programmed open space in an area that has very little is contrary to basic community needs and is antithetical to the human, environmental and public health goals for Oakland and its residents.

Second, the proposed dog park's proximity to an area that is programmed for children's play may constitute an incompatible

use by mixing dogs and children in such close proximity to one another. It's a potential safety issue for park users and a liability issue for the City.

Third, the prominence of the location for the proposed dog park is contrary to the current projects around the lake. This is an area where the City has spent millions of stimulus dollars to beautify the Lake Merritt area and to provide more open space. Astro Park is the Northern gateway to the new and improved lake. Dog parks become large dirt patches because dogs that are running, digging, urinating, and defecating suppress the ability of anything green to grow. Despite the architectural renderings of a green and flowered dog park, the reality is a very prominent eyesore in this high profile location.

The proponents of the dog park have asserted volunteers will largely maintain the dog park. Volunteers often make frequent requests that require a higher level of oversight and support from staff and city resources. The City of Oakland would be responsible for administration of liability waivers for volunteers, MOU's and oversight of the operational components of a volunteer program.

In addition, cities across the country have engaged volunteers who have really good intentions about maintaining an area or Park over the long term. Yet as people's lives or priorities change, so does their commitment. Volunteer efforts for ongoing maintenance simply wane over time. It is often difficult and tiresome for volunteers to continuously pick up after others. When volunteer efforts dissipate, it is the City's responsibility to ensure that the park is well maintained and safe for the public's use. At the end of the day, the City has sole legal and financial responsibility for the public asset.

Given this, the City of Oakland will have financial, maintenance and operational responsibility for the park regardless of volunteer efforts. City services will include litter pick up, trash can service, graffiti abatement, weed abatement, mulching, pruning, irrigation (to minimize dust), site inspections, site drainage maintenance, annual wood chip and straw bale replacement, gate, sign, bench maintenance, response to public concerns and complaints and animal control related issues. City staff and Police will be required to ensure compliance with dog park rules and will be responsible for enforcing dog park hours of operation. The dog park will require recurring City resources to maintain and operate.

The City will also be required to use its resources to field complaints, enforce rules, monitor activities and facilitate disagreements. Common community complaints about dog parks include noise, dust (from dirt and wood chip decomposition), blighted conditions, and odor from feces and urine. Complaints from users include environmental factors such as the presence of mud, the quality of woodchips, and the condition of the site surface. Municipalities with dog parks are also finding that a dog park can create conflicts among animals of different sizes and requests are commonly made to mitigate conflicts by creating separate areas for large and small dogs. As time goes on, users also tend to request a higher standard of maintenance and/or amenities than available resources allow.

Environmental factors are also an issue. Storm water and ground water quality may be negatively impacted from feces, urine and mud washing off. In addition, proper site drainage and maintenance will be essential to prevent the transport of feces, urine, surface material (wood chips) and soil.

Wildlife may also be impacted as the presence of dogs may be incompatible with wildlife by the lake which may cause wildlife to stay away or cause their nesting, foraging and other essential activities to be interrupted. Birds are often flushed by dogs and some dogs chase and kill wildlife. There are also public health and dog health alerts: E Coli inquiries, dog disease inquiries, respiratory illness inquiries, water borne pathogens inquiries, etc..

Finally, parking will likely be an issue. Dog parks are typically a city-wide or regional resource and people drive to them from outside the immediate neighborhood, City and even the region. The lack of parking (particularly in an area that is already densely populated with cars) can have a negative impact on surrounding businesses and neighbors.

For all of the reasons stated above, a dog park at this location should not be approved.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

William Rogers
Oakland, CA

From: **R. Blair Sly** <rblairsly@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 30, 2012 at 10:28 AM
Subject: Opposition to Dog Park at Astro Park/Eastshore Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello,

I am a lifetime resident of Oakland and currently live on Wayne Ave, between Hanover and Stowe. I strongly oppose the proposal to establish a dog park at Astro Park/Eastshore Park, and encourage the commission to vote down the proposal.

Oakland is desperately deficient in level, grassy playing fields for sports and other recreational uses. I am an active volleyball and soccer player, and regularly use the space at Astro park to play these sports. Having a central place where anyone can freely participate in these types activities is critical to establishing a sense of community in this neighborhood. Proponents of the dog park argue that an ample grassy area would be preserved, but let's be frank -- the area they propose is just too small to accommodate soccer and other activities.

I fully support establishing a dog park in the general Lake Merritt area, but **PLEASE, let's work to find an alternative location for a dog park that doesn't take away from any of the invaluable level grassy areas that are used for other activities**! There are reasonable alternatives in Lakeside park near Fairyland, or down Lakeshore at the underutilized park at Lakeshore/Hanover/Wayne.

I hope you will do the right thing and preserve flat open green space for our community by denying the proposed Astro Dog park.

Blair Sly
407 Wayne Ave
Oakland CA 94606

From: **Molly Ammons** <molly.ammons@ngem.com>
Date: Fri, Mar 30, 2012 at 4:40 PM
Subject: Please DENY the dog par at Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. I am a resident of the Lake Grand area, and I coach a girls running program, Girls on the Run Lake Merritt, at Astro

Park twice a week. Astro Park is an invaluable piece of land in our community that has too few green play areas for children.

Of our team of 17 girls, ages 8-13, over half live in apartment buildings without yards or open play spaces. Their time at Astro Park twice a week are rare moments where they can lay in the grass, run as far as they like without fear of cars, and partake in the vibrant community that surrounds the park. It would be a shame and an embarrassment to Oakland to have this community area used for a dog park, instead of as a place for community children to grow and thrive.

Above left: Coach Kristin and four Girls on the Run on a sunny Day in Astro Park
Above right: The moon rises over three of our team members as they run laps in Astro Park

I am not against a dog park in the Lake Merritt area - on the contrary, I highly support it. However, Astro Park is not the appropriate place.

Respectfully,

Molly Ammons
Girls on the Run Bay Area - Lake Merritt Team Coach
491 Mandana Boulevard, #7
Oakland, California
p. 510-381-2406

From: **Sarah Heath** <trisas6@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Apr 1, 2012 at 12:09 PM
Subject: NO to the Lakeview Dog Park proposal
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I want to voice my opinion that Astro Park is **NOT** an appropriate location a fenced off-leash dog area - the space is too used and beloved by people (adults playing ultimate, kids playing soccer, individuals reading, etc.)

While I support dog parks throughout the city, they should be strategically located in areas where we are not *taking green-space away* from children and adults for exclusive use by dogs - we need to keep our priorities straight. The green-space in our city (as in any city) is far to precious & limited to surrender to the dogs. It would be an unnecessary eye-sore in what is now a beautiful treasure for families, neighbors and visitors.

Please consider alternative locations for the dog park and DENY the conditional use permit application for the Lakeview Dog Park.

Thank you,

~Sarah

Sarah Heath
Stow Ave, Oakland

From: **Richard Burge** <rwburge@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Tue, Apr 3, 2012 at 2:48 PM
Subject: Opposition to Astro Park dog area
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

To the Commissioners:

I am strongly opposed to any use of Astro Park for an unattractive fenced dog area and I urge you to deny the use permit for it. The fine grassy area is a rare, pleasant counterpoint to our otherwise congested urban

environment. I think it is unreasonable that dog owners have the expectation of allowing their animals to run around off-leash and that the established public use of this nice open space should be hijacked for such an inappropriate purpose.

Dog owners have many options for exercising their pets at a wealth of surrounding areas in the East Bay Regional Parks and elsewhere. Owning a dog in Oakland was a choice they made in light of the existing features of our city. It should not be everyone else's responsibility to give over any part of our neighborhood park just because some owners now want to make their lives more convenient.

Sincerely,

Richard Burge
1032 Ardmore Ave.

From: **eric mullen** <emullen55@hotmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 3, 2012 at 5:24 PM
Subject: Against the dog park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

April 3rd, 2012

Dear Commissioners,

Please keep Astro Park open, green and
clean, not fenced, brown and stinky.

i strongly prefer that this area

NOT be converted to use for dogs.

Keeping this entire area open and green
is FAR more important to my quality of life than a dog park.

I respectfully ask that the Planning Commission deny the conditional use permit application for a fenced dog park at this site.

Thank you,

Eric Mullen
438 Staten Ave., # 307
Oakland, CA 94610

From: **Pat Hea** <patheaphy47@yahoo.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 3, 2012 at 5:47 PM
Subject: astro park dog take over
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Ann,
Now that the date has been set for the hearing about the Astro Park dog run
I want to state my feelings again. Because I will be out of town during the
hearing on Nov 2.

I am apposed to taking so much well used space in the park for a dog run.
The field is beautiful, green and well used by many people. Large expanses of green grass is such a wonderful site for us city dwellers.
we need it for our soul and spirit.
Please have the dog run people find a less in your face place for the dogs to run.
Again I am a local resident only a 10 minute walk from this site and
do not want it used as a dog run.

Thanks so much helping with this
Patrick Heaphy
614 Alma Ave
Oakland, 94610

From: **Eleanor Hanson Wise** <eleanor@thepresentgroup.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 4, 2012 at 10:16 AM
Subject: Astro Park isn't the place for a dog park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to voice my concern over the proposal to create a fenced dog park taking up over half of Astro Park. While I am a dog lover myself, and agree that there is a desperate need for some dog friendly park space in this area, I don't believe Astro Park is the place to do it. The thing about

dog parks is that they don't need to be flat. There are plenty of hilly little parks in the area that would work for this purpose. The thing about playing fields is that they *do* need to be flat. And un-programmed, open, flat, fields are something that we need to preserve as it is incredibly hard to ever get them back once they're gone.

I am aware that it is always hard to find a space for dog parks as no one wants them in their backyard, however please consider re-focusing your efforts into finding a location that is not flat, and therefore not used by all sorts of people playing sports and games. In addition, it would make more sense to look for a location under trees, where grass already does not grow, rather than mulching or paving over a large swath of grass. Dogs love running around and peeing on trees anyway!

I would encourage you to deny this permit application for a fenced dog park in Astro Park, however would strongly encourage you to continue your efforts to finding a suitable location for a dog park in the Grand Lake area.

Thank you,
Eleanor Hanson
33 Excelsior Ct.

From: **Rachel Broadwin** <chezrachel@yahoo.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 4, 2012 at 11:22 AM
Subject: Deny conditional use application for dog area
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. As homeowners we have enjoyed this neighborhood. The grassy, verdant space should remain just that. A dog park would be an eyesore.

Thank you for considering our opinion.

Rachel Broadwin & Lary Heath
934 MacArthur Blvd

From: **Rufus L. Cole** <rcole@rufuscole.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 4, 2012 at 1:00 PM
Subject: Dog Run Near Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I am sending this email to request that you DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. The rights of our children and other adults should have a higher priority than our four legged friends and while I respect the needs of dog owners, Astro Park is simply too small to accommodate a dog run. If anything, the Park should be expanded for the use of individuals who would like to picnic with family and friends. Please do not make this precious space more limiting than what it already is.

Rufus L. Cole
Rufus L. Cole & Associates
720 Market Street, 10th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
Telephone: 415-956-8800
Facsimile: 415-956-8811

From: **Lisa Cole** <lisaryancole@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 4, 2012 at 2:19 PM
Subject: Dog Run Near Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you DENY the temporary conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. The rights of our children and other adults should be a higher priority then our our four legged friends and while I respect the needs of dog owners, Astro Park is simply too small to accommodate a dog run. If anything the park

should be expanded for the use of individuals who like to picnic with family and friends. Our granddaughter looks forward to playing on the play structure and running in the grass. She is afraid of dogs and having a dog run so close would discourage her from playing in area that she loves. Please do not make this precious space more limiting than what it is already.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ryan Cole
Resident of Oakland

From: **Jan LeGassick** <janle@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Wed, Apr 4, 2012 at 9:13 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I live in the Lakeshore area and am unhappy with the proposal to create a fenced-in dog area near Astro Park. Please deny the conditional use permit.

Contrary to what supporters of the dog area claim, this part of the park is often used by adults and kids for soccer games and other activities. It's also an entry point to the Lakeshore area and is now an open, inviting space. Fencing it off for dog use, and relying on volunteers to maintain the site is a bad idea. There must be other places that are not prime real estate, that would be more suitable for a dog park.

Thank you,

Jan LeGassick

From: **Richard Chaikind** <richjc@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Wed, Apr 4, 2012 at 9:30 PM
Subject: Please save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to ask you to please deny the proposal to have a dog run in Astro Park. I live in the area and I along with friends enjoy using the park to play soccer, toss a ball around or just being there on a sunny day. If you walk through the park almost any day, especially on weekends you will see the whole park being used and enjoyed by people of all ages. there must be some other place to fence off for dogs.

Thank you,
Richard Chaikind

From: **kay marie jacobson** <kmariej@comcast.net>
Date: Thu, Apr 5, 2012 at 3:55 PM
Subject: No dog run at Astro Park!
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello Commissioners,

I'm writing to urge you to please deny the application for the conditional use permit for a "dog run" at Astro Park. Green spaces are in short supply in the Grand Ave - Lakeshore neighborhood and the fencing of even a small portion of the park would be a huge loss. I personally walk by that park several times a week and my grandchildren often use the playground adjacent to the area proposed. The kids always want to run and play on the expanse of grass -- the nearest open space for a "kid run" is in Piedmont. That's a sad fact.

Aside from losing access to the field, a dog run will sacrifice what little green we have and no doubt turn it into a muddy mess. I love dogs and respect their needs to run, but this is simply not a great location for this use. Our priorities should be to the overall quality of the environment and more importantly to the children in the neighborhood. It is vital for us to preserve and improve what little public park space we have -- a dog run does not serve this purpose. Lastly, having so many dogs coming and

going right next to a busy children's playground is probably asking for trouble.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Kay Marie Jacobson
651 Santa Ray Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

From: **Gerald Wheeler** <geraldwheeler@comcast.net>
Date: Thu, Apr 5, 2012 at 4:31 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to request that you please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

I have lived in this neighborhood for over 27 years and dividing the use of this small park between dogs and people is a proposal that has been rejected by most of the residents that I know, particularly those, and there are a lot of them, families with small children. Astro Park is a location that always has been and continues to be fully used by families, and sports enthusiasts for recreation and pleasure on a daily basis. Chopping it up for dogs is a bad idea.

I have no doubt that there are other, far less intrusive locations where dog owners can allow their animals to run free. Please do not allow it here.

Thank you,

Gerald Wheeler
651 Santa Ray Ave.
Oakland, Ca. 94610

From: **Ailian Chong** <chongppr@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, Apr 5, 2012 at 4:50 PM
Subject: No Dog Park on Lakeshore Please

To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>

Dear Planning Commission:

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced dog area in our neighborhood near Astro Park. I love the open green space which is currently there. It's a joy to have such wide open space and seeing informal soccer and baseball games with kids and a few dogs running around. I used to bring my kids to this park and not have to worry too much about uncontrolled dogs in the area.

This space is too small for bounding dogs to move about freely and the fenced area will cramp the whole openness of this urban area. We've visited Point Isabel Park in El Cerrito, and can see how a dog park can be a magnet for many dogs in the greater bay area. This kind of increased usage would be inappropriate for our neighborhood. With cutbacks on the Parks & Recreation Department, there won't be funds for the more intensive maintenance needed for a new dog park. Please keep this neighborhood enjoyable AS IS since it is already a fairly dense populated area.

Sincerely,
Oy-Lene Chong
Spruce Street
Oakland

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am a dog owner and live on Elwood Avenue in the Grand Lake District.

In December of 2010 I went to a Park and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting to hear about a proposal to fence a dog run on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur. The only way I knew about this was through a dog therapy group that I belong to that phoned me to ask me to come to the meeting and support the design approval for this run. Otherwise, I would have had no idea. I did not come to the meeting to support the dog run however. I came because I was incredulous that the city of Oakland would even consider fencing a dog run next to a tot lot in a highly visible space in the middle of a busy shopping district. To this day I remain dumbfounded that this proposal has gotten as far as it has.

Astro Park (also known as Eastshore Park) is a beautiful, precious green gateway to the Grand Lake district as well as a gateway to Lake Merritt. Additionally, a large and diverse group of Oaklanders use the park in diverse ways => http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TESI-FZCApc

I am a member of Save Astro Park and we have worked to help educate the neighborhood on the dog park proposal and what we have observed is this: the more people find out about it, the more people don't want it.

The fact that this proposal was kept virtually under wraps except for dog specific groups who knew about it is a shame. Had the community learned about it a lot earlier it would have never gotten this far or created the kind of acrimony that it has.

One thing is for sure: the city needs to take a stronger leadership role in determining the siting for these dog runs. Otherwise we have what we have now: ODOG going from neighborhood to neighborhood creating rancor amongst residents. Seattle figured out a better way so maybe someday Oakland can as well. Regarding Seattle's pilot program and eventual implementation of a dog park plan, "The pilot program made all the difference. First, it showed residents that the city was in charge and acting reasonably. Second, it taught Seattle how to identify site selection criteria that would lead to successful locations, which turned

out to be: (1) avoid interference with other established uses or department-sponsored activities; (2) avoid locations directly abutting residences; (3) assure availability of close-by parking; (4) avoid locations near children's play areas; (4) choose spots where there are minimal impacts on the visual character of a park; (5) site so as to avoid spillover into non-dog areas; and (6) avoid sensitive environmental habitats. "
(http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe_Dog_Park_Report.pdf)Note that the Astro Park location choice flies in the face of every single one of these criteria.

I am not anti-dog and I am not anti dog park either. What I am against is taking away the little precious open, unfenced, un-programmed green space that we have so that people can have yet **another** place to have their dogs interact. We have plenty of resources for dogs already and, at the expense of grabbing 22,000 square feet (about half, see attached photo) of the available open green space in our neighborhood gateway, the city in no way owes residents a dog park on every corner. What the city does owe residents is care and consideration in how it treats its precious open un-programmed green space. As the old saying goes, "They ain't making any more land." I urge the Planning Department to take this into careful and consideration in looking at this proposal to fence off half of the open space at Astro Park. While this issue may seem small in comparison to many, it actually is one that will impact thousands of people and for generations to come.

Thank you for listening and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sue Levin

From: Steve Saffold <stevesaffold@yahoo.com>
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: pat kernighan <pkernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2012 1:08 PM
Subject: Oakland Common

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please deny the application to turn the green, open space at Lakeshore & MacArthur--"Astro Park"--into a fenced, wood-chipped dog area. This space is a gift, a true Commons at the very core of our city. The fact that this proposal had made it this far is frankly stunning. Would Boston permit half of Boston Commons to be turned into a fenced, wood-chipped dog area?

This should not come down to a show of hands by citizens. This is the job of the planning department and planning commission--to demonstrate vision, and in some cases, courage, to do what is best for Oakland today and far into the future.

With that being said, there is an astonishing amount of resistance to this proposal. I have stood at the proposed location on several Saturdays, simply explaining the proposal and giving people the opportunity to write down their email addresses if they believed this was a bad idea.

We have not been there every Saturday; in fact we have only been out there between five and ten times, within the past few months. And only in the morning.

On these mornings, some **1300** people have written down their names and email addresses and asked us to keep them posted on how to defeat this proposal. 1300.

I happen to work in real estate development. All of the projects I work on are "infill" projects in urban areas. I have seen major projects defeated by groups as small as two or three people. In the case of this dog park proposal, there are 1300 people who signed their names and volunteered their email addresses AT THE SITE. These are not people who are part of a region-wide network of dog-park objectors. I ask you: how could the city approve a project--a project that requires a conditional use permit for a change of use, nonetheless--that has at least 1300 objectors who have volunteered their information, not to mention unknown numbers who have not done so??

There are myriad reasons that this is plainly a horrible location for a dog park. Take your pick: adjacency to a tot playground, already gridlock traffic, no parking, no maintenance budget, permanent awful smell at a key Oakland location, regular use by folks of every age and stripe, or (my

personal biggest reason) the beauty of the space and the tranquility it affords at this key location.

Thanks, Ms. Clevenger.

Kind regards,
Steve Saffold

Steve Saffold
510-282-9169 mobile
stevesaffold@yahoo.com

From: **nancy smith** <nsmith1717@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 6, 2012 at 11:33 AM
Subject: astro park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please please keep Astro Park as is. This place is enjoyed by families with small children, as well as those of us older folks who just love the greenery in the Lake Merritt area. When moneyin Oakland is so tight, why would the city council decide to spend on such an unnecessary project?

Please consider the ramifications of this idea.

--
Nancy Smith
Educator

From: **Elaine Ellis** <mselainels@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 6, 2012 at 1:49 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park!
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DO NOT vote to the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

I am an Oakland resident and love to run around Lake Merritt and all of its surrounding green space. While I love dogs and believe they deserve a place to run around, please do not take away this limited green space in the Lake Merritt neighborhood for all of us who use it in our own ways, playing sports or just enjoying relaxing there in the sun.

Thank you for considering the wishes of your constituents.

Sincerely,
Elaine Ellis
(School social worker, Rockridge resident)

From: **Wendy Winter** <wintermade@hotmail.com>
Date: Fri, Apr 6, 2012 at 8:26 PM
Subject: Please Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners, I respectfully ask that you deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced, off-leash dog park at Astro Park.
Let's not kid ourselves, Oakland's reputation is tarnished: from our less than present former Mayor Dellums, to the Occupy Movement, the recent mass murder at the Oikos college and our high crime rate. Oakland simply carries a bad rep. And now a group of misguided people want to take a piece of our crown jewel and turn it into a fenced dog run. So now imaging the future when news cameras turn to show scenes of the lake, they'll get a beautiful view of what? happy dogs in a fenced in area rather than beautiful green space, with kids and adults enjoying one of the few green, easily accessible, public spaces. Sure, we've got Redwood Park, but if you're tethered to the flat lands or vehicle free, you're going to have to work hard to see some green space. Don't take away the green.

And for the record, I love dogs more than I love people. I think Oakland's leash laws are simply Draconian. Change the laws. Make life easier for dog owners, but DON'T take away this beautiful green space in my neighborhood. That would simply be foolish.

thank you

Wendy Winter
589 Kenmore Ave
Oakland, CA
94610

From: **Martina I. Cucullu** <mcucullu@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Apr 7, 2012 at 12:44 PM
Subject: Astro park
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

I live a few blocks from the lake and am very much opposed to a dog run even though I just got a dog. There are so many dog parks in the nearby area that I just don't see any reason to add another in astro park. The area is always in use by people playing soccer, children and others looking to enjoy he park.

I also think its a bad idea given how much traffic there already is around the lake not to mention all the children who play on the playground nearby. The only way to adequately protect them and the dogs would be to erect a number of fences that would make the area difficult to access and ugly. We've spent so much time and money into making the park pretty it is just counter-intuitive to do something that would defeat all the work that's been done.

Martina Cucullu Lim

From: **amy bell** <amyk.bell@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Apr 7, 2012 at 1:57 PM
Subject: Citizen opposing Dog Park in beautiful Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com, pkernighan@oaklandnet.com, nnadel@oaklandnet.com, atlarge@oaklandnet.com

Dear Commissioners and Council members,

I am a citizen of Oakland (Glenview/Trestle Glen) who, like so many of my neighbors and my husband, loves the Lake Merritt and Grand/Lake area. I am there nearly every day to shop, run errands, eat, exercise, take out Library books, and enjoy the land.

It would be a tragedy to introduce a dog run to Astro Park, for many reasons. I believe the most compelling argument here is the disruption a dog run would cause in the way the community uses the space.

A dog run would seriously impact the social and visual experience of the entire Embarcadero landscape. Many people travel some miles to get to the Lake Merritt area in order to enjoy its open spaces. The proposed brown dog run, surrounded by a fence, would disrupt and detract from that open space experience and seriously hinder the sense of community - whole community - that the space currently promotes in its simple, easily maintained way.

No one who does not own a dog wants to participate or take any personal responsibility for a dog park. A dog park is an off-limits area to them. It is negated space. Many people including small children are afraid of gathered dogs. Gathered dogs snarl and nip and become agitated, as is their nature. Many dislike their smell and open defecation. Many have to live with barking dogs in their neighborhoods and seek the tranquility of public parks to be free of that.

Do we really want to build off-limits areas in such a wonderfully open and communal city space? Does fencing off a small, dusty or muddy area for dog owners and their pets truly serve the community at large? How much benefit is given to those dogs, and at what expense to the whole community?

The design of urban spaces has a subtle but profound way of influencing a community of people. Putting up fences, replacing green grass with dirt, and making space off-limits to certain community members will have a divisive and scornful effect on the way people treat Astro Park. A park shouldn't have privileged areas, and that is essentially what a dog run creates.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Best regards,
Amy K. Bell
Oakland Citizen against Astro Park Dog Run

From: **Catherine Baumgartner** <oakcab@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Apr 7, 2012 at 2:25 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

PLEASE DON'T BUILD A DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK!!!!!!! I have been living in Oakland for 26 years. Before coming here I lived in SF for 15 years. SF has it's massive Golden Gate Park. All Oakland has is the beautiful Lake Merritt and it's surrounding few parcels of grass. PLEASE DON'T COVER IT WITH BROWN DIRT AND WOOD CHIPS AND SMELLY LOUD BARKING DOGS. One of the nicest and smartest things Oakland has ever done for it's people is to beautify Lake Merritt and build up the neighborhood with it's fabulous Farmer's Market! KEEP THE DOGS AWAY AND LET THE PEOPLE PLAY PLAY PLAY PLAY PLAY. Thank you. Catherine

From: **Alexandra Williams** <atw8@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Sun, Apr 8, 2012 at 9:57 AM
Subject: Please keep Astro Park as it is!!!!
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Oakland Planning Commission:

I have been an Oakland resident since 2002. Since my daughter was born in 2006, we have gone weekly to Astro Park. Each week I I run around Lake Merritt, with my daughter now accompanying me on her bike instead of being pushed in the jogger. We then go to the farmer's market and finish up the morning with an hour or two cavorting in the grass of Astro park and playing in the adjacent playground.

I am a lifelong dog owner and dog lover but Astro Park is not the right place to put a dog run! It is one of the few open, grassy spaces we have in Oakland and one of the few of those that is safe and at which I have no worries that my daughter will stumble across garbage or worse as we play in the park and grass.

Astro Park is one of the rare swathes of green in our city; it's very expanse is part of what is treasured by our family! Please, please do not put a dog park there. Even a relatively small area of grass being converted to a fenced off dog run will turn one of our few pretty, vibrant and open spaces into an ugly scar. As it stands now, the wide open grassy space, the library, the colonnade and the lake make that corner one of the best treasures in Oakland - please don't ruin it!

I fully support the effort to create more dog-friendly and dog-specific areas within Oakland but surely there are options that won't ruin one of the beautiful well-used spaces we've already got.

Thank you,
Alex Williams

From: **Alexandra Williams** <atw8@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Sun, Apr 8, 2012 at 10:07 AM
Subject: Please save Astro Park!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Astro Park savers:

Hi, my name is Quinn and I am 6 years old. I want you to save Astro Park and I will make some signs that say "Save Astro Park". I want to save Astro Park because I like to play in the grass. I also like to play soccer on the grass. And I also like to play rugby on the green space. I live in Oakland. I do like dogs but I think the dog park should be somewhere else because I use the green space and other kids do too. And anyway, dogs might run into the street since it's very, very close to the cars. It's a better place for people than dogs.

I will bring the signs to the park and hang them up.

Thank you for saving the park,
Quinn Williams

PS I told my Mom what to say and she typed this email.
PPS I will try to take a picture of me playing in the green space and send it to you.

From: **Jill Friedman** <bearcat3@hotmail.com>
Date: Sun, Apr 8, 2012 at 6:10 PM
Subject: No dog park at Astro Park!!
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I am writing to add my voice to the many in our community who do not want any part of Astro Park converted to a dog park. I live nearby [up Perkins] and often walk in the area around Astro Park and the Lake, sometimes even with a neighbor's dog. A dog park is not consistent with current use, by children, families, and sports groups. Nor is a dog park what I would want visitors to the Grand Lake/Lake Merritt area to be confronted with as a first sight. Please find a different space for people with their dogs. One that is not at the gateway to our wonderful community, and one that does not take away open space that is already used by others. Thanks. Jill Friedman

From: **Penny Jane T. Aporillo** <dynastyluv_95@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 9:05 AM
Subject:
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Hello,

PLEASE, do not turn part of Astro Park into a dog park. I have taken my son and his friends to this park many times because it is a great place for my son and his friends to play and especailly all the grassy space for kid's and adults to enjoy alike. I'm sure that there are other parks in Oakland and much bigger where you can place a dog park, but not Astro. Hopefully, you will take my thoughts into consideration and SAVE ASTRO for people and not dogs.

Penny Jane T. Aporillo
dynastyluv_95@yahoo.com

From: **Shah Smoak** <shahsmoak@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 9:15 AM
Subject: Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ann Clevenger,
Astro Park contributes so much to my community. The proposed plan to restructure the park is short sighted at best. There really is no need to "push aside the many park goers who have enjoyed the park for years.
Thank you.
Shah E. Smoak RN BSN

From: **Jeanne Brown** <jeannemab@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 9:38 AM
Subject: no dogs in ASTRO PARK!!
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

This spot is WAY TOO SMALL!!!!

We need this space for People!!

It would be out-of-control and would be expensive to monitor and control the VOLUME of dogs and MESS!!!

THE CONVERGENCE OF DOGS THERE COULD BECOME A LIABILITY!!!

jmbrown

From: <alankarls@comcast.net>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 9:47 AM
Subject: Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com

I am totally against placing a dog park in Astro Park. I do not see the logic of taking a park that is well used by all the citizens of Oakland, and taking a good chunk of it and making it a place for a small minority of Oaklanders. Why should the majority have to lose a resource for a minority's needs? Dog owners do not have to own dogs.

I am also concerned about the added traffic and the loss of parking: dog owners are notoriously addicted to large vehicles: where do you plan to put the SUVs? I am also concerned about mixing small children and dogs who are not well trained. The reason a dog park is needed is because the owners ignore the dogs all week and when the dogs finally get out, they are very excited and ill controlled.

I believe that this is a terrible idea and one that should be stopped. Leave the entire park available to all residents, not just to a minority. Prevent dog bites on little children. Avoid the traffic and parking problems that will ensue. Leave the park an attractive part of Lake Merritt: don't give the park a section in which the grass is beaten into earth and covered with feces and urine. Leave the park a place to play soccer, play catch, have a picnic, and just relax. Putting a dog park in that tight but well used park will destroy it.

Please, please, please do not put a dog park in Astro Park.

Alan R Karls

365 Euclid Ave. #302
Oakland CA

From: **Philip de la Rosa** <filup501@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 9:54 AM
Subject: Please DENY the conditional use permit application for dog area.
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. It is a beautiful open space that I enjoy very much. It would dishearten me to see that open space diminished in any way. It gives me a wonderful sense of community and warmth to see children children playing there and watching the volley ball games during warmer weather. I would be a shame to see Astro Park go to the dogs!

Philip de la Rosa
491 Chetwood St
94610

From: **Kris Jussila** <kris_j59@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 10:24 AM
Subject: Please Save Astro Park!
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: Saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

This park is used by many in our area for sports, games, working out, picnics, for our kids to have an area to play, etc... A fenced area in this park does not make sense. Not ot mention that it would ruin the look of the park. Please consdier other areas that are better suited for a dog park.

Respectfully,

Kris

From: **william lyons** <willwjl@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 10:46 AM
Subject: Please don't make astro park a dog run!

To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Parks and green spaces were created for people! There is so little open green space around the lake! Most of that is covered with Canada Goose droppings as it is!
If this area is made a dog run, even a small portion, there will be even less safe open green space for people. It will also not be clean. Regardless of the rules/laws a good number dog owners do not pick up their dog's litter. The sidewalks all around lake Merritt are littered with dog droppings. I've even witnessed people allowing their dogs to run free through the Rose Garden. Which is also dog-restricted!
There are also ordinances in the Farmers Market and Lakeside Park that clearly state no dogs. I still see people with their dogs leashed and unleashed in the parks in and around Lake Merritt. I once even saw the Former Mayor Jerry Brown with his bulldog in Lakeside Park. I acknowledged him and reminded him that no dogs are allowed in the park as he jogged by. Does Oakland need one more venue where lawlessness can prevail?

Don't let Astro Park become a dog run! It's not good for the area!

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: C.C. Abdullah <cc1gel@yahoo.com>
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2012 11:07 AM
Subject: Proposal on Astro Park

To : Commissioners

take action to stop this proposal against use Astro Park.
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.
Astro Park is space needed by the people of the city not prime location for dogs.

Thank you.

From: **Karyn Moss Veneklasen** <karyn@mosspro.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 11:19 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park--Move Proposed Dog Park to Another Location
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park, Astro Park. Our daughter plays soccer there on

Saturdays, and our toddler son loves to play in the green area. We also love having the big green patch as a great benefit to the neighborhood.

We're 100% in favor of an off-leash dog park in the neighborhood, but as a dog owner, I know that they're ugly and smelly, so we'd would all be better off hiding it behind Fairyland or another site that's less visible and in the center of our highly trafficked public park area.

Sincerely,

Karyn Veneklasen
1036 Sunnyhills Road
Oakland 94610

From: **awenzell** <awenzell@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 11:36 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners:

I write to STRONGLY oppose the conversion of Asto park to a dog run area. While I understand the need for doggy open spaces, this park and the area specifically slated for the dog park is one of the most utilized open spaces in all of Oakland. Not a day goes by, rain or shine, when you will not see people (taxpaying citizens) playing Frisbee, soccer, baseball, football, working out, turning cartwheels, chasing their children, or simply sunbathing.

I am a dog owner and I live three blocks from Astro park, so I would benefit disproportionately from a dog run area. But looking at the larger good to the community, it would be a terribly selfish disservice to the citizens of Oakland as a whole to deny such a utilized recreational area to the rest of my neighbors because a handful of us dog owners want to run our dogs off-leash.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards,
Ann Wenzell
750 MacArthur Blvd.

From: **MNM** <yellowgreeneyes@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 12:03 PM
Subject: Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

"Dear Commissioners,
Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. Just last weekend I was at the park enjoying the community and the scenery. This is one of the few places where so many people can convene and enjoy the grass, the serenity and the diverse community. Sectioning off a dog run area will be obtuse, ugly, and morph that area into a danger zone with more feces, urine, contamination and danger of unfriendly dogs. Please direct dog owners to a space that doesn't take from the Lake Merritt park community.
Thanks,
Marisa Musso

From: **Rachel Gregg** <rachel@inman.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 1:49 PM
Subject:
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com, nnadel@oaklandnet.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

For more than two years I have lived on Grand Avenue across the street from Astro Park. My third story apartment allows me to observe the daily (and nightly) goings on of the park and & the park has been nothing short of inspirational.

Please deny the conditional use permit that would fence off a significant portion of green space to create a dog park. Simply put, a transition of Astro Park's green space into a dog park would be a misguided, egregious waste of taxpayer dollars.

The money should be put towards maintenance of the park, AS IT IS. Additionally, those dollars could be used to maintain the heavily used but shoddily maintained nearby Splash Pad Park.

Astro Park is used day-in and day-out by countless Oaklanders. Nearby parking is at capacity. Astro Park is thriving, AS IT IS. Please, reserve taxpayer dollars for maintenance of the current park system or locate the dog park in a park that is in need of revitalization.

Astro Park is a dynamic and thriving park that attracts a broad spectrum of our population - lets keep it that way.

Rachel Gregg
626 Grand Avenue Apt 4
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Liz Fuchs <eaf11182002@yahoo.com>
To: "aclevenger@oaklandnet.com" <aclevenger@oaklandnet.com>
Sent: Monday, April 9, 2012 5:55 PM
Subject: Please Deny Dog Run on Lakeshore

Honorable Planning Commissioners:

Please Deny the proposed offleash dog run permit proposed for the community park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. (aka AstroPark). This is the wrong place to site an offleash dog run for the following reasons:

- This park is flat and used alot by active recreationists. Dogs do not need flat land but soccer players and active recreationists do.They should have priority for this flat park area.This is a small area and you will be trying to cram too many uses at the expense of kids soccer, volleyball, baseball and other recreationists.
- This dog run will damage the neighborhood and adjacent businesses. On weekends, the parking already is tight and this will create even more parking and traffic demands. I note that recently in other cities, for example, most recently Rancho Palos Verdes in southern california, an offleash dog area was closed down after only a short time because it attracted so many dog owners it created severe parking problems that adversely affected adjacent businesses. That will likely happen here.
- The city lacks adequate park maintenance now, and this could become an unmaintained nuisance.
- A chain link fence and brown wood chips surface will create an eyesore in one of the prime neighborhood gateway locations., transforming this lovely grassy park. It will be even worse when it rains. And this could adversely affect the property values of any business or residence that is adjacent to it.
- Dogs will inevitably get loose and create unsafe conditions for the adjacent children's play area. Not every child--or adult--likes or feels safe around dogs. That should be respected. I already witnessed unleashed pit bulls loose in the area by the library on a Saturday. Siting a dog run here is asking for such conflicts, instead of avoiding or minimizing them.
- There are better alternatives--consider a dog run near less visible, less heavily used areas such as the old police stables or the area by the lawn bowling. There are other dog runs already in the city.

Just because folks say it has been in discussion for a long time is no excuse to allow such a damaging project. You have the discretion and I urge you to DENY this permit.

Liz Fuchs
Merritt Ave.

From: Clarence Binninger <cbinusa@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 6:12 PM
Subject: Save Astropark
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Please do not turn astro park into this wasteland of a dog run. The geese like the grass, the kids like the grass, and I like the grass. It would be less horrible if it at least turned into a cordoned-off grass dog run, but dark chunks to add to global warming? Are you kidding? If this nightmare originated with a city employee, then this is an example of an out-of-touch government bureaucrat run-amock. Why not turn an underused parking lot into a nice grassy field where dogs can run instead? There are plenty of such lots near the Lake by the Kaiser Convention Center and Laney College and all over downtown.
Clarence Binninger

From: Karen Zachary <karendzachary@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 9, 2012 at 6:27 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ann,

Please don't build a dog park at Astro Park.

1) parking is already abysmal in this area and would get worse

2) dog walking already obstructs the sidewalks around the lake too
much...and having a dog park could mean more dogs passing through my
neighborhood
3) we don't need the noise
4) it's wrong for all Oakland citizens to yield precious green space
to a minority (dog owners)
5) Astro Park gets plenty of use for more positive activities

I don't think the city should have ANY dog parks, but if it must, the
space by Fairyland is a much better location.

Thank you for reading,

Karen Zachary
2316 Lakeshore Ave #9
Oakland, CA 94606

Clevenger, Ann

From: Joel Tena [joeltena@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; At Large; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing; Jones, Andre; Gerard, Jennie; Laurel Village
Subject: No to dog park at Lake Merritt

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing you both to let you know that I am opposed to the proposed dog park at Oakland's Lake Merritt ("Astro Park").

I grew up with dogs. I have many deep and fond memories of them. One day I would like to replicate these memories with my own son when we are in a position to bring a dog into our home. Even then I would still oppose the dog park.

Oakland parks are some of the best gems we have. To take away park land that I see several times a week being used by young and old (in the proximately of a playground and library) and gate it off for the exclusive use of four footed friends and their owners doesn't make any sense.

There are options for dog owners, though not as many as I'm sure they would like. There are places where they can run with their dogs on a leash. There are dog parks in other areas. Perhaps a location could be found to open another dog park that isn't so central a location.and that doesn't take away opportunities from Oakland's residents, children, and families.

Even if another site could not be located, I would still opposed this location for a park. Oakland's children and families need more open space, not less. And not matter how trained and cared for, dogs at times can be unpredictable, especially around children and especially around other dogs. I see it almost every day in front of my house when dogs running off-leash (illegally) are confronted with other dogs and children. The fault isn't the dog's, it's the owner's, and legislation cannot overcome this fact.

Dog parks are great, just not at Lake Merritt, and not at the expense of park land for Oakland's children and families.

Please consider this as you move forward.

Thank you for all you do for our great city.

-Joel Tena
District Four constituent

Clevenger, Ann

From: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 12:58 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Update on Proposed Dog Park near MacArthur and Lakeshore
FYI

From: Nimia Ramos [mailto:nimiamrb@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 12:56 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: Update on Proposed Dog Park near MacArthur and Lakeshore

Thank you for the update. I can't believe we spend so much time and resources on this! i wish we would spend this much time (as in everyone) on dealing with the homeless, underemployed, unemployed, education and criminal rehabiliation so we can have safe, educated and employed people in Oakland. Please take me off this dog list. I am now so totally against it due to the amount of resources that can be better spent on people.

Nimia Ramos Beauchamp
Montecito Ave.

--- On **Mon, 4/18/11, Kernighan, Pat <*PKernighan@oaklandnet.com*>** wrote:

> From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
> Subject: Update on Proposed Dog Park near MacArthur and Lakeshore
> To: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
> Date: Monday, April 18, 2011, 12:29 PM
>
> **Update on Proposed Dog Park near MacArthur and Lakeshore**
>
> Hello,
> You are receiving this email because you expressed an opinion about the dog park proposal, either by email or by attending the March 23 community meeting on the topic. I promised to keep you posted about future developments on the issue, so this an update. You may also have received my E-Newsletter last Friday, which also contains this susmary.
> The proposal to create a fenced dog play area in the field near Astro Park continues to inspire strong feelings pro and con. Councilmember Nadel and I held a community meeting on March 23 to facilitate neighbors hearing one another on the issue. About 120 people attended and 43 of them spoke. Going into the meeting, we had received about 210 emails, with about 60% opposed and 40% in favor. At the meeting itself, there were more speakers in favor than opposed. As of today, we have received emails from 343 people and the current tally is 179 in favor and 164 opposed.
>
> I share this data just to convey the split of opinion on the dog park at the Astro Park location. It is not a "vote" and will not determine the outcome. There will be formal public hearings coming in the future, when the proposal will be presented and voted on by official bodies. I will email you to let you know of those dates when I learn them. The next step in the official process will be that the sponsors will

apply to the Planning and Zoning Department for a Conditional Use Permit. That application will have another hearing before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC). Then the City Planning Department will probably send it to the Planning Commission for a hearing and vote. If the decision is appealed, it will go to the City Council for a final determination. All of these meetings are open to the public, will be publicly noticed, and I will assist in getting the word out through this newsletter and by emailing everyone who has written in on the topic.

I have not made a final decision on the proposal myself. I think there are compelling arguments both for and against. Based on what I have read in your emails and heard at the community meeting, here are the main issues (and my personal assessment of how persuasive they are).

Reasons to Support the Astro Park Dog Play Area

Need for a Dog Play Area in the Neighborhood

There is no question in my mind that there is high demand for a dog play area in the neighborhoods of Cleveland Heights, Grandlake, and Adams Point. I have heard from 179 people, most of whom live within walking distance of the site, who say they would really value a dog park and support the proposal for Astro Park. I know there are hundreds more dog owners living within walking distance.

Socializing for People and Dogs

In addition to the opportunity for dogs to exercise off leash and socialize with other dogs, one of the most appealing aspects of a dog park is for the humans to socialize and make friends with their neighbors. I think this would be a very nice benefit of having the dog park.

Oakland dog owners would spend more money here rather than Alameda.

I heard from a lot of people who say they shop in Alameda or other locations when they take their dogs to the dog parks there. I don't know how much actual economic benefit this would have, but it is a possible plus.

People have been working on this dog park for many years and it isn't fair to stop it now.

Though I have appreciation for the group of folks from ODOG that have personally worked hard on this project, I don't think the length of their efforts should be the deciding factor. As a practical matter, the outreach for the proposal reached relatively few people, especially in District 2, until just this year. I also don't think it is accurate to say it is just a handful of people voicing opposition--it is quite widespread and was quite immediate when the proposal was announced in this newsletter some months ago.

Objections to the Lakeview/Astro Park Location as the site for a Dog Park:

A Fence and Woodchips Would Mar the Beauty of the Green Open Space. The open grassy field near Astro Park is beautiful to look at and is extremely visible from many vantage points. It is the "front door" to the surrounding neighborhoods for several thousand people. Putting up a fence and filling it with woodchips breaks up the open space in a visually unappealing way. Even with vines growing on the fence, the enclosure will be much less attractive to look at than the green grass. Though some people may think the aesthetics is not an important issue, it is one of the issues that many people feel most strongly about (including me).

Blocking off a Large Area that is often used for pick-up soccer, volleyball and other casual play.

This field is the only flat field in central Oakland where pick-up soccer or other casual sports can be played. Other soccer fields are only available by reservation to official teams. The field is a very nice amenity for casual sports. Though the dog park would reduce the size of the playing field, soccer could still be played in the remaining area.

Proximity to Astro Park Children's Tot Lot

Mixing small children with dogs they don't know can be hazardous. There has been an effort to separate the entrance to the dog park from the tot lot, but the proximity is not ideal..

Public space should be for everyone, not just restricted to one type of use.

I find this argument silly at best. Setting aside park spaces for particular interests is universally done in every city: baseball fields, tennis courts, bocce ball courts, bonsai gardens, skateboard parks, etc. Having a special area for dog owners and their pets is just as reasonable as setting aside spaces for other kinds of uses. There are acres and acres of other open park space around the rest of Lake Merritt. Suffice it to say, I don't find this one persuasive.

The proposed dog park is too small and will attract more users than it can handle.

In my mind, this is a serious failing of the dog park proposal for Astro Park. Especially for large dogs, the fenced area is really small. As was pointed out by the veterinary nurse at the community meeting, dogs get aggressive if too many are enclosed in a small space. I think because this dog park is in such an attractive area, it will attract more users than it can handle and would create conflicts among dogs and among their owners.

Will Increase Parking Congestion.

Though some people feel strongly that this will be a problem, it is not my main concern. The vast majority of the people who wrote in support of the dog park live in the surrounding neighborhoods within walking distance. Though people in other areas will want to drive there, I don't think they were go to the hassle of finding a parking spot unless they are are coming for some of the other amenities in the neighborhood anyway.

Maintenance plan is iffy.

Many people have voiced concern that this dog park is going to become an eyesore given that the City's resources for maintenance are so slim and much of the work is going to be undertaken by volunteers. I agree there is reason for concern here, though it could conceivably be worked out. The main piece that is lacking is a reliable supplier of new wood chips three times a year. After further conversation with City staff, it is unlikely that they can supply that much material (truck loads) as often as needed. Other aspects of maintenance could be OK. I think the volunteers will be able to keep the vines well taken care of. Peer pressure from the users of the park should keep the dog poop picked up and properlyl disposed of in the special underground container. If this dog park goes forward, I would suggest charging a small fee for use or a yearly membership charge to cover the maintenance costs. The disposal of the dog waste is well taken care of. There will be special underground receptacles that don't smell and will be emptied by City staff.

Insufficient funds to build the park.

I think this is a real problem, based on my further conversation with City staff. There are expenses that haven't been accounted for. Though some funds are available, it appear to me that the real costs of doing this park right are higher than anticipated. I think the dog-owner community needs to come together to do some serious

money-raising to make this happen.

Rebuttals to some of the Concerns with this location.

No Other Viable Locations in the Vicinity

Virtually all the opponents said they do not oppose dog parks per se, but oppose one at this location. The realiaty is that after much effort to find other locations, there is no other suitable, available land that would be walkable from the Cleveland Heights, Adams Point and Grandlake neighborhoods. The reality of trying to site a dog park is that is always runs into opposition from the immediate neighbors. The lack of other viable locations is a strong reason, in my mind, to try to make this proposal work in this location.

I am also going to continue to look for a really large location for a major dog park, perhaps on industrial space near the Estuary, but that is a pretty long term goal, as so far, we haven't located any land we could get our hands on for free.

This summary of the issues is not exhaustive, but highlights the main issues. I will keep you posted on any news about the dog park proposal.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

Clevenger, Ann

From: Gerard, Jennie
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2011 10:00 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park

fyi

Jennie Gerard, Chief of Staff to
District 2 Councilmember Patricia Kernighan
510.238.7023 (tel)
510.238.6910 (fax)
jgerard@oaklandnet.com

To sign up for District 2 *E-News*, click here.

From: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 6:29 PM
To: Gerard, Jennie
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Now Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church is weighing in. (probably because they are trying to sell the property across the street, near Astro Park.)

From: Frank Arthur [mailto:farthur@tricommercial.com]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 6:27 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Councilmembers Kernighan, Nadel and Kaplan:

I would like to express the concern of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services, which represents Lakeshore commercial property owners, regarding the proposed Dog Park at Lakeshore and McArthur.

The Grand/ Lakeshore District is an evolving one which has a great deal of additional potential to provide needed food and retail establishments for the neighborhood. We believe that a Dog Park in this location will detract from the potential of the area and we are particularly concerned about the "self policing" of the area by users. We believe that without strictly enforced controls and professional maintenance this facility can easily become an eyesore and detriment to the neighborhood. It would seem that a reasonable relaxation of current lease laws in the area would be a more beneficial solution to the problem

On behalf of TRI Commercial and our client, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland, we encourage you to insure that the City take into account all aspects of this proposed project and protect all interests in the area.

Thank you,

Franklin Arthur

Franklin K Arthur III | Senior Investment Advisor
DRE Lic #: 00472853
TRI Commercial Real Estate Services

1777 Oakland Blvd. Suite 100
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Ofc 925.296.3322 | EFax 510.336.8292
Fax 925.296.3399 | Cell 510.816.5914
farthur@tricommercial.com
www.tricommercial.com

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Clevenger, Ann

From: Lin, Sarah D2

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 4:13 PM

To: Kernighan, Pat; Gerard, Jennie

Cc: Wang, Xiaojing

Subject: Dr. Counts on Stow Ave.

Constituent, Dr. Counts (510-465-3475) on Stow Ave called to voice her opposition to the Dog Park proposal. She could not attend the meeting. She has lived in the area just one block away for 15 years and has seen the current area fully utilized by families, children, and young adults. The parking situation is already terrible, so the dog park will increase traffic and parking congestion for local residents who shop in the area e.g. Farmer's Market, banking, etc. Also it is a nice area visually. She has seen many dog runs and parks that end up looking run down or at best never looking attractive. She doesn't believe volunteers can sustain the area or make it nice for all. Please subscribe her to E-News and meeting notices re this topic: countsmd@aol.com.

She would like a call back.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 10:21 AM
To: 'bethp@piratestudios.com'
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Re: Astro Park Dog Park

Thank you Beth for all you volunteer work and for your comments. We are absorbing them all to improve the plans. There is 25 feet between the dog park and tot structure which is greater than the distance at Hardy Park. There are mixed opinions about the height of the fence.

The city has an MOU with the volunteers to do maintenance and the city will still do some.

I will think about your other comments and hope we can address them all.

Xiaojing will be sure you get on the emailing list for future meetings.

Nancy

----- Original Message -----
From: Beth Detwiler <bethp@piratestudios.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Fri Mar 25 09:49:57 2011
Subject: Astro Park Dog Park

Nancy,
We met briefly at the OPC annual meeting in January. I am the steward for the Totlot at Astro Park. I wanted to let you know of my concerns about the proposed dog park. First off, I did not know their was a town hall meeting last night to discuss this issue. I would have been in attendance to hear the concerns and present my own.
I am happy there is a group of people volunteering to maintain the space, however based on experience I am concerned as to the longevity of this. I have been working on the park for a year and a half. My crew of volunteers has dwindled to two from ten. Between schedules and not being able to keep people interested in doing the mundane weeding and garbage pick up, it is hard to keep people coming back. People like to volunteer to plant flowers, do the things they see that have immediate results. It is hard to keep people coming back again and again in large numbers. I am concerned as there is not a budget to have someone there on a weekly if not biweekly basis.
This is also a space that sees a lot of traffic with young children. I realize there will be a fence separating the spaces but in the proposed plan, the play area and dog park will share a similar entrance. At Hardy Park the play area is at some distance from the dog area. Although there are a few play things near the dogs, these are rarely used.
The area that is proposed to be used is often flooded during the rainy season, the grass tends to die off after the geese come through and it becomes rather muddy. If this park is to be as popular as the dog proponents are predicting, I could see this becoming a large dirt lot similar to Hardy Park.
I am also concerned with the amount of fencing that would be along the walkways around the park. With the freeway on one side and two busy streets, the open green space acts as a buffer to this keeping the pedestrian ways appealing. I also question whether a four foot fence is high enough for the larger dog portion.
I do see that there is a need, but I ask that you and the council members consider the larger use of this park area, the long term maintenance plans and whether the design truly represents the needs of all of the neighbors.
Thanks,
Beth Detwiler

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 2:00 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Lakeview Dog Play Area

From: J. Mates-Muchin [mailto:jmatesmuchin@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:58 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: Office of the Mayor
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Ms. Kernighan and Ms. Nadel,

I'm writing to you to express my concern about the Lakeview Dog Park. I unfortunately cannot attend the community meeting tomorrow night, thus I am writing this email. I have read the literature regarding the park and I agree with many of the pro-dog groups that this park has gone through the appropriate public review process. However, I am not certain that the plan thoroughly considered the proximity of the proposed dog park to the children's play area and library. Both of these areas are heavily used by children (and adults) and dogs could pose a threat to these smaller individuals if not under control.

Based on the proximity of the dog park to sensitive receptors (library and children's play area) I would propose that the codes for animals are strictly enforced including all leash laws (Oakland Code of Ordinances 6.04.070 - 6.04.080). This may required additional police or park representation to enforce these laws to ensure that no one gets hurt. It is possible that many violation will occur as owners are transporting dogs to and from their cars to the dog park. This type of activity should be vehemently discouraged and fines should be levied for violators of these ordinances.

Thank your for your time in reading this letter. I hope that a cooperative resolution can be attained in this situation.

Regards,

Jonathan Mates-Muchin
1020 Longridge Rd.
Oakland, CA 94610
510.275.4052

Clevenger, Ann

From: marie2900@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:01 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fwd: send councils

Dear Ms. Kernighan and Ms. Nadel,

I live in Adams Point and do most of my shopping and socializing in the Grand Lake neighborhood.

I am a dog lover and have been a dog owner in the past. I would love to see a dog park in Oakland, but I do no believe the proposed location of Macarthur and Lakeshore is appropriate, and I oppose it.

Here are my reasons:

1. It's too small. If you're going to take land away from something else, in this case a park, it should be worth it, and the proposed site is too small to meet the dogs' needs.

2. The park serves many people with many uses for the park. People fill the park with picnics, Frisbee, softball, freeze-tag, exercise, croquet, and many other uses. Decreasing the size of the park will decrease these opportunities for people.

3. Parking! People will drive to the park. People drive to the Farmers' Market, they drive to Trader Joe's, the drive to the library, they drive to the Grand Lake Theater, and they drive to Grand Ave and Lakeshore restaurants and shops. People will especially drive to the park on the weekends. I'm sure you're aware of the parking nightmare on Saturdays. This is not a neighborhood that can support more drivers on weekends.

4. I'm not aware of any money set aside for City of Oakland staff to maintain the space.

Residents need parks and green space. Dogs need parks and green space. I just don't think this site is a good one for setting aside a portion as a dog park.

Cordially,
Marie Mason

Clevenger, Ann

From: **Nadel, Nancy**
Sent: **Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:48 PM**
To: **Wang, Xiaojing**
Subject: **FW: Astro Park**

-----Original Message-----
From: marina mcbrearty [mailto:info@marina-tcm.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:46 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Pat Kernighan and Nancy Nadel
I live in the neighborhood off lake-shore.
I am a dog owner.
but I am writhing with concern about the proposed dog park in Astro Park.
A couple of things, that corner is really busy traffic wise, Im not so sure I would be inclined to take my dog there, because of the traffic noise, the danger of crossing such a busy road with my dog.
There is no extra parking.
And lastly it right beside a little child's play ground, (babies to
2 years old, I seem to think only use that play ground) What if a dog off leash gets out and attacks a little child even knocks the child over, can you just imagine the phone calls your offices are going to get.
Please, please, please, think about an area that is a little more quite,There a little less busy, where the dogs can chill, and just run around There are a few place on the lake off grand, where its not as densely populated with people, there are trees, its quite, parking would be a little easier.
Rethink this one.
Sincerely
Marina Mcbrearty

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 3:08 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Dog park at Astro Park - PLEASE OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL!!!

From: Stephanie Mamane [mailto:smamane@btmg.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 2:45 PM
To: Riley, Dana; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Dog park at Astro Park - PLEASE OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL!!!

Hello
I'm an Oakland resident, mother of 3 and concerned neighbor in the Lake Merrit neighborhood. I'm writing to express my concern and worry over the proposed plans to put a dog park near the Tot playground at Astro Park. My 2 year old plays at that park every day. Many young children his age have no other park in walking distance to play at. Allowing dogs to be so close will not only make the park stink and become very dirty, but also poses a risk to the children's safety. A dog attack is very likely, it's not a matter of it will happen but rather when it will happen. Please find another spot suitable for dogs that is not so close to young children. I'm not opposed to dogs but I am opposed to putting my child and other young kids in harm's way of irresponsible dog owners.

Stepanie Mamane
Resident of Crocker Highlands

The information contained in this email is legally privileged and confidential information only for the use of the individual or Brown & Toland Medical Group.
Any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this document is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please immediately notify the sender by replying to this message, and then delete all copies of it from your system.
Thank you.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 3:07 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Dog Park
Attachments: As a former dog owner and dog lover I highly object to a dog park by Lake Merritt.docx

---

From: Ricky Alperton [mailto:ealpe2004@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 2:57 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: Dog Park

Dear City Counsel persons:

As I am unable to attend the meeting on March 23rd, I am sending this email opposing the location of the dog park.

As a former dog owner and dog lover I highly object to a dog park by Lake Merritt. This is not a wise location.

- I observe the dogs around Lake Shore and often see them very distraught due to all the commotion. Putting a dog park by the traffic is overstimulation of visuals and noise. It is not a healthy place for a dog to relax and have fun with other dogs. They are already bombarded with sensory input which can put animals and people into an aggressive mode.

- To be a good dog owner, one needs skills, not just a leash or a fence, to control their dog.

- What will you get when you put together sensory overloaded dogs and inexperienced owners in a cage together? Who is going to pay for the law suits? I see so many young people with their pit bulls and I do not trust them or their dogs. My friend is a responsible dog owner with a terrific dog. His dog got attacked at a dog park. OK, people say it is not the breed but the owner. We do have a very high percentage of pit bulls in Oakland. They are known for their fighting ability and strong jaws.

- So much money was spent on the Lake. The grass is green and pretty. People play soccer and do exercises there. It is delightful to get off of the 580 exit ramp and see so much social activity. Why would you willingly turn it brown and smelly and put a cage around it? This is our JEWEL. Why would you turn it into a dusty brown, smelly cage? Why would you encourage dogs to defecate near where children play?

- I am a home owner who pays lots of taxes. I do not want to degrade my neighborhood. Please, ask the homeowners. Renters come and go.

- Please find a quiet, already grassless location for those brave souls who are willing to risk their beloved pet's safety at a dog park.

When I had dogs, I loved having my dog play with other dogs. Even my sweet Great Dane joined a pack of two other nice dogs and drew blood on a peacock. My friend just got bitten by a little dog in a laundry room at her apartment complex with the owner present. My neighbors' big dog was known to go after people and recently bit an elderly neighbor. Dogs have natural instincts and people do not always have the best judgment.

Please I want to support the elected leaders of Oakland, but this is such a bad choice. I love living in Oakland and really do not want to move, but I cannot have city council people making decisions to worsen our beautiful JEWEL.

Eleanor Alperton

District 2

Clevenger, Ann

From: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Cheryl Giuliano [iloveoakland2011@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:12 PM

To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [CHNeighbors] dogs and children

from: www.ginnyprior.com

Elizabeth Pauw - *yesterday*

I live in the Laurel/Redwood Heights district. On four separate occasions our dog was hounded by 5 different dogs as I took her for walks in our neighborhood. Two times my daughter was with me: once in a stroller, the other time in a baby backpack. On those occasions, my dog ran to get away from the other dogs pulling me to my knees. The dogs threatened my dog, injured me (scraped knees, torn jeans), and placed my daughter at risk. I felt like I'd been brutally mugged. I ended up being too scared to take our dog for a walk. In my experience, owners do not acknowledge how dangerous their dogs are: one person claimed that her dog wanted to "play." I called the Oakland Police Department regarding one of these incidents, but there was no consequence for the owners

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Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:25 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: dog park

From: Liz Sand <lizsand@gmail.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Sun Mar 20 20:23:21 2011
Subject: dog park

dear Nancy,

I am writing to say I oppose the dog park at that location. what about using the space across the street where the gas station was? I know this is not a simple solution since that is not owned by the city. but the current proposed location is not good.
thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone

Clevenger, Ann

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 7:02 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Fw: Please save Asto Park

From: jason kuang <wrestlinggod94@yahoo.com>
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Sent: Sun Mar 20 14:25:17 2011
Subject: Fw: Please save Asto Park

Dear City Council Members,

I would want the park and open green space because other kids need it to have fun. Dogs will take away the open space which should be available to all.

Thank You
Jason K. Haddon Hill

Clevenger, Ann

From: peter grube [pgru@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 3:03 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Miller, Scott; Merkamp, Robert
Subject: OSCAR guidelines for Astro Park
Attachments: OSCARforASTRO-finalpdf.pdf

Hello Scott, Ann and Robert,

Attached please find a summary of the City of Oakland open space policy and planning codes that pertain to building a dog park at Eastshore (Astro) Park. If you have any questions or would like to have any discussion regarding this please call me or email me anytime.

Thank you for your consideration,

Peter Grube
Save Astro Park
510-816-3973
pgru@sbcglobal.net

Below is a summary of the City of Oakland's open space policies and planning codes that pertain to building a dog park at Eastshore Park (Astro Park). SAVE ASTRO PARK urges the Planning Commission to DENY the application for the conditional use permit so that the City of Oakland may explore alternatives that are consistent with the City's laws and policies.

Eastshore (Astro) Park is a small, neighborhood park located along MacArthur Boulevard between Lakeshore Avenue and Grand Avenue. Astro Park is the **only** publicly available open space in the Lake Merritt area with level ground suitable for sports play. There are many existing recreational uses at Astro Park. Individuals use the large grassy space for recreating and relaxing and families combine the use of the field with the use of the children's playground. An existing baseball backstop has been used by generations of Oaklanders, teams and other organizations in this valued, but limited space. Current uses at Astro Park include pickup soccer games (some in existence for over twenty years), volleyball, circle rules football, flag football, Brazilian martial arts, yoga, slacklining, aerial acrobatics, boot camps, frisbee, picnicking, reading, drumming circles and just relaxing. Many organizations depend on the space for their recreation needs, including Special Olympics soccer training, Bayhill High School physical education classes and competitions, Soccer Shots (soccer training for toddlers and young children), Girls On The Run, and many others.

The City of Oakland had the foresight to implement policies for open space planning, entitled the Open Space Conservation and Recreation element of the General Plan, or OSCAR. OSCAR has included a definition of open space provided by the State of California Government Code and that definition applies to Eastshore (Astro) Park. OSCAR uses park classification as a regulatory tool and designates Eastshore (Astro) Park as a neighborhood park. The neighborhood park designation must be considered when defining policy for Eastshore Park.

The following OSCAR policies apply to Eastshore Park (Astro Park). OSCAR chapters and page numbers are cited below.

OSCAR open space description, park classification system

- The State of California Government Code defines open space as being "*any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved or devoted to an open space use*", including land used for outdoor recreation. This definition includes parks and golf courses, but also encompasses areas of scenic, historic and cultural value, public access points to shorelines and waterways, and linear features which link other open spaces together. (Chapter 2, pg. 1)

- The second regulatory tool mentioned in Policy Rec-1.1 is park classification. A **park's designation** as a region-serving park, community park, neighborhood park, etc. **should be the primary means of determining future land uses** and activities in the park. Table 8 (Chapter 4, pages 4 to 5) describes the proposed classification system for Oakland's parks. It also describes **Eastshore Park as a neighborhood park**. Appendix A identifies how each park has been classified. (Chapter 4, pg. 26) OSCAR identifies **Eastshore Park as open space in a "flatland" neighborhood.**

OSCAR perspective on Open Space purpose and use

- Open space is one of the essential elements for Oakland's urban form. It defines the edges of the city and creates boundaries between neighborhoods. **It is a place to breathe, a place to stretch, and a place to play.** (Chapter 2, pg.1)
- Despite the absence of natural resources, **many of the flatland open spaces are extremely important** as places to play, relax and enjoy the outdoors. (Chapter 2, pg. 7)
- Urban parks are among the most valuable open spaces in the city...They are probably the most familiar form of open space in Oakland, **particularly in flatland neighborhoods where they may be the only form of open space**. (Chapter 2, pg.18)

The proposed project would fence off half of the usable open space playfield and establish a change of use as a dog play area. As noted above, there are many activities that take place concurrently on the field

and the entire field is often occupied. Fencing off half of the available playfield for a dog run would adversely affect these recreational use patterns and permanently change the character of the park. The dog park fence would create a significant barrier which could not be crossed by sports enthusiasts or anyone else seeking to use the park without a dog, and would concentrate all existing uses into half the currently available area.

These significant use conflicts within established parks are addressed by OSCAR.

OSCAR policies that apply to Eastshore Park (Astro Park)

- **Conflicts between Park Uses.** This policy directs the Office of Parks and Recreation to site **new** park facilities in a manner which maximizes the usefulness of the facility while **minimizing its impact on existing use**. Basic principle, large enough areas should be provided for each activity. (Chapter 3, pg. 34)

- **Lot Coverage.** Considerations should be given to an overall building coverage limit to **prevent the over development of parks** and **maintain a sense of openness**...a limit of 15% might be used for **neighborhood and community parks**. (Chapter 4, pg. 28)

- Establish park zoning districts (one of which would be urban park district). Provisions in the zoning ordinance would ensure continued public use and enjoyment of these lands for recreational purposes. **New facilities would need to be compatible with the character and function of the park as well as surrounding neighborhood**. The zoning text itself would identify permitted, conditionally permitted, and prohibited uses in both districts. The distinction between each category would depend on **the impacts the use is likely to have on the park** and whether the park is classified as a neighborhood park, community park, region-serving park etc. The ordinance would also include standards for height, setback, and parking for the new facilities. (Chapter 4, pg. 27)

A fenced dog run would not be compatible with the character and function of Eastshore Park. Additionally, since the OSCAR policies were developed, five dog parks have been built within the City of Oakland. However, there have been no additional recreational ball fields added to the Lake Merritt area. OSCAR cites this as an unmet need. Currently, Astro Park has the only public, level, open and available playfield in the Lake Merritt area. As a direct result, the field at Astro Park has been heavily used by generations of Oaklanders.

OSCAR perspective on Lake Merritt Open Space

- Within flatland neighborhoods, the parklands around Lake Merritt stand out as **Oakland's most widely appreciated and heavily used open space.** (Chapter 2, pg. 7)

- Flatland neighborhoods contain 80% of city population and contain only 15% of its open land. (Chapter 2, pg. 3)

- Certain neighborhoods in other parts of the city stand out as being particularly dense, including Adams Point, the Oak Center area, and Cleveland Heights. **While the densest areas tend to be relatively close to Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park, they are not adequately served with facilities for active recreation such as ball fields**, playgrounds, and recreational centers. (Chapter 3, pg.16)

How did we get this far in the process of siting a dog park in Astro Park?

It appears that park planning procedures have been sidestepped and/or misrepresented as the proposal was developed. For example, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) did not issue the required approval for the conditional use permit to site a dog run at Astro Park. The neighborhood was never properly consulted about placing a dog park within Astro Park, as required by the zoning code.

From the time when SAVE ASTRO PARK began its outreach effort one year ago, two things became clear. First, the people living nearby and those that frequent the area had little or no knowledge of the dog park

proposal. Second, the more that people found out about the dog run, the more they didn't want it at Astro Park (Eastshore Park).

OSCAR language regarding approval process by PRAC and Planning

- As currently envisioned, **existing recreational activities** and facilities in each park **would be listed as permitted** uses, new recreational activities consistent with the character and function of the park would require a public hearing and recommendation by the PRAC, and **uses which could significantly change the character of the park would require approval by both the PRAC and the Planning Commission**. (Chapter 4, pg. 27) This was not done.

- **Greater public involvement** must be achieved in open space management, particularly in the renewal and restoration of open space **within urban neighborhoods**. (Chapter 2, pg. 2) This was not achieved.

Currently, 1,500 concerned neighbors have joined the SAVE ASTRO PARK movement. However, this issue is not about a majority of Oaklanders versus a minority. It is about long established use versus a new use. The proposal for a fenced, dirt and woodchipped dog run would adversely impact and severely limit the established permitted playfield use. The sentiments and opinions in the hundreds of letters from members of SAVE ASTRO PARK clearly demonstrate established use for the area. It is the burden of the proponents to propose a project that does not severely impact existing use. Where neighborhood parks are concerned, due to limited space, the City of Oakland's open space plan (OSCAR) requires that new uses be located in underutilized areas. This policy achieves the goals of protecting established uses while expanding our parkland for new uses.

- In built out areas, much of the emphasis is on underutilized resources. (Chapter 2, pg. 3)

Designating an important gateway to Lake Merritt and the Lakeshore/Grand business district as a dog park is inconsistent with the OSCAR policies.

OSCAR Strategic Planning Recommendations for Lake Merritt

- Major recommendation for open space: Capitalize on the presence of Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park in the perimeter neighborhoods. This could include creating more strongly defined "Lake District" neighborhood within Oakland, with stronger gateways, views and pedestrian connections to the perimeter park. (Chapter 5, pg. 10)

- **Eastshore Park. This neighborhood park is very heavily used...**the park is also a logical "gateway" to the lake area and would benefit from signage improvements or even a monument or fountain of some sort. (Chapter 5, pg. 11)

- Among the short range needs are... creation of park "gateways". (Chapter 5, pg.11)

Oakland Planning Codes

- That the location, size, design and operating characteristics of the proposed **development will be compatible with** and will not adversely affect the livability...and surrounding neighborhood, with **consideration to be given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage and density.** (Planning Code 17.134.050,A)

- That the location, design, and site planning of the proposed development...will be as attractive as the nature of the use and its location and setting warrant. (Planning Code 17.134.050, B)

- That the proposal conforms in all significant respects with the Oakland General Plan and with any other applicable guidelines or criteria, district plan...(Planning Code 17.134.050, E)

- Pre-development Neighborhood Meeting requirement. (Planning Code 17.135.030,A)

The value of our existing parkland, especially our neighborhood parks has prompted the authors of the OSCAR policies to suggest a different approach in locating new facilities. They have recommended thinking outside the box when installing new facilities. Instead of placing amenities within our overtaxed resources, they suggest developing new locations. Some ideas offered within OSCAR include converting abandoned gas stations, closed schools and condemned or vacant city owned properties to new park land facilities.

Another method of locating new dog parks was implemented by the City of San Francisco. Recently that city partnered with Caltrans to locate and construct a dog park on Rincon hill.

Placing a dog park within Astro Park is not a singular solution. SAVE ASTRO PARK urges the Planning Commission to DENY the application for the conditional use permit and that the City of Oakland explore all the alternatives that follow OSCAR policies for open space management when building dog parks.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Linda Holland [linda@ljholland.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 4:12 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Gordon Juan
Subject: Please, no dog park at Lakeshore Ave!

Hi Ann,
My husband and I bought a lovely home in Adams Point two years ago. We love the neighborhood and all the new businesses that are thriving here.

Please tell the city council that we do not want a dog park in our neighborhood. It would destroy the beauty of the lot and limit its use as a playground. Oakland has so many needs — including road maintenance, police and fire services, and library services-- that would be a much better use of city funds. I love dogs, but feel that there are more appropriate places for them to play.

Many thanks for your support,

Linda Holland
Gordon Juan, MD
408 Euclid Ave
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Grace Webber, Cleveland Heights Resident. April 17th 2012

Please DENY the application to fence off a portion of Eastshore park for a dog run

Dear Ms Clevenger,

This request of the Planning Commission is different, and should have to clear a higher threshold to gain approval:

I believe that typical requests to the Planning Commission come in the form of a private individual or a corporation that owns, leases or rents a piece of land or a building, seeking to change the structure of the land or building they own to serve some use they want. The Commission has to balance the rights of the property owner to use their property - crucial interests at the foundation of our society, at the heart of all kinds of economic incentives - with the needs of the city to prevent development that could do more harm than good to its long-term interests. This case is more unusual since the land in question is owned, in fact, by the City and by extension by all its people, and the development that is sought, is sought by a group of individuals who have no additional ownership interest in the land beyond that of any other citizens of Oakland, and who intend to use Oakland resources in effecting the change they desire. Furthermore, the fact that this development is sought at all is a result of the presence of a rule that could be changed with the stroke of a pen and not a drop of concrete spilled ("no dogs in Oakland parks"). And last, but certainly not least, **the vast majority of Oakland citizens who are present at or beside the park (playing or walking by) on a typical weekend** and who are prepared to take their headphones/phones out of their ears for a couple of moments to engage in discussion, **do not want any change of use of the park**: its current use is pleasing to them and they think the proposed use would be less so.



The "Soccer Shots" learn skills and get healthy exercise at Astro Park, while their parents look on

We aren't going to get another wide, flat, expansive open green space in our neighborhood. We need to preserve the one we have.

A group of dog owners (not speaking for "all" dog owners, just for some of them) wants to take a large chunk of our existing wide, flat, expansive open green space; put a fence around it embedded in concrete, fill it with wood chips and use it for the running of their dogs. This would be a permanent change. Whether the vegetation around the fence looks good or not*, and whether there's fresh uncollected poop on the ground, and which way the whiffs of that blow may vary on a day-to-day basis. But the concrete, and the fencing, and the use as a dog run, and the lack of that broad unfenced space, would remain: always, for generations. There are many ways we can use a big, green, flat space in the middle of our neighborhood and city in the future. These include today's uses for regular and casual sports, recreation and education. They could also conceivably include temporary uses for protests and celebrations, gatherings for addresses to crowds, festivals, larger-scale athletic events, movies or performances. It's hard to predict every kind of use that might need a big flat green space, precisely because that kind of space is so useful.

Further, the fencing-off of a portion of the park would create new conflicts that existing users want to avoid. Soccer players today choose to position their playing pitch (both in angle and in siting) so that a stray ball does not run into a road, bash a parked car, or hit a tot in the tot lot. This means they tend to line up on a slight diagonal towards MacArthur boulevard from the tot lot. Their strikers are not aiming for the tots or for any road, and whether their goalies are effective or not, there is low risk to others. There is no conflict there with the baseball backstop, or with the users of the workout bars, and when two groups arrive together wanting to play, the playing areas can be adjusted so there is still not risk to the tots. None of this would be possible with a fenced area in the Lakeshore/MacArthur corner.



**An established fence with vegetation to "disguise" a dog park located around a restroom block in Manhattan. Vines cannot be relied upon to maintain themselves in even coverage across an entire fence.*

This proposal did not receive as much historic public consultation, nor did it gain as much public support, as you might think.

Supporters of this dog park proposal hold up the Lake Merritt Master Plan and the Adams Point Urban Design Plan processes as key elements in the public consultation process and the gathering of support for this proposal. However, these processes did not reach nearly so many of today's or even yesterday's Oakland citizens as they would like to think, nor do the conclusions of these documents require that Oakland adopt the plan for a dog run at this site.

Oaklanders were invited to comment on the Lake Merritt Master Plan in 1998 and 1999. In July 2002 the Lake Merritt Master Plan was published, containing the results of all the consultation. The mission statement that emerged in the Master Plan states ***(highlighting mine)***: "Lake Merritt should continue to be a park for all of Oakland. Its green space, water area, playgrounds, and attractions should serve the widest audience of Oakland citizens and visitors. ... The needs of human users must be carefully balanced with goals for improving habitat value and water quality. ... As our Park ages with each generation, we must make the needed repairs that ***maintain the glory*** of Lake Merritt." (No mention of dogs in that mission.)

In the "Maintenance" section of the Plan document, it notes that "Public comment throughout the LMMP's process indicated ***a high level of enthusiasm for improved maintenance practices-*** funding, operations, skill levels, etc. It was well understood that the current level of degradation in the park is mostly attributed to lack of proper maintenance. ***The public was critical of potential, future funding sortages [sic] after improvements are made.***"

The LMMP marked a site of a "potential" off-leash dog area with a small icon in Chapter 3. No detailed elaboration followed.

Also in 2002 the Adams Point Urban Design Plan was developed and presented to the Community and Economic Development Agency of the City of Oakland. The Plan focused on commercial revitalization of the Grand Avenue corridor and traffic analysis prior to the reconfiguration of El Embarcadero. There is evidence in the documentation that one community meeting was held to discuss the plan at a Senior Center, at which 99 individual comments were collected across all topics (probably more than one comment per participant). There's no information about how that meeting was advertised. The goals of the effort say nothing about dog parks. [Although this document had been mentioned by proponents, I found no copy of it on record with the City Clerk, and had to purchase a copy from the Berkeley consultants who wrote it. You can find it reproduced now on the SaveAstroPark site].

That Plan document includes proposed layouts of "Library Park" which increase the overall size of today's recreation field area by moving the parking lot closer to the toilets/tot lot, and show a long, skinny dog run alongside MacArthur with no frontage to Lakeshore or Grand. Thus: an entirely different proposal with a different effect on the playing field.

On December 8th 2010, a hearing was held at the Parks and Recreation Committee (PRAC) to approve the current design for the dog park. The meeting was not widely advertised (many Oaklanders do not follow the PRAC website to spot new agenda items). Most residents within the Lake Merritt neighborhood were completely unaware of the meeting, even when they belonged to the neighborhood email lists. Dog park proponents, primarily ODOG members, attended (summoned by ODOG mailings) and voiced their support.

Relying on volunteer effort is perilous: dog owners are not all as civic-minded as ODOG would have you think... and volunteers tend to drift away around here

It may surprise you to learn that Oakland collected only $100,770 in dog license fees last year (public records request #3-72). This implies that if it's true that 40% of households in Oakland own dogs (as ODOG has stated), then fewer than one in three of these are complying with the requirement to have a current dog license, and paying the appropriate fee to the City. Or perhaps there are fewer households with dogs in Oakland than ODOG thinks.

It is truly difficult to set up and sustain a volunteer commitment to neighborhood-level landscaping tasks. Dedicated neighborhood supporter Ken Katz writes in his newsletter (4/4/12) on Splash Pad Park (grandlakeneighbors.org), "When [Splash Pad] park opened in 2003, we were already aware that the City of Oakland's park maintenance staff was limited in what they could do and we had an unspoken pact that I would be the park's guardian angel. For the first few years, with the assistance of a hard-core group of volunteers, we did just that but, over time, we all drifted off to other projects and concerns." He goes on to describe problems of weed incursion and degrading of the park's appearance that have resulted.

Further, problems with noise at Ohlone Park in neighboring Berkeley have frustrated the neighbors, causing the development of large warning signs to drive better behavior from users:



This particular land is not ideal for a dog park, owing to poor drainage

Any completely level space creates a drainage challenge for a dog park. The Piedmont Animal Control officer I spoke with told me that it's ill-advised to put a dog park on a flat plain. The Astro Park playing field in particular is challenging as it has historically proven to be waterlogged at times of heavy rainfall in the winter. The winter-spring of 2012 was unusually dry, but in 2011 we had more typical winter rainstorms. I am the subject of, and the filmer of parts of the video at http://youtu.be/6W1wnan2rOg - these clips were taken in March 2011. I had to buy boots especially for the shoot since the land was too wet to walk on otherwise. The concern here is that standing puddles of water create an environment suitable for disease agents to thrive. If the same puddles are used by dogs for urinating, for defacating and for drinking, there's a health issue for the dogs. From time to time the city puts some filler in on the worst of the divots and holes in the land - another effort of this type has just been made. But none of this makes the liquids drain away.

Dog owners living near Lake Merritt already have many choices of where to go.

They can:

- Go anywhere they want in any Oakland park (including into Astro/Eastshore Park), leaving their dogs at home (the language I have seen from dog park proponents that "dog owners are excluded" is simply untrue - all kinds of people are welcome).
- Exercise their dogs in their own yards if they have them (and there is a vibrant market of Oakland homes on offer for sale or rental that *do* have yards - e.g. right now (4/11) I count 49 postings in Oakland craigslist "apts/housing for rent" currently with "yes" to dogs and the word "yard" included in the text of the posting, starting at $725/month; and 6 "rooms and shares" starting as low as $510/month with the same filters).
- Walk their dogs, legally, on-leash, on 1120 miles of sidewalks all over the city (including sidewalks surrounding Lake Merritt just a few yards from the lakeside path; long stretches of this sidewalk were widened and beautified under the LMMP improvements with the express purpose of making them more appealing for dog-walking)



Already-legitimate on-leash walking route on sidewalks all the way around the lake, with great lakeside vistas from most stretches



Sidewalk (here on Lakeshore) where on-leash dog-walking is "legit" just next to the park with its narrower lake-perimeter people-only walking path

- Take their small dog with them on AC Transit buses (in a carrier on their lap) to visit a more-distant east bay dog park
- Take their dog with them on BART (in a carrier) to visit an SF city or peninsula dog park
- Drive to any number of large, exciting, natural areas close to bay and hills to exercise their dogs off-leash (a few examples are Point Isabel, Cesar Chavez, Redwood Park, also there are extensive tracts of land as part of the East Bay Regional Park District where dogs can be run and walked, on- and off-leash)
- Visit any of Piedmont's four parks for their dog to run off-leash, for payment of a $37 annual permit fee that covers poop bags (Piedmont spends $70,000 per year paid on these) and animal control (Piedmont, Dracena Quarry, Blair, Linda parks); these parks start just a mile from the lake. (If you hear of a $68 fee, that only applies to "intact" (typically commercial breeders') dogs for which there have only ever been 26 permits issued to Oaklanders, according to Piedmont Animal Control (vs. 710 lower-priced "altered" permits at $37)).
- Visit any of Oakland's five existing urban dog parks, many of which are new and under-publicized (Grove Shafter, Jefferson, Mosswood, Hardy, Joaquin Miller parks); these parks start just two miles from the lake, and indeed if there is an under-served area of the city, it would seem to be the south-east quadrant since there is so much provision already in the north and west.

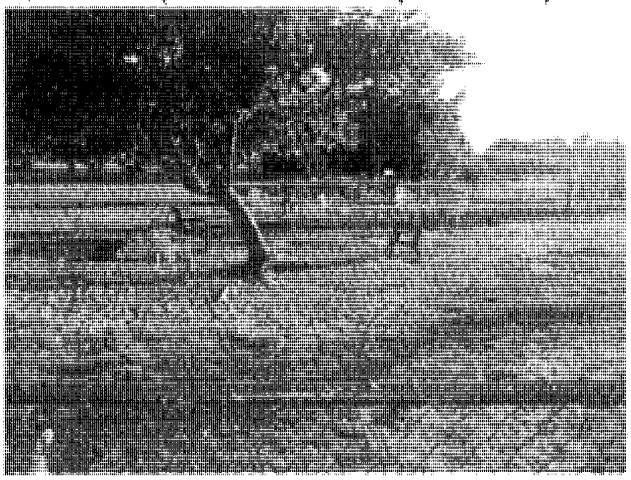


Map of off-leash dog areas (partial: more tracts of East Bay Regional Park District are also available)

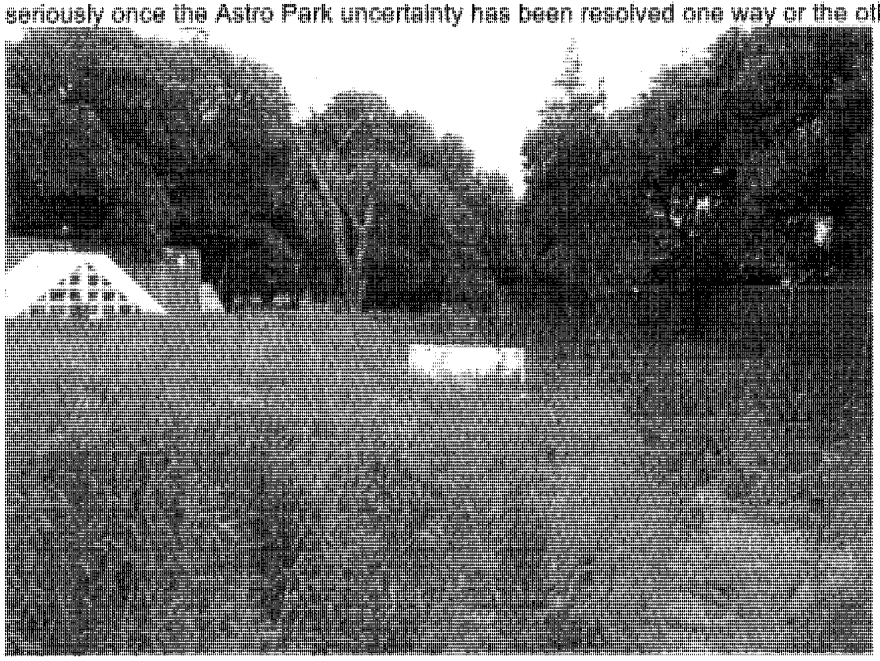
- Visit dog parks in Berkeley such as Ohlone Dog Park (shown in picture; same surface as that proposed for Astro Park).



...or Alameda (see accumulation of plastic chairs):



- In future there could be even more options, if the proposal to develop a dog park in the currently locked-and-bolted fenced area known as the Police Horse Stables (up on the knoll behind Childrens Fairyland) is allowed to proceed and be built into a viable plan. We've been told that key stakeholders (ODOG, Childrens Fairyland, the Councilmembers) will only consider this proposal seriously once the Astro Park uncertainty has been resolved one way or the other.



View between the slats of the locked gate to the Police Horse Stables area: an underutilized space with great potential to become a popular, far-less-controversial dog park near Lake Merritt

I'm one of the "Save Astro Park" people and I've been standing by Astro Park on many weekends talking to the people who go by. They, and I, don't see a substitute for the presence of Astro Park in our neighborhood that would bring about the many benefits we see from the wide green open expanse today. We like today's park. We like today's uses. Please don't give in to the demand to fence off this precious urban green space and turn it over permanently to a specific type of recreation that is already covered in many other places.

Please DENY the change of use permit for Astro Park to be fenced for a dog run. Thank you.

Grace Webber
Cleveland Heights, Oakland. Resident since February 2010, proud member of Save Astro Park.

Clevenger, Ann

From: Ruby Wara-Goss [rubywaragoss@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 7:08 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please keep Astro Park the way it is

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to ask that you please deny the fenced off-leash dog run proposal at the corner of Lakeshore Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard in Oakland. Some of the reasons why I do not believe a dog run at Astro Park would be a good idea include:

- The fenced enclosure would reduce or eliminate existing recreational uses
- No budget for maintenance
- Dogs would be too near the tot lot
- Would create traffic and parking impacts near the Lakeview Library
- Turns green space brown
- There are six other dog parks nearby

Thank you for your time and I look forward to being in touch about this issue.

--
Warm Regards,
Ruby Wara-Goss

510-593-4268
rubywaragoss@gmail.com

"We're in this together - cross color, cross culture, cross gender, cross class. Let your light shine." -Cornel West

Clevenger, Ann

From: Steven Belcher [swbelcher007@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 10:36 AM
To: swbelcher@msn.com
Subject: Proposed Astro Park Dog Run

Steven W. Belcher

630 Longridge Road

Oakland, California 94610

(510) 301-5321

swbelcher@msn.com

April 17, 2012

Dear Members of the Oakland Planning Commission,

This is a brief note regarding the proposed dog run in Astro Park/Lakeshore. I hope you had a chance to drive by during the recent nice weather and observed the wonderful urban phenomena of a many different groups engaging in different sports at the play field. There was baseball, soccer, frizbees, kites, and little kids just tripping. Related to this availability of multi-use recreational open space is consideration of future demands on this park. At sometime in the past the Planning Commission reviewed and approved a mid rise, 54 unit low and moderate income family housing project on a relatively small site opposite Ahn's Burgers, located at Belvue and Grand. There is apparently no on-site recreation space planned for a significant number children living in the project. I have been told that the developer is mitigating this need by using Lakeside Park. Since Astro/Lakeshore Park is the only open field within walking distance to the project, the proposed dog run may significantly impact this recreation resource for these children. I would appreciate this issue being addressed in the staff report presented at the May 2, hearing.

Thank You,

Steve Belcher

Clevenger, Ann

From: Eunice Williams [funkofcircumstance@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 11:13 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Proposed dog park at Astro Park

Good Day Ann Clevenger

I am very dissapointed that I even have to take time to write this note. I hear that dog run is proposed for Astro Park, which is already highly used and functional as a playground for humans. A constant situation to happen with gentrification, particularly from the white and conservative gentrifiers, these do called "hipsters". The influence of money has got to take back seat. Why would the influence of some take precedence over the many? We have a beautiful place where people can come out with their children and be free for a moment. Let's not bulldoze that to make room for peoples pets.

Eunice

Clevenger, Ann

From: michael katz [1michaelkatz1@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2012 9:08 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: proposed dog park opposition

Hi I am writing in opposition to the proposed dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. Dedicating that large of a space in that location is inappropriate. As an area resident (I live in East Lake) I see all sorts of recreational use by all ages on that green space. Why turn so much of it over to a dog run? Process-wise, there was no community engagement process to gather input for such a high profile site. There does not seem to be an adequate maintenance plan and certainly the city can't afford to maintain the site.Aesthetically, a dog run would turn the area in to a dirt/ mud patch. Such a prominent location would invariable attract additional users, a good thing, but not if they are driving in and want to park, as is not uncommon at other high profile dog parks, like in Richmond.
Please consider alternative sites as opponents have proposed.
Michael Katz,
Area neighbor

--
Michael Katz
Master of City Planning | Community and Economic Development | MCP '12
University of California at Berkeley
Department of City and Regional Planning
(510) 205-5902

Clevenger, Ann

From: Melissa Miyara [mnmiyara@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 23, 2012 3:24 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Proposed dog run at Astro Park

Dear Commissioners,

I recently moved to the area, and the open green spaces are among the top factors that initially attracted me to the neighborhood. I am somewhat saddened to find that one of these beautiful spaces is already threatened by a feature that will only serve one small segment of the population. Please reconsider the idea of building a fenced-in dog run in such a prominent and visible location. I enjoy dogs and even work in a dog-friendly office, however I also think it is important to be selective about where they are allowed to roam off-leash and impact the surrounding land. Astro Park is already host to a variety of recreational uses and I do not believe anything would be gained by deprioritizing those uses for a dog run.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Miyara

Clevenger, Ann

From: bradleymccrea@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, April 21, 2012 8:39 AM
To: Vien Truong; Michael Colbruno; Blake Huntsman; jaw1123@aol.com; mzm@att.net; Chris Pattillo
Cc: Debbie Cooper; Sue Levin; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Resending correct version of the Brad McCrea letter
Attachments: No Lakeview Dog Park.pdf

Dear Commissioners,

Earlier this week, you were emailed by Save Astro Park a couple of policy documents regarding the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area.

I'm writing to inform you that one of the documents, the letter to the Planning Department from me, was an unformatted and earlier version of the final letter that I sent to Ann Clevenger. We apologize for the mistake. For clarity, I am attaching the final signed letter that Ann received on April 16th.

As the letter describes, the proposal is inconsistent with the open space element of the General Plan. To illustrate these policy inconsistencies, story poles will be placed in the park today in order to depict the actual scale and location of the proposed dog run.

The stakes and yellow tape will be on display from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today. Please stop or drive by if you can. The public display is a very effective way for people to see how much unprogrammed recreational space at Eastshore Park would be lost if a fenced dog run is approved.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

Brad

Clevenger, Ann

From: Erin Jamison [jamison.erin@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2012 4:19 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park
Attachments: Dog park.jpg; Dog park 2.jpg; Dog park 3.jpg

Dear Commissioners:

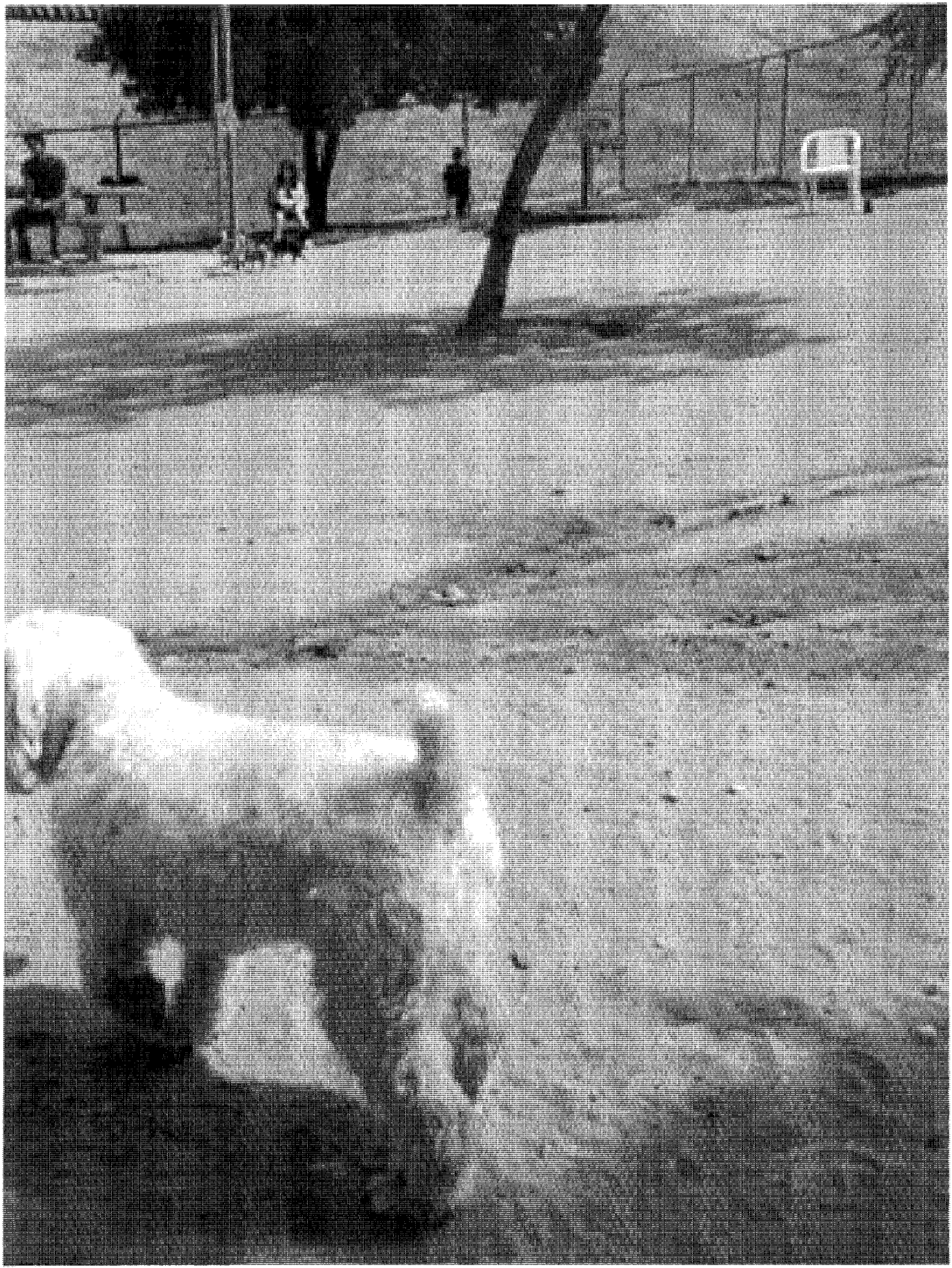
Please DO NOT approve the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park. I am a dog owner living two blocks away from the proposed site.

Before moving to Oakland from Los Angeles, I also lived within walking distance of an off-leash dog park. (Please see attached photos.) It was dirty, dusty, and reeked of urine. What had begun as a proposed site to better the community and provide for socialization of dogs and people quickly turned into a trampled, poorly-maintained dirt patch with a smell that carried for blocks. While both my dogs and I enjoy the off-leash park experience, I can't imagine how replacing Astro Park's existing grassy lawn with wood chips and chain link could be seen as an improvement. I consider Astro Park my front yard. I walk by on my way to the grocery store, the gym, and the library - and on any given day, pass by children picnicking with their parents, teens lying in the grass to study, or the local soccer club, tai chi group, or yoga aficionados engaging in what they love.

Please don't take away one of the rare green spaces in Oakland that caters to so many and replace it with what will surely become a barren dirt patch intended for the use of one very specific group. Again, I am not denying how wonderful the dog park experience can be - which is why I use one of the already developed dog parks within walking distance or make the drive to Point Isabel. Those of us who live in and love Oakland are fortunate to have the rare green space provided by Astro Park - please do not support its destruction.

Erin Jamison
636 Beacon St.
Oakland

--
"Where there is love, nothing is too much trouble, and there is always time." - Abdu'l-Baha



Clevenger, Ann

From: Pat Madarang [pmadaran@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2012 3:28 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

My name is Pat Madarang and I am a resident of the City of Oakland living in Sequoyah Hills in Oakland, Ca. I am writing to you to Save Astro Park.

Kids need to play on grass too! Not enough grass to sit on in Oakland near LakeShore! Dog waste? We are not Golden Gate Park. Why?

My suggestion is to use the blighted area across the street and create a tourist location (e.g. dog hotel) for off-lease dog lover's around the world can visit Oakland and play; like San Francisco and follow the State of Nevada and put solar panels on the "for sale" Building. Keep the dogs cool on hot days from the shade of solar panels. Ask Danny Kennedy from Sungevity to help, he is from Oakland.

I am a graduate of the USC Price in Sacramento and we have a highly regarded Urban & Regional Planning Program in the country as part of our university. USC Sol Price School of Public Policy is older than the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, so I know something about urban planning and I think somebody has influenced your planning commission unwisely!

Brainstorming Ideas for dog friendly cities!

1. http://www.yelp.com/biz/mission-creek-dog-park-san-francisco
2. http://www.bringfido.com/attraction/parks/city/san_francisco_ca_us/
3. http://www.solaripedia.com/13/315/3639/animal_foundation_dog_park_pvs.html

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Pat Madarang
FOTS Lead Solar Advocate
"Feet on the Street" Greater SF Bay Area
Real Goods Solar, Inc.
Solar Living Since 1978
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-I1VMwM9_II
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUstFht_bso
http://www.linkedin.com/in/pmadarang

Clevenger, Ann

From: cherryshari@netzero.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 1:34 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park from the dog park - Right Idea. Wrong Place.

The Planning Commissioners will meet to decide the fate of Astro Park on Wednesday May 2nd at 6pm at Oakland City Hall. The corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue is the wrong place for a dog run.

Some of the top concerns:
Turns green space brown
Fence blocks park access
No budget for maintenance
Too close to the tot lot
Too much traffic

Please put the dog park in the area near the lake by the bocci ball parks.

More info. http://www.saveastropark.org/top-ten-reasons-this-dog-run-is-a-bad-idea/how-to-create-a-great-dog-run---how-does-this-one-score

Thanks,
Shari Morfin
6887 Exeter Drive
Oakland, CA 94611

---

53 Year Old Mom Looks 33
The Stunning Results of Her Wrinkle Trick Has Botox Doctors Worried
http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3231/4f85eaa64f7a332f823st04vuc

Date: April 1, 2012

To: Commissioners Truong, Huntsman, Colbruno, Zayas-Mart, Whales & Patillo, Ann Clevenger – Case Manager, and Scott Miller – Zoning Director

From: Save Astro Park – A coalition of neighbors opposed to the Lakeview Dog Park

Astro Park, also known as Eastshore Park, is the location proposed by Oakland Dog Owner's Group (ODOG) for the Lakeview Dog Play Area. The following memorandum was prepared by Save Astro Park (www.saveastropark.org), a group of citizens living near Lake Merritt who oppose this dog run.

Save Astro Park strongly believes that the proposed Lakeview Dog Park location is a highly unsuitable. It will adversely impact those currently using the open space including park visitors, children, and business owners, and will be visually destructive to an attractive park setting that brings much needed relief to this dense neighborhood.

Save Astro Park currently has over 1300 members. We formed in February 2011 when a number of people in the Lake Merritt area found out about the proposal to fence off a large portion of the lawn at Eastshore Park for a dog run. A group of volunteers has stood by the space on Saturday mornings to inform neighbors of the size and location of the proposed dog park. On some mornings, the space was taped off in accordance with the December 2010 PRAC approved design. On other mornings, a map demonstrating the approved design was given out. Each time we were at the space, between 100 to 200 neighbors signed up to become members of Save Astro Park, giving us their email addresses and offering their support to save the open space. Within just a few months, the database surpassed 1300 people with nearly every member joining while down at the proposed space where they could see exactly what is proposed. As we described the new dog run to our neighbors, they expressed surprise and concern about the plan. **Approximately 9 out of every 10 people we spoke with strongly opposed this dog park proposal.**

Clearly, the community does not want a dog park sited in this location. In light of the community concerns and overwhelming opposition **we ask that the application for a minor conditional use permit for the Lakeview Dog Play Area be denied.**

Briefly, we will present the primary reasons the community does not want a dog run in this location.

1. Astro Park is technically and visually a gateway to Lake Merritt as well as the Grand Lake District. Thousands of pedestrians and occupants in vehicles view this space on a daily basis. Siting a dog park in such a highly visible space is inappropriate.

2. The proposed dog run is located next to a tot-lot. While no one is interested in fear mongering, the reality is, not all dogs are safe. And not all children are well behaved around dogs. While the majority of the time there may be no issues, it is the City's duty to protect its citizens by making sure that dog runs are not near childrens play areas.

3. This park is heavily used by a diverse group of people in diverse ways. From soccer players to picnickers to toddlers running around, an open, green commons in a sunny spot is rare and cherished. Further, students of Bayhill High School, located 1 block away, rely on the park for recreational activities Monday-Friday from 8:30

to 11:30. Attachment 1 observed uses to date. Additionally, this video taken on a sunny Saturday last February show how heavily used the park is: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TESI-FZCApc

4. A 22,000 square foot dog run consumes almost half of the available play space (see Attachment 2 for plan.)

5. There are six dog parks ranging from 1.1 miles to 2.7 miles away. Many of these existing alternatives are currently underutilized. Additionally, with Redwood Park and Joaquin Miller Park within a ten minute drive from the Astro Park location, Oakland hosts 2300 open space acres in hills where dogs can run off lead. See Attachment 3.

6. Even when dog runs are sited properly, in places that are not nearly as visible, volunteer maintenance is never recommended. We are very concerned that the park will quickly become an eyesore, and will be detrimental to the vibrancy of our neighborhood. See Attachment 4 for information on dog park maintenance written by the Assistant City Manager, City of Berkeley.

7. The park sits atop two major watershed creeks and can be saturated with rainwater during winter and spring months. This flooding cannot be mitigated by wood chips. Please take the time to watch this video, taken exactly where the proposed dog run would be sited:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6W1wnan2rOg&feature=channel

8. Although the dog park proposal is being touted as a neighborhood 'walk-to' amenity, common sense dictates that people will drive there both from the neighborhood and outside of it. Once a dog park is announced on Yelp or other online postings, people will drive there. This area is already highly stressed in terms of parking and congestion.

9. This dog park was never approved in any the Lake Merritt Master Plan. In 2002 it was added as "potential dog park" at Eastshore Park with minimal detail. Although this proposed park received a PRAC design approval in December 2010, it failed to receive PRAC's recommendation for a conditional use permit in July 2011. According to Oakland's OSCAR (Open Space Conservation And Recreation) policy if newly proposed recreational uses could significantly change the character of the park, as is the case with this proposed dog run, both PRAC and Planning Commission approval is required.

10. Most importantly, the community - currently represented by but not limited to 1300 Save Astro Park members - does not want a dog run located at Lakeshore and MacArthur. To date, over 100 letters have been sent to the Planning Department all passionately pleading to keep the space as is.

Given all of these reasons stated above and given the widespread and vehement community opposition for a dog run at this location, please ask yourself: how did this proposal get as far as it has? The answer to this is simple: **the community was never notified.** We have researched the history of this proposal and are aware of an initial plan for a dog park at Astro Park developed in 2006 with a $400,000 budget, and a subsequent plan with a $35,000 budget presented to PRAC in late 2009. No meetings were held to get community input on the 2009 plans. Councilmember Nadel, whose office sponsored the plan, did not notice the community email groups of any progress on the original dog park in 2007, 2008 or 2009.

Further Councilmember Nadel's office did not inform the community email groups of the December 8, 2010 PRAC Design Review meeting. Save Astro Park was formed shortly after this meeting when several neighbors learned about the proposal because someone on ODOG's mailing list who opposed the idea of the dog park discussed it on the Cleveland Heights Yahoo group.

At the insistence of Councilmember Pat Kernighan, a community meeting was finally held on March 23, 2011. It was attended by approximately 150 residents and clearly demonstrated that the community was divided on this issue. Approximately 70% of people who attended the meeting expressed concerns about the location. Proposing a dog park in a well loved, small neighborhood park that is widely used for recreational purposes had created a contentious community situation. A PRAC meeting was then held in July of 2011. The question for the PRAC was whether or not to recommend a CUP for this dog run. No recommendation was made as there was a tie vote (3-3). The meeting ended with Audrey Jones Taylor, head of Oakland Park and Recreation stating that this matter had, "died in PRAC." Without a recommendation from PRAC, this item should not have moved to the Planning Commission.

Since July, the opposition to the dog park has continued to grow. The community preference is clearly to retain the existing, much-needed open space rather than create a dog park. The Trust for Public Land's document, "Creating Dog Parks Without Rancor", recommends creating dog parks in locations that are "shielded", "undeveloped", "unusable" and that do not have "a user constituency". Astro Park is none of these and should not be converted to a dog park. Again, we respectfully urge you to deny this application for a Conditional Use Permit for the Lakeview Dog Play Area.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

SAVE ASTRO PARK

Attachment 1: Groups and Uses of the Astro Park Playfield

Groups and uses include but are not limited to:

Bayhill High School (Charter school one block away. Bayhill needs the play field for P.E. Bayhill also holds their touch football games at Astro Park.

Baseball. Simple games of catch are often played on the field. Most frequently, this is between a Dad and a child.

Baseball Backstop. The backstop is used frequently, again, with parents often times pitching the ball to their child or children.

Rehab Center. This center has been using the field for nearly two decades. They remain anonymous but use the field weekly for soccer.

Soccer Shots Soccer Shots is a leader in youth soccer development for children ages 3-8. Soccer Shots uses the field frequently, and, from our observations year-round weather permitting.

Soccer-informal, weekday pick-up games. Played mostly late afternoon and evening.

Special Olympics – uses field for soccer practice on Saturday mornings for several months before the games.

Sunday soccer league. This is an informal pick-up group that has been using the play field for over 15 years.

Volleyball. Informal volleyball games have been going on for an estimated fifteen years or longer.

Tot Lot. More often than not small children and their parents utilize the space beyond the tot-lot for playing with a ball or simply just running around. This spill-over space is in the exact foot print of the dog run.

Badminton
Boot Camp
Brazilian Martial Arts.
Circles Rule Federation
Drumming Circle.
Frisbee Play.
Girls On The Run
Hula Hooping
Kundalini Yoga Flash Mob
Pedestrians
Picnickers
Tightrope Walking

Attachment 2: Dog Park Proposal Eliminates Half The Usable Playfield



This map was created by the Oakland Dog Owner's Group to illustrate the size of the proposed dog park. The dog park will occupy 21,000 square feet of the open play field, leaving 26,750 square feet for the multitude of other activities that occur here. The new dog park will take 44% of the open play field.

Attachment 3: Existing Dog Parks in Oakland

Park	Dog Park Size/Details	Current Issues with Dog Park
Grove Shafter 5.55 acres	• Opened Nov 2010 • Dog Park: 2.16 acres, fenced area w/ separate areas for small and large dogs. • The dog play area includes benches, picnic tables, boulders for dogs to scamper up, and in-ground waste receptacles.	History of underutilization and PRAC Commissioner Ricards expressed concern for drug use in area.
Jefferson Square 1.42 acres	• Opened Nov 2010 • Dog Park Size = unknown, fenced area, separate areas for small & large dogs	After freeway construction in the 1970s, this historic attraction grew steadily neglected and became one of the community's most underutilized parks.
Mosswood 11 acres	• Opened Nov 2007 • Dog Park: 6,300 sq. ft., dirt & wood chips fenced area, separate areas for small & large dogs	Area is near freeway and history of blight and crime. Drug dealing and needles present in park. Homeless encampment.
Joaquin Miller 500 acres	• Opened Oct 2006 • Dog Park: 1 acre • Dirt & wood chips fenced area of overflow parking area of the park.	One of the only Oakland city parks that allow dogs on-leash. Underutilized part of parking lot. Dog Park is closed 30 days a year for theater season.
Hardy Dog Park 2.16 acres	• Opened 1995, pre-OSCAR • Dog Park: size unknown, concrete fenced area	Concrete area under freeway. Underutilized space.

Additionally, Oakland hosts 2,300 acres of open space in the hills where dogs can run off lead.

Attachment 4: Dog Park Maintenance

Below is a letter written in spring of 2011 by William Rogers, Assistant City Manager for the City of Berkeley, to Pat Kernighan and Jennie Gerard. William's opinion was sought out by Pat Kernighan and below is his written response:

Dear Pat and Jenny,

Per your request, I'm writing to provide you with information about the City of Berkeley's operational and maintenance experience with its dog parks and our experience using volunteers for maintenance. I will outline some of the maintenance activities that we provide to Ohlone Dog Park (which is similar in scale to the dog park proposed in the Lake Merritt area), talk about some of the challenges of a dog park and then discuss some of our experiences with volunteers in our parks system for ongoing maintenance activities. Finally, I'll provide some feedback on the location of the proposed Oakland dog park.

As you are aware, I run the Parks Department for the City of Berkeley. I want to be clear that I am in no way representing or speaking on behalf of the City of Berkeley in my correspondence with you, but am speaking as a constituent with professional experience in this area. I also want to say that I am a supporter, both personally and professionally, of dog parks in urban communities as I believe they are important amenities for dog owners and their dogs to congregate and socialize.

CITY MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

There are a number of City staff members who provide services to the Ohlone Dog Park. In Berkeley, there are three work units that provide the primary support and maintenance to the dog park. I've listed the work activities that each City work unit provides to the dog park:

Landscape Maintenance Work Activities include:

- Litter Pick up
- Trash Can Service
- Graffiti Abatement
- Weed Abatement
- Mulching
- Pruning
- Irrigation
- Site Inspections
- Volunteer Work Efforts
- Storm Watch (Storm runoff, drains...)
- Annual Wood Chip & Straw Bale Replacement
- Response to Public Concerns & Complaints
- Animal Control Related Issues

Building Maintenance Work Activities include:

- Irrigation maintenance
- Graffiti abatement

- Gate maintenance
- Self locking gate mechanism inspection, repair and maintenance
- Site drainage maintenance: root clearing
- General maintenance : signs, benches, tables
- Fence and surface material containment; structure (boards) maintenance

Forestry Work Activities include:

- Tree maintenance
- Tree replacement

BENEFITS OF A DOG PARK

The benefits of dog parks to both human users and dogs are numerous and have been well stated in the community meetings and correspondence with your office. Berkeley users enjoy similar benefits and value from their City's dog parks.

CHALLENGES OF A DOG PARK:

Dog parks also present a number of challenges. Some of the challenges we have faced include:

- Neighbor and park users complain of noise (barking throughout the day and into the evening; and on weekends and holidays)
- Neighbor and park users complain of odor from feces and urine.
- There are requests to provide areas to separate large and small dogs.
- Users have a low threshold of tolerance for environmental factors such as the site surface and materials, the quality of woodchips, and the presence of mud (natural turf cannot be sustained with the heavy use by dogs).
- The fence becomes a blight as users leave bags on the fence to store or share with other users .
- Users and neighbors complain of dust from dirt and wood chip decomposition.
- Trees in the dog park are negatively impacted.
- Users request a higher standard of maintenance and/or amenities than available resources allow.
- Volunteers often make frequent requests that require a higher level of oversight and support from staff and city resources. We deliver and pick up tools and materials, are in frequent discussions about improvements, and are responsible for administration of liability waivers for volunteers, MOU's and adopt-a- park programs
- Storm water and ground water quality may be negatively impacted from feces, urine and mud washing off.
- Proper site drainage is very important due to the transport of feces, urine, surface material (wood chips) and soil
- Locking gates- staff have to ensure gates are opened when the dog park opens and closed when it closes. To reduce staff time, we installed self-locking gates. Some complain if the gates open too soon and others complain if they lock too soon. There is no perfect system as there are both mechanical and human errors.
- Increased maintenance time to find buried irrigation boxes
- Employee safety – Employees are exposed to aggressive dogs and unsanitary conditions at a higher concentration and rate than in other parks.

· Parking- dog parks are typically a citywide or regional resource and people drive to them from outside the immediate neighborhood, the City and even the region. The lack of parking (particularly in an area that is already densely populated with cars) can have a negative impact on surrounding businesses.

· Natural Resources- The presence of dogs is incompatible with wildlife such as birds. Wildlife stays away or their nesting, foraging and other essential activities are interrupted. Birds are flushed by dogs. Some dogs even chase and kill wildlife. This would be a significant issue by the Lake.

· Public and dog health alerts: E Coli inquiries, dog disease inquiries, respiratory illness inquiries, water borne pathogens inquiries, and mushroom inquiries. Signage as needed.

VOLUNTEERISM FOR ONGOING MAINTENANCE

The other question you raised was about volunteerism for ongoing maintenance. In Berkeley, the city does the primary maintenance for the dog parks and volunteers do some of the fine tuning like spreading and adjusting chips, etc.. Staff oversee volunteer efforts which requires time and resources. Dog park users can be very motivated to become volunteers because it is a place where they want to take their dogs and socialize with others. In our experience, volunteers have really good intentions about maintaining an area or Park over the long term. Yet, as people's lives or priorities change, so does their commitment. If a primary volunteer organizer cannot or does not want to volunteer any longer, it can have a huge impact on the volunteer effort. In our experience (with some exceptions), volunteer efforts for ongoing maintenance wane over time. It is often difficult and tiresome for people to continuously pick up after others. When volunteer efforts wane, it is ultimately the City's responsibility to ensure that the park is well maintained and safe for the public's use. At the end of the day, the City has sole legal and financial liability for the maintenance and safety of the community asset.

DOG PARK LOCATION

Finally, the chosen location of any dog park is important. In my opinion, the location of the proposed dog park is problematic for several reasons, including:

· Its proximity to children's play areas may constitute an incompatible use by placing dogs and children in such close proximity to one another. It's a safety issue for park users and a liability issue for the City.

· The elimination of well-used, unprogrammed open space in an area that has very little of it seems unwise and runs counter to other important human, environmental and public health goals for Oakland and its residents.

· The prominence of the location for the proposed dog park appears incompatible with the current projects around the lake. This is an area where the City has spent millions of stimulus dollars to beautify the Lake Merritt area and to provide more open space. This location is a gateway to the lake (from the North) and the new projects and amenities that are currently under development. Dog parks are mostly dirt because running, urine, feces and digging affect the ability of anything green to grow. It appears to be a choice that runs counter to the intention and spirit of the projects currently underway at the lake.

I hope this helpful. In both my personal and professional opinion, I believe that dog parks are important in urban areas. I also believe that this particular location is less than desirable for such a

use and that another more suitable location would better meet the needs of the residential and business community as well as the tourists who visit the Lake Merritt area.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions or need clarification.

Sincerely,
William Rogers

April 22, 2012

Dear Commissioners,

As a resident of one of the neighborhoods that surround Lake Merritt, I am writing to ask that you please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

I am so proud to call this area of Oakland my home. With each new friend or family member who visits, one of my favorite outings is a Saturday walk down Lakeshore Avenue to the Farmers' Market and Lakeshore's small businesses and restaurants. Walking by Astro Park always makes me stop in my tracks and smile. I love watching toddlers at soccer practice and friends playing volleyball and just pausing to admire the broad stretch of green grass softening an otherwise urban block.

A dog park would destroy the neighborhood appeal and enjoyment of Astro Park. Dog parks quickly become chain link fenced in stretches of dirt littered with feces, a sure blight on an otherwise beautiful stretch between the Lake and nearby businesses. Why take the chance on marring such a beautiful and popular spot?

As a dog lover, I hope a more appropriate location can be found for local dogs to play off leash and hang out with friends. However, Astro Park is not the right spot for such plans. At such a busy car, bus and foot traffic area, the corner is not a safe spot for our local pups.

Astro Park is well utilized and loved by the humans in the neighborhood. I am sure the local dogs can appreciate that. Let's find a spot that meets the needs of dogs and humans and preserves the beauty of the Lake Merritt area.

Again, I ask that you please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in Astro Park. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Adria D. Walker

Oakland Resident



SAVE ASTRO PARK – WHO WE ARE

SAVE ASTRO PARK is a 1,300-member grassroots neighborhood coalition that formed in February 2011 to preserve the open green space at Eastshore Park – also known as Astro Park. We oppose the construction of the Lakeview Dog Play Area proposed by Oakland Dog Owner's Group (ODOG) on the southeast side of our neighborhood park.

SAVE ASTRO PARK strongly believes that Eastshore (Astro) Park is a highly unsuitable location for a dog run because this open space is well-utilized for recreation, is adjacent to a children's play area, and is very visually prominent.

Over the past year, SAVE ASTRO PARK has spent time at the park notifying the neighborhood about the dog park proposal. Nine out of every 10 people that we've spoken to do not want a dog park in Eastshore (Astro) Park. We have, therefore, created this document outlining the community's concerns.

SIX PRIMARY CONCERNS ABOUT THE DOG PARK PROPOSAL

There are five primary concerns that have been expressed by neighbors who are in favor of retaining the existing open space rather than constructing a fenced, off-leash dog run. The concerns are:

1. Gateway to Lake Merritt -- Adverse Impact on Visual Character of Park
2. Recreational Space -- Adverse Impact on Established Uses
3. Proximity to Children's Play Area -- Animal Spillover into Non-Dog areas
4. Park Maintenance
5. Parking Impacts
6. Planning Process Considerations

These concerns are in alignment with typical issues raised regarding dog park development across the country. Each of these concerns is articulated in greater detail below.

PLANNING GUIDELINES

We have reviewed several sets of guidelines for development within parks. These documents support our position that Eastshore (Astro) Park is an inappropriate location for a dog run. These documents include:

- 1996 Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Element of the General Plan (OSCAR) for the City of Oakland; and
- *Creating Dog Parks Without Rancor,* report by the Trust for Public Land (Center for City Park Excellence, 2005)

The Trust for Public Land's *Creating Dog Parks Without Rancor,* references guidelines developed by the City of Seattle Planning Department in conjunction with COLA (Citizens for Off-Leash Areas), a local organization. Those criteria are:

- Avoid interference with other established uses (or "history");
- Avoid locations directly abutting residences;
- Assure availability of close-by parking;
- Avoid locations near children's play areas;
- Choose spots where there are minimal impacts on the visual character of a park;
- Avoid sites where there will be spill-over into non-dog areas; and
- Avoid sensitive environmental habitats.

The OSCAR Element was approved by the Oakland City Council in June 1996 as the "blueprint for change over the next two decades." The document makes recommendations for the future growth of open space and included an Oakland Parks Master Plan and specific plans for individual parks. A specific plan was not developed for Eastshore Park.

The following are the OSCAR policies that apply to the proposed dog park at Eastshore (Astro) Park. The policies are grouped according to the primary concerns of SAVE ASTRO PARK, and are similar to the City of Seattle's guiding principles.

GATEWAY / VISUAL CHARACTER

- *Eastshore [Park]. This neighborhood park is very heavily used...the park is also a logical "gateway" to the lake area and would benefit from signage improvements or even a monument or fountain of some sort. (OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12)*

- *Policy OS-9.3 Gateway Improvements. Enhance neighborhood and city identity by maintaining or creating gateways. Maintain view corridors and enhance the sense of arrival at the major entrances to the city...Use public art, landscaping, and signage to create stronger City and neighborhood gateways (OSCAR, Chapter 2, pg 63)*

- *Specific recommendation for Lakeside Park: One goal of the plan is to increase the perception of the park as a single unity rather than a series of disjointed spaces. (OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 11)*

RECREATIONAL SPACE NEEDS

- *Active recreational areas identified as an unmet need in the Lake Merritt neighborhood. (OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 43)*

- *Certain neighborhoods ... stand out as being particularly dense, including Adams Point, the Oak Center area, and Cleveland Heights. While the densest areas tend to be relatively close to Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park, they are not adequately served with facilities for active recreation such as ballfields, playgrounds, and recreational centers. (OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 16)*

- *Conflicts between park uses. This policy directs the Office of Parks and Recreation to site new park facilities in a manner which maximizes the usefulness of the facility while minimizing its impact on existing use. Basic principle: Large enough areas should be provided for each activity. (OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 34)*

MAINTENANCE

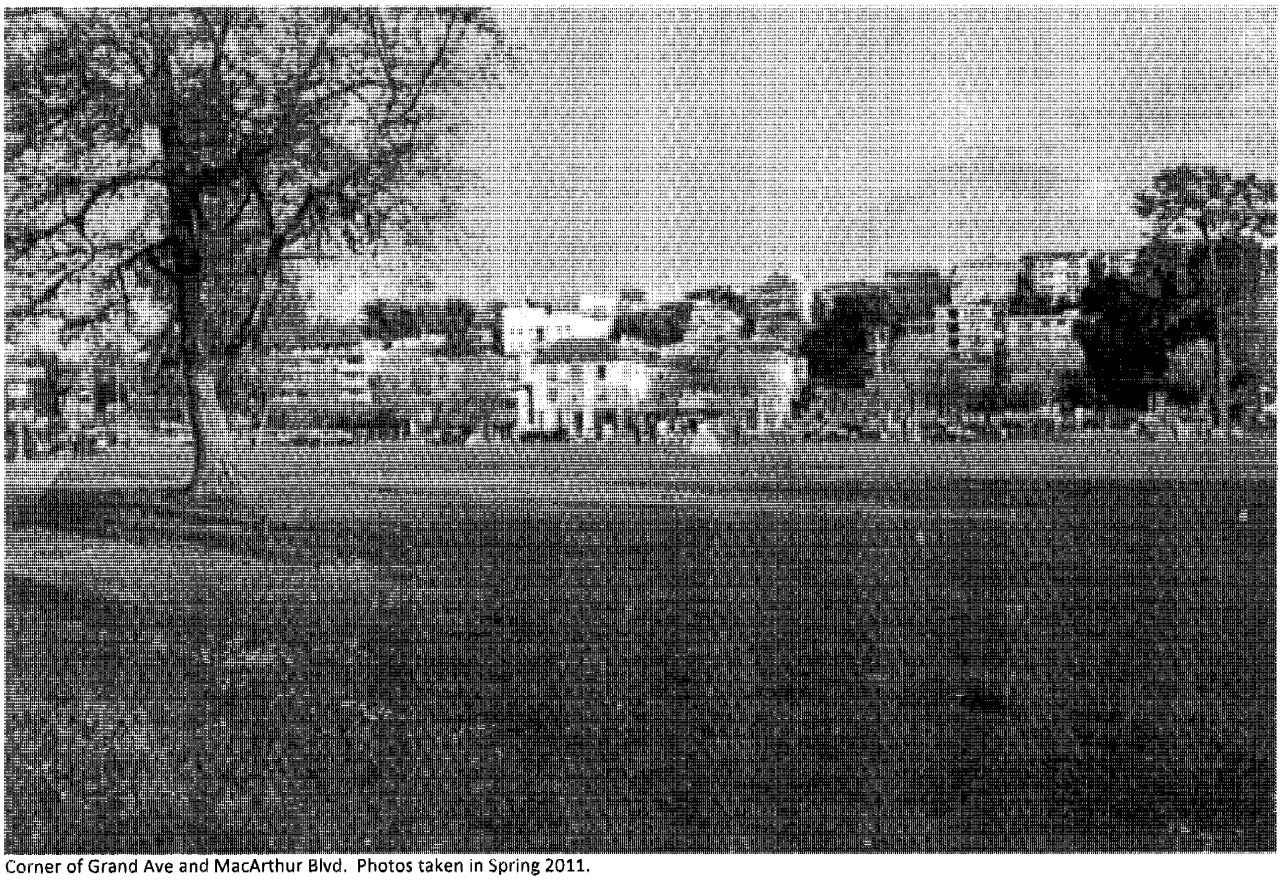
- *Projected maintenance costs should be fully accounted for in all new facilities, with an assurance that these costs will not jeopardize existing facilities. (OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 24)*

1) GATEWAY TO LAKE MERRITT / VISUAL CHARACTER OF PARK

As noted above, Eastshore (Astro) Park is designated by OSCAR as a "gateway" to Lake Merritt, which defines Oakland's beauty. It is a beautiful, green field, well suited to recreational use, and enjoyed by the many who circulate around it. It provides a sense of spaciousness in a very dense, urban environment.

The park is the central focal point of the neighborhood. It is bordered on the south side by the freeway and by hillsides on the east and west. It is located at the bottom of a large bowl that is visible from the surrounding residences. At this location, Interstate 580 empties onto MacArthur Boulevard providing daily access to the Lake Merritt neighborhood for as many as 30,000 households and an untold number of visitors. It is a key transportation link in our community, well utilized by buses, pedestrians, and cyclists. It also connects the Grand Lake retail district to the lake.

Improvements to this space should be in the form of additional landscaping, paths, seating, public art, or daylighting of covered creeks. Any of these would contribute to the beauty of this prime location.



Corner of Grand Ave and MacArthur Blvd. Photos taken in Spring 2011.

Conversely, the construction of a fenced dog park in this location would be extremely detrimental to the visual character of the park. The dog park design approved by PRAC in December 2010 consists of 700 feet of chain link fence surrounding 21,000 square feet of space. The existing grass would be removed and the ground surface would be covered with wood chips, turning the cherished green space into a brown lot. The proposal includes growing vines on the chain link fence in an effort to obscure this unattractive feature.

Regardless of attempts to mitigate this eyesore through landscaping screening, the space would surely be brown, fenced and unsightly. Eastshore (Astro) Park sits atop two major watershed creeks and is saturated with rainwater during winter

and spring months. During this time, the dog park will be unusable due to poor drainage and the smell of urine-soaked wood chips would be pervasive.



Ohlone Dog Park, Berkeley, CA.

The above picture was taken March 2011 Ohlone Dog Park was sited by ODOG as an example of a dog park that utilizes wood chips.

A development of this sort will surely reverse the positive trends that the Lake Merritt neighborhoods have experienced over the past several years. The improvements to Lake Merritt's perimeter made through Measure DD, the wildly successful farmer's market and the addition of Trader Joe's and other successful retail has made the Grand Lake area a destination. The increasing vibrancy of the neighborhood would likely be impacted by a fenced dog run at this gateway.

2. RECREATIONAL SPACE/IMPACT ON EXISTING USE

Active recreation is identified by OSCAR as being inadequately served in the Lake Merritt area. Eastshore (Astro) Park is the only flat, open field for active recreational play in the Lake Merritt area. The proposed dog park plan would reduce the available play field area by approximately half.



The fenced dog run would be located adjacent to a tot lot, and result in the loss of half of the usable play field.

As acknowledged by OSCAR, the play field is regularly used for many recreational activities. These include soccer, volleyball, flag football, baseball, circle rules football, Frisbee, slack line, picnicking, drumming performances, yoga, and lacrosse. Many of the groups that use this space have been using it for more than a decade and, in some cases, more than twenty years. Because the space is wide open and unprogrammed, groups do not compete with one another for use. This is essential to the success of Eastshore (Astro) Park, and follows the OSCAR guideline creating space of adequate size to reduce conflicts between uses.

The addition of a 21,000 square foot chain-link fenced dog run would subdivide the space such that existing uses will no longer have adequate space. There are frequently multiple activities taking place simultaneously. All activities will be more crowded, which may create an unsafe situation for children using the playground. Additionally, Bayhill High School has expressed strong concerns as Bayhill uses the field for daily PE classes and touch football games.

All current users of the play field would be subjected to a constrained space with a fence further limiting range of play. Additionally sports and recreation users of the park will experience noise, odor and dust blowing out from the proposed dog area. The Oakland Youth Tennis program, among others, has complained about similar conditions at the Mosswood Tennis Court. The tennis courts at Mosswood Park are adjacent to the Mosswood Dog Play Area.

SAVE ASTRO PARK has consulted with many of the users of Eastshore (Astro) Park. They are unanimously opposed to the Lakeview Dog Park proposal and in favor of retaining the unprogrammed play field at Eastshore (Astro) Park.



Active recreational areas are identified by the OSCAR Element as an unmet need in the Lake Merritt neighborhood.



Special Olympics practice, November 5, 2011

3. PROXIMITY TO CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA / SPILLOVER INTO NON-DOG AREAS

Given the close proximity of the proposed dog park to the children's play area, children and parents would be subject to noise, smell and dust from the potential dog area, making their experience unpleasant. Also, the flexibility of the space where families use both the tot lot and the green space concurrently becomes constrained with the addition of a nearby fence.

Although dogs and children can be good together, the City of Seattle determined that it is important to avoid siting a dog run in a location near a children's play area. Many children as well as adults have a fear of dogs and they should not be required to interact while using the children's play area. From the perspective of liabiility, the two park uses are incompatible.

The proposed dog run at Astro Park would be only 25 feet from the existing children's tot lot. With dozens of dogs and dozens of children in the same area at the same time, the risk of an incident would be greatly increased. Although a chain link fence would separate the two uses, spillover would likely happen and the probability of dog bites to occur in the City-owned dog park increases. SAVE ASTRO PARK strongly urges the City of Oakland to not allow these incompatible uses in the same location.

4. INSUFFICIENT MAINTENANCE FOR A HIGHLY VISIBLE PARK LOCATION

Maintenance of a dog run requires a considerable amount of work. The current maintenance proposal calls for the City to pick up the trash at the dog park, routinely replenish a half -acre of wood chips, and remove graffiti. Due to budget cuts, Oakland Public Works staff would be hard-pressed to spend the time needed to keep this dog run well maintained.

The proposal calls for a volunteer maintenance force and ODOG would be responsible for seeking sustainable financial resources for operation, maintenance and a volunteer program. This is not advisable, says a study by U.C. Davis researchers, entitled, *Guidelines for Establishment and Maintenance of Successful Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas.* The researchers state, "it is suggested that an active dog park club help advise the municipality as to the needed resources to maintain the park, and to help monitor their condition. However, do not rely on the club to handle the maintenance." [Emphasis added.]

The Stewardship Agreement between the City of Oakland, Office of Parks and Recreation, Public Works Agency and Lakeview Park Dog Owner Group (LPDOG) is likely insufficient. Does it describe any penalties levied to any party to the agreement for failure to perform the responsibilities described within? Does any party take responsibility for the fence itself, if it should become damaged by vine growth, undermined by enthusiastic digging activities or simply depreciates from age? Is there a description of ground treatment for odor control and acid management? What equipment and supplies are required? Who is responsible to provide them? Where would the equipment and supplies be stored? Finally, how will new officers be elected or appointed by its members in the case that an existing officer might move away or retire?

Maintenance is the key to the success of all the Measure DD improvements and any new enhancements. OSCAR and dog park publications also stress the importance of properly funded maintenance plans for any new projects. Due to vine and planting maintenance, this dog park would require more volunteer resources than any of the other dog parks in Oakland. Also vines are seldom used for municipal plantings due to the increase of care and attention that they naturally require. Given that the Department of Public Works laid off 17 gardeners in July of 2011 due to budget problems it would not be wise to add enhancements that require extra maintenance. Furthermore, it would be irresponsible for the City to rely on a volunteer group for ongoing maintenance, given the visibility of this space and its proximity to retail businesses. The stakes are too high.

5. PARKING IMPACTS

The dog park proponents state that no one will drive to the dog park, however, this claim is unsubstantiated and an unreasonable assumption. Dog park users drive to dog parks 95% of the time, according to a study done on 17 dog parks by the Program in Veterinary Behavioral Medicine, U.C. Davis. Every dog park guidance document, including those referenced by the Trust for Public Land, state that parking should be included in dog park plans. Currently, Cleveland Heights and Adams Point constituents drive to the area for their retail and entertainment needs. Parking supply in the shopping district is insufficient and additional parking is not included with the proposed dog park. In fact, the proposed plan calls for removing several parking spots on Lakeshore Avenue to accommodate the service driveway of the dog area.

The proximity of the dog park to the Grand Avenue and Lakeshore Avenue retail areas is a significant issue. Eastshore Park is currently zoned C-30, which indicates it is in a major retail district thoroughfare. In recent years, new commercial development (Trader Joe's, Walgreen's, new restaurants, the Farmer's Market), as well as the City's stated goal to increase population density in the area, has put further demands on traffic and parking capacity. The area is entirely too congested for a dog park and would adversely impact traffic and parking. As proposed, service trucks would stop on busy Lakeshore and then back in, crossing the heavily used sidewalk. This activity would take place in between a bus stop and the popular children's play area, creating an unsafe situation for all those nearby.

According to the 2007 Environmental Impact Record for Measure DD Implementation Project, approximately 3,700 cars per hour pass through the intersection of Lakeshore Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard in the peak evening hours. The proposed dog park would increase vehicular traffic, especially during peak dog park hours in the early evening and on Saturdays when restaurant, theater and the Farmer's Market traffic dominate the area. Additional dog park traffic would negatively impact surrounding streets supporting the Grand Lake retail and commercial areas. Furthermore, Measure DD projects reduced roadways around Lake Merritt from four to two lanes. The impact on traffic at El Embarcadero and MacArthur Boulevard was already identified by the Cleveland Heights Yahoo group in October 2010 as an issue for the area. And meetings with the City's traffic & engineering departments in January 2011 yielded no progress on the issue.

It's Not Even A Good Dog Park

The site is not suitable for many reasons. There are [10] major bus lines that run down MacArthur and Lakeshore. That combined with heavy traffic can make dogs agitated by the noise and is not a peaceful or safe spot for the dogs to play.

Shade is critical for dogs as they are unable to cool themselves as efficiently as humans. The American Kennel Club, Animal Planet and The Association of Pet Dog Trainers, all list shade as a requirement for a dog park. Eastshore (Astro) Park offers no trees and hence no shade for dogs. Although trees could be planted, it would take many years before dogs could find this location to be tolerable on warmer days.



Photo of Eastshore (Astro) Park grass taken March 2011. Individual is standing within the perimeter of the proposed dog run.

Additionally, Eastshore (Astro) Park's poor drainage and small size make it unsuitable for a dog park. The park sits atop two major watershed creeks, and is saturated with rainwater during the winter and spring months. Poor drainage often leaves the park unusable for months and could lead to sanitation issues, as feces and stagnant water are a breeding ground for giardia.

Despite some grading work the situation has not been remedied and the current plans for the dog park do not address these ongoing drainage issues. As a result, a dog park at Eastshore (Astro) Park would be unusable for parts of winter and spring, yet remain visually brown, fenced and uninviting.

Runoff from the proposed dog park compounds these issues as it would eventually drain into the underground creeks as well as Lake Merritt. The runoff issue requires a creekside permit and possible EIR.

The Lakeview Dog Park proposal is ½ acre. A 21,000 square foot dog park is not a recommended size for a successful dog park. According to American Kennel Club and California Parks and Recreation Society (See addendum), the minimum recommended size for a dog park is 1 acre. Applying Oakland's zoning requirements, parks no less than 7 acres in size should be sought to add appropriately sized dog parks. Of course there are exceptions, but they should only be considered in areas where there is blight, crime or underutilization. The intersection of Lakeshore Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard, a primary gateway to Lake Merritt, is not blighted or underutilized. If our City staff, elected officials and community members are committed to spending so much time on a proposed dog park at Lake Merritt, let's be sure to create one that can be safely and maximally used.

6. PLANNING PROCESS CONSIDERATIONS

No Community Input on Current Plan

In 2002, a dog park was added to Lake Merritt Master Plan as a "potential dog park" at Eastshore Park with minimal details. Town Hall meetings to get community input were conducted in January 2004, and the community reviewed a preliminary design at a June 2006 meeting.

The scope of the project was a dog park and butterfly garden, which included a very intricate landscape design plan with irrigation, garden pergolas at both ends of the dog park, wrought iron gates and a butterfly garden. The total budget for the original project was over $400,000.

In late 2009, the plan resurfaced as a dramatically scaled back version of the original plan with a new budget of $45,000. The new budget includes the fence, wood chips, concrete perimeter, irrigation and some landscaping and not much else. There were no community meetings to get preliminary input on the new proposal.

Community Notice Requirement

OSCAR requires that pre-development meetings occur and that the public be very much involved in open space management. The current proposal is a completely different plan and therefore requires a pre-development neighborhood meeting per the planning code. Nancy Nadel's PRAC design recommendation mentions that the new plan was reviewed by PWA, OPR and ADA, as well as the Adam's Point Action Council. However, there were no community meetings to get preliminary input on the revised 2009 plans.

In fact, Councilmember Nadel's office did not notice the community email groups of any progress on the original dog park in 2007, 2008 or 2009. In August 2010 a neighbor in the Cleveland Heights community Yahoo! group sent an email about dog parks and was met with an abrupt response from Councilmember Nadel. In September 2010 the Yahoo community email moderator tried to take a poll of the community's interest in the Eastshore (Astro) location. Councilmember Nadel made it clear to the list she was not open to discussing the project, which is one reason the project has created such uproar. Members of the community who had an opposing position were never given a voice. Furthermore, her office never shared with the community the new plans that removed 90% of the budget, a significant material change.

Even after all this email activity, Councilmember Nadel's office did not inform the community email groups of the December 8, 2010 PRAC Design Review meeting. ODOG only emailed information about the plans and the PRAC meeting to their supporter list. It was on December 5th (three days before the meeting) that the community was informed that a new plan existed by a dog park supporter on the ODOG list who did not support the Eastshore (Astro) Park plan. Many of the community members who oppose the Eastshore location did not have enough notice to attend the meeting.

It was only after the PRAC Design approval for the dog park that a community meeting was held. The meeting, held on March 23, 2011, was attended by approximately 150 residents and clearly demonstrated that the community was divided on this issue. Despite over 10 years of planning, a significant number of community members do not support a dog park at Eastshore (Astro) Park and a significant majority (almost 70%) of people who attended the meeting expressed concerns about the location. Proposing a dog park in a well-loved, small neighborhood park that is widely used for recreational purposes has created a contentious community situation.

A PRAC meeting was then held in July of 2011. The question for the PRAC was whether or not to recommend a CUP for this dog run. No recommendation was made as there was a tie vote (3-3). The meeting ended with Audrey Jones Taylor, head of Oakland Park and Recreation stating that this matter had, "died in PRAC." Without a recommendation from PRAC, this item should not have moved to the Planning Commission. According to Oakland's OSCAR (Open Space Conservation And Recreation) policy if newly proposed recreational uses could significantly change the character of the park, as is the case with this proposed dog run, both PRAC and Planning Commission approval is required.

ASTRO PARK IS A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

While this document serves to outline the reasons why our community does not want and should not have to endure a fenced dog run at the Eastshore (Astro) Park location, what is difficult to communicate is the essence of the space and the emotion it evokes in our neighborhood. This space is loved—by many and for many different reasons. This is not just a patch of green. This space represents the best of Oakland:

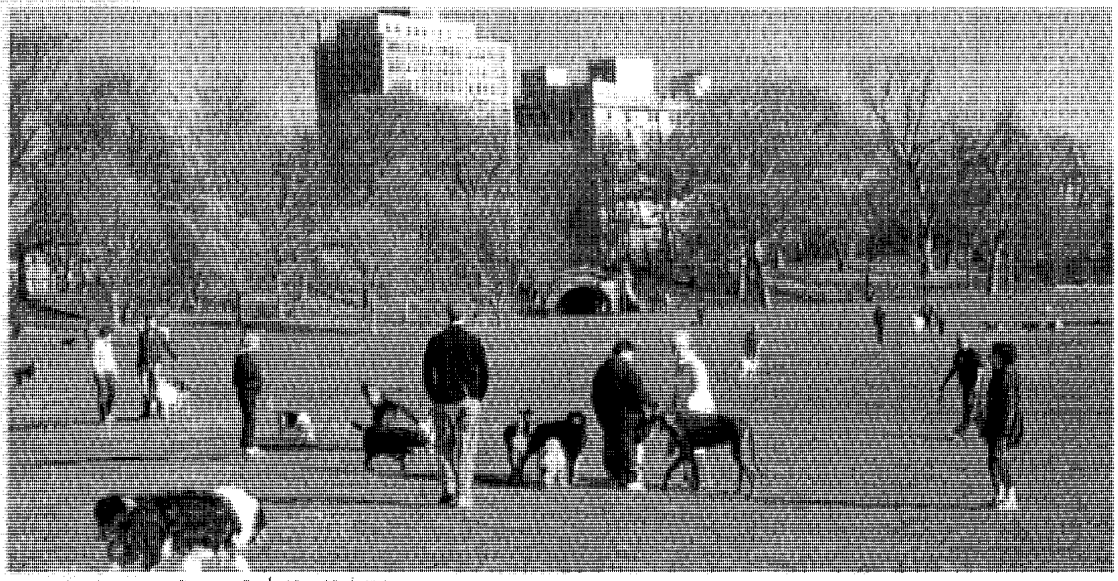
"...we use Astro Park every Sunday at 3pm to play soccer. A group of around 20 show up and play soccer from 3pm till around 6 or until it gets dark. This is not just a group of your average American guys playing soccer. This is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-religious group. Here is a group of Muslims from Afghanistan playing soccer with Hindus from Sri Lanka, Buddhist from Bhutan, and Orthodox Christians from Eritrea - laughing and playing soccer. They are the future of Oakland. They are the future of our nation. Allowing green spaces like Astro Park to exist allows for connections and bridges to be built across cultural, language, religious, and social barriers. It is one of the few green spaces in Oakland big enough to host a group like ours. "

(Excerpt from a letter sent to Commissioners on 3/4/2012)

It is for every reason in this document and every reason you see and feel when you read the letters from our community that we urgently ask you to deny the Conditional Use Permit for the proposed dog run at Eastshore (Astro) Park.



Creating Dog Parks - Without Rancor



Peter Harnik photo

Prospect Park, New York City

By Peter Harnik and Cerise Bridges

DOG PARKS UNLEASHED! That's how a tabloid might cover it. Or, just as plausibly, FIDO FINALLY GETS TO PLAY! Either way, the hottest new city park issue to hit America -- the skyrocketing support for creating places to let dogs run free - has been challenging park directors, roiling communities and making headlines.

Dogs have always played a big role in city parks, but their traditional position at the end of a lead has been upended by changing mores and a rising enthusiasm among dog owners for much more active play. By one estimate there are now at least 2,000 off-leash dog areas, ranging from small parks entirely devoted to canines to substantial corners of larger green spaces—and the number is growing exponentially. From Berkeley, Calif. (site of reputedly the nation's first, in 1983) to San Antonio and Atlanta (which each opened their first only in 2003), the issue has provoked excitement and furor, with raucous public hearings sometimes running well past midnight. Interestingly, in some cases the dog park issue has badly fragmented a city while in others it has been resolved harmoniously, even adding potency to the park constituency. Why the difference?

In a crowded city where almost every square foot is precious, it's not easy for a park department to announce that some of its land will be devoted to free-running dogs. To some folks that sounds like "your dogs over my children." But from the other side of the fence, the reaction is equally strong: "My kid happens to be a dog. We all pay taxes here, don't we?"

Of all the clashes, nowhere has it gotten as bad as in San Francisco, a city with multiple park agencies and as many dogs as children.

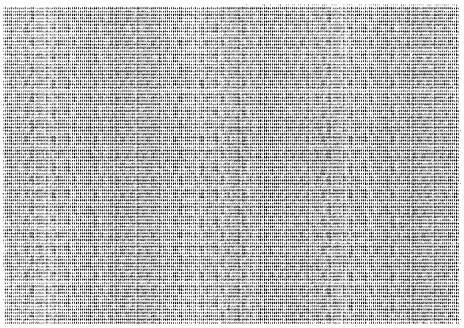
In the 1970s, an off-leash culture began on some of the chilly, foggy and remote San Francisco beaches operated by the National Park Service. Initially, removing leashes

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Dog Owner Associations

Who says dog owners (and their opponents) don't have a sense of humor?

SCOOP: Sacramento Owners for Off-leash Parks, Sacramento

KC SCOOP: Kansas City Society of Canine Owners for an Off-leash Park, Kansas City

POOP: People Organized for Off-Leash dog Parks, Nashville

PUP - People Using Parks, Oregon

PiP - Partners in Parks, Milwaukee

FIDO - Fellowship in the Interest of Dogs and their Owners, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, New York

ROMP: Responsible Owners of Mannerly Pets, Minneapolis

Fort Woof Dog Park, Forth Worth, Tex.

LAPP: Leash-free Alliance of Piedmont Park, Atlanta, Georgia

COLA: Citizens for Off-Leash Areas, Seattle (and other locations)

UnCOLA: Off-leash opposition group, Seattle

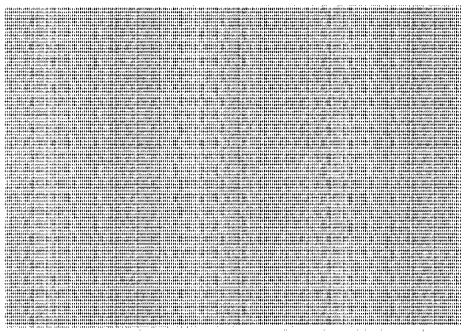
was illegal because of a blanket prohibition on all Park Service land, but a special advisory group recommended an exception for portions of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Not everyone in the city approved, but it did provide an escape valve to keep off-leash dogs from running in more heavily used places like Golden Gate Park or Union Square. Then, in 2001 park naturalists realized that the populations of two threatened beach birds, the snowy plover and the bank swallow, were dropping rapidly and that it was probably due to the unleashed dogs. Suddenly park police began enforcing the leash law and handing out expensive tickets. Just as suddenly, owners began to take their pets to much smaller and more centrally located neighborhood parks run by the city park department.

In San Francisco, the second most densely populated city in the nation (after New York), even quarter-acre patches of green are dearly loved and heavily used. If one of them is suddenly peppered with dog droppings, or if someone is bitten while sunbathing, or if mothers start screaming at the owner of an off-leash dog, the whole city quickly hears about it. Perceiving a lack of leadership (the city has two park agencies which rarely communicate, plus the mayor and the city council are usually at odds), every park became a battleground. Both sides dug in, roiled by both the media and a number of grandstanding politicians. Ultimately, the Park Service brought in two organizations, the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and the Center for Collaborative Policy, to conduct a "negotiated rule making process," a formal consensus approach to problem solving. There are early indications that San Francisco's off-leash dog battle might eventually be amenable to a negotiation, but this particular process is federally mandated and, as such, is so bureaucratic that it can easily take years. When asked if he was surprised that a dog park issue has gone so far, Mike Eng, a senior program manager with the conflict resolution institute was appropriately diplomatic. "On the grand scale of environmental conflicts we deal with, this is low," he said, "but with the emotional attachments people have for their dogs, it is understandable."

Perhaps the real wonder should be reserved for Seattle, 1000 miles to the north, which made the civic transition to dog parks with relative ease and polish. Seattle, too, was hit by the off-leash trend in the early 1990s and, after complaints escalated, the city initially took a hard-line approach, adding more animal control officers and increasing the number of citations. Concerned about where the policy would lead, dog owners formed Citizens for Off-Leash Areas (COLA) and caught the attention of a city council member. The Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation was not the least bit enthusiastic, but COLA helped identify about 70 possible off-leash sites and the City Council mandated a 15-month pilot program at eight of them in 1996.

The pilot program made all the difference. First, it showed residents that the city was in charge and acting reasonably. Second, it taught Seattle how to identify site selection criteria that would lead to successful locations, which turned out to be: (1) avoid interference with other established uses or department-sponsored activities; (2) avoid locations directly abutting residences; (3) assure availability of close-by parking; (4) avoid locations near children's play areas; (4) choose spots where there are minimal impacts on the visual character of a park; (5) site so as to avoid spillover into non-dog areas; and (6) avoid sensitive environmental habitats.

Seattle also learned something else. "Try to find property with no history," says



A Temperament Test

Every dog park has guidelines and rules of etiquette. Commonly, owners are required to clean up after their pets and are prohibited from bringing aggressive dogs, dogs in heat, and dogs that have not been vaccinated. They are also required to be within calling distance of their pets. Some facilities are divided into "large dog" and "small dog" areas. However, Paw Run Recreation Area, a privately run dog park in Ann Arbor, Mich., takes things a step further. Paw Run requires dogs to pass a temperament test to enter.

The temperament test evaluates two forms of aggression: dog-to-people and dog-to-dog. In each test the dog's reaction to a greeting, handling, and object possession is graded from A ("leans forward, averts eyes, relaxes posture and wags tail"), to F ("growls or tries to bite the handler").

Though grades are not a judgment about dog's worth, says Carolyn Kinsler, operator of Paw Run Recreation Area, "members appreciate the test, assured that aggressive dogs will not be a threat to their own or their dog's enjoyment."

Dewey Potter, spokeswoman for the park department. "It's a lot easier than persuading people to change a field's use into something different."

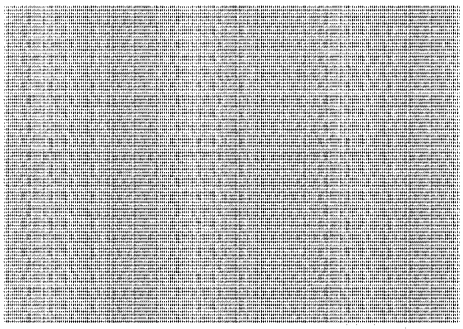
Thanks to a phased-in program by a no-nonsense agency that backed up its promises with both real facilities in some places and tickets in others, Seattle's program today is "wildly successful," according to Potter. In fact, dogs in Seattle have even helped reclaim some parks from illegal users: in 1995, when police reported a high volume of unlawful alcohol, drug and sexual activity in three particular parks, the park department converted them to pilot off-leash areas and criminal activity soon evaporated.

There's no doubt that off-leash areas are good for dogs and their owners. The dogs can run and cavort; the humans can stand or sit, talk or read, watch and provide comfort, if necessary. It's pretty similar to a children's playground and just about as much fun, even for non-dog owning passers-by who often stand at the fence and enjoy all the activity. The more enterprising sites even have playground-like props and accoutrements - sprinklers, fake fire hydrants, wading pools, bridges, tunnels and more - often in bright, primary colors (even though dogs are largely color-blind). When dogs run off excess energy they become less aggressive. When people socialize they often strengthen their community. In Seattle, off-leash areas were so successful that one pundit dubbed them "the singles' bars of the 90s."

There's also no doubt that nearby neighbors are often less enthusiastic. As with playgrounds, noise is a factor, and most people have less tolerance for barking than for children's delighted shrieks. Dog parks also take a physical beating. Even beyond issues of droppings and urine, there is no way to keep grass green, growing and healthy on any dog park smaller than about 15 acres, according to Don Colvin at Indianapolis Department of Parks and Recreation. Thus, most dog parks are surfaced with shredded bark, pebbles, synthetic materials - or, de facto, with mud and dust.

Robert E. Lee Park, in Baltimore, exemplifies the range of problems - environmental and otherwise—which can arise on an inadequately planned and managed space. Lee is not officially a dog park, but because of its relative remoteness and a lack of enforcement, it has become a popular one. "Overrun," is how one user put it. "Families used to come to picnic, but that's out of the question now with all the dogs running around," he said. When the city announced that it would close the park for a year to reconstruct a bridge and to remediate soil that it said was contaminated by the dogs, owners engaged in what park superintendent Connie Brown called "civil disobedience," cutting fences and circumventing welded steel bars. When a local citizen group pleaded for the creation of a fenced off-leash area within Robert E. Lee Park, the park department deferred the issue until a policy on off-leash areas can be established. Baltimore is a classic case of a city without an off-leash policy, without a plan of action, without criteria and without enforcement—there are only two animal control officers for 650,000 residents.

The story from Atlanta's Piedmont Park had a happier ending. There, too, an out-of-the-way portion of the 185-acre park had evolved into an illegal but popular off-leash gathering spot. When it came time to renovate that section of the park, the Piedmont Park Conservancy realized it would have to confront the issue head-on or risk a Baltimore-like uprising. Fortuitously, a solution was at hand. Piedmont Park has a number of undeveloped, unusable sections which have never evolved a culture or a user con-



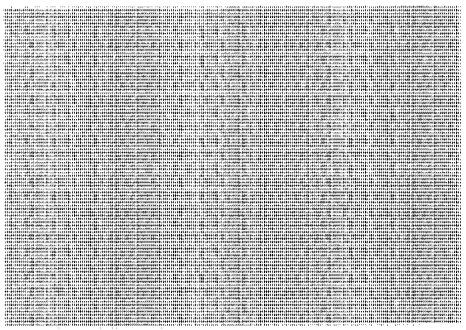
stituency. One, down in a valley shielded by trees and tracks from earshot of most homes, had recently been renovated. It was there that conservancy staff, relying entirely on donations from dog lovers, erected a fence and posted rules. It has become one of the most frequented areas of the park and operates virtually around the clock. "Atlanta has no other dog park," said conservancy Development Director Kendra Cotton. "It was so desperately needed that people treat it as a gift, and take care of it." (The facility is basically self-policed by users, although after a pit bull killed a miniature pincher, the two-acre park was divided into sections based on canine size and weight, and a security patrol was added. The conservancy is also considering instituting a temperament test for dogs.)

The cutting edge in off-leash management is to do a dog park without a fence. This is relatively common in some of the sprawling cities of the west and southwest, such as Colorado Springs and Portland, Ore. Surprisingly, it's also the rule in New York City's Prospect Park.

Prospect Park is a 526-acre oasis in the heart of Brooklyn, one of the most densely populated places in America. Today it is a manicured delight of forest and field, but in the 1970s it was in shambles, a dangerous no-man's land where dogs were both a problem and a source of protection, and many of them were off-leash. With the creation of the Prospect Park Alliance and the successful effort to turn the park around, Tupper Thomas, park administrator, decided to add some structure to the chaotic situation. But she used the clock and the sign, not the fence. She allowed leash-free only in the morning and evening - and dog owners who didn't comply began receiving costly citations. She also stressed that taking off the leash was a privilege, not a right, and it could be taken away if there were problems. To defuse a potentially explosive situation, advocates formed Fellowship in the Interest of Dogs and Owners (FIDO) to maintain good communication with the park staff and to support self-enforcement of the rules. FIDO is now part of a community committee on park policy.

Specifically, here are the rules: from April 1 to October 31, off-leash dogs are permitted from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. in three specific places -- Long Meadow, Peninsula Meadow and the Nethermead - which total an amazing 116 acres; in Nethermead they are also permitted from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., but only Monday through Friday. From November 1 to March 31, the off-leash hours for all three areas are 5 p.m. to 9 a.m. seven days a week. Josephine Pittari, vice president of the Alliance, reports that off-leash problems are minimal; she attributes the program's success to good communication between the park and dog owners. In addition to some signs, the Alliance aggressively gives out cards which state clearly the rules, hours and locations.

Perhaps a more typical response was in Milwaukee. When Citizens for Public Dog Parks brought up the issue in the early 1990s, the group was greeted with deep skepticism. The county board expressed concern about maintenance costs and about slotting county land for dogs. Eventually, creativity and persistence paid off - the group located a 26-acre backwater between a highway and a river that the county owned but had no plans for. But even then, the county put most of the weight of the experiment on the backs of the dog owners by leasing the land (for $1) instead of operating it as an official county park. When Granville Off-Leash Dog Park officially opened in the spring of 1999, Citizens for Public Dog Parks changed its name to Partners in Parks (PiP). The



county agreed to pay half the $4,000 cost of fencing the area but it left all other expenses and management decisions to PIP, which subsists on voluntary contributions and memberships.

Fred Mennecke, board president of PIP, isn't bitter. "Milwaukee County is not a very dog friendly area, but it also has budget problems. If it were known that the county put money into a dog park, all hell would break loose." Despite its step-child status, Granville is a big success - possibly because of its dramatic landscape (stemming from the dumping of old construction fill that resulted in hills and wetlands with woods and trails), or possibly because it is still the only dog park in Milwaukee County.

In the long run, Milwaukee's experience may be more telling than Prospect Park's. Cities - Brooklyn included - need more parkland. Instead of cramming more users into existing parks, the search should be on for alternative places to take the leash off - preferably using the not insignificant political and economic clout of urban dog lovers. Dog parks can be established on vacant lots, on drainage detention sites or on former landfills. For instance, villagers in Weston, Wis., plan shortly to officially open their dog park on top of a former landfill that has been covered with topsoil and planted. They raised $7000 for fencing, benches, and a waste disposal center for the 10-acre facility. Berkeley's Caesar Chavez Park, a closed landfill, designates 17 of its 90 acres as off-leash. (It's now the largest dog park in the San Francisco Bay area.) Genessee Park in southeast Seattle, another newly sealed landfill, includes a 3-acre off-leash area and a ball field. (Staying true to the goal of choosing land with no previous park history, Seattle is also utilizing a fenced stormwater detention site for another off-leash spot called Blue Dog Pond.)

Though dog parks are in high demand, no park department has thus far taken the step of purchasing land for one. "I don't think we're there yet," says Christine Weber of FIDO Carolina. "Normally, dog parks are added to an existing park or are part of the master plan for a new multi-purpose park." Even parks on landfills, because they are usually quite large, are designed to meet a variety of recreational purposes.

The demand for dog parks is strong and growing. This trend has the capacity to add significant power to the general park movement - or it can create divisions that debilitate it. More so than any other new segment of the park user universe (infinitely more so than skateboarders, for instance), dog owners are a constituency with clout. (The U.S. "dog economy" is estimated at around $75 billion a year.) By communicating sensitively and by planning carefully together, park advocates of all stripes - including both dog lovers and haters - should be able to strengthen urban park systems across the board through better design, better space utilization and the acquisition of more land.

Clevenger, Ann

From: **Miller, Scott**
Sent: **Thursday, April 12, 2012 10:32 AM**
To: **Clevenger, Ann**
Subject: **FW: Dog Park: Location Decision**

Attachments: **AlternativeSolution.pdf**



AlternativeSolution.pdf

FYI.

-----Original Message-----
From: maria@lukasoakland.com [mailto:maria@lukasoakland.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 9:08 AM
To: Miller, Scott
Subject: Dog Park: Location Decision

Hi Scott,

Yesterday I emailed you my comments related to the Lakeview Dog Park, with a focus on the policy that I believe supports opposition. Let me know if you have any questions.

I wanted to address one area, where I think there's conflicting policy information. I feel support for the dog park location is mostly based on it's inclusion in the Lake Merritt Master Plan. The LMMP identifies the location but does not give any detail on the dog park plan. At that time, the dog park proposal was a $400,000 project with pergolas at both side, wrought iron fencing, butterfly gardens. I believe this design recognized the central and visible park space. However, the current budget is only $50,000 and the location decision was never readdressed.

My understanding from Emily is they landed on Eastshore because it was the only place that the bird people did not say "no" to. PRAC was very concerned at the July meeting that there was no formal location decision process. Honestly, even many the supporters of the dog park said the location was not ideal. But they've been told it's the only option.

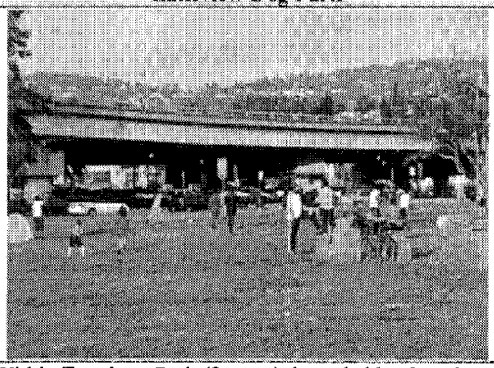
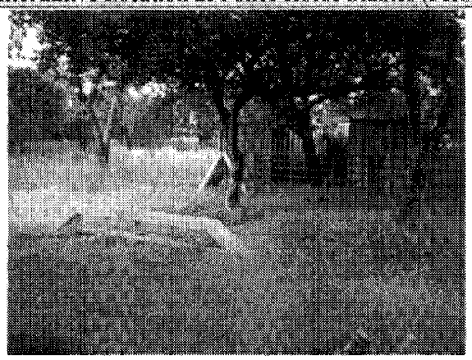
From the very beginning, I've advocated alternative location. The former police horse stables is a good alternative site, but no one will talk to me about it until Lakeview/Eastshore is resolved. I'm attaching a summary of that space and how it compares to Eastshore. There are other options too. I'm committed to helping find an alternative, but I don't have any support at this time.

I'll be at Eastshore this Saturday from 9am to 10am picking up trash if you want to see the park and talk more. I'll be wearing a red jacket.
Best. Maria

Alternative Location Solution for Lake Merritt Dog Park

Contact: Maria Alderete 510-409-8582 or maria@lukasoakland.com

Side-by-Side Comparison of the Two Lake Merritt Dog Park Sites

	Lakeview Dog Park	Alternative Location at Police Horse Stables (PHS)
Photo		
Location	Within Eastshore Park (2 acres), bounded by Grand Ave., MacArthur Blvd. & Lakeshore Ave. Located in central area and heavily used.	Within Lakeside Park (75 acres) south of Children's Fairyland, west of the Oakland Bandstand. Former Police Horse Stables site. Currently fenced and vacant. Five blocks from Eastshore Park
Dog Park Size	21,000 square feet or 24% of the park. OSCAR mandates new uses in parks not exceed 15%.	20,000 square feet or less than 1% of park.
Community Access	Walking distance for many Grand Lake residents. ½ to 1-mile walk for Adam's Point and Cleveland Heights. Over 1 mile for Uptown.	Walking distance for Adam's Point & Uptown residents. Approx ½-mile walk for Grand Lake and just under 1 mile for Cleveland Heights.
Needs	Less need for dog park for Cleveland Heights & Trestle Glen due to home ownership and backyard space.	More need for dog park for Adam's Point due to apartment living with no backyard space.
Walking/ Parking	Best walking access for Grand Lake. With the exception of the Farmer's Market on Saturday, most of the surrounding neighborhoods drive to the area. Potential for big impact on retail areas.	Best walking access for Adam's Point & Uptown Paid parking at the park entrance, meter parking on Grand, free parking on Perkins and north side of Grand. No retail impact.
Zoning	OSCAR identifies Eastshore Park as "heavily-used "and "gateway" to Lake Merritt. Adding a fenced area would greatly impact open space and is not visually appealing for this central area that is designated by OSCAR as a gateway. Has the only large recreation field available in the Lake Merritt area for residents and local schools. This use is protected as it is identified as an unmet need by OSCAR. The plan submitted to PRAC in Dec. 2010 had 10% of the budget of the original plan. No longer befitting of this prime location.	OSCAR indicates new uses should focus on underutilized areas. Formerly used as Police Horse Stables, currently unused. Already fenced, not eliminating community recreational use. New use would help to get rid of homeless and undesirable issues in the area.
Site	Poor drainage, issue due to fecal presence and would not be usable during wet season. High visibility and proximity to retail increase priority for city maintenance and additional costs for beautification of dog park, at a time when there is a budget crisis and pending layoffs. Proximity to tot lot biggest concern of community.	Area surrounded by trees and not visible on Harrison St. side, more appropriate for fenced area with dirt & wood chips. Safer for dogs due to higher fence and not close to extremely busy intersection. Not near a tot lot and will have higher fences.

Contact: Maria Alderete 510-409-8582 or maria@lukasoakland.com

Key details to consider for the Police Horse Stables (PHS) site:

- The PHS dog park would be located mostly in an underutilized portion of Lakeside Park.
- The Police Horse Stables site, located at the south end of Children's Fairyland, has a history of homeless residents and crime that would be deterred by greater use.
- The original need for a dog park came from Adams Point constituents. This high density, multi-family residential area has the greatest need for a dog area nearby. The PHS site would give the best access to the neighborhood with the greatest need.
- The PHS location has a history of animal use (horses and dogs) and is in the recommended "geese exclusion area" identified in the July 2007 Lake Merritt Canada Goose Management Study.
- The PHS site is a sound alternative because of planning considerations, City-wide budgetary concerns, and limited public agency resources, such as maintenance.
- The PHS site would be set back within Lakeside Park, in a peaceful, attractive setting, yet would not obstruct views from surrounding neighborhoods or roadways.
- The PHS site would preserve Eastshore Park, thereby allowing its improvement as a gateway to the Lake Merritt District.

The following points provide policy analysis regarding both the Lakeview and PHS sites:

1. **The OSCAR acknowledges that active recreation use is inadequately served in the Lake Merritt area.** The Lakeview Dog Area would remove 50% of the usable playfield, resulting in significant loss of active recreation area. No such loss would occur at the alternative PHS site.*(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg 43)*
2. **The OSCAR states that open space preservation in the Lake Merritt community is a priority.** *(OSCAR Chapter 2, pg 7)* Preservation of open space at Eastshore Park is greater due to higher density residential development and park demand. At Eastshore Park, the surrounding land use pattern and the presence of Interstate 580 create a need to preserve open space buffers. *(OSCAR, Chapter 2, pg 29)* The PHS site is currently vacant, surrounded by trees in a peaceful area of the park.
3. **The OSCAR identifies Eastshore Park as a "Gateway" to the Lake Merritt District.** The OSCAR explicitly recommends signage improvements, a monument or fountain at Eastshore Park. A fenced dog run is not identified as part of the open space vision for Eastshore Park.*(OSCAR Ch 5, pg. 10, 11 & OS 9.3)*
4. **The OSCAR requires that in built out areas, an emphasis should be on underutilized resources** *(OSCAR Chapter 2, pg. 2 &3)*. Eastshore Park is identified by OSCAR as a heavily used neighborhood park *(OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12)*. PHS is vacant and unused.
5. **The OSCAR recommends no more than 15% of neighborhood park for new uses.** *(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 28)* The same size park has a very different visual impact at these different locations. Eastshore would be dominated by this new use, PHS impact is not as significant. Eastshore Park is too small to accommodate additional uses.

Clevenger, Ann

From: maria@lukasoakland.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 4:39 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park Project

Attachments: Zoning_MA_forPC.pdf



Zoning_MA_forPC.pdf

Dear Ann:

Enclosed please find my personal comments related to the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal's CUP application being considered at the May 2, 2012 Planning Commission Meeting.

I am a dog owner, local business owner and on the Board of Directors for Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation and I regrettably, but deeply oppose this proposal. I feel this opposition is strongly supported in the OSCAR Element of the General Plan, detailed further in my attached zoning comments.

The Oakland Parks Coalition's 2011 Community Report Card states, "Dog parks and community gardens should not be an afterthought in park planning. Rather they should be incorporated into park design and strategically placed," and they acknowledged that the strong public opposition to the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal could have been avoided with a more strategic approach. Instead of pushing this contentious proposal forward, we need to take a step back and do it right.

I don't oppose dog parks, just the proposed location. Lake Merritt's revitalization is inspiring recreation, leisure, spontaneous dance and music all around the lake. I agree with PRAC Commissioner Miller when he said at the July 2011 CUP application hearing "a monument belongs here, not a dog park." A tribute to Samuel Merritt or Lake Merritt District signage is more appropriate than the fenced space proposed. Please come down to the park on a Saturday morning and evaluate for yourself.

I do feel that we need to give more thought on dog use in our parks.
However given the current budget crisis, I recommend looking at on-leash use first as it does not require large capital commitments. At the same time we can start doing our homework on dog parks, which to date has only included the perspective of a small group of well intended dog park supporters. This is important and highly visible park space that deserves broader community input.

Please feel free to contact me at maria@lukasoakland.com or 510-409-8582 if you have questions on this project.

Regards,

Maria Alderete
Luka's LLC, Managing Member
Board of Directors, Friends of Oakland Parks and Recreation Park Steward, Eastshore Park

Respectfully submitted to the Oakland Planning Commission by Maria Alderete
Contact Info: maria@lukasoakland.com or 510-409-8582

Lakeview Dog Park Proposal – Preservation of Open Space Perspective

Eastshore Park is a small, well-loved neighborhood park at the corner of Grand, MacArthur and Lakeshore. Even when not in use, it provides green, open space to buffer our dense, urban environment. A dog park here would further sub-divide our park and overprogram an area that is clearly protected by OSCAR and our planning code. ***Therefore, I ask that you oppose ODOG's application for a minor conditional use permit for the Lakeview Dog Park.***

Aesthetic Impact

Eastshore Park is a vital green link between the Grand Lake retail district and Lake Merritt, the heart of Oakland and the city's aesthetic centerpiece. This central area is a main traffic intersection next to the 580 freeway off ramp and retail businesses, and is surrounded by high rise apartments and a freeway overpass.



Eastshore Park is protected by our code given its gateway designation, proximity to freeway overpass and dense, urban surroundings. A tribute to Samuel Merritt or Lake Merritt signage would be more appropriate.

- ***Eastshore...the park is also a logical "gateway" to the lake area*** *and would benefit from signage improvements or even a monument or fountain of some sort. (OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12)*
- *Policy OS-9.3 Gateway Improvements.* ***Enhance neighborhood and city identity by maintaining or creating gateways.*** *Maintain view corridors and enhance the sense of arrival at the major entrances to the city...Use public art, landscaping, and signage to create stronger City and neighborhood gateways (OSCAR, Chapter 2, pg 63)*
- *Policy OS-3.6 Open Space Buffers Along Freeways. Where compatible with adjacent land uses,* ***support the use of land along, under, or over freeways in urban settings for greenbelts, recreation,*** *public art, or other activities which enhance the usefulness and appearances of such land. (OSCAR, Chapter 2, pg 29)*

The aesthetic impact of a dog park is too great for this central park space. The proposal would greatly impact the green link and replace it with fences, dirt, wood chips and some landscaping. Vines on fences are not

enough for this prominent location and require more maintenance. James Vann (CALM) refused to state an opinion, but did say that the wood chips were unfortunate and that it's not the best place for it.

Eastshore Park is just too small to further sub-divide the space. Our code protects from overprogramming of space. The OSCAR guidelines for buildings in neighborhood parks is no more than 15% of the park space can be used for a new use *(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 28)*. This project is currently 24% of the park space. The fence creates barriers and boundaries similar to buildings and the project is considered a "park improvement" by our code thus requiring building permits.

At the July 13, 2011 PRAC meeting on this proposal, Commissioner Miller expressed concern, "We have a tendency in this city to cover every green place with stuff...monument belongs here, not a dog park." When fully implemented, Measure DD will provide $198 million of public benefit along the shoreline of Lake Merritt. Let's preserve Eastshore Park and find a way to better showcase it as the gateway to the Lake Merritt District and a centerpiece for Oakland pride.

Impact on Existing Use

The impact on use is even greater, as the dog park proposal takes up closer to 50% of the usable field.



This park space is heavily used for active recreation, a use that OSCAR states is inadequately served in our area. The primary use is in the summer, with soccer players, volley ball courts, drum circles, capoeira dancers and other spontaneous, diverse recreation. Its central location and proximity to freeways and public transportation make active recreation accessible to our community. The field is relied upon by Bayhill High School, Soccer Tots, the Special Olympics and other youth programs for their recreation programs. There are no other open fields at Lake Merritt and active recreation is protected at Lake Merritt by our code:

- ***Eastshore. This neighborhood park is very heavily used*** *(OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12)*
- *While the densest areas tend to be relatively close to Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park,* ***they are not adequately served with facilities for active recreation*** *such as ballfields, playgrounds, and recreational centers. (OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 16)*

Respectfully submitted to the Oakland Planning Commission by Maria Alderete
Contact Info: maria@lukasoakland.com or 510-409-8582

Lakeview Dog Park Proposal – Preservation of Open Space Perspective

- ***Conflicts between park uses.*** *This policy directs the Office of Parks and Recreation to site new park facilities in a manner which maximizes the usefulness of the facility while minimizing its impact on existing use.* ***Basic principle, Large enough areas should be provided for each activity*** *(OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 34)*

Our code recommends providing large enough space for each activity. On a typical Saturday, volley ball courts use the space where the dog park is proposed and soccer games are played in the remaining open field. There are also many small children from the tot lot that use the open field. By fencing off the space for the dog park, volley ball and soccer games will be compressed into the smaller field along with the tot lot spill over use.

It's not even an ideal area for off-leash dog park use. Emily Rosenberg of ODOG admitted that some dogs do get agitated by traffic and bus stops and those dog owners will have to find a different park.

Dog Park Development Considerations

I do not oppose dog parks, I just oppose the Lakeview Proposal at Eastshore Park due to the significant aesthetic and use impacts. Our code mandates in built-out areas that the emphasis should be on underutilized resources *(OSCAR Chapter 2, pg. 3).* **Eastshore Park is not underutilized** *(OSCAR Chapter 5, pg. 12).* To date dog park development has followed that rule:

1. **Grove Shafter** - History of underutilization. PRAC Comm. Ricards expressed concern for drug use in area.
2. **Jefferson Square** - After freeway construction in the 1970s, this historic attraction grew steadily neglected and became one of the community's most underutilized parks.
3. **Mosswood** - Area is near freeway and history of blight and crime. Homeless encampments, drug dealing and needles present in park.
4. **Joaquin Miller** - Underutilized part of parking lot.
5. **Hardy Dog Park** Underutilized concrete area under freeway.

The Lakeview Proposal is a good idea in the wrong location. The PRAC Commission was very concerned of the lack of a formal location evaluation process for the Lake Merritt dog park. Given the contentious community situation this dog park has created, as well as the many years ODOG has been trying to find a spot at Lake Merritt, it is important that our civil leaders step back and approach dog park development in a more strategic way. We are on a path of building many small, costly neighborhood dog parks. Yet even ODOG's website surveys show that most dog users prefer the larger open format like Point Richmond. We as a community need to spend more time understanding dog owner needs.

I recognize that ODOG and several dog park supporters have worked long and hard on this project. However, the original dog park proposal considered for the Lake Merritt Master Plan was for a $400,000 project. ODOG stated they kept their members informed of progress, but the broader community was not informed about the current $50,000 design proposed to PRAC in December 2010. The 2004 community pre-development meetings (which are required by our code *Planning code, 17.135.030, A & OSCAR Chapter 2, pg. 2)*) are not adequate community process for this current proposal. Projects must make reasonable forward progress, our building code requires forward progress every 6 months. It's been over 15 months since this project made any forward progress and PRAC did not approve the CUP application in July 2011.

I asked that you oppose the Lakeview Dog Park Proposal, and instead allow on-leash dog use at Eastshore to take pressure off the immediate need for park space for our dog community. This would enable the community to develop a more strategic approach, while preserving this important gateway at Lake Merritt.

Clevenger, Ann

From: familiapinon@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, April 18, 2012 3:36 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Lakeview Dog Park

Members of the Oakland Planning Commission:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed dog park. While I am sympathetic to the concerns of dog owners, the space is currently well used as a recreational area. I suggest that the Commission consider the following location as an alternative to the Lakeview site http://maps.google.com/maps?q=2150+Park+Boulevard,+Oakland,+California,&hl=en&ll=37.800917,-122.247384&spn=0.000034,0.026157&sll=37.800900,-122.247366&layer=c&cbp=13,127.69,,0,7.93&cbll=37.800911,-122.247384&gl=us&hnear=2150+Park+Blvd,+Oakland,+California+94606&t=h&z=16&pa
It is a green space at the intersection of Park Blvd and Haddon Road. While dogs are not permitted in the park, it is frequently used by dog owners. The area is still in the vicinity of Lake Merritt and is large enough to accomodate the size of the proposed park. The parcel bears the APN 21-279-2, is owned by the City of Oakland and is 31,515 square feet. Parking can be better accomodated in that area, than immediately adjacent to the Lakeshore shopping area.

I hope that the applicants consider moving the dog park to the aforementioned location.

Respectfully,

Angela Robinson Pinon
852 MacArthur Blvd.
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Renee Escalante [renee@westbayhousing.org]
Sent: Monday, April 16, 2012 11:27 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: RE: Application for a Dog Play Park near Astro Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

I wanted a chance to voice my opinion regarding the Dog Play park near Astro Park. Oakland and the East Bay in general have ample places for dogs to run off leash. Between Point Isabella and Sibley Regional Park, I have many spots where I can take my dog off leash and watch him play in a safe and dog friendly environment.

Since moving to the lakeshore area in 2008, I have always appreciated how many of my neighbors love to be outside, participating in a variety of activities. It would be a shame to take that area in particular away from the young children learning to play soccer or the older adults playing after work. This is such an active and utilized park it would be devasting to see it change.

Thanks for your considerations.

Renee Escalante
Lakeshore Resident

From: Jerel Mahaffey [jerelm490@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 15, 2012 5:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No dog park at Astro

Please do not let this go through. The community is best served with Astro Park to remain as it is.

Thanks,

Jerel.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 12, 2012 4:12 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: ODOG Craigslist Ad: EastBay/Pets

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Red

Attachments: Screen shot 2012-04-09 at 11.25.34 AM.png

Hi Pat,

FYI, the posting below was recently put up on Craigslist by ODOG under the category of Pets/EastBay. Clearly not a neighborhood focus, perhaps not even an Oakland focus as it reaches out to the entire East Bay.

The content of the post is questionable as well:

1. Regarding the issue of being able to legally walk your dog around the lake, see attached graphic. It that shows that you can happily walk your dog around nearly the entire lake---legally. The bright green shows the legal outline.
2. We do assert that dogs can and do jump fences and that this is not good for children or the dogs given how close the proposed run is to children and to all the traffic.
3. The space is not deserted and is well used. The space to a casual observer may not be used some of the time but it's packed on weekends, some evenings as well and is used by many different constituencies. Among other things, it is a space for kids to run free, especially those that do not have a big yard or a nice school that provides them with a lot PE time.
4. We are not a small group unless you consider 1500 people small.
5. The dog run was never approved anywhere; it has received design approval from PRAC. And is designated as "potential" in the LMMP only and in no way fleshed out. To date this dog run has not gotten approval.
6. The NIMBY accusation is also misleading: this is not a few neighbors who will be impacted; this is a bustling central piece of property that is visible and central to thousands.
7. The posting, erroneous and, in my opinion mean spirited, is intended to stir up the passions of people who own dogs but who are not familiar with the very specific issues regarding this location.

Finally, as mentioned in the beginning of this email, the proponents are casting a net well beyond the local users and neighbors whom this proposal would impact the most. The "50/50" that you or that the Planning Department may think they are seeing is unlikely a real representation of the true heartbeat of this neighborhood. We have 1500 people who signed up down at the space, gave us their email (every email is clean, no bounces.) The only reason they are on the list is this: to Save Astro Park. The now 150 letters since March 1 are a reflection of this database of 1500 as they are letters from people local to the issue and from those who will be impacted by how it is decided.

Thank you for listening.

Sue

http://sfbay.craigslist.org/eby/pet/2926916742.html

SF bay area craigslist <http://sfbay.craigslist.org/> > east bay <http://sfbay.craigslist.org/eby/> > community <http://sfbay.craigslist.org/eby/ccc/> > pets <http://sfbay.craigslist.org/eby/pet/>
please flag with care: [?]
<http://www.craigslist.org/about/help/flags_and_community_moderation>

Speak now Oakland, or FOREVER HOLD YOUR LEASH! (Oakland)

Date: 2012-04-07, 12:45PM PDT
Reply to: kndfn-2926916742@comm.craigslist.org <mailto:kndfn-2926916742@comm.craigslist.org?subject=Speak%20now%20Oakland%2C%20or%20FOREVER%20HOLD%20YOUR%20LEASH!%20(Oakland)&body=%0A%0Ahttp%3A%2F%2Fsfbay.craigslist.org%2Feby%2Fpet%2F2926916742.html%0A> [Errors when replying to ads? <http://www.craigslist.org/about/help/replying_to_posts>]

From: Barb St. Amant [bstamant@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2012 9:53 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park!

I am a dog lover and a veterinary professional writing to ask that the commission DENY the permit for a dog park at Astro park. I have lived on Beacon street for 10 years, 2 blocks from this green jewel of land, and am very familiar with the area. This is an unsuitable site for many reasons. As an emergency Veterinary Nurse, the first concern that comes to mind is the safety of the dogs. This is an area bordered completely by busy streets; the risk to dogs (easily) jumping the proposed fences, or owners losing control of them in/outside of the area is predictable. Dogs are then faced with cars on all sides of them; it's an unfamiliar environment with cars zooming around corners. The result is HBC (Hit By Car). It's common to see anything from minor scrapes, to broken legs, to chest injuries, to massive bleeding, to being DOA. The proposed use of this site is a perfect recipe for such disaster.

The small size of the enclosed area itself encourages dog to dog aggression. In the past 25 years I've seen again, anything from minor lacerations, to eyes being bitten out, to outright death. The acreage here is too small to support the numbers and sizes of dogs likely to use the area. Inadequate space equals increased aggression.

As if this weren't enough, taking away this amazing green expanse of land negatively affects EVERYONE. It's a gorgeous, inviting link between the lake and the adjoining shopping area. People walk and drive to the lake then venture to the Grand/Lakeshore

shopping area. Visitors drive/walk to go shopping in the area then walk to the lake, BECAUSE they can experience the expanse of calming green, the wildlife, the activity inviting them to the lake. (It's a wildlife sanctuary!!) They see people using this area - sports, relaxing, picnicing, playing with their children, groups using the area for scheduled activities. Please imagine a fenced block of space that obscures your view of the lake, or your view of the shopping area from the lake. Is this an improvement? Is this what we want from here on out?

In the long term is this REALLY what's best for Astro Park? I don't think so. I look forward to the May 2nd meeting.

Sincerely,

Barb St. Amant
Beacon St.
Oakland, CA

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 2:09 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Save Astro Park Policy Document/Youtube Channel

Cool-thanks for letting me know. And btw, congrats on the new bambino(a?) in the family!! Jennie mentioned why you were out—what better reason to be gone!

From: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Date: Mon, 9 Apr 2012 13:58:07 -0700
To: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>
Subject: RE: Save Astro Park Policy Document/Youtube Channel

Thanks Sue. Got it this time.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: Sue Levin [mailto:sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat

Subject: Save Astro Park Policy Document/Youtube Channel

Hi Pat,

Attached you will find a positioning piece reduced size (the large file was bouncing) along with the Trust for Public Land piece on creating dog parks without rancor. Please note that Save Astro Park membership is now close to 1500 as we were out there on Saturday along with Soccer Shots, aerialists, other soccer players, Girls On The Run, Tot Lotters, etc. We added another 200 people, in a few hours. This is how much this community loves the space as is and does not want the green torn out for a dog run.

For a sample of and documentation of how this space is used please visit our Youtube Channel: http://www.youtube.com/user/saveastropark?feature=mhee

Best,

Sue

Sue Levin
sue@heragency.com
510-663-4693
510-827-6419 (cell)
President
HerAgency.com
BabyForceMedia.com
From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Save Astro Park Letter to the Commission

Attachments: SAVE ASTRO PARK letter to Planning.pdf

Hi Pat—this is the letter sent to Commissioners. Phone calls were made to all as well.

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 1:56 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Save Astro Park Policy Document/Youtube Channel

Attachments: SAVE ASTRO PARK position paper[4].pdf; ccpe_Dog_Park_Report[1][2].pdf

Hi Pat,

Attached you will find a positioning piece reduced size (the large file was bouncing) along with the Trust for Public Land piece on creating dog parks without rancor. Please note that Save Astro Park membership is now close to 1500 as we were out there on Saturday along with Soccer Shots, aerialists, other soccer players, Girls On The Run, Tot Lotters, etc. We added another 200 people, in a few hours. This is how much this community loves the space as is and does not want the green torn out for a dog run.

For a sample of and documentation of how this space is used please visit our Youtube Channel: http://www.youtube.com/user/saveastropark?feature=mhee

Best,

Sue

Sue Levin
sue@heragency.com
510-663-4693
510-827-6419 (cell)
President
HerAgency.com
BabyForceMedia.com
From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 1:54 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Save Astro Park Docs/Numbers/Status Of Letters Sent to Ann Clevenger

Attachments: SAP_Letters_March_2012.doc

Hi Pat,

I am re-sending this email but pulling the docs I had previously attached that we sent to the Planning Department as well as all the Commissioners—I'll send those in a separate email as they re too heavy.

Jennie mentioned you wanted more info on SAP membership so in terms of the Save Astro Park membership:

1. There are currently 1500 members of Save Astro Park.
2. While we do not have people's physical addresses, names and emails only, these names have been collected down at the space. These are people using, viewing and living near Astro Park. Our membership is specific to this one issue and this one space *only.* When you review the recent letters in the past month to Ann Clevenger, compiled and attached, this will become very clear.
3. Beginning March 1st, once we heard the application was finally completed, we began contacting our database and asking them to write to Ann Clevenger in the Planning

Department. We no longer were requesting that people write to you which is likely why you have not gotten much communication recently. In this four week period of time, we have been cc'd on approximately 130 letters that have gone to Ann and, as mentioned, have compiled them all, to date, in the attached SAP Letter document. Please note: these are not form letters. Each letter is unique and written by an individual voicing their own thoughts and concerns.

4. Things have changed dramatically from one year ago when the community knew nothing We do not believe this is a 50/50 issue anymore—it may have been a year ago, but no longer. The letters to Ann should give you a good feel for the current pulse of the neighborhood as well as the space.

5. Regarding the physical names and emails and where they live: people sign up at the space in a spiral notebook so we have a stack of spirals. Then we enter their name into a spreadsheet. So we have a record electronically as well.The database is 100% clean. There are no bounces. No one is on this list unless they want to be.

While our 1500 person membership is strong we also feel that this in no way represents the many other thousands of neighbors who oppose this idea. This only represents the people that we as a volunteer group going down on some Saturdays could get. Having said that, 1500 is still a very strong number and one gathered in a very short period of time and we want to make sure the that Planning Commission understands that this is a true number. Would copying the notebooks and giving a copy of this document, confidentially to Ann Clevenger, be helpful do you think? Or possibly just have Ann "witness" the notebooks and leave it at that? We are open to any other ideas. Our concern though is to make sure that people who are in Save Astro Park are protected from a privacy standpoint and that their names and emails would never be used.

Let us know your thoughts.

Thanks much and happy holidays!

Sue Levin
sue@heragency.com
510-663-4693
510-827-6419 (cell)
President
HerAgency.com
BabyForceMedia.com

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Friday, April 06, 2012 5:13 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie; Pgru@Sbcglobal.Net; Brad McCrea; Debbie Cooper
Subject: Quality/Location Of ODOG Request For Letters

Attachments: ODOG request for letters.pdf

Hi Pat,

Attached is a screen shot of an ODOG newsletter asking people to write to Ann Clevenger. ODOG urges people to write "even if you won't use the park yourself."

This ODOG newsletter goes out to dog owners throughout the region and is no way specific to our neighborhood.

We strongly believe that the ODOG form letters letters may very well not represent the neighborhood pulse. It's all over their Facebook page and newsletter and these are not people local to the issue necessarily—and it has been for months and since the beginning.

It is our neighborhood that will be seriously and strongly impacted and it is our neighborhood that should have the loudest voice.

As you peruse the hundred plus letters I sent to you yesterday from those opposed to this dog park, you will see that these folks live here and/or frequently use the park.

Sue

Sue Levin
sue@heragency.com
510-663-4693
510-827-6419 (cell)
President
HerAgency.com
BabyForceMedia.com

Clevenger, Ann

From: Joel Tena [joeltena@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 2:04 PM
To: Hall, Mark
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby; Gerard, Jennie; Wang, Xiaojing; Nosakhare, Shereda
Subject: Comments regarding dog park/Astro Park location for Wednesday, July 13 OPRAC meeting...

Greetings,

I am writing you an email to be taken as public comment on Items 8B (new location) and 9A (CUP for Lakeshore/Mac location) of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee's agenda for Wednesday, July 13, 2011. Most of my comments are directed at Item 9A. Though I understand there is a desire amongst some dog owners to build a dog park somewhere in the 94606 zip code, regardless of whether that occurs I am completely against the building of a dog park at "Astro Park" (Lakeshore/Macarthur/Grand location).

Astro Park is a vital, irreplaceable unplanned green space. It is a vibrant part of the crown jewel of Oakland's parks system- Lake Merritt. It should be kept open and accessible to *all* Oakland residents.

I understand that there are some dog owners who would like a dog park at Asto Park. As a dog lover (who grew up with dogs all my life) I can appreciate their sentiments and concerns. However, I feel that their needs should not come at the expense of the precious little open space that Oakland youth and families have available to them in the area.

What has happened, I feel, is the pitting of two constituencies- families & community members vs dog owners who want the dog park. I do believe that a compromise can be reach. It sounds like one might have been with the recent proposal of creating a dog park at the former Lake Merritt stables. This sounds like a win-win for everyone: families and the community get to keep and maintain open green space, and dog owners who want a dog park get one right off of beautiful Lake Merritt. **This is why I support Item 8B.**

But regardless of what happens to that location, I continue to be opposed to item 9A. A dog park should not come a the expense of Oakland's children, youth, and families. It should not come at the expense of community members who use the park daily and weekly to play soccer, run, or just sit in the sun and enjoy our beautiful city.

Please don't shut out Oaklanders from using their beautiful parks. Please don't let precious outdoor open space be fenced off and programmed forever. Please continue to keep and maintain our beautiful parks system for everyone.

Thanks,

-Joel Tena
Laurel resident, District Four

Clevenger, Ann

From: Starks, Carletta
Sent: Friday, July 08, 2011 10:14 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: FW: Lakeview dog park

FYI.

Carletta L. Starks
Community Liaison/Policy Analyst for
Councilmember Nancy Nadel, District 3

Phone: 510/238-7032
Fax: 510/238-6129

I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. Mahatma Gandhi

---

From: Kim Goodwin [mailto:kimgoodwin@mac.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 07, 2011 6:20 PM
To: Hall, Mark; Starks, Carletta; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeview dog park

Councilmembers Nadel and Kernighan, Ms. Starks, and Mr. Hall:

I'd like to express my support for moving the dog park location to the old stables area supported by Ms. Kernighan. Here's why:

1. The current proposed location puts an unsightly feature in one of the most visible spots in the park. For those of us who live nearby and for other Oaklanders coming to the park, that big green space provides a sense of arrival. Whether you're getting off the freeway or coming via Grand or Lakeshore, it says "Welcome to the park!" A chain-link fence and big brown space would utterly change the character of this area for the worse. This runs counter to the Measure DD plan I voted for--why spend millions to beautify the park, only to "uglify" its front door?

2. The arguments that it won't be ugly are laughable. Yes, I know there are supposed to be vines planted there to cover the fence. If you've ever had a dog, you also know they like to do their business up against fences. What plantings are going to survive this? Also, the city is already having difficulty maintaining many of the new plantings in the park, so I can't imagine there's a lot of spare budget to care for these. Volunteers may say they'll do so, but enthusiasm will wane once the park is built. There's a reason Oakland's other dog parks are unsightly. I haven't heard any reason to believe this one will be different.

3. The old stables location is already an unused, unattractive site. It would be invisible to the majority of park users and residents. The quality of life benefit to everyone who walks or drives by the park seems to outweigh the minor inconvenience factor.

4. There's no rush. Yes, it might take a little longer to build at the stables site, but really, is the lack of a Lakeview dog park truly an emergency? Dog owners can use the lovely new multi-use path along with the cyclists and skateboarders (who don't have their own facilities, either).

5. The cost argument is unconvincing. I'm not anti dog-park, but with $170 million in cuts, is building a dog park at all really more important than maintaining the facilities we already have? I'd rather see the city spend a bit more over time to get a better solution. The "spend less now for a suboptimal solution" will just result in more costs later, when the dog park is an eyesore we need to rip out. And speaking of cost....why not use an off-leash permit fee (as Piedmont does) to raise revenue for the dog parks? No doubt plenty Piedmont dog owners who don't want to pay their fee will simply come use our taxpayer subsidized park, instead.

I sincerely hope Ms. Nadel's mind is not so firmly made up as Ms. Starks' post makes it seem, and that there will be some "hearing" going on at next week's hearing.

Kim Goodwin
Stow Avenue

Clevenger, Ann

From: Jerry Wolfe [wingate63@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 10:18 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: RE: Lakeview Dog Play Area PRAC Hearing

Dear Xiaojing,
Thank you for your response. In regards to the Dog-Park location, as I have previously stated i am strongly opposed to placing a dog park at the Lake Merritt location for reasons I earlier stated.
I am aware that there is a detailed plan now available for review for placing a dog park in the currently unused, fenced off, secure location next to Children's FairyLand. Has Council Person Nadel requested or reviewed that plan? If not I am deeply troubled that she would take a stand on the issue without a full review of options.
As to the email you sent out regarding the stance of the FairyLand board, I would like to know how your office ended up with misinformation and had not vetted the information before sending out the email.
My expectation would be that all elected officials prior to taking a position of issues regarding the well being of our city would be open to all information, plans and positions on the issue. Just because a plan has been around for a while does not make it the best option for a city which is in the process of self-improvement. Please make sure that Ms. Nadel gets this email.
Sincerely,
jerry Wolfe

--- On **Wed, 7/6/11, Wang, Xiaojing <*XWang@oaklandnet.com*>** wrote:

> From: Wang, Xiaojing <XWang@oaklandnet.com>
> Subject: RE: Lakeview Dog Play Area PRAC Hearing
> To: "Jerry Wolfe" <wingate63@yahoo.com>
> Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2011, 9:59 AM
>
> Dear Mr. Wolfe,
>
> My email signature is at the bottom of this message. I work as a Policy Analyst for the District 3 office. You had written our office previously regarding this project.
>
> Best,
>
> Xiaojing
>
> ---
>
> Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Jerry Wolfe [mailto: wingate63@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 06, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: RE: Lakeview Dog Play Area PRAC Hearing

Please tell me who you are and who you represent? I assume you work for a city representative?

--- On **Tue, 7/5/11, Wang, Xiaojing** ***<XWang@oaklandnet.com>*** wrote:

From: Wang, Xiaojing <XWang@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: RE: Lakeview Dog Play Area PRAC Hearing
To:
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2011, 5:33 PM

Our previous email stated that "Children's Fairyland and their board members are opposed to the proposal". We'd like to clarify that the Fairyland Board has heard of the possibility of relocating the dog play area to the former police stables and are concerned. They have not yet formally voted on this item but will do so soon.

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Tuesday, July 05, 2011 5:03 PM
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area PRAC Hearing
Importance: High

Dear interested residents *(apologies in advance if you already received this email via our District 3 listserv)*,

At its **July 13th** meeting, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) will hold a public hearing to seek comment on the Lakeview Dog Play Area Minor Conditional Use Permit application. The meeting will take place at the **Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave , starting at 4:30pm**.

You can find more information here:
http://oaklandnet.com/parks/news/prac.asp (click on "Agenda" and scroll to page 59).

We invite your comments. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can e-mail comments to Mark Hall at mhall@oaklandnet.com.

Many of you have asked about the so-called "**alternative location**" suggested by the opponents to this location at Lakeview Park . The design proposal for this alternative location submitted by several residents is posted on the PRAC website at http://oaklandnet.com/parks/news/prac.asp (click on "Agenda" and scroll to page 44).

I do not believe this newly proposed location at the former police stables adjacent to Children's Fairyland is a feasible alternative to the current proposed site at Lakeview Park .

The Lakeview site was the result of **two previous site relocations** and has taken years of negotiations to receive design approval from the City's Public Works Dept and PRAC. While the police stables looked like an attractive location at the outset, there are numerous impediments and drawbacks to this site.

We already have news that **we would face just as many opponents, and possibly more, to the police stable site**. Children's Fairyland and their board members are opposed to the proposal. And while this location has housed police horses in the past, we can anticipate opposition from bird advocates as this site is closer to the Lake Merritt bird sanctuary.

We also face **ADA** (Americans with Disabilities Act) access issues to this site, including potentially costly repaving of access roads.

The **stables location is smaller** than the current proposed location and would need to be enlarged by 50% to be the same size as the PRAC approved design of the Lakeview dog play area (opponents of the Lakeview site have stated in that past that they believe the Lakeview site is too small).

And perhaps most critically, in these excruciating budget times, as we have cut more than $170 million from our budget and eliminated 528 jobs in the City since July 2008, **we simply cannot make a large investment of staff time** to shepherd through new plans for an off-leash dog play area for our Lake Merritt residents. Developing a new site would take time and resources from staff in a multitude of city departments including Planning, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works – and these resources are not available in the foreseeable future.

I believe that time invested in the community hearing process since 1998 to the present indicates that the Lakeview dog play area can best serve the needs of the community. I believe that this dog play area has been designed to add beauty to the location and that the volunteers are well organized to keep it clean and attractive.

We recognize that everything about the Lakeview dog play area has been a compromise from 1998 forward and I would like your support in moving this project ahead as efficiently as possible.

Councilmember Nancy J. Nadel

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst
Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel
Oakland City Council, District 3
(510) 238-7031

Clevenger, Ann

From: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 5:46 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; 'dogpeople@comcast.net'
Subject: FW: Follow up on parking for Astro Park potential dog park

Emily and Xiaojing:

FYI, here is a neighbor's analysis of the effect of the extra parking demand to be created by a dog park at the Lakeview location.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: grace.webber@gmail.com [mailto:grace.webber@gmail.com] **On Behalf Of** Grace Webber
Sent: Tuesday, April 26, 2011 8:12 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Follow up on parking for Astro Park potential dog park

Dear Pat,

I want to draw your attention to a possible misconception regarding parking for the proposed dog park at Astro Park.

In your message to your constituents you said this about parking:

> "**Will Increase Parking Congestion.** Though some people feel strongly that this will be a problem, it is not my main concern. The vast majority of the people who wrote in support of the dog park live in the surrounding neighborhoods within walking distance. Though people in other areas will want to drive there, I don't think they were go to the hassle of finding a parking spot unless they are are coming for some of the other amenities in the neighborhood anyway."

I think you are imagining that the potential car-based users of the dog park would be more put-off by parking congestion than the others who currently compete for the same spaces. Those other (current) users are parking to visit the established businesses in the area: the restaurants such as Zza's, Sidebar, Coach Sushi, the Foot Spa, and Gold's Gym.

Potential users of the dog park will find out about this lot by various means: increasingly they use online sites such as yelp.com to find recommendations of where to go, or they search for "dog park" on Google, or find sites such as www.odogparks.org or http://www.doggoes.com/parks/california/east-bay that offer maps of the area with dog park facilities marked up. Or they hear about dog park alternatives from fellow dog owner friends, or notice the highly-visible dog park when they are traveling through the Lake Merritt area on some other mission. Once a dog park is established, its draw is broad from across the area, especially for a facility like this where there is virtue in some variety for the user. We know that driving to

dog parks is in fact the "usual" way of getting there (see the UC Davis report (referenced at http://www.vmth.ucdavis.edu/home/beh/Dog_Park/Dog_Park_Management_Guidelines.pdf) indicating 95% of dog park users come by car): substantial foot traffic from your constituents would not in any way detract from substantial demand from those with cars.

The process of preparing to go out in a car with one's dog(s) to use a dog park is a deliberate and an involved one: to load the dog(s) into the car with all the right toys and towels, leashed-up and ready to go, invokes excitement and anticipation from the dog and requires effort from the owner. And it's usually a solo effort or one undertaken by a family with the driver in control. Upon arriving in the neighborhood and finding a lack of available nearby parking, the driver-dogowner is quite likely to circle the area seeking the one space that might become available, rather than give up immediately and go home or to another dog park that might be a mile or more away. In contrast, a person or group of people seeking to go to a restaurant to eat has a myriad of choices. If there is no parking available near the strip of restaurants by the lake, they are very likely to head off to another area to dine - after all, there are many places to serve their needs, that may offer better parking, and from my casual observation it seems that most diners at these particular restaurants do not make advance reservations. They are unlikely to hang around waiting for that perfect space to come available, as the people in the car will become impatient and the stress simply isn't worth it. And if a gym user finds that at the time they like to work out each day it has become difficult to find parking, they will ultimately switch their allegiance to a different gym, as this activity has to be fitted in to busy lives on a regular, even daily basis, and there is no capacity to deal with parking hassles. So over time the existing users of this high-utilization parking space would reduce their visits as the dog park users moved in.

I am not sure if you noticed, but several of the free parking spaces currently available closest to Astro Park would actually be removed if this project is implemented. Not only the one to two spaces where the utility access lane would be with the dropped curb, but also several spaces in front of the bus stop. AC Transit has requested these be removed to improve traffic safety at this location. Cory LaVigne of AC Transit Service Development and Planning, on March 10, 2011, asked Oakland City Council: "If the driveway is to be installed as proposed, we request that the curb between the existing bus stop and the proposed driveway be restricted to parking, thus enabling the buses to safely and efficiently enter traffic." Furthermore, ADA requirements may mean that additional spaces are designated for disabled parking only. (See www.saveastropark.org parking section.)

I am very concerned about parking; I do think that dog park users would push out other customers and visitors to the area in their parking use, even disproportionately to their numbers, for the reasons above. And I don't think that's a good thing. If there is some other data gathering or research I can do which would help tackle any last remaining doubts you have on this matter, please do let me know what that is, as I am very willing to do what it takes to get useful information out to the people who need it.

Thank you for taking our community's success seriously.

Grace Webber
Newton Ave at Lester, one of your voting constituents

--

Please use grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu
It's my "email for life".

April 16, 2012

City of Oakland Planning Commission
c/o Ann Clevenger, Case Planner
City of Oakland

Commissioners,

This letter outlines the policy basis for why you must deny the conditional use permit application for the Lakeview Dog Play Area, a proposed off-leash dog enclosure at Eastshore Park. For the purposes of brevity, I will keep to the matters of City of Oakland policies, codes, objectives and strategies. I will not attempt to reinforce the local community's opinion on the matter, but rather will let the heartfelt letters from hundreds of other opponents speak for themselves.

Introduction. Let me be clear. It is understood that the Lake Merritt Master Plan (LMMP) acknowledges a fenced dog area as a "potential" use at Eastshore Park (also called Astro Park and Lakeview Park). Further, the LMMP states that low fencing would be required to "corral dogs in an off-leash condition." However, the Master Plan also acknowledges that off-leash status should be pursuant to City of Oakland regulation. And that is why this project cannot be approved at this time.

The Lake Merritt Master Plan was approved by the Oakland City Council in 2002. However, the Open Space Conservation and Recreation (OSCAR) Element of the City's General Plan was adopted by the Oakland City Council in June 1996 and, as currently written, does not include allowances for a fenced dog enclosure within Eastshore Park. Therefore, to approve this proposal now would be to make an arbitrary planning decision in the absence of amending the General Plan policies. It appears that the only legal way to approve this proposal is for the applicant to follow the appropriate procedural steps and amend the OSCAR Element of the General Plan, which contains policies addressing the management of open land, natural resources and parks in the City.

"Try to find property with no history...it's a lot easier than persuading people to change a field's use into something different."

- City of Seattle Parks and Recreation Department

Alternative Site Location Process. Before I further describe why a half-acre, fenced dog run cannot be built at Eastshore Park, it needs to be understood that there are options for identifying alternative dog park sites.

In its report, *Creating Dog Parks Without Rancor (2005)*, the Trust for Public Land (Center for City Park Excellence) references guidelines developed by the City of Seattle's Planning Department in conjunction with COLA (Citizens for Off-Leash Areas), a local organization. In the Seattle example, COLA helped the Seattle of Parks and Recreation identify approximately 70 potential off-leash sites and the City mandated a 15-month program at eight of them in 1996. The process resulted in site selection criteria that would lead to successful locations. Those criteria are:

- Avoid interference with other established uses;
- Avoid locations directly abutting residences;
- Assure availability of close-by parking;
- Avoid locations near children's play areas;
- Choose spots where there are minimal impacts on the visual character of a park;
- Avoid sites where there will be spill-over into non-dog areas; and
- Avoid sensitive environmental habitats.

As reported, the City of Seattle also learned something else. "Try to find property with no history," said a spokeswoman for the park department. "It's a lot easier than persuading people to change a field's use into something different."

The City of Oakland should employ this practical and pragmatic public process.

Non-Conformance with the General Plan

General Plan Strategies, Objectives and Policies. As stated in the introduction above, the dog park proposal does not conform to the City of Oakland's General Plan because, as currently written, the Open Space Conservation and Recreation Element (OSCAR Element) does not allow this use in this location.

As background, the half-acre fenced dog enclosure is proposed within Eastshore Park, a public open space categorized in the OSCAR Element as a Neighborhood Park. Eastshore Park is located in a planning area with strategies to protect, maintain and enhance open space. Finally, the OSCAR Element clearly states that Eastshore Park has great value as an active recreation space due to its existing large, open lawn.

Specifically, the proposal is inconsistent with OSCAR Element objectives and policies, because the project would result in:

- the loss of active recreation space;
- the failure to preserve and enhance the neighborhood open space;
- incompatibility with the recreational and aesthetic character of Eastshore Park; and
- the degradation of an identified Lake Merritt gateway and its view corridors.

"[Eastshore Park] is very heavily used...It is generally a better site for active recreation than nearby Lakeside Park due to the large open lawn area."
– OSCAR Element, Chapter 5

Park Planning Area Strategies. Eastshore Park is located within the City's Central Planning Area (OSCAR, Chapter 5). According to the OSCAR Element, the Central Planning Area's parks are unique among those in Oakland, reflecting the area's historic character, its longstanding position as the region's civic and business core, and its proximity to Lake Merritt. Lakeside Park is described as "Oakland's recreational melting pot," drawing visitors from all across the East Bay. This description can be seen in full color any evening or weekend when people of all races, nationalities and physical abilities convene at Eastshore Park for a variety of activities. The park serves as Grand Lake's "neighborhood commons."

Eastshore Park Strategy. The OSCAR Element has the following specific recommendations for Eastshore Park:

"This neighborhood park is very heavily used....The park is also a logical 'gateway' to the lake area and would benefit from signage improvements or even a monument or fountain of some sort....It is generally a better site for active recreation than nearby Lakeside Park due to the large open lawn area."

The General Plan clearly states that Eastshore Park is a better site for active recreation due to the existing large, open lawn. When the OSCAR Element was adopted by the City Council in June 1996, it did not include, nor anticipate, that approximately half of this "large open lawn area" would be proposed to be fenced off for a single user group. The fenced dog run proposal is clearly inconsistent with this Eastshore Park Planning Strategy because it would limit and preclude active recreation within a "very heavily used" neighborhood park. Dog runs are a passive use, not an active use. Although canines are generally active in an enclosed dog area, humans usually stand or sit while their dogs play. Eastshore park is the only publicly-available open space in the Lake Merritt area with large, level ground suitable for multiple uses to occur simultaneously. The proposal is inconsistent with this General Plan strategy because it would exclude current active recreation uses at the unprogrammed lawn area, which is a scarce amenity in the relatively dense Lake Merritt District.

Given the great variety of activities that occur within Eastshore Park, the remaining 50% of the usable playfield at Eastshore Park would be insufficient to accommodate all of the current active recreation needs of the community.

A list of current uses is shown on the following page.

Existing Informal Uses at Eastshore Park:

- Baseball
- Badminton
- Soccer
- Hoola hooping
- Volleyball
- Circle rules football
- Flag football
- Capoeira (Brazilian martial arts)
- Yoga
- Slacklining
- Aerial acrobatics
- Running/Chasing
- Boot camps
- Frisbee

Existing Organized Uses at Eastshore Park:

- **Special Olympics Soccer Team**
- **Bayhill High School**
  (focused on educating students with learning differences)
- **Soccer Shots**
  (soccer training for toddlers and young children)
- **Girls On The Run**
  (a running program for girls ages 8 to 13 that teaches very specific and well-defined social and personal skills).

"Despite the large number and variety of parks, existing park acreage has been found to be inadequate to meet community needs." –
- OSCAR Element

OSCAR OBJECTIVE OS-2: Urban Parks, Schoolyards, and Gardens
This open space objective is "to maintain an urban park...which provides open space for outdoor recreation, psychological and physical well-being, and relief from the urban environment. This OSCAR policy clarifies that "urban parks are among the most valuable open spaces in the City....They are probably the most familiar form of open space in Oakland, particularly in flatland neighborhoods where they may be the only form of open space."

The proposed dog enclosure does not conform to OSCAR Objective OS-2 because eliminating half of the existing open play field at Easthore Park, which is designated as a Neighborhood Park, does not "maintain an urban park," while providing "psychological and physical well-being, and relief from the urban environment." The creation of a fenced dog area would result in a net reduction of approximately 21,000 square feet (one-half acre) of active outdoor recreation space for Oakland residents. If a fenced dog area were to be constructed at Eastshore Park, there would not be enough remaining space to accommodate the various human activities that currently exist on the playfield during evenings and weekends.

OSCAR POLICY OS-2.1
This policy states, "[m]anage Oakland's urban parks to protect and enhance their open space character while accommodating a wide range of outdoor recreational activities."

This OSCAR policy clarifies that parks such as Eastshore Park will be managed to preserve and enhance their value as neighborhood open space. The policy states that fields and landscaped areas should be well

maintained and cared for, that a variety of outdoor recreational activities should continue to be provided, and that activities should be compatible with the character of the park. Further, the policy states that, "despite the large number and variety of parks, existing park acreage has been found to be inadequate to meet community needs."

The proposed dog enclosure does not conform to OSCAR Policy OS-2.1 because the removal of approximately one-half of the existing playfield at Eastshore Park would result in the failure to "preserve and enhance" its value as a neighborhood open space where a "variety of outdoor recreational activities should continue to be provided." Hundreds of feet of fencing would be installed within the open space, which would preclude the extraordinary array of outdoor recreational activities that take place concurrently. In addition, the dog enclosure would be highly incompatible with the recreational character of Eastshore Park, which is defined by the recreational uses that have historically occured there. If the fenced dog run were to be built, all of the existing recreational activities would not "continue to be provided" because there simply would not be enough room for everyone. Compounding the problem is the fact that the activities occurring in the remaining space would be required to "stay back" from the dog run fencing so that errant balls, Frisbees and running children did not conflict with the half-acre dog area. Further, the aesthetic character of Easthore Park is defined by the large, open grass area. As proposed, approximately 21,000 square feet of lawn would be removed and replaced with brown dirt and woodchips to handle dog feces and dog urine. Although a volunteer maintenance workforce has promised to prune a "ribbon of flowers" on the proposed fence, there is no guarantee that adequate landscape maintenance of the dog run would be sustainable.

OSCAR POLICY OS-9.3

This policy states, "[e]nhance neighborhood and city identity by maintaining or creating gateways. Maintain view corridors and enhance the sense of arrival at the major entrances to the city...Use public art, landscaping, and signage to create stronger City and neighborhood gateways."

As described in the Planning Area Strategies section above, the OSCAR Element defines Eastshore Park as a "logical gateway" to the Lake Merritt area. The I-580 ramps at MacArthur Boulevard, Grand Avenue and Lakeshore Avenue are major entrances to the Lake Merritt neighborhoods. As proposed, the four-foot-tall fences, dirt and woodchips that would be installed at this gateway would be inconsistent with goals of Policy OS-9.3, which include maintaining view corridors and enhancing the sense of arrival at this major entrance to the city.

For the reasons described above, including the loss of active recreation space, the failure to preserve and enhance the neighborhood open space, the incompatibility with the recreational and aesthetic character of Eastshore Park, and the degradation of an important Lake Merritt gateway and its view corridors, the Planning Commission should DENY the application for a conditional use permit.

The Proposal is Beyond the Scope of the Lake Merritt Master Plan

The proposed dog enclosure is identified in the 2002 Lake Merritt Master Plan as a "potential" use. However, there are many other goals and objectives in the Master Plan that must be read in conjunction with the provision for a "potential" dog area at Eastshore Park. By reading the Master Plan as a whole, one can better understand the intent of the entire document. In this context, it is clear that the current proposal for a fenced dog area goes far beyond what was originally envisioned in the Master Plan.

Original Master Plan Intent. Clearly, Figure III.2 of the Lake Merritt Master Plan (Plan) depicts a "Potential off Leash Dog Area" at Eastshore Park. However, the original intent of the Master Plan was for a smaller dog area that would not impact recreational uses at Eastshore Park, which is cited as a "significant open space area." The Master Plan describes the detailed guidelines for Eastshore Park: "[t]his perimeter park area represents a significant open space area with heavy use by neighbors, local shoppers, and school children. The tot lot, restrooms, and open lawn areas are recommended for enhancement...A special area for dogs (per city parks rules) is identified along MacArthur Boulevard." Further, the Lake Merritt Master Plan states, "[t]he plan identifies a dog use area as a potential use in the park. Off-leash status should be pursuant to City of Oakland regulation. Low fencing should be required to corral dogs in an off-leash conditions." Figure IV.38 of the Master Plan depicts the original intent of the active recreational space. It is shown to be much larger than that shown in the current proposal before the Planning Department.

Off-leash Dog Area is Too Large and in the Wrong Location. The allowance for an off-leash dog area, described above, must be considered in conjunction with other goals, not the least of which is the Guiding Principles of the Master Plan. Within the Lake Merritt Master Plan, four guiding principles shape the park's planning: Ecology, Education, Recreation, and Culture. Regarding Recreation, the principle guides the City, *"to improve the park as a place of informal, outdoor recreation. Oakland's youth should especially benefit from the lake's resources."* Currently, Eastshore Park allows Oakland's youth to participate in a wonderful array of healthy, informal activities on the large, open lawn. The proposed location and size of the off-leash dog area would adversely affect park visitors and preclude some of the benefits to the youth that this lake resource provides.

Further, the Master Plan has specific language about the park programming that was adopted by the City Council in 2002. These program intentions support an open lawn at Eastshore Park. The plan states, *"in most cases, existing patterns of use are maintained and facilities that support the uses are enhanced."* The Master Plan's land use recommendations state that, *"[s]elect open lawn areas should be enhanced for larger scaled, active, informal sports."* To be consistent with the Master Plan, the proposed dog area should be relocated and the open lawn area at Eastshore Park enhanced for the larger scaled activities that it affords.

Gateways. Eastshore Park is identified as a gateway in the General Plan's OSCAR Element. The Lake Merritt Master Plan places value on gateways, stating they they *"highlight the sense of identity of our built environments...serve as points of reference, and often highlight the unique qualities of our environment."* The LMMP recognizes the lake's presence as a natural gateway, *"giving identity to nearby streets and neighborhoods."* The proposal for a fenced dog run in this location would impact the sense of arrival at Lake Merritt. The current identity of this area is historic open parkland and scenes of Oaklanders recreating. If a fenced dog area were to be built in the location and of the size proposed, visitors would be greeted with fences and one half-acre of wood chips. In the wet months of the year, the lawn is currently home to the birds of Lake Merritt that forage on the grass. This scene would be replaced with a fenced muddy lot at this gateway to Lake Merritt. To be consistent with the Master Plan, a smaller, more remote dog area would be needed at Eastshore Park.

Maintenance. As proposed, the fenced dog area proposal would be maintained by a volunteer group of citizens. The sustainability of such an effort is questionable. Additionally, the City is unable to identify funds to deal with the high maintenance requirements that come with a fenced dog area at this gateway to Lake Merritt. This project should not proceed until adequate funds are properly identified.

This position is amplified by the Lake Merritt Master Plan (Chapters 5 and 6), which states:

> *"The basic care of landscape elements and park furnishings is considered by many to be the single most pressing deficiency at Lake Merritt. Repair and replacement of many park elements are chronically deferred, resulting in a lack of amenities."*
>
> *"Throughout the Master Plan Process, a clear desire was repeatedly expressed by the community; the desire for a properly maintained and operated park. Although much of the Master Plan recommendations address capital improvements, maintenance and operations programs and costs are also clearly identified in order to address this strong desire of the community."*
>
> *"Simply recommending the programs and identifying costs will not go far enough to ensure the long-term successful maintenance of the park. The problem, historically, has been one of consistent allocation of funds, or lack thereof, for maintenance and operations. Somehow, the funds needed for the park's proper maintenance need to be provided in a more consistent, more guaranteed manner."*
>
> *"Management and supervision of volunteers is important for meaningful participation and effects of their work." "Volunteers should work under the supervision of park staff. This may require [staff] flexibility to be available on weekends when most volunteers are available."*

Findings for Denial of the Conditional Use Permit Application

The proposal does NOT meet all the required findings as set forth below and which are required to approve an application. Required findings are shown in **bold** type; reasons the proposal does NOT satisfy them are shown in normal type.

17.134.050 Conditional Use Permit Procedure / General Use Permit Criteria

A. That the location, size, design, and operating characteristics of the proposed development will be compatible with and will not adversely affect the livability or appropriate development of abutting properties and the surrounding neighborhood, with consideration to be given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage, and density; to the availability of civic facilities and utilities; to harmful effect, if any, upon desirable neighborhood character; to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets; and to any other relevant impact of the development.

The proposal does not meet these required findings. Specifically, the location, size and operating characteristics of the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area will *not* be compatible with and *will* adversely affect the livability of the surrounding neighborhood.

1. **Lack of Harmony in Scale and Coverage.** The proposed project would result in the loss of approximately 50% of the existing playfield at Eastshore Park, a neighborhood park defined by the General Plan's OSCAR Element as a site that is valued for its active recreation uses. Such a reduction in active recreation at Eastshore Park would adversely affect the livability of the surrounding neighborhood. The scale and coverage of the proposed dog enclosure is greater than that which was envisioned by the Lake Merritt Master Plan. (See discussion above in the Lake Merritt Master Plan section.) Figure IV.38 of the Master Plan depicts a much larger "Active Recreation" area than is proposed by the applicant. To be consistent with the Master Plan, the project area would have to be reduced. For these reasons, and other policy reasons described in this letter, the proposal does not meet the required findings.

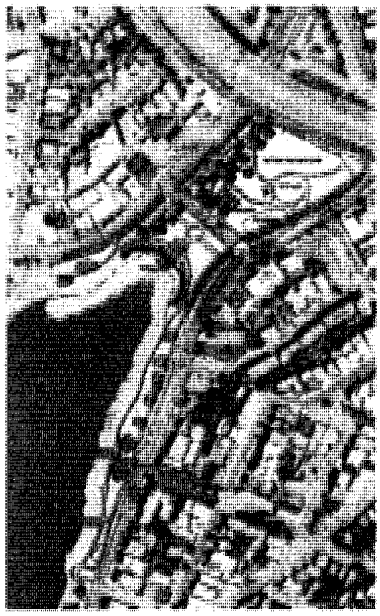


Figure IV.38 of the Master Plan

2. **Harmful Effect upon Desirable Neighborhood Character.** The proposal would have a harmful effect on the character of the Grand Lake neighborhood because the proposal includes removing the existing lawn, erecting fences and placing wood chips in order to handle dog urine and dog feces at a location described by the OSCAR element as a gateway to Lake Merritt. The intersection of Lakeshore Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard is a primary crossroads in the Lake Merritt District. The

proposed four-foot-tall fencing around the enclosure would impede views across the open lawn towards the Lakeview Library and Astro Park Children's Play Area and the fencing would preclude some uses within the currently unprogrammed open lawn area. Also, many dog owners with dogs would intersect with families (kids, strollers and bicycles) and Saturday (farmer's market) shoppers on an already crowded sidewalk along Lakeshore Avenue, creating potential conflicts. Therefore, the proposal does not meet the required findings.

3. **Problems with Traffic Generation and Street Capacity.** The applicants have suggested that most people will walk instead of drive to the proposed dog area. However, according to a study done on 17 dog parks by the Program in Veterinary Behavioral Medicine (U.C. Davis), dog park users drive to dog parks 95% of the time.

   Traffic impacts associated with a new park facility with a regional draw should be analyzed through environmental review.

   According to the 2007 Environmental Impact Record for Measure DD Implementation Project, approximately 3,700 cars per hour pass through the intersection of Lakeshore Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard in the peak evening hours. As part of the Measure DD Implementation Project, some roadways around Lake Merritt were reduced, causing slower traffic and some delays at times. The proposed dog enclosure would likely increase vehicular traffic, especially during peak dog use hours which coincide with peak traffic during weekday evenings, and on Saturdays when retail, commercial and the Farmer's Market traffic dominates the area.

   Most dog park planning documents, including the Trust for Public Land's *Creating Dog Parks without Rancor*, state that parking should be included in dog park plans. Because parking supply in the Grand Lake shopping district is already insufficient and additional parking is not included with the proposed dog park, it is likely that the proposed dog area would adversely affect the livability of the neighborhood. The proposed plan calls for removing several parking spaces on Lakeshore Avenue to accommodate the service driveway of the dog area. Further, dog owners with dogs on leash will increase the pedestrian crossings at crosswalks along Lakeshore Avenue and Grand Avenue, thereby increasing traffic delays.

   Therefore, the proposal does not meet these required findings.

4. **Child Safety / Incompatible Uses.** The existing 8,000-square-foot children's play area at Eastshore Park is used daily by many families. On busy weekend days, it is not uncommon to see 50 to 75 people, including dozens of children, enjoying the playground. The proposed fence of the dog area would be only 25 feet from the existing playground. Given the close proximity of the dog play area to the children's play area, children and parents would be subjected to dust and odors from the proposed dog area. This would adversely affect the ability for families to spill over and use the lawn in the same manner that they do today.

Although dogs and children can be good together, many children and adults have a fear of dogs. Therefore, putting the two uses in the same part of the neighborhood park raises issues of child safety, municipal liability and risk. With or without bites, the added distress of the close proximity to a dog run is enough for many people to decide to keep their children away from Eastshore Park. It would be unfortunate to lose a favorite playground because of the fear of sharing your child's playtime with a stranger's dog. Additionally, with dozens of dogs and dozens of children in the same area at the same time, the risk of an biting incident would be greatly increased. Although a fence would separate the two uses, spillover would likely happen and the probability of dog bites occurring in the City-owned park increases. For these reasons, the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area would not be compatible with and would adversely affect the livability of the surrounding neighborhood. Therefore, the proposal does not meet the required findings.

5. **Maintenance** . The OSCAR Element states that, *"projected maintenance costs should be fully accounted for in all new facilities, with an assurance that these costs will not jeopardize existing facilities."* Therefore, adequate resources for maintenance must be part of any off-leash dog enclosure proposal. The proposal fails to ensure that a sustainable maintenance regime can be achieved at Eastshore Park. The proposal calls for a volunteer maintenance force, with the Oakland Dog Owners Group (ODOG) responsible for seeking sustainable financial resources for operation, maintenance and a volunteer program. Although volunteer work has a role in every City, the highly visible location lawn at the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur already requires a high level of maintenance. A fenced dog enclosure would have extremely high maintenance requirements.

   Although the Lake Merritt Master Plan acknowledges the role of volunteers, volunteer maintenance in City parks can be sporadic and is not advisable for dog parks, says a study by U.C. Davis researchers, entitled, Guidelines for Establishment and Maintenance of Successful *Off-Leash Dog Exercise Areas*. The researchers state, "it is suggested that an active dog park club help advise the municipality as to the needed resources to maintain the park, and to help monitor their condition. However, do not rely on the club to handle the maintenance."

   Additionally, the Lake Merritt Master Plan advises that "management and supervision of volunteers is important for meaningful participation and effects of their work", and "volunteers should work under the supervision of park staff. This may require flexibility [for staff] to be available on weekends when most volunteers are available."

   For all of these reasons, the proposal does not meet the required findings.

B. That the location, design, and site planning of the proposed development will provide a convenient and functional living, working, shopping, or civic environment, and will be as attractive as the nature of the use and its location and setting warrant.

The proposal does not meet these required findings because a dog run would *not* be as attractive as its location and setting warrant.

Eastshore Park sits atop two major watershed creeks and is saturated with rainwater during winter and spring months. Poor drainage may leave the dog enclosure unusable for days at a time and could lead to sanitation issues, as feces and stagnant water are a breeding ground for giardia. Despite some grading work the situation has not been remedied. The current plans for the dog park do not address these ongoing drainage issues.

The fenced dog area would be located in a highly visible location in the middle of the Grand Lake neighborhood. During winter months, the dirt and wood-chipped dog area would be brown and muddy. In the summer months, the dog area would be brown and dusty. The applicants have proposed planting vines on the fence to hide the dog facility. However, vine maintenance is likely to require a high level of oversight. Therefore, the proposal does not meet the required findings

C. That the proposed development will enhance the successful operation of the surrounding area in its basic community functions, or will provide an essential service to the community or region.

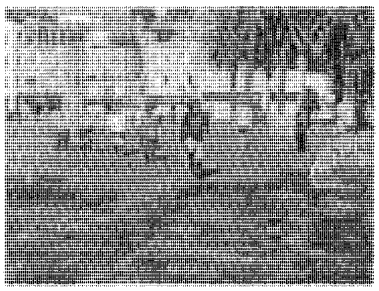
1. **Public Benefit versus Public Detriment.** The proposal does not meet these required findings and will not enhance the surrounding area's basic community functions. Developing a fenced dog area at Eastshore Park requires taking away the essential community services that the existing park provides. The proposal would result in the loss of active recreation space. The public detriment from the loss of active recreational open space at Eastshore Park would clearly exceed any public benefits derived from a fenced dog run in that same location.

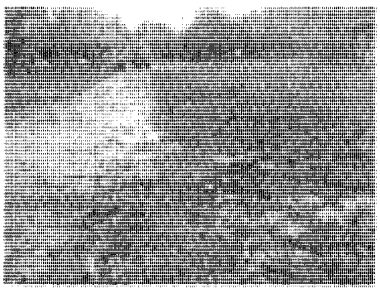
   The OSCAR policies state that, *"[c]ertain neighborhoods...stand out as being particularly dense, including Adams Point, the Oak Center area, and Cleveland Heights. While the densest areas tend to be relatively close to Lake Merritt and Lakeside Park, they are not adequately served with facilities for active recreation such as ballfields, playgrounds, and recreational centers."* (OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 16). The OSCAR Element continues, *"[a]ctive recreational areas [are] identified as an unmet need in the Lake Merritt neighborhood."* (OSCAR Chapter 4, pg. 43)

   For these reasons, the proposal to eliminate approximately 50% of the playfield at Eastshore Park will not enhance the surrounding areas basic functions and does not meet the required findings.

2. **A Changed Neighborhood Since 1999.** The proposed dog enclosure was first considered over a decade ago. Since that time, the Grand Lake neighborhood has changed. Today, there is more activity on the streets due to greater retail and commercial opportunities, resulting in a thriving neighborhood district. The farmer's market now brings additional pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Additionally, more active recreational use is occurring on the open lawn at Eastshore Park. More than ever, Eastshore Park is a much needed, vital community benefit that would be adversely affected by the construction of an off-leash dog area of the scale and location that is currently proposed.

Save Astro Park. I am a member of Save Astro Park, an ad-hoc group of neighbors who coalesced last year for one reason – Eastshore Park is the wrong place for a dog run. Many of us have dogs. Our membership is comprised of over 1,500 Lake Merritt neighbors who oppose taking away well-used, flexible neighborhood recreation space for the sake of one user group, some of whom live outside the neighborhood and the City. (For example, the CUP applicant does not live near Lake Merritt.) We care deeply about this planning decision because we are the people who would be impacted by the proposed change of use within our neighborhood park. We believe that the public detriment from the loss of active recreational open space at Eastshore Park would clearly exceed any public benefits derived from a fenced dog run in the park. The dog owners from beyond our Lake Merritt neighborhood want a dog park at Eastshore Park because, quite simply, they have nothing to lose. The people of the Lake Merritt neighborhoods, on the other hand, have much to lose. Please vote "no" on the conditional use permit application.



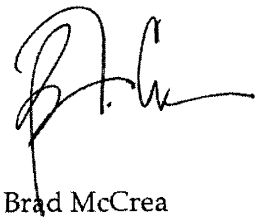


Left to right: Special Olympics practice at Eastshore Park; youth playing at Eastshore Park; Ohlone Dog Park, cited as a "good" example of a dog park with wood chips.
All photos 2011.

City of Oakland Planning Commission
April 16, 2012

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Brad McCrea
Oakland resident
901 McKinley Avenue, 94610

From: Karen Zachary [karendzachary@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 6:29 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Pat,

Please don't build a dog park at Astro Park.

1) parking is already abysmal in this area and would get worse
2) dog walking already obstructs the sidewalks around the lake too much...and having a dog park could mean more dogs passing through my neighborhood
3) we don't need the noise
4) it's wrong for all Oakland citizens to yield precious green space to a minority (dog owners)
5) Astro Park gets plenty of use for more positive activities

I don't think the city should have ANY dog parks, but if it must, the space by Fairyland is a much better location.

Thank you for reading,

Karen Zachary
2316 Lakeshore Ave #9
Oakland, CA 94606
From: Mary Anne Brady [dr_management@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 1:32 PM
To: Mary Anne
Subject: Astro Park

Greetings,
As a resident of Oakland and a walker of Oakland, I truly enjoy having some green space (especially close to freeways and lots of cars). I walk the Lake, I walk to farmer's market, I walk to Grand Lake theater, etc... I think you get it... I walk Oakland and I truly enjoy having a PEOPLE Park to walk by. I am sensitive to animals and prefer that they are not up close and personal. Astro Park is a small piece of green that is enjoyed by PEOPLE. I believe that WE (PEOPLE) deserve to have a park for us. I know more and more people have animals and I don't think the animals should push the PEOPLE away. Thus, I strongly advocate that you leave the small piece of green at the intersection of MacArthur and Lakeshore as a place for PEOPLE. PLEASE & Thanks you

<http://ct2.enterpriseannounce.com/rd/cts?d=25-3540-1828-1237-310411-306225-0-0-0-1-1-80>

Mary Anne
Dr. Mary Anne R. Brady

From: Philip de la Rosa [filup501@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, April 09, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park from going to the dogs!

Please help DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. It is a beautiful open space that I enjoy very much. It would dishearten me to see that open space diminished in any way. It gives me a wonderful sense of community and warmth to see children children playing there and watching the volley ball games during warmer weather. I would be a shame to see Astro Park go to the dogs!

Philip de la Rosa

491 Chetwood St

94610
From: Bill Wong [jackson_wong@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2012 3:01 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: astro park

please let astro park stay as it is - a green space to play and to have a picnic.
this is a very busy intersection - god forbid if a dog somehow escapes his/her owner and gets hit by a car. and who will bear the responsibility then?

thank you,
mary lew

From: Catherine Baumgartner [oakcab@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 2:24 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Astro Park

PLEASE DON'T BUILD A DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK!!!!!!! I have been living in Oakland for 26 years. Before coming here I lived in SF for 15 years. SF has it's massive Golden Gate Park. All Oakland has is the beautiful Lake Merritt and it's surrounding few parcels of grass. PLEASE DON'T COVER IT WITH BROWN DIRT AND WOOD CHIPS AND SMELLY LOUD BARKING DOGS. One of the nicest and smartest things Oakland has ever done for it's people is to beautify Lake Merritt and build up the neighborhood with it's fabulous Farmer's Market! KEEP THE DOGS AWAY AND LET THE PEOPLE PLAY PLAY PLAY PLAY PLAY. Thank you. Catherine

From: amy bell [amyk.bell@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 1:58 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Citizen opposing Dog Park in beautiful Astro Park

Dear Commissioners and Council members,

I am a citizen of Oakland (Glenview/Trestle Glen) who, like so many of my neighbors and my husband, loves the Lake Merritt and Grand/Lake area. I am there nearly every day to shop, run errands, eat, exercise, take out Library books, and enjoy the land.

It would be a tragedy to introduce a dog run to Astro Park, for many reasons. I believe the most compelling argument here is the disruption a dog run would cause in the way the community uses the space.

A dog run would seriously impact the social and visual experience of the entire Embarcadero landscape. Many people travel some miles to get to the Lake Merritt area in order to enjoy its open spaces. The proposed brown dog run, surrounded by a fence, would disrupt and detract from that open space experience and seriously hinder the sense of community - whole community - that the space currently promotes in its simple, easily maintained way.

No one who does not own a dog wants to participate or take any personal responsibility for a dog park. A dog park is an off-limits area to them. It is negated space. Many people including small children are afraid of gathered dogs. Gathered dogs snarl and nip and become agitated, as is their nature. Many dislike their smell and open defecation. Many have to live with barking dogs in their neighborhoods and seek the tranquility of public parks to be free of that.

Do we really want to build off-limits areas in such a wonderfully open and communal city space? Does fencing off a small, dusty or muddy area for dog owners and their pets truly serve the community at large? How much benefit is given to those dogs, and at what expense to the whole community?

The design of urban spaces has a subtle but profound way of influencing a community of people. Putting up fences, replacing green grass with dirt, and making space off-limits to certain community members will have a divisive and scornful effect on the way people treat Astro Park. A park shouldn't have privileged areas, and that is essentially what a dog run creates.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Best regards,
Amy K. Bell
Oakland Citizen against Astro Park Dog Run

From: DJ Gorman [djgorman@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 1:30 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Schaaf, Libby
Subject: Fw: astro park and dogs

Please see below my objection to the dog park within Astro Park. Thank you.
----- Original Message -----
From: DJ Gorman <mailto:djgorman@sbcglobal.net>
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 1:25 PM
Subject: astro park and dogs

Ms. Clevenger - I am an Oakland resident and big user of the Lake and its environs, also attending the farmers market regularly.

I oppose the dog park at Astro Park. I understand the Planning Commission will be considering this issue in an early May meeting.

Just today, I was at the Lake and farmers market, and the congestion was tremendous... and within that mess of people and cars was and is this great little green city park, some of the remaining limited open space available anywhere in the area for sports and stretching out. Taking a huge chunk of that for a dog park, when there certainly must be better locations for such a use, just isn't right in my opinion. More thought needs to go into finding alternative locations for a place where dogs can run and defecate.

And by the way, I think there ought to be numerous such dog parks/dog runs that dog owners can make use of. They just need to be in the right locations.

Thank you for considering my position.

Douglas Gorman
2674 Las Aromas
Oakland, CA 94611
djgorman@sbcglobal.net
From: Stafford, Anne [stafford@smccd.edu]
Sent: Saturday, April 07, 2012 11:37 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro Park

I am writing to say that I oppose plans for a new dog park at Astro Park, near Lake Merritt. I have a dog myself and use some of the other dog parks in Oakalnd, but I think a dog park in that particular location is a bad idea. That area is already crowded enough with people and cars; bringing in a lot of dogs will only add to the congestion. Also, based on personal experience with many different dog parks, the smaller the park, the more quickly it gets torn up and ratty looking. I have no doubt that any dog park in that location will quickly become an eyesore and will add unnecessary chaos to a busy part of the city.

Sincerely,

Anne Stafford
From: Debbie Cooper [debjoy.cooper@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 7:58 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No to the dog park

Dear Ms. Clevenger and Councilmembers Kernighan, Kaplan, and Nadel:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Lakeview Dog Park proposal for three primary reasons.

1. It is going to be UGLY. There's no doubt in my mind about this. I am a highly skilled architect and I spend all my time evaluating design. It is incomprehensible to me how such a bad proposal is even being considered on a site adjacent to all of the very successful improvements around Lake Merritt and at Splash Pad Park, and in such a prominent focal point of the neighborhood.

And there's nothing that will convince me that urine-soaked wood chips won't smell.

2. The community doesn't want it. I've been working with SAVE ASTRO PARK for almost a year to inform my neighbors about this plan. I've told hundreds of people that this green space will be fenced and filled with wood chips, and I've watched shock and disgust come over their faces every time.

3. ODOG doesn't understand what they are asking for. SAVE ASTRO PARK has staked out the dog park area to show the neighborhood where the new dog park will be located on several occasions. We have repeatedly had members of ODOG state that the area staked out is larger than their proposed plan. But we have made every attempt to show the location accurately based on ODOG's plan. This was done by a landscape architect, a contractor, and me - an architect. We know how to read plans.

If they can't visualize the size of the space they are asking for, they certainly don't understand how truly detrimental a fenced, brown space will be.

Please keep Astro GREEN. I sincerely and strongly request that you DENY the proposal for the Lakeview Dog Park.

Thank you.

Deborah J. Cooper, AIA, LEED AP

681 Spruce Street

Oakland

From: Brian Auerbach [auerbach.brian@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 8:30 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park as an open green space for all to use

Dear Pat,

I live in the neighborhood that includes the Astro Park green space. This green space is a gem in the neighborhood that creates a beautiful and unmistakable vista for all citizens to share. There is nothing more pleasurable after a long day at work in San Francisco and a commute bus ride home than to look out of the bus window and see that wide vista with all kinds of people walking, playing soccer, kids playing, people exercising and, of course, just the open space dedicated to all.

A dog park in this location would be a tragedy for all concerned. I am not against dogs or dog parks per se, but this prime resource set in such a prominent part of our neighborhood is just wrong for dog usage and would be a city planning error. I ask you to please deny the proposal to put a dog park in this wonderful, shared location.

Sincerely,

Brian Auerbach

From: Steven Belcher [swbelcher007@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 25, 2012 10:29 AM
To: Pattillo@PGAdesign.com; vienv.truong@gmail.com; Blake.Huntsman@seiu1021.org; michael.colbruno@gmail.com; mzmdesignworks@gmail.com; jaw1123@aol.com
Subject: Proposed Dog Park at Astro Park (Lakeshore)

Steven W. Belcher

630 Longridge Road

Oakland, California 94610

(510) 301-5321

swbelcher@msn.com

Re: Opposition to Proposed Dog Run at Astro Park

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

Please "google" "off leash dog parks in Oakland" and you will see a great Yelp site rating 37 off leash dog parks in and around Oakland. Now search for programed play fields near Lakeshore and they list places such as "Gilman" which is in Berkeley and scheduled to the hilt and Mosswood which is not flat. Astro Park (Lakeshore) is one of the few remaining pieces of unprogramed playing field left in Oakland. That means, that you can see groups of pick up soccer, baseball, football, play without driving to a field, paying for a permit…or waiting for a permit.

In that vein, yesterday I passed the park and there was all the above activities go on at the same time, no stress, just having fun. Where will these citizens go for their outdoor fun? It also occurred to me that most of those children and young adults do not have a clue that their play fields are about to disappear or have the means to drive to an alternative.

Please leave one of the last big open green spaces, open and green. Some have this compulsion to fill empty spaces…let this one be. By the way, with the City budget on life support, how will the proposed dog park be financed and maintained?

Sincerely,

Steve Belcher

Planning Commission: vien Truon, C.Blake Huntsman, Michael Colbruno, Madeleine Zayas-Mart, Jonelyn Whales, Chris Pattillo

From: W C [wcoonan@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 10:46 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Please keep Astro Park dog free

Hi Council Members,

I live in the Grand Lake neighborhood and feel the need to voice my opposition to the proposed dog park. I think that Astro Park is a bad location for this project for several reasons:

* Traffic and parking are already bad in that general area, especially during the farmer's market hours on Saturday.
* The location is right next to a major road and a children's playground, neither of which seem like places that a large group of dogs should be near.
* Many dog owners already break the existing rules around keeping dogs away from the wildlife preserve next to Lake Merritt. An increase in pets in the area can only result in additional disregard for the rules of the parks in that area, which would threaten the wildlife in the park.
* Given the economic hardships that our city and state are currently facing, the money could certainly be better spent on projects that help everyone equally or to support those in financial need.
* There are already several free dog park options within walking distance of that location. (And several additional pay options)
* That area of the park gets used by soccer players and volleyball teams on a regular basis. There doesn't seem to be another green space for those people to use within the area.
* Dogs interfere with cell phone reception. OK, that one is false. I was just checking to make sure that you were still paying attention!

Please put a stop to this poorly planned proposal and channel our city's money and time into more beneficial projects. Thanks for listening and for representing our neighborhoods!

Sincerely,

William Coonan

From: lasaffold@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:43 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: no dog park!

I'm a parent and neighbor who uses the park and library regularly (3-5 times a week) and am writing to let you know that I oppose the idea of a dog park on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

Thank you,
Leigh Saffold

From: crystalchw@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 11:53 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No to Astro Park Dog Park Conversion

Dear Councilmember Kernigan,

As a homeowner in your district, I am adamantly opposed to devolving Astro Park into a dog park. It would be the equivalent of putting one's toilet in the middle of one's living room. Since that is a highly unattractive proposition, so is turning the open, green, multi-use space that Astro Park currently is into a fenced off, single-use, muddy, brown, urine-and-feces-soaked environment that assaults the eyes and the olfactory sense. It is also highly unsanitary.

Please put me on record as being soundly against this outrageous and selfish proposal.

Sincerely,
Crystal H. Weston
510 205 2835 cell
Owner: 431-433 Sunnyslope Avenue
Rose Garden Neighborhood
From: Chris Willging [cwillging@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2012 11:54 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Subject: Proposed dog park

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park near the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

I have been using this park with my children for about 6 years, and have found that the space to run and play next to the playground adds to the sense of freedom that the kids have there, especially as they grow older and find the playground less interesting. I also appreciate having some open green space in this very public and central location. In addition, I have a lot of concerns about the maintenance of the dog park, since there is no budget for that. Even if the park is well-maintained, the odor from dog urine soaking into the wood chips and the ground may become unbearable over time.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Christine Willging

From: MNocon@fbm.com
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:55 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: FW: Please DENY the permit application for Astro Park!!

I am forwarding my email to each of you in the hopes that the City of Oakland will not allow the destruction of this beautiful park in my neighborhood to happen. Please support the voters who have supported you and stop this!! I fully support the development of a dog park behind Fairyland and hope that that space will be re-considered. It just makes more sense!!

Monica J. Nocon

Time & Billing Supervisor

Farella Braun + Martel LLP

RUSS BUILDING

235 MONTGOMERY STREET

SAN FRANCISCO / CA 94104

Main Line 415.954.4400

Direct Line 415.954.4715

Acct. Dept. Fax 415.291.8212

or

Main Fax 415.954.4480

www.fbm.com <http://www.fbm.com/>

From: Nocon, Monica (23) x4715
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 11:44 AM
To: 'aclevenger@oaklandnet.com'
Cc: 'saveastropark@gmail.com'
Subject: Please DENY the permit application for Astro Park!!

Dear Commissioners,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park. This open space is a beautiful anchor to the surrounding neighborhoods and shouldn't be cut up and fenced off to only be used by dog owners. I am a dog lover, but know for a fact that the City of Oakland already has plenty of off-leash areas for dog owners to take their pets. This will be an complete eye-sore and will selfishly take away vital space that is now used by many, and will then only be available to a few. Please, please don't let this happen!!

Monica J. Nocon

Time & Billing Supervisor

Farella Braun + Martel LLP

RUSS BUILDING

235 MONTGOMERY STREET

SAN FRANCISCO / CA 94104

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or

Main Fax 415.954.4480

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Farella Braun + Martel LLP

From: Raynor Voorhies [ravoorhies@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 11, 2012 9:23 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Play Area near Astro Park

Dear Ms. Kernighan:

I am against having a dog play area near Astro Park because of its proximity to an area where many young children play. In addition to the potential physical danger to children from dogs whose owners who do not leash them on the way to the enclosed dog area, the barking is likely to frighten many young children, and the dog feces to attract flies and create an unpleasant odor. It would be great if all dog owners cleaned up after their dogs, but this is not the case.

This neighborhood does not have many safe public areas for children to play. Astro Park has provided such a place for many, many years. My own children played here over thirty years ago. It would be a shame if dogs' barking silenced children's laughter.

Sincerely,
Raynor Voorhies
1053 Trestle Glen Road
Oakland

From: Felicia [mai.felicia@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 10, 2012 2:06 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No dog park in Astro park

Dear Commissioners,
I am writing you today, to ask you to please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood Astro park. I am a working professional and mother of a 2 year old. My family frequents the playground, the nearby library, and the open field on a daily basis. We believe that by allowing the proposed dog park to go through, you would be negatively impacting the community in many ways. There are not any other open fields in the vicinity, however there are at least 6 other dog parks in the area. Many children and adults use the open fields for picnicking, chasing geese, sunbathing, games of three-flies-up, soccer, volleyball, capture the flag, and more. By taking away this space and redesignating it for running dogs, you'd be doing many humans a disservice. Please save our Lakeview/Astro Park!
Sincerely,
Felicia Hashimoto

* Locating a dog park in the middle of a highly visible, high density retail environment is inappropriate and unwise fiscally and aesthetically
* The dog park would remove 50% of an open playfield currently depended upon by residents and schools.
* Active recreation use is identified by OSCAR as being inadequately served in the Lake Merritt area.
* Maintaining a dog park in this location is not sustainable. The high visibility requires maintenance standards that could not nor should be left up to a volunteer group.
* Parking is already stressed in the area. The dog park proposal would only add to the parking demand.
* The area sits atop two major watershed creeks and is saturated with rain water during winter and spring months.
* The proposed location is next to a tot lot, raising concerns regarding incompatibility and safety.
* Open Space (OSCAR) guidelines mandate that at the most, only 15% of this space be evaluated for change of use. The current proposal would change 24% of this neighborhood park.
* OSCAR guidelines described above mandate that new dog parks be located in underutilized spaces, not high value, existing playfields.
* The original dog park proposal followed appropriate process by being reviewed in 2004 and 2006 community meetings, but the design proposal at that time was for a highly improved $400,000 dog park.
* The cost estimate for the current proposal is $45,000 —only 11% of the original budget. No pre-development community meetings were held to gather input, even though concerns began surfacing in community email groups in mid-2009.
* A dog park with a small capital budget and a dubious maintenance strategy should be located in a less visible location.
* The location is too noisy and too busy for dogs and too dangerous if a dog were to get loose off-leash.
* There is a much better alternative location for a dog park at Lake Merritt that avoids virtually every concern brought up with the Astro/Eastshore Park location.
* http://www.saveastropark.org/

--
Felicia Mai Hashimoto
510.517.0051
mai.felicia@gmail.com

From: peter grube [pgru@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 10:59 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Fw: Dog Park At Astro

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

I am writing today to urge the Planning Commisioners to deny the conditional use permit for a fenced dog area in Eastshore Park (Astro Park). This small neighborhood park is well used and has been enjoyed by generations of Oaklanders. Many groups use the space for organized sports activities. Soccer, volleyball, flag football, frisbee, baseball (at the backstop), boot camps,

Brazilian Martial Arts, circle rules football, hoolahoop, yoga and slack lining are just some of the groups recently using this marvelous open space. There are also adults and kids overflowing from the tot lot, people playing with their kids, and some folks who just like to walk across the grass. These activities are so varied that they require a large open space. The beauty is we already have this level open space at Astro Park.

Please don't allow a fence to be put up and subtract almost half of the open field. The proposed fence would not only compress all these activities into half the available space, but it would also ruin the impressive sight lines for those who are simply passing by. Where else in Oakland do we have an uninterrupted view of a large lawn in this type of urban area? Old google maps show that the open space, at one time extended all the way to Lake Park where the Kwikway and Grand Lake Theater are located. When the highway came through, that open space was cut back to what is now Astro Park. Astro Park is all that is left of our gateway to Lake Merritt. Let's not further divide this unique and valued space.

A fenced dog run at Astro Park would dominate the space and invite hazards and nuisances. Service trucks would be required to back in from busy Lakeshore Avenue and cross a congested sidewalk in very close proximity to toddlers. The fence line would run directly along the foul line of the baseball backstop and extend along the perimeter of the tot lot forcing users to adjust their play to avoid interference from the new structure. Freedom to participate in a variety of activities would be restricted due to new space constraints. All sports field users, pedestrians passing by, people waiting for buses and tot lot users would be subject to smell, noise and dust from the proposed dog park. Visually it would be a downgrade for everyone, even the thousands who pass by in cars and on bikes every day.

This neighborhood park and in fact the entire area is heavily used but at the same time enjoyed for its accessibility. Please don't place a limit on this enjoyment by overburdening the location with a dog run development. We don't need to cover every available space with fixtures. In this case the beauty is in the availability and openness provided to everyone.

Lastly, Oakland has been my home since 1981 and I have always had dogs. Oakland is a fabulous place for dog owners with no less than five fenced off leash dog runs and thousands of off leash acres available in the Oakland hills to take our pets along with many more options nearby. The notion that, as dog owners, we are somehow being discounted or denied access is ludicrous.

Please deny the conditional use permit for an enclosed off leash dog area in Eastshore (Astro) Park. Keep Astro Park open and available for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Peter Grube
Casterline Road
Oakland
From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2012 12:22 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie; Karchmer, Joanne

Subject: FW: Please deny permit for fenced off off-leash dog area

Hi Pat,

The letters are piling in to Ann. Since you don't see most of them as they are just going to Ann, I wanted to send just a few along here and there like this one below. People are extremely passionate about this small stretch of green—it's pretty powerful.

We attended the Planning Commission meeting last night and Grace found out at the ETA for the dog park meeting will be May 2nd.

Hope you're enjoying the sunshine!

Sue

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Jennifer Chin <jentchin@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 7, 2012 at 10:30 AM
Subject: Please deny permit for fenced off off-leash dog area
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Clevenger:

Thank you for forwarding my email below to the Planning Commission.

Dear Commissioners:

I've been an Oakland Lake Merritt resident for nearly 15 years. I love dogs--I've owned a dog, and I've cared for others' dogs. I'm also a parent with a 4-year old who loves the green area of Astro park because my son can run around the field and play soccer on Saturday mornings before we walk over to the Farmers' Market. We can fly kites and play baseball there on Sunday afternoons. We play in the sandbox, but sometimes my son just wants to run on the green, green grass. All of these things will be changed or not even a possibility if there is a fenced, off-leash dog run built. I respectfully, but strongly request that you deny permit to allow for a fenced-off dog park area in the park, on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur.

With all the wonderful park upgrades and road and walkway improvements done under Measure DD, I'm finding it very hard to imagine how a off-leash dog run with a wrap around fence, RIGHT on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur is even a consideration. So many people use this space--adults have their own soccer games along side the kids. Little toddlers run and chase the geese, kites are flown, There isn't enough room to push the soccer and field games to the area near the library parking lot. There are many dog parks in walking distance. Why do we need to have a chain fenced obstruction right in the heart of the busiest part of Lake Merritt? Why are we going to put in something that will take away the green grass, block park access, increase traffic, and put off-leash dogs closer to tots?

I'm a single mother who is finding urban Oakland harder and harder to raise a child in. I own my property and I pay Oakland taxes. I support Oakland

businesses because I believe in this city. I will be extremely disappointed if this permit is allowed to push out more recreational space for residents and children where it is needed most. Why are we pushing out the people and children and making room for dogs? Dogs can have space--it's just not appropriate here.

To avoid sending large files, I'm including a link to photos of my son and his buddies making good use of this space. Please don't take that away.
https://picasaweb.google.com/107385679758804445215/AstroPark?authuser=0
<https://picasaweb.google.com/107385679758804445215/AstroPark?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCP_j27T-u5f6cA&feat=directlink> &authkey=Gv1sRgCP_j27T-u5f6cA&feat=directlink

Respectfully,
Jennifer Chin (Oakland Lake Merritt resident since 1997)
Alex Chin (Oakland Lake Merritt resident since 2007)

From: Steven Boranian [stevenboranian@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 7:56 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; At Large; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: NO to the dog park

Dear Ms. Clevenger,

Please DENY the misguided application to convert our beautiful neighborhood park into an off-leash dog park.

What a sad day it would be if you were to take this wonderful resource that is enjoyed by so many and turn it over to dogs and their owners, who care about no one other than themselves. The most sad part is that a dog park is completely unnecessary. Every dog owner in Oakland is free to have his or her dog in her or her own home, and there is no need, and certainly no entitlement, to have premium public space fenced off for their exclusive use.

I have lived in the neighborhood for 16 years and have raised my three children here, walking often to the park and to the nearby library. I also drive by the park on a daily basis, like thousands of others, and it is a wonderful gateway to the neighborhood. Imagine if the open green space is replaced by a fenced-off brown patch filled with dogs and their droppings. If you approve this application, you will literally be dumping on our neighborhood. In fact, the weather this weekend is supposed to be nice and clear. Why don't you drive by and see for yourself how well this space is used and what a tragedy it would be if you put an end to the open use of this public space.

Please do not give in to the selfish dog owners. There are bullies and will insist that the entire city needs to embrace and accommodate their precious pets. They must not be allowed to appropriate for themselves one of the nicest spots in our neighborhood.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Steven Boranian
780 Trestle Glen Rd.
510-893-1402
From: Lea Therianos [leatherianos@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2012 1:11 PM

To: Lea Therianos
Subject: Save Astro Park!

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to support the efforts to save Astro Park. I'm a dog owner, and have lived in the Bay Area for almost 28 years of my life. There are many wonderful dog parks, and out door areas for dog owners to take their pets in the Bay Area.

I'm almost always supportive of creating new spaces for outdoor off-leash dog parks, but I feel that it's unnecessary to turn Astro Park into one because the area is not suitable for a dog park. There are too many cars, and man-made dog runs are hard to maintain and keep clean. Parks such as the one they're proposing to make in Astro Park is usually the last place I enjoy taking my dog for exercise. I enjoy taking my dog to parks such as Fort Funston in San Francisco, and Point Isabelle in Richmond. The drive to both of these places is completely worth it for me because the land is a suitable place for families to spend time with their beloved pets.

Astro Park is a place where many people and families, mine included, enjoy playing outdoor sports, join fitness groups, have picnics, and participate in many other outdoor activities. It'd be a shame to do away with the green grassy area that gets so much great usage now, and to fence this area off to make a dog park when there are so many other wonderful places to take our pets.

Thanks for taking time to read this letter.

Best,
Lea Therianos

From: M.Kourjanski [mkourjanski@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 7:00 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please, no "dog park" dirt pit by Lake Merritt

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express our entire family's strong opposition to the plans of some apparently small but very vocal activist group to place a dog park in the middle of the open green by Lake Merritt.

We reside in the neighborhood since 2003, and had many, many wonderful moments of going to the playground or kicking the ball on the green.

This open green is the face of the city, it shows charm and beauty.

When we talked within our family about the strange plans to spoil this open green space, my now 10-year old son asked - who could possibly come with this weird idea? My now 18-year old daughter asked - how come this idea found its way into the city government? My wife just shook her head because she is aware how dysfunctional the governance of this city is.

And from my own point of view I would add that we've seen many cities and governments through our life - from former USSR, through Europe and to quite a few places in the US - and Oakland unfortunately shows the most staggering incompetence in terms of architectural planning and strategy of all places we've ever seen.

Me being a Block Captain for the Neighborhood watch, I discussed the publicized plans around the dog park with our neighbours. The reaction was overall between strongly negative and somewhat neutral (with the unanswered question - who is going to pay for and do maintenance). Mind you, many of them own dogs.

I would like to ask you to DENY the permit application for the dog park proposal; if it moves forward it would be an enormous disservice to our community.

Finally, I simply cannot resist to mention:

- It is amazing how difficult it is to even obtain simple facts about the proposed upcoming changes;
- It is nearly impossible to determine what is the decisioning workflow and public commenting process at the City commission, with very low transparency and visibility to local residents (who by the way pay your salary with their property taxes).
- It is amazing to note that city officials were making order-of-magnitude mistakes in quoting estimated budgets for the new feature development and continued maintenance.
- It is amazing to see an utter and complete disregard by some of the Representatives of the voice of the community expressed in thousands of negative opinions, along with a pretty rude communication style.
- And last but not least - it is amazing to see the lack of elementary logic in the arguments from the small group of pushers of this poor idea.

Thank you for your attention.

Kind regards,

-Mikhail Kourjanski

619 Montclair Ave.

Oakland, CA

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 10:24 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie; Karchmer, Joanne
Subject: FW: Save Astro Park

FYI…
---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Benjamin Adkins <benjamin_adkins@hotmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 4, 2012 at 2:51 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: aclevenger@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Ben Adkins and I live in the Adam's Point neighborhood next to Astro Park and Lake Merritt. Astro Park and the Lake is the best thing about this area of Oakland. It is truly the gem of Oakland! Please do not allow this beautiful green space to be turned into a dog run. Please deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in my neighborhood park! I have many reasons for pleading with you to not allow this to happen. My wife and I moved to Oakland within the last year because we are volunteers with the International Rescue Committee, an organization committed to helping displaced refugees from around the world to successfully resettle here in Oakland. My friends, our new incoming refugees, are arriving from all over the world: Bhutan, Nepal, Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and so many more! We use Astro Park - one of the few large green areas that is within walking distance near my neighborhood - to host weekly and daily events. For example, every Friday we teach a free English class for new refugees and afterwards we play soccer with our students. We walk to Astro Park and use this beautiful green space to play soccer and build relationships with our students. Our students describe this as their favorite time during the week. It is therapeutic for them! For many, they come from rural areas that are usually lush and green, so coming to a modern city like Oakland is hard for them. Yet, this little space called Astro Park allows them to remember what green space looks like. I distinctly remember one of my Bhutanese friends on his first time to Astro Park reaching down to the grass and dirt at Astro Park and smiling. I asked him what was going on because here was this 30 year old man standing in the middle of Astro Park bent over in half touching the earth. I will never forget what he told me - he looked up at me and said in his broken

English - "Ben, I feel the earth again." I asked him, "what do you mean?" He told me that this was the first time since he moved to Oakland (about four months prior) that he was able to touch the grass, the soil, and the earth. He was so excited and happy to be able to have a green place to come to. He came up to me and gave me a big hug and said: "thank you!" This is why Astro Park is important. Living in a modern city, we have to protect our green spaces. If Astro Park had been a dog run, my new friend would have never had this experience.

In addition to this experience, we use Astro Park every Sunday at 3pm to play soccer. A group of around 20 show up and play soccer from 3pm till around 6 or until it gets dark. This is not just a group of your average American guys playing soccer. This is a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, multi-racial, multi-religious group. Here is a group of Muslims from Afghanistan playing soccer with Hindus from Sri Lanka, Buddhist from Bhutan, and Orthodox Christians from Eritrea - laughing and playing soccer. They are the future of Oakland. They are the future of our nation. Allowing green spaces like Astro Park to exist allows for connections and bridges to be built across cultural, language, religious, and social barriers. It is one of the few green spaces in Oakland big enough to host a group like ours.

Besides using this beautiful green space for sporting events, we host family events here as well. For example, last Spring we hosted an Easter picnic and egg hunt for refugee families. We had over 30 families show up for the event. We had food from all over the world. We had games for the children. And we had a good 'ole American Easter Egg Hunt for the young children. Well, ... we thought it was only for young children until our adults, who had never experienced an Easter Egg hunt ran out to find eggs for themselves. Many of the families had never experienced an Easter Egg hunt and were so happy and excited to be able to experience an American "tradition." For weeks afterwards, many of our friends kept asking us when we could go back to Astro Park and look for eggs! If Astro Park was a off-leash dog run, where else could we go? Please, don't allow this space to be turned into a dog-run. Not only do we use this space for large group gatherings, we also use it for small group gatherings as well. We have taught English in the park. We have small picnics in the park. It is such a wonderful place. And we love it!

Commissioners, I beg of you, please deny the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in my, no, "our" neighborhood area park.

Sincerely,
and in most respect,

Benjamin S. Adkins

From: Miss Rootes [missrootes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2012 10:09 AM
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park Planning

Dear City Official,

It has been pointed out to me by a group of concerned citizens that Astro Park may be turned into a dog park. I have been a Lake Merritt resident for over 7 years and I would vote no for a dog park in this area. I often marvel at all the different groups of people that share that space for sports and recreation, from toddlers learning their first soccer moves to co-ed adult groups who need a physical release from stress on weekends. I hope that you will see the logic and humanity of prioritizing human use of the playing field over animal recreation. People who chose to have dogs in the city should be conscious of the fact that they will have to take their animals to more remote locations to let them run off leash. I am also concerned that the space will not be cared for and will become another part of the lake that is spoiled by animal waste. Please do not turn Astro Park into a dog park.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Rootes
From: Roy [sfbaywalk@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 5:05 PM
To: VIEN TRUONG; C. BLAKE HUNTSMAN; MICHAEL COLBRUNO; MADELEINE ZAYAS-MART; JONELYN WHALES; CHRIS PATTILLO; Schaaf, Libby; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Reid, Larry; Brunner, Jane; De La Fuente, Ignacio; Brooks, Desley
Subject: I Object to Dog Park Land Grab at Lake Merritt

Dear Oakland Council and Planning Commission,

I have thus far been silent on the matter of the proposed Lake Merritt Dog Park. But now the dog people are agitating for a section of Dimond Park (just up Fruitvale from MacArthur) under very old pines. So I started researching.

Oakland already has 5 dog parks. And, a quick internet search helped me find abundant resources for dogs off-leash and on-leash. For example, most of the 65 East Bay Regional Parks allow dogs off-leash outside of parking and picnic areas. This means that the two county region has almost 100,000 acres and up to 1,000 miles of trails for on and mostly off-leash dog use.

Today (Monday) I hiked up into Joaquin Miller Park to look at that dog park. It's a beauty in a lovely setting under the redwoods with abundant parking. Almost nobody is using it. You have 1.25 acreas, including a large dog area and a small dog area. At 1 pm, there were 6 dogs in the large area, and the small dog area was empty.

During my hike up Dimond Canyon and Palo Seco Canyon, I passed 6 dogs with 5 owners. None of the dogs was on leash (contrary to regs). I talked with them. One said that her dog loves the Joaquin Miller Dog Park. The others don't use it: they just like to walk in the park. None were concerned about being ticketed. One had been given a verbal warning by a park ranger (I personally don't care ... I'm just saying).

Discussion with people at the Dog Park. They love it. They love that it is lighted and stays open to 8 pm. They do not seriously mind that it closes for 10 days a year for amphitheater events.

I did notice that the dog people have set up advertising for their cause within the city park --- I take serious objection to confiscation of a public park for political materials. And I strongly advocate removal of those materials --- and penalty for the transgressors, if possible.

The dog people have engaged in a number of deceptions.

1. All they want is for us to share space --- Wrong! They want to confiscate public space for their own use and exclude the rest of us. That space is now used by a wide range of people -- women's exercise groups, tai chi groups, soccer, etc.

2. Parking at Lake Merritt is no problem ---- Wrong! The parking facility by Trader Joe's has become an impossible no-man's-land. I have been threatened with violence there to the point of carrying my tire tool while shopping and wishing I have a firearm carry permit. Ask the staff at Trader Joe's. There will be violence over parking space. Keep an eye out for this.

3. The dog park is for people in the neighborhood ---- Wrong! The location by the freeway insures that it will attract people from all over Oakland and even from throughout the region.

4. People who use the proposed dog park will shop locally. --- Distortion! They also claim that the dog park is for use by people in the immediate area. This means that those people are already shopping in that area. Therefore, there will be no increase in sales, unless they want to change their claim that the small dog mark is intended as a regional facility.

5. Well .... If we are to conclude that the facility is to be regional in nature, then you already have a regional facility at Joaquin Miller Park. You simply need to market that space.

6. The hard part about Lake Merritt is that, when you exclude the lake itself, the acreage is actually very small. You can't treat it like Golden Gate Park, and you can't fit every little thing in there.

7. Market the dog park space you have -- particularly Joaquin Miller. Just say no to the people who would continually confiscate public parks for personal use.

8. I hate to sound old fashioned. In my world, when we want a place for our dogs to play.... we call those back yards.

p.s. If you must carve out space at Lake Merritt, take one of the three Lawn Bowling facilities. It is already fenced, it is right sized, there is parking nearby, and the facility has benches. I looked up the Oakland Lawn Bowlers web site. It appears that they use the facility for 6 hours per week.

YELP comments on local leashed and unleashed areas for dogs:
http://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=Off+Leash+Dog+Parks
<http://www.yelp.com/search?find_desc=Off+Leash+Dog+Parks&find_loc=Oakland%2C+CA
> &find_loc=Oakland%2C+CA

Bay Area Hiker list of places for on- and off-leash dogs:
http://www.bahiker.com/doghikes.html

Another List: http://www.dogsquad.biz/dog-resources.html#dogparks

Dog-related info from the East Bay Regional Parks District:
http://www.ebparks.org/activities/dogs

Another List: http://www.mercurynews.com/pets-animals-headlines/ci_19820173

Sincerely,

Roy McCandless
Doctor of Public Health
1814 Clemens Rd
Oakland, CA 94602

--

http://www.sfbaywalk.com/

http://www.flickr.com/photos/sfbaywalk/collections/72157625935312804/
From: Peggy Bristol-Wright [pegasus16.b@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 11:36 PM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Dog Park at Astro Park

To Ann Clevenger, Pat Kernighan, Nancy Nadel and Rebecca Kaplan:

I'm writing to express my concern about the proposal to turn Astro Park at Lake Merritt into a dog park. I live in the Lake Merritt area, and I realize there are a lot of folks who own dogs in this part of Oakland. Lake Merritt is a great attraction for everyone and everything, from humans to birds to canines (and not a few rodents.) However, I don't believe Astro Park is the right place for a dog park for a number of reasons.

* It's too close to the children's play area. Please remember that not all dog owners are responsible when it comes to their pets. And many children are afraid of dogs.

* Lots of folks own pit bulls. Lots of folks own Rottweilers. Lots of folks own German shepherds. Are you really considering exposing the City to additional liability by specifically inviting these breeds of dogs to come and play right next to a children's playground? What if just one of them gets away from its owner or out of control? Have you ever noticed that not every dog owner does a good job of controlling his/her pet?

* Who is going to clean up the droppings? Is the City going to hire more workers, or (as I've heard) are you going to rely on the good will of the dog owners? If your answer is the latter, do you really believe that a volunteer workforce is going to maintain their commitment to pick up dog poop over the long haul?

* What about the people whose apartments or condos currently overlook this area of the Lake? Are all of them in support of the additional noise, the less-than-aesthetic view of dog droppings, and the smell?

* Astro Park is currently enjoyed by numbers of people for team sports like soccer. If you displace them with a dog park, where are you suggesting that they go now?

* Astro Park is very close to the Farmer's Market as well. Somehow, the visual of soccer players right across the street from the Market just works better than a visual of a whole gang of dogs in such close proximity to the Market.

* There is another small park, right by Lakeshore and Hanover, that doesn't seem to be used very much. Why not use that for a dog park instead?

I love dogs and my children have enjoyed them as pets. However, when it comes to the concept of letting dogs run around freely, Lake Merritt clearly is no substitute for Point Isabel. A dog park is a good idea, but Astro Park is not the right place.

Sincerely,
Peggy Bristol-Wright

From: Andy Asp [westernsaga@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2012 10:24 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: NO to the Astro dog park

Hello,

I just want to let you know that I'm opposed to the proposed dog park at Astro Park near the lake. There's a dog park just a 10 minute walk away in Piedmont, and that field is one of the last true open spaces in the area.

Creating a dog park there transforms the area into a special-interest zone rather than an area for the general public near the playground. There's a good spot underneath the MacArthur freeway at Glen Echo Park that would be a fine dog park, with no playground nearby. Please give it a look.

No to the dog park!

Andy Asp

438 Lee Street, Apt. 1

Oakland , CA 94610

From: john maloney [jmmaloney@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2012 2:16 PM
Cc: LakeshoreHomes LakeshoreHomes
Subject: We really don't need a dog park at the Astro Park location

Dear community representative:

Please stop this silliness about putting a dog park in Astro Park.

Astro Park is barely big enough to accomodate a pick-up soccer game, much less a permanent dog park with all its attendant sanitation, hazard, and maintenance

issues. With all the demands on our beleagured City budget, building a dog park seems to be another frill we can't afford.

Let's get our police force, libraries and schools fully staffed. Then maybe we can consider another location for a dog park if we really have no better way to expend our resources.

John Maloney
1085 Brookwood Road
Oakland, CA 94610-2507

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 11:43 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie
Subject: FW: Opposition to Astro Dog Park. Send it back for further consideration

Hi Pat,

Not sure if you got this one or not—fyi just in case.

Sue

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Tom Anthony <tom@anthonyassoc.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 6, 2011 at 7:09 AM
Subject: Opposition to Astro Dog Park. Send it back for further consideration
To: saveastropark@gmail.com
Cc: tom@anthonyassoc.com

Dear Council Members and Planners,

I am a local Broker/Developer and nearby resident on Lakeshore Avenue writing to register my opposition to the dog park in Astro Park.

I wife and I enjoy the park with our 5 year old boy on walks back and forth to the farmer's market.

While I am not opposed to a dog park per se, I believe the location is such a prominent location is a poor choice.

Please deny this application and send the project back for further consideration.

How about in Lakeside Park? There's TONS of minimally used space there.

Thank you for your considering my opinion.

Sincerely,

Tom Anthony

From: Victoria A. Barbero [vabarbero@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 08, 2011 11:15 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Against the Dog Park

Hi Pat,

Please note my husband, Reinaldo Barbero, and I strongly oppose the dog park. This is a park for kids.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Wishing you all the blessings of a wonderful Christmas and joy and happiness throughout the new year!

Victoria

Victoria A. Barbero

Barbero Communications, LLC.

<mailto:vabarbero@comcast.net> vabarbero@comcast.net

510-387-3071

From: alankarls@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 11:21 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

Pat Kernighan, Rebecca Kaplan, Nancy Nadel; Ann Clevenger

I just heard that there are plans to put a dog park in Astro Park. I am against this plan. I have lived in the Lake Merritt area for over 30 years. My kids played in the park. I have seen hundreds of different groups use the park on a regular basis over the years. It is a successful and well-used park as it is.

The plan would call for hijacking a good portion of the park for a special interest minority of the public: only those who own dogs. I find this undemocratic and elitist. Why should one portion of the public---and a very small portion at that---have sole rites to any public space? Just because those people have decided that they need to keep an animal in the city does not mean that the city has to provide them with public space at public expense so that they can exercise their animal.

Where will those who use the park now go? How will the children get to the play areas when all parking in the area is filled with the gas guzzling SUVs preferred by dog owners?

I think that turning over a good portion of Astro Park to a small special interest group is a terrible idea that will ruin the park and do disservice to more people than it would serve. I hope that you are wise enough to oppose the idea.

Alan R Karls

365 Euclid Ave. #302

Oakland, CA 94610

From: Sheila [selewis458@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 06, 2011 9:23 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No Dog Run in Astro Park

Hi,

I am an Oakland resident who walks Lake Merritt quite frequently. I'm among those who do not want a fenced dog run at Lakeshore and MacArthur. Other than

simply being unsightly, it eliminates some of the most important activities that take place there. Just a couple of weekends ago there was a soccer match for Special Olympians. In my mind, these are more important activities.

Need a dog run, build one near your home. That may work!

Thank you for your support!

Sheila Lewis
438 West Grand Avenue
#413
Oakland, CA 94612

"Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat."
- Alex Levine

From: Victoria Wong [vwoakland@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 2:12 PM
To: Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Against Astro Park Dog Park

Dear Councilmembers Kaplan and Nadel and Ms. Clevenger:

I write to strongly oppose the placement of a dog park at Astro Park/Eastshore Park. This area is highly visible and heavily used and enjoyed by many neighborhood residents, including me and my family, who live within half a mile of the park. A dog park at this location would eliminate the open space that serves as a transition between SplashPad Park and the Lake, significantly harming the aesthetics of the park. I do not want a chain-link-fenced dirt area in that highly visible location. If the appearance of other dog parks, such as the one by FROG park, is any indication, this would be an unsightly and unwelcome area.

In addition, the neighbors of the park, like myself, should not be expected to rely on volunteers' promises to maintain the dog park. If it becomes dirty and smelly, the community will have no recourse for correcting the problem. Furthermore, I believe this dog park, if it is to be located anywhere, should, like most dog parks, be placed in an underutilized area, as the Linda Park dog park and the dog park near FROG Park are placed (on a steep hillside and under a freeway, respectively), rather than in a highly used, attractive and visible area.

Furthermore, deposite ODOG's promises that its volunteers will maintain the park, there is no guarantee it will happen, and the City will not have the resources to maintain the park. As it is, Oakland does not have the resources to maintain existing parks, even with volunteer assistance. For example, the Oakland Rose Garden's condition has deteriorated severely since gardening staff was reduced, despite regular volunteer efforts. I do not want to see a new dog park, in a highly visible and highly trafficked area, deteriorate into a blight on the neighborhood. In fact, I am opposed to even the capital expenditures proposed for the park, given Oakland's dire budget situation. That money would be far better spent maintaining existing parks than creating another park for which the City cannot afford maintenance.

Arguments that this location has been in the works for a long time and that the City should not spend additional money on planning a new park are not persuasive. As evidenced by the strong community opposition to the park, many, many local residents had no idea about the plans, and there are many valid objections to it, including children's safety, aesthetics, and the elimination of a significant open space, where Oakland has a shortage of open park space already. The fact that this not a suitable location for a dog park remains true regardless of how much it would cost to plan an alternative location.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Wong
From: John Thompson [jthompson@pyatok.com]
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 1:37 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please no dog run at Astro Park

Hello All,

As a neighbor (I live at Lee & Van Buren) and a local worker, I wanted to e-mail my objection to a fenced-off dog run area at Astro Park. My girlfriend and I LOVE the Lake and the wonderful (and improving) ring of green space that surrounds it. Every day on my walk to work I am passed by joggers with their dogs running alongside, and I frequently see people pausing to let their dogs socialize with other dogs. All of this happens naturally, and it's all part of what makes the neighborhood so inviting for people like us that were done with living in San Francisco.

We are dog lovers and wish we could own a few under our lease. For now we make do with stalking our neighbor's dogs (and getting awkward smiles from their owners.) But on the issue of a fenced-off dog run at Astro Park, we both feel that the park is already happily maximized by groups playing sports, morning exercise groups, strolling people as well socializing dogs and their owners. There is no need to sequester a part of it and turn it into a dirt patch fouled with dog poop. The geese already do enough unmitigated fouling of the park.

I understand the joy of seeing dogs running off-leash but obviously with the adjacent freeway traffic that's not a great idea at this corner. But it's also part of the reason that this is just not the best place for this activity at all- either off-leash or with a fence, especially given the frequency of other uses. Adding a fence will fracture the park too much for the other uses, inviting more geese into the vacuum.

Please leave this wonderful park unfenced and open for all users, as it is today. People love it as it is.

Sincerely,

John

--
John Thompson, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP
Project Architect
Pyatok Architects
1611 Telegraph Ave., Suite 200
Oakland, CA 94612
510-465-7010 x114
<mailto:jthompson@pyatok.com> jthompson@pyatok.com
<http://www.pyatok.com/> www.pyatok.com

From: metzler.annemarie@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, December 05, 2011 1:23 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park at astro park

>
> Dear Councilwoman Kernighan,
>
> As a resident of the grand lake neighborhood, I am writing to express my disapproval for the plans for a dog park at astro park. I feel this space is best preserved as a green space. The dog park would run too close to the playground and there are not enough concrete plans to ensure it remains sanitary. I encourage you to vote against the matter.
>
> Respectfully,
> Anne Marie Metzler
> 840 Vermont st.
>
> Sent from my iPhone
From: David Roberts [davidbobs1@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, December 04, 2011 12:18 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; At Large; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Oppposed to dog park at Lake Merritt

Please continue your thoughtful opposition to the dogpark at lake merritt

I appreciate all the effort that has gone into this by both side but as a 25 year resident and park user for that entire time, a dog park is an extremely inappropriate use for a high traffic, high visibility

location that will draw huge numbers of drivers that want to come and run their dogs off leash. I have a dog and its sad but a fact of life that you have to walk them on leash or drive somewhere far away. My kids learned soccer on the patch of ground the dogs will now have.

--
Best regards

David Roberts
510 444 1173
davidbobs@earthlink.net
davidbobs1@gmail.com
From: christina mastrangelo [christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2011 5:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: NO On Fenced Dog Run Astro Park

Dear Council Members and Staff,

I am writing to voice concern and vote against having the fenced dog run at Astro Park at Lake Merritt for the following reasons:

SAFETY!! - Too close to the Children's Playground and Street which is not good for the kids or the dogs.

Not sanitary for the location

Not the best use for the greater public

Destroys the Oakland Culture of that use in that park.

This will deter the greater public from use and enjoyment of the park. Please put the dog park else where. In addition most of the dog owners currently walk there dogs around the Lake and those that I have talked to said they would not use the dog park and that they would continue to walk there dog around the lake.

--

Very Concerned Oakland Resident

Christina Mastrangelo

MOBILE: 510-459-2653
EMAIL: christina.mastrangelo@gmail.com

From: ouija@spaz.org
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2011 10:33 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: i dont want a dog park

a dog park park ? sounds like a lousy idea to me. how about a skateboarding bowl somewhere? and dog people can take their dogs to alameda navy base. in oakland, folks on bicycles have no bike lane ,or if they do ,they are dangerous . people want to think their city is progressive , but oakland is backwards. art projects, skateboarding facilities ,bike lanes. we need it. we dont need things for dogs when the people are hurting. id rather see a homeless outreach .
From: Kira Dulaney [kira_dulaney@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:41 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; kaplan@oaklandnet.com; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park dog run

To Whom it may Concern,

I wish to voice my opposition to the proposed dog run at Astro Park near Mac Arthur Boulevard and Lakeshore.

As a resident in the area (Palm Ave @ Bellevue) since 2006, I was surprised to hear of the project only recently from the group Save Astro Park. I have serious concerns about the changes proposed. The Save Astro Park group (www.saveastropark.org) enumerates several that I see as valid:
-poor drainage in that area of the park exposing dogs and people to increased health hazards
-high vehicle traffic in very close proximity
-cutting the usable recreation space of the already small park in half
-detracting from the beauty of the current open green field
-proximity to children's play area
-already overburdened city maintenance department would be unable to devote adequate resources to upkeep and slipshod and impermanent volunteer groups are no substitute.

Furthermore, I would encourage investigating the option of a dog run site at the old horse stables as described on at http://www.saveastropark.org/alternative-location. This location is nearby, walkable yet off the main artery roads, disused, and has firmer drier ground.

When the idea for a dog run in the area was first put forth in 1998, it may have had more support because there was a dearth of available off leash runs in Oakland. However, the implementation of the plan took many years to move forward, as with many bureaucratic processes, and in the interim other locations for off leash dog use have become available (find a list here <http://www.saveastropark.org/top-ten-reasons-this-dog-run-is-a-bad-idea/how-far-is-it-to-other-dog-parks>).
While I appreciate that the plan for the Mac Arthur/ Lakeshore site has been in the works for years, I still do not find that that expense and effort put into it thus far is just cause for implementing a flawed plan for the park. It would be a costly mistake, and would no doubt meet with overwhelming community opposition if more people were aware of the plan.

I look forward to hearing discussion on this topic at the Planning Commission meeting.

Sincerely,
Ms. Kira Dulaney
Adams Point
Oakland, CA

From: Rachel Dulaney [rachel.dulaney@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, November 09, 2011 10:33 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Opposed to dog run plan for Astro Park

To Whom it may Concern,

I wish to voice my opposition to the proposed dog run at Astro Park near Mac Arthur Boulevard and Lakeshore.

As a resident in the area (Palm Ave @ Bellevue) since 2006, I was surprised to hear of the project only recently from the group Save Astro Park. I have serious concerns about the changes proposed. The Save Astro Park group (www.saveastropark.org) enumerates several that I see as valid:
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When the idea for a dog run in the area was first put forth in 1998, it may have had more support because there was a dearth of available off leash runs in Oakland. However, the implementation of the plan took many years to move forward, as with many bureaucratic processes, and in the interim other locations for off leash dog use have become available (find a list here <http://www.saveastropark.org/top-ten-reasons-this-dog-run-is-a-bad-idea/how-far-is-it-to-other-dog-parks>).
While I appreciate that the plan for the Mac Arthur/ Lakeshore site has been in the works for years, I still do not find that that expense and effort put into it thus far is just cause for implementing a flawed plan for the park. It would be a costly mistake, and would no doubt meet with overwhelming community opposition if more people were aware of the plan.

I look forward to hearing discussion on this topic at the Planning Commission meeting.

Thank you for your devoted civil service and your attention in this matter.

Ms. Rachel Dulaney
Adams Point
Oakland, CA

From: Victoria A. Barbero [vabarbero@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 10:39 AM

To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please no dog park

Pat,

It was great to see you last week at the neighborhood meeting. Just a note to say Reinaldo and I vote no on the dog park - too near where children play.

Cheers,

Victoria

Victoria A. Barbero

Barbero Communications, LLC.

<mailto:vabarbero@comcast.net> vabarbero@comcast.net

510-387-3071

From: Ann Arizu [aarizu@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 10:31 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please Save Astro Park

I am opposed to the proposed dog run at Astro Park. Today, it is a multi-use park enjoyed by many and should stay that way.
Please support keeping Astro Park. Do not let it become a single use park solely for dog owners. There are many other places for dogs to play in Oakland as well as other potential sites nearby.

Thank you,
Ann Arizu
332 Warwick Ave
Oakland, CA 94610
From: gehry oatey [gehry@me.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 10:33 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Clevenger, Ann; At Large
Subject: dog park-???

Dear Council members-

I have lived here in Oakland since 99 and as a homeowner since 2007. I wanted to express my concerns over plans to make the under utilized park area near Lake Merritt into a dog park.
Have you seen what these dog parks actually become-they quickly turn to a dust and poop infested areas.

Please take the time to do your research and see what these spaces become and what exists nearby. There are a handful of them in berkeley. Here in Oakland, we have one of the largest public dog friendly parks in the country right up the hill from the lake. Great for dogs and their owners.

Just wanted to express my concerns with you all.

Best

gehry oatey
MPH Candidate 2012
San Francisco State University
510.395.5525
gehry@me.com

Oakland Planning Dept
Ann Clevenger: aclevenger @oaklandnet.com <http://oaklandnet.com/>

City Council,
Pat Kernighan, District 2- pkernighan@oaklandnet.come
236-7002

Rebecca Kaplan, At-Large- atlarge@oaklandnet.com
238-7008

From: Khalid Kadir [khalidkadir@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 9:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No Dog Park on Lakeshore!

Hello -

As a long-time resident of Oakland who lives 1/2 block off of Lakeshore Avenue, I just wanted to register my opinion on the proposed dog park.

I think the location is horrible, and better alternatives exist (near Fairyland, for example).

Please vote against the proposed dog park and do not succumb to the wishes of a small, outspoken portion of our community at the expense of the rest.

Thank you,
Khalid Kadir
615 Brooklyn Avenue #4
From: Justin Fawsitt [fawsitt@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 5:38 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Attachments: --static--intheclouds_b.jpg; --static--intheclouds_lt.gif

Dear Ms.Kernighan

I am writing to let you know that I'm opposed to the projected Dog Park at Lake Merritt's Astro Park. I have been a resident of this area for over 20 years and while I welcome the wonderful improvements recently implemented, I think a dog park would not be a good idea at all. Please preserve this open grassy lawn for everybody, children especially.

Thank you,

Justin B Fawsitt

From: Natasha Rosen [tasharosen@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 12:24 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Run at Astro Park

Hello Pat Kernighan,

I live in Oakland by Lake Merritt and I love my community. Please don't change Astro Park. We are in desperate need of easily accessible, free public land for recreational sports and social gatherings. This is a public space that should be open to the public to use they way they like. I love watching people play sports, exercise, play drums and just use the space for positive physical outlets. There are so many other places to put a dog park. Don't put one in Astro Park. Why not use the abandoned gas station lot across the street? That space is not currently being used. Thank you for listening to my concern. I hope you understand how much I care about Astro Park and hope to keep it preserved the way it is.

Thank you for your understanding and support,
Natasha Rosen
From: Lon Bruce [lonrbruce@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 3:41 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro Park- Dog Run opposition

I am a resident at 2220 Lakeshore Ave. and am writing in hope that you will share this e mail with your colleagues. I am opposed to the dog park for reasons I will bullet point below. In addition, I believe owning a pet is a personal choice and public lands and tax payer funds should not be utilized for a project

that does not benefit the good of all concerned. Rather, someone could purchase a piece of land and create a dog park and those who choose to patronize it could pay a membership fee to the owner.
My opposition is as follows:
. Current use as a playground and ball field remains desireable to many in the neighborhood
. The number of dogs being walked to the park would greatly increase the number of dogs on Lakeshore and surrounding streets.
. The children at the adjacent playground will be at greater risk from dogs entering/departing the park
.Geese and bird sanctuary will be negatively impacted by increased dog traffic in the neighborhood
. The City of Oakland will incurr potential liability for incidents ocurring in or near the park
. Heavy pedestrian traffic on sidewalks and paths will be at greater risk from dog fights or dog bites
. The dog park will negatively impact the quiet enjoyment of homes and adjacent park areas

I urge you and the City Council to vote against locating a dog park at this proposed site.

Kind Regards,
Lon Bruce
--
Lon R. Bruce | Realtor
McGuire Real Estate
510.393.0626

From: Sam Markewich [shmullyop@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 3:18 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park dog park

Please know that a dog park in Astro Park is morally wrong and a city planning disaster. My partner and I both think so. It is the wrong place for such a park. Period. Too many people use it for important things that have very positive effects on the community. Further, dog parks smell bad, there is too high a risk of children playing on the playground of being bitten by a dog, a dog park will look terrible in this location, and there is no good alternative space for those displaced by the dog park who have been using the park regularly to go. Plus, the city should NOT be spending money right now on a dog park while people in East and West Oakland need more police and deserve more money spent in their neighborhoods, period.

- Sam Markewich
378 Jayne Avenue
Oakland, 94610
From: Emily Mendel [emily@mendelnet.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 2:31 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: NO dogs

I am opposed to the proposed fenced dog run at Astro Park. The location is inappropriate as many residents use this area for recreation. Why cut up this open green space for the sake of those few who don't want to or are too lazy to

take their dogs to existing dog parks? Certainly, with city money at an all-time low, why are we wasting time and money on this unsuitable project?

Emily S. Mendel

1109 Ashmount Avenue

Oakland CA 94610

From: michael.nasif@mni.com
Sent: Thursday, October 20, 2011 2:07 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Nadel, Nancy; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Astro Park - No to Dog Run

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

I was stunned to learn last weekend that a plan to carve out a significant portion of Astro Park for a dog run was actually being considered! I cannot imagine how such a costly and unnecessary plan could even make it onto your council meeting agenda, much less be considered as viable. Have any of you spent an hour or two in this park, any day of the week, any time of day? It is always actively used by people from all around the neighborhood. My daughter plays soccer every Saturday on the very patch of grass you are considering removing. She could play in Montclair or Alameda or Piedmont but we choose to play here, in our neighborhood, so that we can meet and mingle with our neighbors. As a dog owner, I appreciate the need for a dog to have space to run. But I certainly do not believe it should come at the expense of land used actively and happily by tax-paying humans. Please do not allow this plan to go through. Do not bow down to the organized but limited support of the few dog owners who want this. Instead, support the masses who happily use this park every day. And guess what, it will save you tens of thousands of dollars because you can scrap this foolish dog run project and simply do nothing…and leave Astro Park exactly as it is. Please do not ruin this park!

Michael Nasif

1181 Holman Road

Oakland, CA 94610

From: Jesse Nachem [jlnachem@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Save Astro Park-Update

Dear Councilmember Kernighan, Councilmember-at-Large Kaplan, and Ms. Clevenger:

It has been brought to my attention that a group of people are advocating for the installation of a dog park in Astro Park. I am writing urge you to keep the park open, and not allow any dog park to be made on this land.

Astro Park is used fully and consistently by our neighborhood (I live off of Lakeshore and Brooklyn) and also by the many visitors that come for the Saturday farmers' market and other community events. Every day of the week I see people using the park to exercise, picnic, meet up, or read. Every Saturday I've noticed that there are soccer classes for developmentally disabled people and also for toddlers.

A fenced-in dog park would severely limit the space we can use in Astro Park (and incidentally could be an eyesore). There are a lot of other dog parks in the area we can use. As a pet owner, I know that I can easily reach four dog parks within a short drive or even a ten minute walk. Adding one here is unnecessary. I don't know why or how this idea is being proposed, but I urge you again to please leave the park open.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,
Jesse Nachem (3rd Dist.)

From: Elia Racah [eracah@lmi.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2011 2:39 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro Park

No dog run at Lakeshore,please.

Elia Racah
From: Jessie Seyfer [jessie.seyfer@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 17, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No dog park

Dear Pat Kernighan,

My name is Jessie, and I live on Perkins Street, near the intersection with Grand Avenue, with my husband and daughter. I learned recently there is a plan afoot to put in a dog run at Astro Park.

I am writing to tell you that I am 100% opposed to this plan. I urge you to do everything in your power to make sure that no dog run is installed at that location.

Nearly every Saturday, my family and I walk down Grand to the Farmer's Market. We stay there for awhile and then we go to Astro Park. We enjoy the grass and the playground. We like to watch people playing soccer and we like to play on the grass ourselves. Putting a dog run at that location would create an eyesore and would take away my enjoyment and the enjoyment of others. It would also create a bad urine odor that would waft over to the farmer's market and playground, which could be very unpleasant.

Astro Park's green space is the perfect contrast to the busy freeway next door. It is the antidote to traffic. It helps make the rest of our neighborhood palatable.

I understand some dogs need a place to run but the center of our neighborhood is not the right place. Dogs should not take priority over people, especially children. Please do not diminish a very necessary patch of green.

Sincerely,
Jessie Seyfer (wife of Jeff Chorney)
From: Mirabai Deranja [morticia.atoms@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2011 10:33 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please keep Astro Park open and green!

To Pat Kernighan:

Hello. Please keep Astro Park green and open. We love it. We play volleyball there. We drive by there all the time, appreciating the green.

Thank you, thank you.
Mirabai Deranja -Resident of Oakland

From: Taylor Brady [taylor@taylorbrady.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 1:54 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No fenced dog run at Astro Park

Dear Pat Kernighan,

I am writing today to share my strong opposition to any plan that would seek to turn Astro Park into an enclosed, off-leash dog park. As an Oakland resident, and member of a family with both a dog and a small child, I have several reasons for this opposition:

1) I disapprove of enclosing a public space that is used for a variety of purposes by a diverse range of Oakland residents and converting it to a single-use space. The implication that dog owners have some sort of privileged claim on public space that trumps the claims of pick-up soccer teams, parents with small children, runners and exercisers, and community members simply enjoying a bit of accessible green space, is profoundly imbalanced and undemocratic.

2) The location of Astro Park at a "crossroads" in terms of Oakland neighborhoods has ensured that the broad range of mixed uses noted above has served a purpose of civic integration and sharing of space across lines of race and class, at a time when society at large and Oakland in particular seem to be rapidly re-segregating.

3) The collateral effect of the park's location adjacent to the Saturday farmer's market is that a number of families who might not otherwise consume significant portions of fresh, locally grown food are now doing so because of the time they spend in proximity to the market with their children. The impact of this on both regional

economies and neighborhood health is hard to quantify, but at a time when childhood obesity and diabetes are at epidemic levels, and several major Oakland neighborhoods have earned the unwelcome designation of "food deserts," even a potential correlation between the park's location and healthy food purchase habits is worth preserving.

4) Oakland and surrounding parts of Alameda County boast a number of spectacular dog-friendly trails that are a healthier, safer means to ensure adequate off-leash time. Having seen the proliferation of enclosed off-leash dog parks during my time as a resident of San Francisco, I can say that these civic amenities tend to encourage the worst habits of dog owners, promoting unsupervised and unstructured time spent by large concentrations of dogs in a limited space. This tends to lead to large numbers of fights, bite wounds and other injuries, and paradoxically to under-exercised dogs, since owners tend to be less engaged in promoting active exercise once they have the illusion that the off-leash space is doing the work for them. Reliance on these "dog-only" spaces also tends to exacerbate problems of dogs that are under-socialized with humans and especially with children.

5) Simply from an aesthetic standpoint, the idea of turning an unfenced green space into a fenced, wood-chipped lot makes no sense.

Astro Park works as it is currently designed and used. How many institutions and spaces in Oakland can we say that about right now? I strongly encourage you to support its retention as a community green space accessible to a broad range of uses, rather than its enclosure for the benefit of a narrow segment of the community.

Best regards,
Taylor Brady
2907 Georgia Street
Oakland, CA 94602
From: Amy Jo Karn [amyjokarn@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2011 1:17 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No dog park at Astro Park please

Dear Pat Kernighan,

I'm writing to tell you that I strongly disapprove of any plan to turn astro park into a dog park.

I am a dog owner, a mother, and a frequent visitor to Lake Merritt and the farmer's market. It would be a terrible idea to change the beautiful, highly used grassy park into a brown, fenced dog park.

(1) Oakland boasts a number of gorgeous hiking trails that are dog-friendly. This insistence that dog owners have some sort of right to a dog park in each and every neighborhood is ridiculous. Dogs do best on trails, in motion, not romping around in a fenced wood chip area.

(2) Astro Park is always being used by people with kids, by sports teams and camps, pick-up soccer leagues, and folks who exercise at the

lake. Why fix what isn't broken?

(3) The geese who live at Lake Merritt also use this grass at Astro Park, and they will have to overpopulate the grassy area near the lake, causing more congestion in an already busy area.

(4) It is not logical to turn a green space into a brown space, when there are plenty of ugly, unused spots that could be turned into dog parks.

Thank you for your time,

Amy Karn
2907 Georgia St.
Oakland, CA 94602

From: Jeff Chorney [jeffchorney@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 8:50 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No dog park

Dear Pat Kernighan,

My name is Jeff, and I live on Perkins Street, near the intersection with Grand Avenue, with my wife and daughter. I learned recently there is a plan afoot to put in a dog run at Astro Park.

I am writing to tell you that I am 100% opposed to this plan. I urge you to do everything in your power to make sure that no dog run is installed at that location.

Nearly every Saturday, my daughter and I walk down Grand to the Farmer's Market. We stay there for awhile and then we go to Astro Park. We enjoy the grass and the playground. We like to watch people playing soccer and we like to play on the grass ourselves. Putting a dog run at that location would create an eyesore and would take away my enjoyment and the enjoyment of others.

Astro Park's green space is the perfect contrast to the busy freeway next door. It is the antidote to traffic. It helps make the rest of our neighborhood palatable.

I understand some dogs need a place to run but the center of our neighborhood is not the right place. Dogs should not take priority over people, especially children. Please do not diminish a very necessary patch of green.

Sincerely,
Jeff Chorney

From: Sally Lewis [sallyelewis@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 11:49 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Pat, Rebecca, and Ann,

I have been living in Oakland for about three years, and I have lived right up the street from Astro Park for almost two years now. In fact, I can see Astro Park from my bedroom window. I thoroughly enjoy and take pride in my residence in the Lake Merritt area. I frequent local shops, the Saturday Farmer's Market, and walk around the lake at least twice a week (weather permitting). Moreover, I worked at Bayhill High School, on Boden Way, which utilized Astro Park for its' sports and other school activities. I now work at another local high school, and our school played flag football against Bayhill High School in Astro Park -- right where people are trying to install a dog park. I think it would be a travesty to take this space away from the multitude of people and programs that utlize it. It makes me happy to see people of all sorts of creeds use this park for play and recreational activities. I am a dog owner, and have been for 5 years, and yet I am completely opposed to this space being used as a dog park. I know that my students would be devastated not to be able to use this area to scrimmage against oher local high school. I cannot think of another place for our games to be held. Please consider the people who use this park for positive reasons every day and deny this area as a dog parl. Thank you

--
Sally Lewis

From: Ralph Zackheim [spen28@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 5:16 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Schaaf, Libby
Cc: Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Dogs are fine, but not in the Astro Park

Hello Hard-working Public Servants - I've live and voted in Oakland (lower Fruitvale and Dimond districts) since the mid-1980s,
so of course, I've seen the good and the bad.

I ask you, for the sake of one of the very good things in Oakland, to not turn the Astro Park into a dog park (however, they
wish to name it). This is a wonderful space FOR PEOPLE..for soccer, as a tot lot, for baseball, frisbee, picnickers, sunbathers,
musicians, flag football games, or just being out in the open, free from having to deal with all of the things dogs do (pun intended).

I and many other Oaklanders urge you to reject (do not "compromise" on this) a fenced dog run at Lakeshore
and MacArthur or else where near Lake Merritt.

thanks for your attention- R. Zackheim, Oakland

From: PY [ybanela@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 2:06 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca; Clevenger, Ann
Subject: Astro Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Red

Hello,

I live in Lake Merritt and recently learned about the desire to convert Astro Park (a good portion of it) into a fenced dog park area. This idea is very unappealing to me and would really limit the use of the park from its myriad of activities that serves many different communities currently.

Please provide me with information as to when the meeting will be held at City Hall to discuss this possibility, I would like to attend and make sure my voice is heard.

Thanks kindly,
Pamela Ybañez

--
pamelaybanez.com

thenewhall.blogspot.com

"...an eye for an eye and the whole world goes blind" - Gandhi

From: Bonnie Forbes Wittenstein [bonniemforbes@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:32 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: No dog park at Astro Park

Dear Pat Kerninghan,

I am writing to urge you and the other Planning Commision members NOT to approve the dog park at Astro Park. It seems to me that there are plenty of other spaces/ empty lots throughout Oakland that are an eye-sore and would benefit from being turned into a dog park space. Why would you want to ruin the beautiful green lawn that is used by so many people? The fence would definitely take away from the beauty of the park and Lake Merrit. Even though I have a dog, I do not want that space used just for dogs to play. It belongs to the people of Oakland and should remain that way.

Thank you for your consideration,
Bonnie Forbes
From: Jaime Boust [jaimeboust@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:16 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please do not allow a dog park at Astro Park

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I live within walking distance of Astro Park on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur Blvd. I have a two-year old, with another on the way, and what we love most about our neighborhood is how family-friendly it is. We visit the playground at least three times a week, and play ball on that nice stretch of green. Next year, our daughter would like to play soccer on Saturdays on the grass next to the playground.

We are highly opposed to fencing off this multi-use area for the use of a dog park. Not only would it be an eye-sore, it would take precious space away from kids, from people who like to play soccer there, from the drum circles who meet, and countless other people who use this space. What's more, I question the safety of a dog park adjacent to both a freeway approach and a child's playground.

The green areas of the park around Lake Merritt area already dominated by another animal: the goose. But that's another subject entirely. Why should we take even more space away from the kids and give it to the dogs? As a dog owner, I understand the desire for public dog-run space, but Astro Park is not the place. The sheer size of the proposed dog park is selfishly large, and I imagine there are other locations within the park that receive less use than the space in question. Please help us block this development. Animals are an important part of the community, but I hope you'll agree that people come first.

Thank you,

Jaime Boust

From: John Nolan [jdnolan61@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro park

Hi,

I just want to request that you try to keep astro park an open space
Without a fenced dog park

It really is important to me
I live in glenview, and would just be heartbroken to see the space decimated

Thanks!
John nolan
3860 greenwood ave

Sent from my iPhone
From: Ashley Ziegler [Ashley@sfhoundlounge.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 12:01 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Save Astro Park

Hello!

Please save Astro Park. It's the heart and soul of the area. Thank you,
Ashley Ziegler

From: Brian Collins [briancollins111@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 10:04 AM
To: Clevenger, Ann; Kernighan, Pat; At Large
Subject: opposition to proposed Astro Dog Park at Lakeview Park

Dear Ms. Clevenger, Kernighan, and Kaplan,

I recently learned of proposed plans to build an off-leash dog park at Lakeview Park. This letter is to notify you, the city council, the Public Works Agency, and the Office of Parks and Recreation that I am strongly opposed to this plan.

I understand from my background research that this plan was proposed by a citizen petition in 1999 with only 740 signatures. The proposal was then initially planned as part of the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan in 2002. The proposal was then offered to public review in 2005 and 2006.

I have several concerns about this process - namely that:

1. 740 citizen signatures is a small subset, and it is highly likely that there are many more than 740 citizens (such as myself) that are opposed to this proposal. If the city council wishes, I am convinced that the citizens would easily gather several thousand signatures showing that this is not a good idea.

2. I moved to the neighborhood in 2006 as a homeowner in the Lake Shore neighborhood. Thus, I never had a chance to participate in this process. Given the opportunity, I would gladly provide my opinion on opposition of this plan.

3. The plan in itself is not a good idea. Why convert grassy field that are currently being used by citizens for recreation to dirt areas used by dogs for recreation? Whereas I am a dog lover, I do not agree that their "rights" to run around at a dog park outweigh citizens rights to recreate.

4. As I understand it, there are seven other dog parks within only a few miles of this location. Three of these were opened since 2006. Since the purpose of dog parks is to let dogs stretch their legs, it only makes sense that their owners can also stretch their legs and walk a little further to those locations.

5. If it is determined that another dog park is necessary, a careful review of additional locations should be conducted - Lakeview Park is not the right place - it is currently used by citizens and serves as a greenbelt between Interstate 580 and Lake Merritt. It should be kept green.

I encourage you each to oppose this plan!

Sincerely,
Brian Collins
872 Erie Street
Oakland, CA 94610
From: Esteban Sardera [esardera@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2011 12:32 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Against Lake Merritt Dog Park

Hello Pat,

I'm writing to voice my opposition to the proposed dog run at Lake Merritt.

I'm a dog lover and hope to have my own dog when I move to my new home at 448 Sunnyslope, but I don't think it's a good use of space in that area, given the people that use it for recreation and I am concerned about aggressive dogs congregating in the area.

Thanks for listening and your time.

Esteban

Esteban Sardera
302 Euclid Ave Apt 204 (soon to be 448 Sunnyslope Ave)
Oakland CA 94610

From: Lilian Halem [lily@halem.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 1:14 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: Please do not take away our little public green space

Dear Pat Kernighan:

I drive or walk past Astro Park just about every day. As an Oakland voter, tax payer and business owner I implore you - do not allow the beautiful green space in Astro Park be enclosed and limited in use to a dog park. It will negatively impact all of us.

Even dog owners will be better served by a more appropriate space, more out of the way of children and in a more sheltered area. Even the eye-sore empty lot across the street (old gas station) would be an improvement.

Please let me know that you will represent my family and neighbors with your support in the protection of this open green space that provides an oasis of outdoor beauty and green in our urban neighborhood. I can be best reached at this email address: lily@halem.com.

Best,
Lilian Halem
From: Andre Spearman [andre.spearman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 12:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: astro park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Pat

I live i your district and appreciate your service. The idea of a dog park is good but the location is bad.

This park is one of the most accessible and beautiful in Oakland. This change is not part of the rennovaction we had in mind when we increase funds for the Lake Mettitt project. I hope you will show the leadership we have seen in the past to save this park. Good idea bad location

"The cost of freedom is eternal vigilance"
From: Brian Lavelle [brianlavelle@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 9:49 AM

To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com
Subject: dog park

Dear Council Member Kernighan,

I cannot believe the City would desecrate Astro Park by locating a dog park in that lovely and heavily used part of Oakland. Please don't destroy the legacy of past generations to please a selfish few. I am a dog owner and love dogs but just as I always pick up my pet's litter, I would not impose an eyesore like that in the middle of a busy neighborhood. The amount of area that the proposed dog park would occupy is totally unacceptable. And the old horse stables would be a perfect alternative. It is unfortunate that so much staff time has been invested in this wrong-headed proposal, but it is time to move on.

Brian Lavelle
From: Galia Phillips [galia.phillips@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 9:32 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Charles Phillips
Subject: Astro Park

Hi Ms. Kernighan.

I am a resident of your district (I live at 1100 Ashmount Ave in Crocker Highlands). I am also a mom and a dog owner. My kids love Astro Park and I think it would be a huge shame if it were turned into a dog park. I hope that you are able to do what you can to insure that Astro Park remains a great place for all residents to use.

Thanks, Galia Phillips

--
Galia Amram Phillips
Law Offices of Galia Phillips
1300 Clay Street, Suite 600
Oakland, CA 94612
415.269.4553
galia.phillips@gmail.com

From: Mary Stephens [mnell66@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 9:22 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: saveastropark@gmail.com

I'm opposed to a dog park in my neighborhood (Astro Park). I've been keeping up with the progress and recently saw the area the proposed dog park will encompass. I couldn't believe the magnitude of the space that would be dedicated to a dog park. I live a few blocks from Astro Park and frequently take my grand daughter to play and run free in the park. I'm at a loss for words that this plan is going forward. Removing the grass and replacing it with brown wood chips makes my heart hurt. Not to mention the danger, smell and all that goes with a dog park.

Please do all you can to prevent a dog park from coming to Astro Park.

Thank you for your help.

Mary

--
Mary Stephens
726 Haddon Place #4
Oakand, Ca 94610
510.268.8540

From: fritz sparks [emsfritz@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 7:54 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro Dog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I have just seen the intended area that proponents of this "park" are desiring to utilize. This is one of the most absurd ideas I have seen in a long time, but then this is Oakland. With the entire Lake to walk your dogs around, I don't see any reason to take playground-type space away from those who use this same space constantly. 21,000 square feet would be terrible for the soccer players, softball players, football players, and others, to lose since there is nothing comparable in this area that isn't part of a school.

Placing dog/pet priorities over human priorities is unbelievable when we have so many other problems in our city to work on. I can't believe how much staff time we probably have used in letting this proposal get this far.

Sincerely,

Fritz Sparks
1041 Ashmount Ave

From: Mirabai Deranja [morticia.atoms@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 5:41 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com; Morgan Burks
Subject: Please leave the green grass at Astro Park

Hello.

I play volley ball there at Astro park and we love the green grass. Please, please leave it the way it is!!! That's our park. It's lovely.

Thank you,
Mirabai Deranja (Resident of Oakland)

From: kathleen gillis [kathleengillis@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 4:50 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat

Please save astro park that dog idea is so stupid. what are you thinking? i am so against it and I hope you are aslo
From: Anne [gordon.anne@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2011 11:17 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; At Large Office
Subject: Astro Park Dog Park

Councilmembers Khernigan and Kaplan,

As a resident of the Grand/Lake neighborhood of Oakland, I have become acquainted with the plans to build a dog park at Astro Park, and want to express my concern. I have a young toddler and another on the way, and we really count on the Astro Park green space, and the adjoining playground, to be a safe place for our family to play. There are so few wide-open spaces for our kids to run around in as it is, and it would be a real tragedy to lose this one. My partner also plays frisbee there, and his only other option for a place to play is to drive up to Berkeley. As I understand it, there are several other places for dogs to play in the neighborhood without destroying this special space. Please reconsider the plan for the park, or move it to a place (perhaps next to the library across the parking area?) that doesn't cut such a huge chunk out of a beautiful green space.

Please write back if you have any questions or if I can help in any way.

Thank you,

Anne D. Gordon
460 Valle Vista Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
gordon.anne@gmail.com

From: donnavalerie@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2011 2:32 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; At Large Office
Subject: Astro park

Dear Pat and Rebecca,

I hope you will not decide to put a dog park at Astro Park. Astro park has been the site of soccer practice for a group of Special Olympics athletes for several years. The location of the park is close to public transportation which makes it easy for some of our athletes who live on their own to get to and from practice. I'm not sure where this group could practice if they were to lose the grass area to a dog park.

I can't help but think the potential for a dog to get out of the park and into traffic could cause a safety issue for motorists.

Surely there must be a better location that will insure the safety of the animals and motorists as well as insure that those groups who use the park on a regular basis are able to do so.

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2011 9:48 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie; Karchmer, Joanne
Subject: FW: Astro Park

FYI…

From: Steven Belcher [mailto:swbelcher007@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2011 11:29 PM
To: nnadel@oaklandnet.com
Subject: Astro Park

Steven W. Belcher

630 Longridge Road

Oakland, California

Nancy Nadel

City Councilmember

Oakland City Council

August 30, 2011

Dear Nancy,

I think this is the first letter I have written you; I am very concerned about the future of Astro Park which now I live near (adjacent to 580, between Lakeshore and Grand, near Lake Merritt). You know well; it is the only multi-use playfield in the area and during the weekends. It is a hive of activity, pick up soccer, baseball, football, and other activities that need a grassy field and room to play. The people who use it reflect and look like Oakland, the most multi-ethnic/racial society in the country. It is also one of the few windows to people passing through Oakland that presents the beauty of the lake and its architecture. There is a proposal to convert a significant portion of this space into a dog park.

I love dogs. I have had dogs all my life. I even served time as acting head of animal control for Berkeley. When I lived in Rockridge, I sometimes took my dog to the dog park there. I know there are limited venues for dog owners to let their dogs recreate and thus the proposal for the Astro Dog Park. This is, however, such a bad idea. If you visit the Rockridge Dog Park you will see what I mean…often it is a dirty, smelly place that at times even repels dog owners to

the extent that some recreate their dogs in the park lawns adjacent to the dog park.

As head of Berkeley's animal control, I became convinced that small dog parks (as opposed to large areas along the bay) need a high level of maintenance and I am guessing the City is not prepared to finance dog park maintenance. I know there may be many volunteers now…but as you know volunteers are fickle and subject to the winds of expediency and crisis. I am guessing that if the dog park is approved, within a year it will look like any other dog park (assuming high maintenance), that is, a wasteland of dirty wood chips and third hand plastic chairs.

Also disturbing is the loss of a multi-use green space. For the life of me I can't think of an alternative space. Soccer fields are way over subscribed and distant. The closest, near the estuary, is heavily used already during non-working hours. I doubt Laney College with its ample sports facilities would open its gates to the community, nor Oakland High, or Piedmont High. I can't think of any sport venues in Lake Merritt Park. Maybe I am missing something?

I know this is an issue most public officials really, really dislike. Any decision will not be popular and will not fade. For politicians, it is tough; on one hand you have passionate caretaking dog owners and on the other, neighbors who love their park as it is. Neither group is moving away. You also have a large group of park users (e.g., soccer players) who maybe unaware of and disengaged from the political process, in many ways disenfranchised from this decision making opportunity. It is, however, an issue that will continue to echo through successive political campaigns.

I apologize for the length of the letter….but this issue, I believe, is transformative for the neighborhood. The dog park if built will be iconic; it will be a landmark characterizing several neighborhoods. It will be the first thing prospective homeowners and business investors will see when exiting the freeway. It will be "…you know…you get off the freeway where that dog park is…" instead of "you get off the freeway where you see a gorgeous park and lake".

Thanks for your consideration,

Steve Belcher

From: vicseale@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2011 7:45 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; carolynjones@sfchronicle.com
Subject: Fwd: No dog park at Astro Park

I read Patti Arabia comments to you and I could not have said it any better. I have lived on Trestle Glen Rd in Oakland since 1985. I have owned dogs all my life but strongly disagree with Astro Park being used as a dog park. What a waste of valuable people space. No dog park at Astro Park. I like it just the way it is.

Vicky Seale 1174 Trestle GlenRd Oakland CA

-----Original Message-----
From: Arabia Family <arabia2@gmail.com>
To: sally keane <sallykeane1@yahoo.com>; Susan Bottorf <sgb1133@comcast.net>; VicSeale <VicSeale@aol.com>; Alma <phillipre@sbcglobal.net>; Maureen Lawlor <Maureen.Lawlor@cbnorcal.com>
Sent: Wed, Jul 13, 2011 2:35 pm
Subject: Fwd: No dog park at Astro Park

So, I sent this out...Just letting you know. P

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Arabia Family <arabia2@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Jul 13, 2011 at 6:34 PM
Subject: No dog park at Astro Park
To: pkernighan@oaklandnet.com, carolynjones@sfchronicle.com

Dear Councilwoman Kernighan and Ms. Jones: I have lived on Holman Road, District 2, for 23 years and I adopted our dog, Luna, from the Oakland ASPCA 12 years ago. I have been a happy dog owner, walking Luna twice a day every day since. There are 2 off leash "runs" within a stroll from my house. To add the Fairyland alternative is a fine idea. But Astro Park is a vital Commons that belongs to the strolling people and tumbling playgrounders and field sport jockeys and the families sitting down for a minute to collect their thoughts.

I am taken aback by two things Ms. Rosenberg said, the "nimby" reference was uncalled for. The issue at Astro Park isn't that it is in a back yard, in fact, it is in a very centralized, commons area. My family lives a good mile or so away. However, we use the space at Astro Park a lot; the library is there, the play structures are used constantly, they were a big favorite of my 2 sons over the 25 years they were growing up here. On the day there were windows being smashed and walls graffiti-ed downtown and all the bridge and tunnel folks were once again high tailing it out of Oakland because we are so "ghetto"; the field at Astro park was covered with 5 and 6 year olds running their soccer drills and playing a great game of soccer scrimmage. This is their common space and the media doesn't cover a community using its space in peace. That lawn space is used by several informal teams, by Dads and Moms teaching how to throw, kick, picnic, every day, every week. Your photos, Ms. Jones, were clearly taken during the work day. But as soon as we wrap our work day, that park fills up and there will be a great loss to many neighborhoods if the city closes that space off from the people.

I was also put off to learn that this "fenced in" plan has been in the works for 10 years--where's the public notice?

Finally, I challenge you to find an equal number of playing field spaces in Oakland as there are dog runs and dog parks. A city needs its common spaces for people running and picnicking and practicing for the World Cup. And, Oakland took a stand a long time ago to be a bird sanctuary--turns out Oakland was green and protecting helpless species way ahead of its time and dogs are not great sanctuary users--so they need to run somewhere away from the lake--it's the birds' back yard, not ours. If your real issue is running your dog, we have the Redwood and Skyline spaces, the pocket parks in many neighborhoods, the coastal spaces here and in all the neighboring coastal spaces; your dog can be well

cared for and exercised in Oakland, every single day. And, please, knock off the SF comparisons, they are never accurate, apples and oranges, we have lots and lots of youngsters and teens here, they need the common spaces. Very truly yours, Patricia Arabia 1170 Holman Road, Oakland, Ca. 94610

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 1:51 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; Hall, Mark
Subject: Formally Opposing Astro/Eastshore Dog Park Proposal

Dear Council Members Kernighan and Nadel and Mr. Hall:

I am formally writing to voice my strong opposition to locating a dog run at the Astro/Eastshore location. This location is too visible, too busy, too open and too precious to be turned into a fenced dog run. I am thinking not only of myself and the here and now but how this space will look long after I've taken my last breath. I want generations to come to enjoy this space, play in it, kick a ball, have a picnic. This is our gateway, our welcome mat. By constructing a 22,000 square foot dog run with 700 linear feet of chain link fence, a dog run will become the focal point of our neighborhood. This is inappropriate and unacceptable and wrong. We must keep it beautiful, open and green for now and for good.

I urgently request that deny the conditional use permit for a dog run at Eastshore/Astro park.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Sue Levin

Grand Lake Resident

From: Barb St. Amant [bstamant@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 10:45 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No on Astro Park!

A strong NO on putting the dog park at Astro Park. YES on the old police stables. I love dogs but don't want to see fences and smell dog poop every time I drive down Beacon.

Barb St. Amant
Beacon St.

Oakland
From: Celia McGuinness [CMcGuinness@reinlawoffice.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 9:53 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Oakland Parks and Rec
Subject: Oppose Astro Dog Park

Dear Councilmember Kernighan and Parks and Rec Commission Members:

I live in the Grand Lake district, I work on Lakeside Dr., I use the Lake Merritt park almost daily, I love and have owned dogs. I oppose a dog park at Astro Park.

That little piece of property next to the freeway is a pathetic place for a kids' playground, but it's one of the few spaces available. Little kids and dogs are incompatible. The kids/their parents will stay away if dogs are around, even in a fenced area.

Similarly, my kids play soccer and I know how limited soccer space is in the city. That patch of ground is always being used for games; where will those people go?

Moreover, kids and soccer players are more reasonable constituents for the library there; dog park people are not going to use the library.

I also agree with comments in the newspaper that a fenced area will be ugly and discourage foot traffic into the rest of the park.

I think the old police horse stables is worth looking at and frankly, the income from paid parking in that area would be welcome. By contrast, the parking near Astro park is already terrible. We don't need more car traffic there.

Thank you for listening.

Celia McGuinness, Esq.

The Law Offices of Paul L. Rein

200 Lakeside Drive, Suite A

Oakland, CA 94612

phone 510.832.5001

fax 510.832.4787

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From: Claudia Hartley [claudiamhartley@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 9:03 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: another dogowner against the proposed site

hi pat,
my name is claudia hartley and i live at 485 elwood avenue in the grandlake neighborhood.

i want to record my opposition to creating a dog park along macarthur blvd in lakeside park. i think you will have heard my reasons many times before this but i understand the park commission is meeting today and i want to go on record with alot of vehemence.

i am a dog lover and a dog owner and unlike emily rosenberg (who lives in the hills and has no need to use lakepark nor does she find herself there for any reason except this hobbyhorse of hers,) for years i have been happy to take my pets to the hills or to piedmont or linda avenue or pt. isabel for a free run- i have not felt the need to use our beautiful and well used lake park to exercise my dogs nor suffered from not being able to.

as you know i am not the only dog owner in the grandlake area who feels this way. the park is for the people: walkers and runners, families, children, soccer and softball and frisbee players, exercisers, picnicers, elders sunning themselves and we need every inch of it for these many uses the field in question in particular. turning it over for the exclusive use of dogs and their owners is ridiculous and elitist. we love our open space and want it to remain as it is- open, inviting, hospitable to all and fragrant of just clipped grass not dog feces! the idea that pet owners and volunteers will keep it unoffensively clean is a silly fantasy- just go to any other site where dogs are permitted- on or off leash!!!!! hell, dogowners dont even respect the precincts of our lovely local mountain view cemetary enough to clean up after their pets!!!!
i hope the commission understands that for every letter and call you have received against this plan there are hundreds more park users- including many pet owners- who feel the same- please don't let the city make this mistake and satisfy the needs of a few at the expense of the many!!!!!
thanks for your attention.
sincerely,

claudia hartley

From: Victoria Wong [vwoakland@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 12, 2011 2:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I oppose a dog park at Astro/Eastshore Park

Dear Councilmember Kernighan:

Thank you for supporting the alternative location for the dog park.

As the hearing on the dog park location approaches, I write to strongly oppose the placement of a dog park at Astro Park/Eastshore Park. This area is highly visible and heavily used and enjoyed by neighborhood residents. A dog park at this location would eliminate the open space that serves as a transition between SplashPad Park and the Lake, significantly harming the aesthetics of the park. In addition, we cannot rely on volunteers' promises to maintain the dog park. If it becomes dirty and smelly, the community will have no recourse for correcting the problem. Furthermore, I believe this dog park, if it is to be located anywhere, should, like most dog parks, be placed in an underutilized area, as the Linda Park dog park and the dog park near FROG Park are placed (on a steep hillside and under a freeway, respectively), rather than in a highly used, attractive and visible area.

Furthermore, deposite ODOG's promises that its volunteers will maintain the park, there is no guarantee it will happen, and the City will not have the resources to maintain the park. As it is, Oakland does not have the resources to maintain existing parks, even with volunteer assistance. For example, the Oakland Rose Garden's condition has deteriorated severely since gardening staff was reduced, despite regular volunteer efforts. I do not want to see a new dog park, in a highly visible and highly trafficked area, deteriorate into a blight on the neighborhood. In fact, I am opposed to even the capital expenditures proposed for the park, given Oakland's dire budget situation. That money would be far better spent maintaining existing parks than creating another park for which the City cannot afford maintenance.

Arguments that this location has been in the works for a long time and that the City should not spend additional money on planning a new park are not persuasive. As evidenced by the strong community opposition to the park, many, many local residents had no idea about the plans, and there are many valid objections to it, including children's safety, aesthetics, and the elimination of a significant open space, where Oakland has a shortage of open park space already. The fact that this not a suitable location for a dog park remains true regardless of how much it would cost to plan an alternative location.

While I do not believe the City should be expending any resources for a new dog park at all, but instead should spend those funds on maintenance of existing parks, the police horse stables location is a preferable alternative to the Astro Park location. Like other dog parks (e.g., Linda Park in Piedmont--on a steep hillside, the dog park near FROG par--under the freeway in Rockridge), that location is relatively out of the way, utilizing space that otherwise would not be used. There is no reason to eliminate a highly used, attractive and visible park area when a lower-impact alternative is available.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria Wong
From: Pat Hea [patheaphy47@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 8:34 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Run Lake Merritt

Hi Pat,
I am weighing in again before the big dog walk decision this week. I continue to be opposed to having the dog walk in the Lake Merritt Park near the Library.
Lake Merritt Park is a totally dog free park. Signs have been at all entrances
for many many years. I think we should keep it that way. No dogs in Lake Merritt Park. Its a bird sanctuary. There must be other places outside the park that dog people can walk there dogs.

Thank you
Pat Heaphy
614 Alma Ave

From: modernsara [modernsara@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 3:18 PM
To: Hall, Mark
Cc: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeview dog play area

Hi:

I'm a longtime Oakland resident and taxpayer, with both an exercise-needing dog and three young children, and our family opposes the Lakeview Dog Play area.

My husband and I attended some of the original meetings for the Lakeview Dog Play area, seven years ago, because we wanted a place to exercise our then-young dog. At that time the project was described as a dog park and "butterfly habitat" draped in vines and beautifully landscaped -- a far cry from what's being talked about now (wood chips and chain link). But even then, we quickly saw that the project was a bad idea, because in the attempt to slice up a popular part of the city's parkland, it wouldn't be big enough to offer room for dogs to do much besides fight and poop.

I do believe that Oakland needs dog parks. I have no opposition to creating a fenced dog run near Fairyland (where we are members and frequent visitors) or most any playground, as long as a minimal amount of care is put to keeping dogs and kids apart. But the Lakeview location is a terrible one -- and it's much more crowded now (thanks to the farmers' market and several new businesses nearby) than it was when this project was first discussed.

I like the idea of using the stable area, or another under-used corner

of Lake Merritt. I also support the proposal to create a dog play area in the pocket park at Park Boulevard and E. 21st, which is used by absolutely no one (as I can attest since we used to live just a few houses away.) I could name a half-dozen other potential little-used sites -- especially the seagull-ridden wedge next to the tennis courts on Lakeshore (near the Merritt restaurant).

Just because an idea has been kicking around a long time doesn't make it a good one.

Thanks for listening and thanks for all you do for Oakland.

Sincerely,

Sara Kepka
611 Cleveland Street
Oakland CA 94606

From: Naomi Schiff [naomi@17th.com]
Sent: Monday, July 11, 2011 3:11 PM
To: Hall, Mark
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; Gerard, Jennie
Subject: Dog Park/PRAC

Attachments: LakeMerrittWaxwings3-21-11.jpg

Dear Mr. Hall, parks and recreation staff, and PRAC members,

Please do not consider placing a dog park in the former police horse area in Lakeside Park. It is too close to a major attraction for families with small children--Fairyland and its new and wonderful and active outdoor theater. Barking is not a helpful background for stage productions.

The area is too close to thousands of birds--both aquatic and songbird species.

It is within a large no-dogs area, and people would have to come through the park to gain access. It would add to the already difficult enforcement of keeping dogs (on leashes) on the outer sidewalks, not within the park area.

Dog parks are acknowledged in UC Davis management guidelines to increase the ambient noise level. This will not be noticeable in an area near a busy road and freeway, but would be extremely intrusive in a quieter zone such as the area adjoining Lake Merritt.

I like dogs and have always owned dogs. I go to Point Isabel or other off-leash areas for exercise, or I walk around town with a leashed dog (and a pickup bag). But I vehemently oppose this plan. It would lead to a much higher rate of human-wildlife-dog conflict than the original site proposed for Lakeshore and MacArthur.

And it would require an environmental impact report, as it would be located in the heart of a historic resource, adjoining a national landmark and wildlife refuge.

The trees around the lake are vital resources for migratory birds. Let's keep the dogs nearer to the already urbanized and heavily traffic-impacted areas at the outer edges, not near the lake. Please see the attached photograph of a flock of cedar waxwings in that very area of Lakeside Park, just one of a number taken by me on 3-21-11, well before I heard about this ill-conceived alternative.

Please stick with the original plan for a dog area on Lakeshore.

Thank you,

Naomi Schiff
Daily Lake Merritt walker, pedestrian commuter, dogowner, and nearby District 2 resident
2005 Oakland Mother of the Year
--
Naomi Schiff
Seventeenth Street Studios, Inc.
410 12th Street, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94607
A very short walk from the 12th St./City Center BART Station.

510-835-1717

http://www.17th.com

From: schrager [schrager@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, July 01, 2011 4:03 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

I have to throw in my two cents --- NO NO NO to the dog park - especially by the Splash Pad Park and Library. I live 1.5 blocks from this area. I would prefer to see it used by children to play soccer or baseball. No, we don't need dog poop, dog barking, etc.

Someone mentioned putting it by Bellevue avenue which sounds like a better option if people are so adamant about having a place for dogs.

Thanks for listening.

Nikki

Nikki Schrager Studio
647 Beacon Street, No. 4
Oakland, CA 94610
Phone: (510) 444-2553
Cell: (510) 289-0410
nikki@nikkischrager.com
www.nikkischrager.com
From: Ken Ingram [ken.ingram@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 3:41 PM

To: Riley, Dana; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Hello from a Lake Merritt area resident

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

I was recently apprised of an impending change at the park on the corner of Grand and MacArthur.
It appears that there appears to be a dog park in the works?

I am concerned as the website at http://www.odogparks.org/LakeMerritt2010.html indicates that a major portion of the park is to be committed for dog use.

While I have no issue with a dog park in principle, the execution presents conerns:

I am an adult male, without a dog or children, I use the pull up bars and exercise station that has been at that location for more than 20 years if not longer.

I ma one of a number of men who use that station. The current design of the dog park is unclear but the small graphic at the aforementioned website appears to eliminate that station and takes up essentially all of the park not relegated to a children's playground. I find this wholly disturbing as I and other men would be elimnated from accessing this extremely small portion of the real estate at that portion of the park. I find that unfair and exclusionary.

While I find no fault in seeking recreational facilities for dog owners, I object to providing the facility at the expense of living breathing men and women without dogs or children who wish to access the park.

If there is to be a dog park I recommend that such facility take into consideration that there are other residents in the area, besides dog owners, who use the land, and any construction should include improving or at the very least regularly maintaining the current workout station and expanding it to a little more than the 24 or so square feet it currently occupies.

As well, I notice that young folks, who are too old for the children's park also use that portion of the park for soccer and other use.

The proposed dog park seems to remove access to many people in it's desire to claim access and right(?) to the land.

Thank You.

From: Dawn Riordan [dawntaketariordan@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2011 2:27 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No Dog Park at Astro Park

As a parent of two small children who play at Astro Park, I am opposed to a dog park at this location. It is too close to the playground which makes it less safe for children. Not all dog owners are careful with their dogs around children. In addition, it detracts from the space. One of the nice things about this park is having open space for the kids to run. I have also used this park for boot camp which again having a wide open space is makes it a great

experience. Lastly, I love how the open grass creates community including the soccer games on the weekends. Losing this space would ruin the park.
Respectfully, Dawn Riordan

From: jean.savy@att.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 7:29 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I oppose the proposed dog run at Astro Park..

Mostly because I think it would be ugly and would prevent the park as a whole from being maintained. I feel that the park should be beautified and enhanced overall, rather than placing dog park on the corner that would degrade not only that highly visible corner but the park as a whole.

Nancy Lowenthal

From: Laura Jerrard [l_jerrard@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 29, 2011 10:29 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Gerard, Jennie
Subject: Weighing in on the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd)

Dear Pat and Jennie,

After some thought, I'm writing to add my voice to those opposing the proposed dog park. My objection's primarily aesthetic. That big green open space connecting to the lake is lovely thing to come across when descending from the freeway or out from under it. It's rare in an urban context and it really shows off our city. I expect many people appreciate it every day - even if they don't realize it.

Dog parks are ugly (and no ring of flowers can disguise that) and frequently empty. I also find it hard to believe that there will be sufficient room for the soccer players who currently are able to keep to the center of the feild avoiding conflicts with pedestrians and traffic.

IThanks for all your work on this issue.

with regards,

Laura Jerrard

From: Joel Tena [joeltena@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 25, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; At Large; Nadel, Nancy; Schaaf, Libby
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing; Jones, Andre; Gerard, Jennie; Laurel Village
Subject: No to dog park at Lake Merritt

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing you both to let you know that I am opposed to the proposed dog park at Oakland's Lake Merritt ("Astro Park").

I grew up with dogs. I have many deep and fond memories of them. One day I would like to replicate these memories with my own son when we are in a position to bring a dog into our home. Even then I would still oppose the dog park.

Oakland parks are some of the best gems we have. To take away park land that I see several times a week being used by young and old (in the proximately of a playground and library) and gate it off for the exclusive use of four footed friends and their owners doesn't make any sense.

There are options for dog owners, though not as many as I'm sure they would like. There are places where they can run with their dogs on a leash. There are dog parks in other areas. Perhaps a location could be found to open another dog park that isn't so central a location.and that doesn't take away opportunities from Oakland's residents, children, and families.

Even if another site could not be located, I would still opposed this location for a park. Oakland's children and families need more open space, not less. And not matter how trained and cared for, dogs at times can be unpredictable, especially around children and especially around other dogs. I see it almost every day in front of my house when dogs running off-leash (illegally) are confronted with other dogs and children. The fault isn't the dog's, it's the owner's, and legislation cannot overcome this fact.

Dog parks are great, just not at Lake Merritt, and not at the expense of park land for Oakland's children and families.

Please consider this as you move forward.

Thank you for all you do for our great city.

-Joel Tena
District Four constituent

From: Hammer, Douglas [DHammer@sflaw.com]
Sent: Monday, April 18, 2011 11:36 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Run

Dear Ms. Kernighan:

For 28 years, I have lived less than a mile from the proposed dog run at MacArthur and Lakeshore. For most of that time, mid-sized dogs have been part of my family. I walk my dog on a leash around my neighborhood. I frequently make the delightful walk -- without the dog -- from my home to, and around, Lake Merritt, observing lately the splendid improvements wrought by the hard-won Measure DD. The health and well-being of my dogs seem none the worse for not having had a fenced acre in which to join with other dogs in despoiling the land.

A few dog owners might think this dog run would be a convenience for them. It would be a major inconvenience for the great majority of Oaklanders who use and care about the Lake Merritt area. The primary goal of public policy should be the advancement of the greatest good for the greatest number. This dog run, at best, might be somewhat good for a few, while being decidedly bad for most.

So what's wrong with the proposed dog run?

* The proposed dog run would be of no clear benefit to the dogs (even if it might help their owners feel nobler).
* The area proposed to be appropriated (or more accurately, mal-appropriated) for the dog run is much used by humans, of all ages, at play. In a city (at least), human playgrounds are more important than pet playgrounds.
* Dog runs are ugly and stinky.
* The proposed dog run would be a blight on wonderful -- and otherwise improving -- park land.
* The proposed dog run, if used, would produce even more traffic in an already-congested area, including the pollution and safety problems that traffic engenders.
* Parking -- already scarce in that area -- would become even scarcer, and would further congest traffic as drivers putter around in traffic lanes looking or waiting for parking spaces.
* There is no need for a dog run at this location. Other dog runs are available nearby.
* My twin 6-year-old grandchildren are adamantly opposed to the proposed dog run.

If you must have a dog run, the vacant corner lot on the other side of Lakeshore (where a Chevron station once stood) would be preferable, since it is already blighted and is not part of the existing park, although this location would create similar traffic problems. Presumably the City would need to buy or lease the land, but the cost could be reimbursed by use fees charged to human users of the dog run. Proposing use fees might smoke out purported proponents whose enthusiasm diminishes if a cost is attached.

I'm not sure why people want this dog run, since it makes so little sense:

* Are the proponents too lazy to walk their dogs around the block (which current science suggests would be better for their health than driving to the dog run and standing around)?
* Is there any science suggesting that dog health is improved by frequenting a dog run (as opposed to walking around the neighborhood on a leash), or does the science tend the other direction because of the risk of spreading canine communicable diseases in dog runs?
* If taking their dogs to a dog run is so meaningful, why are the proponents unwilling to drive to a dog run that already exists in Oakland (Hardy or Joaquin Miller) or nearby in Alameda or Berkeley?
* If the proponents are unwilling to drive to an existing dog run, what reliable evidence exists that they would use the proposed dog run?
* Has anyone attempted to poll (in a statistically accurate way) all families with dogs to ascertain how the majority addresses the needs of their dogs?
* Has anyone attempted to poll families without dogs to ascertain whether they would prefer that this location continue to be a park for people instead of a dirt/mud lot for dogs?
* Could the money (however much or little) proposed to be used for the dog run be better spent on, say, educating our children, funding our libraries, or protecting public safety.

These and other relevant questions should be thoughtfully and thoroughly addressed before any action is taken on the authorization of this dog run. If

you really want to find out what the people think of this proposal, you should put it on the November ballot, rather than basing any judgment on ad hoc comments by a few interested parties. I'm told you've received a few hundred e-mails on this topic, which can hardly represent the views of 400,000 Oaklanders. A public referendum would engender thorough public debate for all to hear and result in a definitive answer.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas L. Hammer

848 Longridge Road
Oakland, CA 94610

510-465-9028 (home)
415-421-6500 (work)

From: Tawn Gorbutt [tawng@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 5:09 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Subject: Astro Park...

Pat and Rebecca,

Please accept my husband's and my opinion that Astro Park not be used as a dog park. It is some of the only green area near Lakeshore. We live on Trestle Glen Rd. and use this area to walk through to the library or to get around the lake. It is lovely just as it is. I was born in Oakland and now, 56 years later, I have been so happy to see Oakland nicer in many ways then it was even when my grandparents moved here. Pleased do not let a dog park spoil the natural beauty.

Tawn and Jacqueline Gorbutt

From: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 2:34 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Dog Park AGAINST

From: Stuart Offer [mailto:stuart.offer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 1:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Hi Pat,

I'm responding to your notice of the scheduled community meeting on March 23rd to discuss the Dog Park proposal. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the meeting, but I do want to provide you my views.

Some of my best friends are dogs. I believe that there are too few places in the area where dogs can lawfully run around off-leash. I also believe that it

would be a good thing to have a dog park in the Lake Merritt area. I believe, however, that the proposed location is ill-suited for dog park, and that a more suitable location can easily be found within Lake Merritt park for the facility (for example, the grassy area west of Perkins Street). Alternatively, the park could be planned within the new space being opened up west of the Lake by the 14th Street reconstruction.

The proposed dog park would be carved out of an area currently being used by area residents for all kinds of sporting activity, particularly soccer. It is one of the few flat, grassy spaces in the area. Dog parks don't need flat areas; the dog park along Linda Avenue, for example, is carved into a hillside and is highly popular.

The proposed dog park will be an eyesore; visit any dog park after a month or so of use, and try and find grass. The site has no topographical features that will make it attractive as bare ground (either to two-legged observers or four-legged users). It is on the main street leading into the neighborhood from I-580, as well as at a key viewing area from Lakeshore and Grand Avenues. Why turn the existing field into a wire-fenced patch of bare ground when alternate sites are available? This is not a "not in my back yard" complaint; it's a "not in my front yard" complaint.

Thanks for your attention on this.

Stuart Offer
From: Brian Roberts [brianroberts510@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 12:43 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park: Strongly Oppose

Dear Councilmember Kernighan:

I strongly oppose the proposed dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. I'm not sure when the City Council vote is and hope this e-mail is not too late. This proposed dog park is too close to a heavily used playground, will take away a valuable playing field and will cause blight. I am a District 2 resident and am distressed that the City would even consider voluntarily deteriorating its parks in this ways. I respectully request that you reconsider your support for this proposed denigration of the park. If the dog park is created, it needs to be accompanied by a new play area for children. I don't believe measure DD contemplates any new play facilities on the Lakeshore or 12th St sides of the lake, although it already has removed the playground near the Kaiser Convention Center. Although, this playground was inaccessible and underused I don't think it will be addressed.

The physical danger and dog urine stench from the dog park will greatly decrease the safety and usability of the nearby playground. The number of unleashed dogs in and around the playground will spike, despite the best intentions of the proponents of the dog park. In my experience, dog owners tend to overstimate the control they have over their dogs and tend to be dimissive of the actual danger there pets pose. As a father of two young children I don't think we'll go back to this playground once the dog park is installed. Walking to the farmer's market will also require a detour.

The playing field is currently heavily used and would simply be taken out of operation. A large part of the playing field will remain, but it will be reduced in size.

Dog parks are not pleasant places for non-dogs. Even well maintained ones become barren with the inevitable cloud of dog urine stench. Basically, Oakland will be creating a little patch of blight where there was once a park. The best locations for dog parks are one's that don't interfere with higher, better uses. For example, the Temescal dog park under the freeway, or one recently created in El Cerrito under the elevated BART tracks make far more sense than this location. Since vegetation has a difficult time, these shaded locations are ideal for dog parks. Would it be possible to convert part of the parking lot under 580 on Lakeshore to a dog park?

At a minimum. If the dog park is allowed, the costs should include relocating the playground and the playing field or creating new ones nearby on the Lakeshore side of the Lake. The dog park is simply incompatable with the current use.

Please reconsider your position on the dog park or, specially without any type of mitigation in the form of new play facilities.

Brian Roberts
358 Lester Ave.

From: Paul Saxton [paulsaxton@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2011 9:26 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park

It may be too late, but as a dog owner, I urge you not to approve the dog park at Lake Merritt/Embarcadero. The area is used by scores of children and young, usually Latino men. Although neither group probably votes, they deserve the little space available to them.

Also, as a long-time home owner and business owner, I strongly support the parcel tax vote. It may not be ideal or sufficient but it is necessary'

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Saxton
800 Portal Avenue

From: JOHN BOWERS [jbowers45@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 4:21 PM
To: De La Fuente, Ignacio
Cc: Kernighan, Pat

Dear Councilmember De La Fuente:

I am writing as one of your constituents to urge you to vote against the proposed Lake Merritt dog park. My reasons for this request are the following:

1. Open space in Oakland is a precious commodity. Except under carefully controlled circumstances (see below) our parklands should not be sacrificed to favor the needs of one special interest group to the exclusion of the general population of the City. This is precisely what this proposal would do.

2. The proposed dog park is incompatible with the directly adjacent playground/tot lot. Many small children are frightened by the sound of barking dogs, as well as by the growling and snarling that occurs when dogs get into fights with each other, as they surely will when confined together in this proposed area. Moreover, dog owners will take up scarce parking spaces in the vicinity of the dog park to the and make it much more difficult and inconvenient for parents to bring their children to the playground.

3. The propose dog park may well degrade the quality of the wildlife habitat in Lake Merritt, the nation's first wildlife refuge. The sight of dogs and the sound of their barking are documented causes of disturbance to waterfowl and other native birds, particularly where a large numbers of dogs are concentrated in a limited area.

4. It is readily foreseeable that once the area in which the dog park is located is viewed by dog owners as "dedicated" to off-leash dog use, owners will gradually over time take over the remaining open space adjacent to the dog park for such activities as ball and frisbee throwing and fetching that are not possible to do in the confined space of the dog park itself.

5. The money that will be expended to construct the dog park would be much better spent on park improvements that will be able to be enjoyed and used by all citizen's of the City, not just a narrow interest group. Media reports have stated that as much as $25K from the DPR's capital improvement fund will be need to build the proposed dog park. There are many more deserving purposes for this money to be spent than that of a facility to serve the needs of dog owners. For example I have for many years been working on a project to rehabilitate a City-owned parcel of land located on Sausal Creek at 27th St. and Barry Pl. in a park-deprived area of District 5 with the goal of eventually opening this site as a public park. This endeavor is desperately in need of financial support for planning and restoration and recreation improvements. I submit to you that our efforts are much more deserving of the financial support that is proposed to be spent on the proposed dog park.

6. Other dog parks that the City has established demonstrate, by comparison, the unsuitability of the site for the proposed Lake Merritt dog park. The recently opened off-leash dog park in Joaquin Miller Park comes most readily to mind in this regard. In contrast to the site of the proposed dog park, the JMP dog park 1) is located on a gravel parking lot and thus does not convert to dog park use an open space area that is otherwise suitable for general recreational activity, 2) is not located directly adjacent to recreational or habitat resources that are subject to disturbance, and 3) is located on a site that is naturally confined by topography and forests that minimize the likelihood of improper conversion to dog use of areas adjacent to but outside of the designated dog park.

Thank you for your consideration of these views.

John Bowers

From: pearcybig5@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, April 10, 2011 11:34 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Ms. Kernighan

No No and more No on the proposed dog park. Please leave that beautiful open space alone. More dogs means more dog waste and increased danger to the children who frequent that area. The dog park is an intrusion to the neighborhood and must be rejected.

Mike Pearcy
476 Boulevard Way
41600akland< Ca. 9
From: Liz Fuchs [eaf11182002@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, April 09, 2011 3:47 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park Lakeshore at MacArthur

Councilmembers Nadel and Kernighan,

I was on the fence on the dog run proposal until now. It is Saturday 3 pm and I just returned from the Library and observing Astro Park. The baseball area was being used by about 7 kids which pushed the half dozen soccer players over into the area where the dog run is planned. About three groups of picnickers were scattered throughout including in the dog run area. The kid's play area was overflowing. I so wish I had had a video camera to capture the use to show the Council. I used to be on the fence on this park and now I believe this is not an appropriate site. You are trying to cram too many uses into an area already heavily used by alot of different active recreational groups. (The comment in the Tribune recently that the area is only used by geese is so false!)Yes there are alot of dogs in this area now and I understand they need some off leash area but not in that small active recreation location near the Library. After seeing the demand by active recreational users on this beautiful day I just do not think it works.

At the same time I observed three dogs near the Library offleash, including a pitbull. The lack of city enforcement and the unwillingness of many dog owners to observe the leash law has me very concerned about dog owners being responsible if this dog run goes forward. I think it will be a magnet for dogs--become more crowded and in the long run more and more of the owners will simply decide to let their dogs run all over the area offleash.
For these reasons I wanted to submit my opposition to this proposal.Thank You.

Liz Fuchs

Merritt Ave

From: Frank Arthur [farthur@tricommercial.com]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 6:27 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Councilmembers Kernighan, Nadel and Kaplan:

I would like to express the concern of TRI Commercial Real Estate Services, which represents Lakeshore commercial property owners, regarding the proposed Dog Park at Lakeshore and McArthur.

The Grand/ Lakeshore District is an evolving one which has a great deal of additional potential to provide needed food and retail establishments for the neighborhood. We believe that a Dog Park in this location will detract from the potential of the area and we are particularly concerned about the "self policing" of the area by users. We believe that without strictly enforced controls and professional maintenance this facility can easily become an eyesore and detriment to the neighborhood. It would seem that a reasonable relaxation of current lease laws in the area would be a more beneficial solution to the problem

On behalf of TRI Commercial and our client, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland, we encourage you to insure that the City take into account all aspects of this proposed project and protect all interests in the area.

Thank you,

Franklin Arthur

Franklin K Arthur III | Senior Investment Advisor

DRE Lic #: <http://www2.dre.ca.gov/PublicASP/pplinfo.asp?License_id=00472853>
00472853

TRI Commercial Real Estate Services

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Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Ofc 925.296.3322 | EFax 510.336.8292

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<
From: mejonathan@netzero.net
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 10:11 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Hello -

I attended the meeting several weeks ago and thought it went well. Thanks for being there and listening. I e-mailed your office before as being against the location for the dog park and am following up.

Of all the comments, the one that made most sense to me is adequate bond or similar mechanism to return the property to as it was before should it need to revert to status quo ante.

I can see this happening after a lawsuit if dog jumps the fence and hurts a pedestrian, overcrowding (easy freeway access is two edged sword), or parking issues for library and playground folks.

Concerning location relative to 580, I have lived in Haddon Hill for almost six years and recall the anticipation of Trader Joe's opening (a very good turn of events). I thought I would be able to waltz in after my bus ride home after work and grab a few things for dinner. But the success of the location means I must strategically shop - later in the evening when it is less crowded. I do not drive there but the parking lot is often filled to the gills with cars looking for spots. Those who want the dog park at the proposed location may find a similar scenario. People can easily get off 580 to use the park and these folks will compete with local residents - the idea of being able to walk to the park to use it being thwarted by overcrowding.

I do think it is a bad location owing to limited green space - removing open unprogrammed space - but the small size in combination with the easy access to 580 is another relevant factor to consider. If it does go ahead as planned, funds locked away to restore it to grass would be a good idea.

Many thanks for your time -

Jonathan Haddon Hill

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http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3241/4d9f42095d66d5e3299st03duc
From: Adam Sand [ASAND@ancestry.com]
Sent: Friday, April 08, 2011 9:09 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please don't allow the dog park!

Attachments: image003.png

Just another messaged from a concerned neighbor at Prospect and Spruce.

/Adam

ADAM SAND

Associate General Counsel

<http://www.ancestry.com/> Ancestry.com

P

415.744.1742

M

415.572.8080

E

<mailto:asand@ancestry.com> asand@ancestry.com

501 Second Street

San Francisco, CA 94107

<http://www.ancestry.com/>

From: Chan, Ada
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 4:26 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie; Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: dog park call

Richard McGrath, 81 year old living in the Adams Point neighborhood

called re: dog park article

suggested area behind Ahns Burgers Between Bellvue, Grand, and the lake

893-7106

No need to call him - I just promised to communicate his suggestion to you both

ac

Ada Chan, Policy Analyst

Office of Oakland City Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan

Direct 510.238.7083

Cell 510.757-5646

<mailto:achan1@oaklandnet.com> achan1@oaklandnet.com

From: Michael Pearce [pearceofmind@earthlink.net]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 8:13 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park?

Hi Pat, it 's constituent Valerie Marchant on Balfour Avenue.

Just saw a flier re proposed dog park by library (not sure who proposed it) - missed the March meeting so not sure of current status. We have a dog, but I'm definitely against it!
From: paulfrie@juno.com
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2011 5:05 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Pat,
I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed dog park adjacent to the playground near Lake Merritt. There must be a better place to put the dog park than at this area so many of us use and treasure as open space.
Sincerely,
Paul Friedlander

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http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3131/4d8fd12be079a3de9d1st02vuc
From: peter grube [pgru@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 6:15 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge; libbyschaaf@earthlink.net; chjohnson@sfchronicle.com; McCullen, Leigh; Riley, Dana
Subject: Astro Park

Council members, Planning commission members, Chip Johnson,

I attended the neighborhood meeting at Lakeshore Baptist Church on March 23rd. After hearing the emotional presentations and seeing the photoshopped images of the proposed park, I decided to do my own evaluation of the site for the dog enclosure. I'd like to share my experience with you.

I drove down to the area with my dog and parked my car on Lakeshore. Having visited dog parks throughout the bay area, I know that most people arrive by car. There is absolutely no evidence that this park will be any different. After parking near the yogurt shop, I walked up Lakeshore and crossed Lakepark when the light signaled to cross. While walking across this very busy intersection (4 lanes) I took note of the cars bearing down on me and my dog as they impatiently waited to turn right onto Lakepark. We navigated the intersection, went under the bridge and came upon the next extremely busy intersection (5 lanes) that we had to cross. Once at the park, I started to walk onto the grass section that would become fenced off and used for a dog park. I walked no more than 10 feet onto the grass when I realized the entire area was a swampy bog. Since I had waterproof boots on, and the water was only up to my ankles, I went further into the proposed dog enclosure. Large swaths of grass were under water, other areas merely saturated, but drainage here is a major issue. If you put wood chips, as proposed, on top of water, they float. In the areas where wood chips are not floating, they will make a broth of decomposing wood, mud, water, and dog urine. This would be difficult to keep clean regardless of the endless number of volunteers who have made a lifetime commitment to maintain the proposed park. At every dog park I have visited, dogs like to dig holes. Then more dogs go to the same spot and dig deeper. It is a great activity for the dogs and fun for people to watch too. But when it rains, the holes fill with water. There are problems with standing water in parks designated for dogs. As any experienced dog owner could tell you, dogs love to drink from puddles (toilets too). But if you've been to a dog park, you know that owners hate for their dogs to drink from the puddles. Why? Because there is a highly contagious bacteria that lives in the stagnant water areas at dog parks. Giardia is one common disease that dogs regularly contract from high use enclosed dog parks that have puddles. Easy to contract, but very difficult to combat. And once your dog has it, when he returns to the park it is extremely likely he will spread it to others. The symptoms are extreme diarrhea, weight loss and dehydration. And yes, humans are susceptible too. But enough about swampy land, I'll move on.

I looked to my left and noticed just how close the bus stop is to this area. And when I looked out toward Lakeshore there is another bus stop of equally close proximity. I pictured those stops filled with people waiting for their ride. At present they have a busy street on one side and an unencumbered field on their other side. As proposed, the future holds a dog park on their backsides.

Then I recalled the beautifully created photos of the proposed dog enclosure and what it would look like, how it would function. In between the bus stop and the tot lot, there will be a driveway. Here, city trucks will stop on heavily trafficked Lakeshore and back up and into the driveway. Once in the driveway, they will empty two, estimated 40 gallon cans of dog feces. I'm not quite convinced that 25 feet will be much respite for the parents and children at the tot lot and the people waiting for their bus. The smell is unbearable. Go to a dog park, pick up some poop, carry it over to the cans and try not to hold your breath.

There is more that disturbs me about the location of this park, but I will end my observations with the following thoughts. I love dog parks. I use dog parks. Dog parks need to be situated in locations that take into consideration parking, size, maintenance, existing use, drainage, pedestrian and vehicle traffic and overall impact to their surroundings. I ask you, does this park take into account any of these? Please don't agree to put a dog park here.

Thank you,
Peter Grube
From: Stephenparente [stephenparente@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 2:54 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: RE:Proposed Dog Park @ Lake Merritt

Hi Pat,

Unfortunately, my wife and I were unable to make the meeting concerning the proposed dog play area for Lake Merritt but we would like to communicate our feelings as to the compatibility of the area and the proposed park.

We have resided in the Lake Merritt neighborhood since 1987 and have always owned dogs and enjoyed walking them around the lake. Lake Merritt, we feel is not an appropriate area for a dog play area, as it would change the open park feel and dynamics of the area. The area would need to be enclosed with a fence, although the plan is to make it as attractive as possible it would still be an obstruction! We believe that with all the expense and thought that is going into making Lake Merritt a beautiful, spacious and serine environment, in an urban setting. It is interesting to us that the DP. would be located right where one of the few NO DOGS ALLOWED some what pointed we think :o)

One last concern might be that if the floor of the area is wood chips, is that it would be difficult to clean up after the furry guys and the chips would become urine saturated and smelly.

Thanks for all your good work Pat!

Stephen and Margaret Parente

From: Carol A.Blackburn [carolablackburn@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2011 1:58 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Dog park

I wanted to comment on the proposed dog park and could not attend the meeting on the 23rd. While I do not oppose a dog park I feel this is the wrong place for one. After the beautiful renovation of the park around Lake Merritt I feel it would be such a shame to fence in park of this beautiful open space where we see people playing and having a grand time. Also, it is so close to the childrens playground which always seems packed with children playing.

It would just be so ugly to have a fenced area in this space.

Thank you for listening.
Carol Blackburn
From: Andrea Wilcox [an.wilcox@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 10:24 PM

To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Opposed to dog run

Dear Pat,
As a GrandLake resident I would like to voice my preference to NOT have a dog run in the green space across from our library.
It will be unattractive, unsanitary, and unsafe – placing very young children and a lot of dogs in close proximity.

Sincerely,

Andrea Wilcox
581 Kenmore

From: Mani Homertgen [mhomertgen@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 11:47 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Hi Pat,

Unfortunately I was not able to make the community meeting last night. I hope that I am not too late in getting my comments about the proposed dog park to you.

I am a dog owner and take our dog around the Lake several times a week. I have not seen the plans or renderings for the proposed dog park so I don't know what it will look like. However, I am opposed to it.

I start and end my day at the lake ever week day with boot camp at 5:30 am and driving home from Lake Merrit BART at the end of the work day and each time. I love the morning workouts and each day I appreciate all the great improvements around the lake and the parks and the open space that we have. At the end of the day, I am amazed by all the various people walking or jogging around the lake or simply hanging out in all the open grass and park areas. It is beautiful and such a treasure in our city. The open grass areas that can be used for activities, picnicking, soccer, workouts, or just the sake of being open, are fantastic. I can't imagine chopping up the space with fences, artifucial turf, etc. With the funding cuts the city is facing, I can't imagine how the dog park will be maintained and cleaned. I wouldn't rely on the promises of dog owners as so many well-intentioned dog owners don't pick up after their own dogs, let alone clean a partk.

We have created such beautiful spaces in the middle of our city and they should remain open. There are plenty of other parks and spaces close by where dog owners can take their dogs if they want to have them run around.

I don't know if the dog park is a done deal or what the status is. I tried to ignore all the commentary back and forth. But last week, as I was making my way around the lake with my dog (on the sidewalk not the park!), it really struck me at how a dog park would break up the beautiful space we have and not appropriate so close to the library or play ground.

Thanks and I hope all is well with ou.

Mani Homertgen

From: Rabiya Tuma [Rabiya@nasw.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2011 7:28 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: proposed dog park

Dear Ms Kernighan,
I would have liked to attend the meeting last night but am a single parent of a small child, who needs to be headed to be around 7 -- a problem I'm sure affected other interested parents.

I strongly object to the location of the dog park for two reasons,
1) we already have a problem with goose droppings at the playground near the bird sanctuary. If the dog park goes in, we will have the smell of dog droppings at the Lakeshore library totpark. Plus not all dog owners are responsible about safety. Just last week a dog was chasing small children at the totpark.

2) the grassy area that is planned to be used for the dog park is one of the very few flat grass spaces that can be used for ball games. During reasonable weather, it is used nearly continuously on the weekends and afternoons by children and adults alike. If a dog park goes in, where would they play?

Why not locate the dog park between El Embarcadero and the bottom of Staten? That area is not steep, but not flat enough for ball games. And it is not juxtaposed to a children's play park. I love dogs and look forward to having one in our family in the future, but I think devoting this specific area to dogs is the wrong plan for the community!

Sincerely,
Rabiya Tuma
Adams Point resident and parent
From: NM2 [63.2102@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: atlarge; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I am a resident of the Grand/Lakeshore area. I recently was informed that there are plans to develop a dog park in Astro Park. I am writing to let you know that I oppose this project.

As a dog lover/owner, I do not think it will be of great value. If it is developed, the beautiful open landscape will be ruined by a vision of chained linked fence. I think a dog run is great, but not there, somewhere else where it can be tucked in and will not take away from the multi-purpose function Astro Park provides.

Who will pay for this development? Who will maintain it, and for what cost to the citizens of Oakland? I think the money can be spent on much better things that would give a better return, for instance: give it to education, or protect our streets by hiring another peace officer, what about feeding the homeless, or put the money towards helping those who have been with a job for over a year or more.

If you really want to do something for the dog owners, why not just dedicate a place in the park where leashed dogs can walk/run on the grass. Matter of fact why not just allow owners to walk their dogs at Astro Park without a fence?

I hope you will consider my plea to not develop a dog run at Astro Park.

Thank you,
Nic Montesclaros
From: maggie kostoff [maggie_kostoff@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 2:52 PM
To: Yahoo group
Subject: The propsed dog park area is a swamp

Over the last few months with all the discussion about the dog park, I decided to take several visits to the proposed area. Over several trips in the last few months, I have noticed that the area is flooded. And not just after a rain, but for a week or more.

I discussed this with a City worker who mentioned that the flooding is because the park is a reclaimed swamp. There are many low spots (depressions) that will hold the water for days. Added to this is the combination of the overflowing sewers on Grand Ave and Lakeshore. Like all other areas of Oakland parkland, the maintenance has been let go. I haven't seen the lawn there reseeded, or the soil amended in probably 20 years. During the dry months the sprinklers also creates wet areas.

If a dog park was built in this area, my concern is that the seepage from the dogs will leak to the outlaying areas such as the children's play area, the bus stops and sidewalk. Both the near by children's play area and the soccer field are susceptible in that persons will touch a ball or toy and then touch their face or mouth.

For this reason I would not like to see a dog park built in this area. I would hope that there are other more appropriate locations that can be considered that would allow both the dogs and general public a better place to play.

From: mchavigny@juno.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 1:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: vote no on dog park near Lake

Hi Pat - I live at 722 Prospect Ave. in Haddon Hill. I would like to say that I do not support having a dog park near the playground and library near Lake Merrit. I have small kids, and we play in that open area a lot, and don't want it fenced off. We love dogs, but not there!

Thank you!! for all your hard work.

Margaret Chavigny

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<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3132/4d8a54f2533e630d8dbst04vuc>
From: Mark Popple [markpopple@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 11:31 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I do not support the dog run at Astro park.....

.....for the following:-
1. Where is the money coming from? I know it is said to be funded but where is this coming from? Oakland already wastes too much money in inefficient practices and to special interest groups. Please stop it.
2. Where will the maintenance funds come from? It is supposed to be kept clean by volunteers but the city have already agreed to empty the dog poo containers and that comes from city funds. Piedmont provides dog poo bags at their parks; will Oakland do the same and where does that money come from.
3. Dog parks smell. Even well maintained ones. Who will pay for the regular spraying of anti-tick/mite and smell agents to keep the space sanitary.
4. When the first lawsuits from children/dog or dog/traffic encounters arise, due to the idiotic positioning of this proposed park; who will foot the bill? Oakland Tax payers?
Or can we get assurances that the council member/s pushing for this, or the interested dog groups, will be held personally liable. Maybe the record should show who votes for this so that those councilors can be held responsible to their constituents if not legally.
5. Will there be a provision for turning the space back into grass when the run becomes an eyesore and a health hazard.
6. This will increase the strain on the already limited parking and add congestion to busy roads.
7. I enjoy walking along this green space to the shops on lakeshore and grand and the farmers market. Walking past a smelly and unsanitary dog park will make this a less pleasant experience.
8. Where will the footballers and volleyballers play? At the very least (even if none of their pitches are taken up) they will find it more difficult to park.
9. I like dogs; which is another reason that I am against it. It is only a matter of time before one is run over there on one of the three busy roads surrounding the proposed site.
10. I believe some people make an argument that dog parks lift blighted areas. I do not believe lake merritt is a blighted area....not until someone puts an ugly, smelly blot of a dog park on it!
11. There are far better locations within the park itself (how about near the park gardens) where there is better parking and more space to host the run.
Please stop this idiotic idea now!

Mark Popple.
Oakland resident

From: Maha Hermes [maha_hermes@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2011 5:20 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Against Dog Park - Expressing my opinion

Dear Pat Kernighan:

I might not be able to attend today's meeting and I just wanted to express my vote regarding the dog park.

I am very much against it for reasons you have already heard. I am in full agreement with you and thank you ahead for stopping it.

Also, thank you for all that you do our neighborhood.
All the best Pat,

Maha Hermes
507 Fairbanks Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610
510-685-4488

From: notify@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Adams Point Resident [adams_pt_resident@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 9:47 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: I am AGAINST new dog park near Lakeview Library or Lakeshore Merchant district

Hello Ms. Kernighan,

I am strongly AGAINST a new dog park at the 2 sites I've read of:

1. big open lawn between Lakeview Library and MacArthur (Astro Park)

2. the narrow block of grass north of Mandana/Lakeshore

I very much cherish these beautiful undeveloped spaces of alive lawn, for the natural beauty they balance admists our otherwise densely-cluttered "concrete jungle."

They are not (as falsely portrayed by do-gpark proponent) just blank emply spaces nor just repositories for goose poop. It is treasured space OCCUPIED by treasured grassland.

I strongly object to dogs and their owners unilaterally deciding to co-opt these treasures for their own uses. And I object to the apparent presumption that only opinions shown online actually count. I applaud your Wednesday night meeting at the church where neighbors can talk in person. But hundreds of residents nearby to the sites are not online, received no mailings, saw no posters, and have no clue of either the meeting nor the planned changes. IMHO it's important to keep that in mind before leaping to any conclusion.

Further, I think it's sacrilege that the dog parks will naturally incur dogs daily toileting of urine & feces onto these public lands. These areas were not designed to tolerate nor dispose of it. And from what I've already seen of dog owners in my own apartment building and around my neighborhood, owners of dogs who pee & poop in the new dog park will consider it their right to leave that smelly mess for someone else to have to clean up. That is selfish and galling to say the lease. It's especially unacceptable to invite have happen in close proximity to our treasured Lakeview Branch library and children's play area nearby.

FYI I own indoor pets. And NOTHING about them imposes upon, nor takes away from, the general public. So, IMHO, neither should dog owners be allowed to do so!!! Especially not whereas objection clearly exists, as in this topic.

As for the block above the Lakeshore Merchant district, dog owners will, by in large, consume parking spaces of would-be customers (who then can no longer find a place to park then shop). These dog owners will mostly not be shopping, either. Parking of dog owner cars will increase abuse of free parking lot provided to customers OF Trader Joes & Walgreens BY those 2 merchants, intended FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS ONLY -- but is already abused by shoppers of other Lakeshore merchants. Increased rivalry for parking spots WILL cause would-be shoppers of Lakeshore Merchants to give up and drive to other cities (like Alameda + San Leandro) where parking is plentiful and often free. Oakland cannot afford to encourage ANY deterrent to shopping in Oakland.

I personally won't mind a new dog park at Harrison/20th St, or, Park Blvd/23rd Ave. But its neighbors are no less entitled to be solicited for their opinions. Especially in ways that don't assume internet access of them, such as mass mailings, and posting of signs or flyers.

I apologize for not giving my full name.
But I am a survivor of offline domestic violence, who strives to maintain online privacy from my former stalker. I will only confirm for you that I'm a single female Oakland voter in my 50s, who has lived in Oakland nearly 4 decades, and, in Adams Point for 3+ decades. By this one same email/handle, I've been a participant of Yahoo Groups: 14X_NCPC (now closed), APAC_14X (its replacement), ClevelandHeightsNeighbors, GrandLakeNCPC, and others for 3 - 5+ years.

Thank You for reading my email. And for considering my opinions.....

From: cheryl giuliano rubinstein [lightsky14@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 3:43 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: re: truth of Hardy dog park

in case you didn't see this in the comments to the East Bay Express article...

Could somebody give me a source for "40% of Oakland houses have dogs". This is seems inflated for sure.

I like well behaved dogs. I'm am not a dog hater or owner.
My wife happened to be bitten by a dog off leash in a campground recently, this isn't a total game changer,
but bad stuff can and does happen with dogs.

I have two young daughters who I take to parks.
I used to live right next to the Hardy Park dog area, so I spent a lot of time there.
At Hardy Park and area around, rules aside, in reality, many dog owners were not that responsible: dogs not leashed, not controlled, large dogs in the tot area, "Don't worry he won't bite", dog poo where families picnic, dog fights, actual dangerous dogs in the playground with my toddler, and I'm open to dogs, really. Some owners just not even aware that they are walking all over others. Ok, this wasn't the end of the world I admit, things kinda/ maybe/ maybe not worked BUT ultimately I don't think the dog owners lived up to their side of the deal. And Hardy dog park does smell and is dirty.

I don't think there should be a dog park at MacArthur and Lakeshore it is a center show piece for the city.
This is the center of a busy city.

-Old time Oakland resident

Posted by <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/ebx/Profile?oid=2531487> @lbert on March 21, 2011 at 9:51 PM | Report this comment <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/ebx/Tools/ReportComment?oid=2531488>

From: J. Mates-Muchin [jmatesmuchin@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 1:58 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: Office of the Mayor
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Ms. Kernighan and Ms. Nadel,

I'm writing to you to express my concern about the Lakeview Dog Park. I unfortunately cannot attend the community meeting tomorrow night, thus I am writing this email. I have read the literature regarding the park and I agree with many of the pro-dog groups that this park has gone through the appropriate public review process. However, I am not certain that the plan thoroughly considered the proximity of the proposed dog park to the children's play area and library. Both of these areas are heavily used by children (and adults) and dogs could pose a threat to these smaller individuals if not under control.

Based on the proximity of the dog park to sensitive receptors (library and children's play area) I would propose that the codes for animals are strictly enforced including all leash laws (Oakland Code of Ordinances 6.04.070 - 6.04.080). This may required additional police or park representation to enforce these laws to ensure that no one gets hurt. It is possible that many violation will occur as owners are transporting dogs to and from their cars to the dog park. This type of activity should be vehemently discouraged and fines should be levied for violators of these ordinances.

Thank your for your time in reading this letter. I hope that a cooperative resolution can be attained in this situation.

Regards,

Jonathan Mates-Muchin
1020 Longridge Rd.
Oakland, CA 94610
510.275.4052

From: marina mcbrearty [info@marina-tcm.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2011 12:46 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Astro Park

Dear Pat Kernighan and Nancy Nadel
I live in the neighborhood off lake-shore.
I am a dog owner.
but I am writhing with concern about the proposed dog park in Astro

Park.
A couple of things, that corner is really busy traffic wise, Im not so sure I would be inclined to take my dog there, because of the traffic noise, the danger of crossing such a busy road with my dog. There is no extra parking.
And lastly it right beside a little child's play ground, (babies to 2 years old, I seem to think only use that play ground)
What if a dog off leash gets out and attacks a little child even knocks the child over, can you just imagine the phone calls your offices are going to get.
Please, please, please, think about an area that is a little more quite,There a little less busy, where the dogs can chill, and just run around
There are a few place on the lake off grand, where its not as densely populated with people, there are trees, its quite, parking would be a little easier.
Rethink this one.
Sincerely
Marina Mcbrearty
From: Francine [orange3light@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:50 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: Dog Park

Dear City Council Persons,

I am opposed to a dog park near Lake Merritt. The Lake is a place already overrun with people who are seeking peace and beauty within a crowded urban environment. It is not a place to add increased dog comings and goings on sidewalks and crosswalks, and pedestrians' need for more attention to poop management than we already have with the geese. I do not want to deal with any extra dogs --- leased or unleashed --- that disturb me as a pedestrian by sniffing my crotch or jumping at my ankles or looking for me to pet them.

Has the city planned for mandatory certification of competency for dog owners or will they assign extra police to monitor dog owners responsibilities??? Though dog owners are familiar with their pets and like dog-ness behaviors, dogs have innate tendencies for exploration and aggression which dog owners cannot always control, tend to not even notice as upsetting to others, or think of as cute.

In my laundry room a neighbor's unleashed dog bit me after the owner told him to sit and stop jumping on me. It forced me to ask for inoculation records, visit my doctor and get the dog quarantined by the police. I don' t need more uncertainty of safety in my walking around Oakland. Nobody does. People who own dogs need a big yard at home, not my public space.

Francine Cavaliere
645 Chetwood Street, Apt 108
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Ricky Alperton [ealpe2004@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 2:57 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge
Subject: Dog Park

Attachments: As a former dog owner and dog lover I highly object to a dog park by Lake Merritt.docx

Dear City Counsel persons:

As I am unable to attend the meeting on March 23rd, I am sending this email opposing the location of the dog park.

As a former dog owner and dog lover I highly object to a dog park by Lake Merritt. This is not a wise location.

- I observe the dogs around Lake Shore and often see them very distraught due to all the commotion. Putting a dog park by the traffic is overstimulation of visuals and noise. It is not a healthy place for a dog to relax and have fun with other dogs. They are already bombarded with sensory input which can put animals and people into an aggressive mode.

- To be a good dog owner, one needs skills, not just a leash or a fence, to control their dog.

- What will you get when you put together sensory overloaded dogs and inexperienced owners in a cage together? Who is going to pay for the law suits? I see so many young people with their pit bulls and I do not trust them or their dogs. My friend is a responsible dog owner with a terrific dog. His dog got attacked at a dog park. OK, people say it is not the breed but the owner. We do have a very high percentage of pit bulls in Oakland. They are known for their fighting ability and strong jaws.

- So much money was spent on the Lake. The grass is green and pretty. People play soccer and do exercises there. It is delightful to get off of the 580 exit ramp and see so much social activity. Why would you willingly turn it brown and smelly and put a cage around it? This is our JEWEL. Why would you turn it into a dusty brown, smelly cage? Why would you encourage dogs to defecate near where children play?

- I am a home owner who pays lots of taxes. I do not want to degrade my neighborhood. Please, ask the homeowners. Renters come and go.

- Please find a quiet, already grassless location for those brave souls who are willing to risk their beloved pet's safety at a dog park.

When I had dogs, I loved having my dog play with other dogs. Even my sweet Great Dane joined a pack of two other nice dogs and drew blood on a peacock. My friend just got bitten by a little dog in a laundry room at her apartment complex with the owner present. My neighbors' big dog was known to go after people and recently bit an elderly neighbor. Dogs have natural instincts and people do not always have the best judgment.

Please I want to support the elected leaders of Oakland, but this is such a bad choice. I love living in Oakland and really do not want to move, but I cannot have city council people making decisions to worsen our beautiful JEWEL.

Eleanor Alperton

District 2

From: Stephanie Mamane [smamane@btmg.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 2:45 PM
To: Riley, Dana; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Dog park at Astro Park - PLEASE OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL!!!

Hello

I'm an Oakland resident, mother of 3 and concerned neighbor in the Lake Merrit neighborhood. I'm writing to express my concern and worry over the proposed plans to put a dog park near the Tot playground at Astro Park. My 2 year old plays at that park every day. Many young children his age have no other park in walking distance to play at. Allowing dogs to be so close will not only make the park stink and become very dirty, but also poses a risk to the children's safety. A dog attack is very likely, it's not a matter of it will happen but rather when it will happen. Please find another spot suitable for dogs that is not so close to young children. I'm not opposed to dogs but I am opposed to putting my child and other young kids in harm's way of irresponsible dog owners.

Stepanie Mamane

Resident of Crocker Highlands

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Thank you.

From: Kathleen Taylor (Contractor) [Kathleen.Taylor@ucop.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 12:33 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: dog park at Lakeview

I am a concerned resident of your district, and just recently heard about the proposed dog park. I am against the location for a dog park, as I think it will be a possible danger to children in the play area, and most likely will soon become an eyesore.

As I was looking up additional information on the web, I came across the website for ODOG. They are handing out fliers and urging dog owners to come to our neighborhood meeting on the subject. I respectfully request that we establish some guidelines at the meeting to limit the input of "outsiders" who attend the meeting. They should be allowed to attend and hear the arguments pro and con, but if the purpose of the meeting is to get neighborhood input, then we should not allow them to monopolize the microphone, or intimidate those with opinions different from theirs.

Thank you,

Kathleen Taylor

1014 Winsor Ave

Oakland, CA 94610

From: Frank Arthur [farthur@tricommercial.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 11:26 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro Park

Attachments: image001.jpg

Hi Pat:

We met some time ago though your neighbor Jerry Barclay, who is a partner with my wife in Conversion Management Associates.

One of my roles is the Real Estate Consultant to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Oakland. The Diocese owns 3014 Lakeshore Avenue, directly across from the proposed dog run. This property has already had adversity as it was contaminated by the former Chevron service station next door which was recently torn down and the site remediated.

We are currently attempting to sell or lease the property and have a high level of interest from a retail establishment.

We do not believe this is the appropriate location for a dog park as it is adjacent to a growing commercial district, borders busy streets and does not provide any new parking in the area. The effect on nearby commercial and residential properties will be negative at a time when the area is experiencing positive change.

I would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience but wanted you to be aware of the concern of the commercial property owners in the neighborhood.

Thank you,

Frank Arthur

Franklin K Arthur III | Senior Investment Advisor

TRI Commercial Real Estate Services

1777 Oakland Blvd. Suite 100

Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Ofc 925.296.3322 | EFax 510.336.8292

Fax 925.296.3399 | Cell 510.816.5914

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Building Great Relationships

From: michael restifo [michael.restifo@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 10:54 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: No Dog Park at MacArthur & Lakeshore

Councilmember Kernighan:

The grassy slope at Bellevue & Grand, across from Ahn's would likely be a better location. I will look at it again specifically with that in mind.

One small consideration about the Bellevue location comes to mind: Bellevue is one-way into Grand at that corner. People driving east on Grand to the dog park might get to that corner, realize they can't turn right, then be frustrated because the traffic patterns just beyond there make it challenging to turn around and get back. Not a deal breaker, just an issue to be addressed.

I appreciate your prompt response and your attention to the whole issue.

Michael Restifo

Michael Restifo
415-244-9064

On 2011-03-21 07:35, Kernighan, Pat wrote:

Mr. Restifo,

Thanks for writing. I agree that the look of the fenced area would be much less attractive than the open expanse of green space. However, I also am aware that there are hundreds of apartment dwellers with dogs in the immediate area who need a place where their dogs can exercise. It is very hard to find a suitable space for dog parks. As an alternative location, what would you think about the grassy slope where Bellevue meets Grand, near the Ahn's Burger?

P.S. The fence would covered with flowering vines.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA. 94612
510-238-7002
www.patkernighan.com

From: michael restifo <mailto:michael.restifo@gmail.com>
<michael.restifo@gmail.com>
To: Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Mon Mar 21 01:18:01 2011
Subject: No Dog Park at MacArthur & Lakeshore
Councilwoman Kernighan:

MacArthur & Lakeshore is the wrong place for a dog park.

Unsightly
- Chain Link Fences in direct line of sight, on an open field, are a visual blight
- given all the improvements that have gone into the area between the lake itself and Lake Park, this would be a giant step backwards.
- compare this with the dog park in Piedmont on Linda, which is tucked into a hillside such that I didn't know it was there until someone pointed it out to me.

Pushes out current users

Safety
- a very busy intersection with freeway on and off ramps; not a good place to put dogs off leash (given that some will be off leash even before they get to the park).

Other Options Exist
- There is likely an area somewhere on the Lake that is better suited to this.

I've lived in the neighborhood for 13 years; I've voted for you in every City Council election.

I would be very disappointed if you voted in favor of this dog park.

Thank you,
Michael Restifo

--

Michael Restifo
415-244-9064

From: John Phelan [phelanjj2@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 9:58 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Against Dog Park at Lakeside park

Dear Pat,

I have lived in this neighborhood my whole life, and have purchased the house we live in now from the estate of my parents.
My family has lived in this neighborhood since 1947 (since returning to the bay area after WW II).

I am against putting in a dog park.

1. It will ruin the grass and create a muddy mess.
2. We don't have money in this city to build or maintain it.
3. If there was money to build it I would rather it would be used to repair the asphalt on Lakeshore Avenue, especially under the freeway.
4. I would also like this excess money to be used to repair the pedestrian walkway across the street from 690 Santa Ray Avenue which has needed repair for years now. (Since the house adjacent to it burned down).

Any money budgeted for proposed Lakeshore dog park maintenance should be redirected to Oakland Public Schools.

It is interesting that council members from outside of our neighborhood are pushing this thing. What's up with that?

People have used, and do use now, the grass at the park for soccer and other sports.

The improvement I would like to see, and I don't know what the solution would be, is keep the geese from pooping all over the grass.

Pardon me, but we certainly don't need more poop of any kind in that park.

Thanks for your representation in this matter.

John Phelan
From: Hegal [hegal@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 4:04 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Lakeshore Dog Park

Hello Pat,

It was a pleasure to meet you the other day at Cana. I think that the location of the dog park wouldn't serve a majority of the citizens who live near the lake. I like the pick up soccer and volleyball games that I can participate in when I am on the way to the farmers market. I can't think of another area near the lake that is conducive to this activity. If you stop by the soccer games you will might find students from Cal playing against immigrant restaurant workers or neighborhood hipsters. Soccer and volleyball are sports that are accessible to anyone because the costs are minimal. Having a dog is expensive and many of my neighbors aren't allowed to have one by their landlords. In conclusion, I feel that maintaining the area as a sports field benefits a greater number of lower income lake residents who can't afford or aren't able to have a dog. Perhaps, the council might consider a dog park at the under used park at east 21st and park blvd. The area slopes upward which doesn't lend it to soccer or volleyball. People use it as a dog run currently, there is a lot of parking there, and it might attract customers to the businesses in the area (Rooz Cafe and Woody's). Since the Parkway closed, a number of businesses have struggled. It seems that fewer people from out of the neighborhood venture here which has stalled development.

I agree that east 21st should be resurfaced. I use it to commute to the San Francisco several times per week and I am intimately familiar with the majority of it's potholes. I think that if the city chooses to resurface the street, perhaps they should pair it with a street bulb out by Champa Garden (east 21st/8th ave) and decorative street lighting on that corner. The restaurant is very popular and people are often waiting on the sidewalk for a seat inside.

Thank you for doing a great job!

Gabriel Shin

Sent from my iPhone
From: michael restifo [michael.restifo@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 21, 2011 1:18 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No Dog Park at MacArthur & Lakeshore

Councilwoman Kernighan:

MacArthur & Lakeshore is the wrong place for a dog park.

Unsightly
- Chain Link Fences in direct line of sight, on an open field, are a visual blight
- given all the improvements that have gone into the area between the lake itself and Lake Park, this would be a giant step backwards.
- compare this with the dog park in Piedmont on Linda, which is tucked into a hillside such that I didn't know it was there until someone pointed it out to me.

Pushes out current users

Safety
- a very busy intersection with freeway on and off ramps; not a good place to put dogs off leash (given that some will be off leash even before they get to the park).

Other Options Exist
- There is likely an area somewhere on the Lake that is better suited to this.

I've lived in the neighborhood for 13 years; I've voted for you in every City Council election.

I would be very disappointed if you voted in favor of this dog park.

Thank you,
Michael Restifo

--

Michael Restifo
415-244-9064
From: Joie Seldon [joieseldon@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 10:42 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Hi,

I don't have a dog, but I think it is a mostly wasted space right now and would be wonderful for dog owners to have a place to take their dogs. For what it's worth, I'm for it.

Joie

Joie Seldon, M.A.

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www.EmotionEducation.net <http://www.joieseldon.com/>

510-536-3335

From: Liz Sand [lizsand@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:21 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

dear pat,
I am writing to say I oppose the dog park at that location. what about using the space across the street where the gas station was? I know this is not a simple solution since that is not owned by the city. but the current proposed location is not good.
thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone
From: Zack Wasserman [ZWasserman@wendel.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 5:56 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park at Lakeshore Library

Pat - I like and use dog parks. But not there. It is not consistent with the library, the children's playground or the traffic around the site. Just say No.

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P Thank you for considering the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Daniel Halem [dan@halem.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 3:40 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please say no to the dog park

I like the park the way it is. Please no dogs. There are other places for them around, but not a lot of green spaces for people.

From: Danise Kuang [danise821@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 2:38 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Oakland Council,

I think you should not create a doggie park, because the dogs should have a larger and safer place to play.Also, I think that the park should be avaliable for everyone. <http://mail.yimg.com/a/i/mesg/tsmileys2/01.gif>
Thank You very much.

- Danise K.
Haddon Hill

From: jason kuang [wrestlinggod94@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 2:25 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Subject: Fw: Please save Asto Park

Dear City Council Members,

I would want the park and open green space because other kids need it to have fun. Dogs will take away the open space which should be available to all.

Thank You

Jason K. Haddon Hill

From: Pat Hea [patheaphy47@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 9:05 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No Dog Park near Library

Dear Pat
I am apposed the dog run near the library at Lake Merritt. The beautiful new space is being used by some many people It is a wonderful city park now.
The fencing of a large part will create noting but visual blight and excessive muddy fields.

Possible site
The area on MacArthur between Beacon and Hillgrite Cr. The area could be reconfigured along the freeway. Very few people ever walk on the freeway side of the street making for a wonderful space to re due for the dogs.

Pat Heaphy
614Alma Ave

From: mlkatzin@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2011 8:15 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Hi, Pat,
This is such a divisive issue for our community. I wish I could be at the meeting to express extreme disatisfaction regarding this proposal a dog park near the playgound and library at Lake Merritt.. At a time when there is such an overwhelming need for funding for essential services, instead of funding a dog

park, please please put the money into essential services - something that will benefit us all - or find a better spot. The area near the library is too busy already with walkers, cars etc. and to make congestion, public safety and public health worse for everyone in the area is not the right direction.
Thank you.
Marcy Katzin

Sent via DROID on Verizon Wireless
From: Dolores Butkus [doloresbutkus@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 7:16 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Pat Kernighan.

I would like an explanation of why Lakeshore Homes Association which has a membership
of more that 1,000 homeowners was not included in the groups involved with this dog park.
Our Association will be more impacted than any other group by this proposed dog park.
I find it interesting that Ms. Nadel has placed the dog park in the remotest corner of her district
but it will greatly impact the Lakeshore/MacArthur area.

Dolores Butkus
959 Hillcroft Circle
Oakland 94610
510-444-0355
From: Tmf [thatmanfantastic@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 1:29 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No on dog park

Hi Pat I've been quiet as I have a new baby but here's my vote on the dog park. NO. Horrible idea. Thanks as always for all you do.

Sent from my iPhone
From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com on behalf of stephen Duffy [thatmanfantastic@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 12:44 PM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Re: Fwd: Incursion of public space

re the sidewalk fences and signs in our neighorhood.. bottom line folks, we can't have it all. Either we want a vibrant energetic attractive hood or we go back to yesteryear. As a long time resident of this neighborhood (20 years) I remember only too well how easy it was to walk 5 abreast down the sidewalk. My point: there was absolutley nothing doing any time of the day or night..in fact sadly we can still do that on Grand avenue pretty much anytime.

Okay,so... sometimes it's a hassle to step around a few signs, or wait until someone else passes by and for those in wheelchairs access is always a pain but, you never know, as you step to the side or bump into someone you might meet a

new friend.. so give me the outdoor seating, signs, stalls, street performers, any day.
Not trying to mix it up just wanted to say something..

and I also vote no to the dog park at that location..horrible idea...
cheers
S

__.-_-.___

<mailto:thatmanfantastic@gmail.com?subject=Re%3A%20Fwd%3A%20Incursion%20of%20public%20space> Reply to sender |
<mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20Fwd%3A%20Incursion%20of%20public%20space> Reply to group | Reply
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__'_.'_'___
From: Elisa [elisa923@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 12:42 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat

Subject: Re: [crockerhighlands] COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd)

Hi there, Pat.

I won't be able to make the meeting. As a avid lover of dogs and an owner of one who loves dog parks, I have to share that I do not want to see that area turned into the dog park. We have far too little green grass spaces in our area and I'd like to preserve it for us humans.

Many thanks for all your work,
Elisa

Elisa Dumesnil, MFT
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

1425 Leimert Boulevard, Suite 202
Oakland, CA 94602

edumesnil@eastbayces.com
phone: (510) 338-4233

--- On Fri, 3/18/11, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: [crockerhighlands] COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd)
To: crockerhighlands@yahoogroups.com
Date: Friday, March 18, 2011, 1:36 PM

Dear Crocker parents,

I wanted to make sure that you are aware of this upcoming community meeting.

WHAT: COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd).

WHERE: Barnett Hall, behind the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave

WHEN: Wednesday, March 23, at 7:00 PM

This is to invite all interested residents to come to a Community Meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the off-leash dog play area proposed to be installed in the field near the Astro Park play structure and Lakeview Library. You can learn more about the proposal here <http://www.patkernighan.com/News/March11.htm#26> .

Councilmember Nadel and a group of residents have been working to create the dog park for a number of years. The proposal was widely announced about two months ago and has generated a lot of feedback, both pro and con. I have received at least 184 comments via email. The comments are quite split. Many nearby residents look forward to walking their dogs to the location. Others object to this particular location on a variety of grounds. The purpose of this meeting will be to clarify and discuss the various issues that have been raised.

If you have an opinion on the topic, or just want to learn more, please attend the meeting. You may also email me with your thoughts.

Joining me in sponsoring this meeting is Councilmember Nancy Nadel. Our co-sponsors are the Adams Point Action Council, Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Network and Grand Lake Neighbors. We look forward to seeing you.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

__.__.___
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From: Toni Tullys [tonitullys@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 10:43 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: My comments on the proposed dog run

Hi Pat,

I appreciate your email newsletters and read them every month, but I missed your February edition describing the dog run proposal in detail. I saw your email this morning, and won't be able to attend the community meeting, so wanted to send you an email.

I understand your point of view and appreciate how you have laid out the planning, etc. I am a dog owner, however, I am not in support of this proposal, because I think it blocks the very limited open space we have in our dense neighborhood. Our neighborhood had taken a bit of a nosedive, and really came back to life with the farmer's market. It is now a vibrant urban hub that draws neighbors, as well as others, to Lakepark every Saturday.

I think the dog run will decrease our very limited open space, and quite frankly, diminish the attractiveness of the neighborhood. I also think it is too close to the kids' playground, despite the gate location. The other dog runs that I have used are tucked away, not using prime space. I am disappointed that given all of the area surrounding Lake Merritt, that this site, right off of the freeway and in plain view, would be selected for a dog run.

I haven't written to you much over the years, but on this issue, I wanted to express my lack of support, for what it is worth.

Toni Tullys

From: william P moore [wpmradrd@att.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 10:09 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Pat,

I am a heavy user of the Lakeview Branch Library. When I park in the alloted space area, I look out and always see many users of the play area, and on the large turf area always see kids & adults of various ages (and skills) playing kick ball and its assorted activities. At any one time during daylight hours one can see an impressive number of citizens and their kids out there and in the play area doin their stuff, running all over the place, usually screaming their heads off. So -- I come to my major point: this area north of the library is ideally suited for its current purposes. It simply would be a lousy area, or any portion of it, for the proposed dog droppings site. Surely there are areas not too far distant, on city property, that could more readily serve the needs and wishes of the dog owners. I have not researched the alternative site option, no doubt others have, or certainly would if they were encouraged to see this as a live option, and Council members prepared to back reasonable alternatives. How about it, Pat?

Bill Moore
308 Palm Avenue
Oakland 94610

510-653-1506
From: Ronna Benjamin [benjaminronna@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:34 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: save astro park

Pat Kernighan,

Please save Astro Park as playground and open space. I live in Adams Point and take my granddaughter to the playground and the Lakeshore Library and the park weekly. I also walk to the Grand Lake Farmers Market every Saturday. The open space is a wonderful part of the neighborhood, especially with all the traffic nearby. To loose it to a chain link fense and woodchips would be detrimental to the whole community. I have lived here 7 years and only now heard of the proposal for a dog park. I have not had a chance to comment until now. I will come to the meeting on May 23. Please stop this ill-considered plan.

Ronna Benjamin
325 Vernon St. #305
Oakland, CA 94610
From: Stephanie Mamane [steph0099@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:12 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park

Dear Pat
We are residents of the Trestle Glen area. I have three young children that frequent the play area surrounding the proposed dog park. I am extremely opposed to this idea. There is already limited open play space for our kids in this area

(in walking distance to our homes) and the safety concern is high with regards to dog attacks and kids in the same area. I urge you to not support this. Put the dogs somewhere else!!! Not where my kids play....

Stephanie Mamane
Director, PPO
Brown & Toland Medical Group
(415) 972-4282 (tel)
(415) 972-4289 (fax)

From: Joel Freid [joelfreid@juno.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 19, 2011 8:23 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No dogpark at splashpad

Dear Pat,
In my opinion, it makes no sense to put a new dog park at the most congested corner of the city. Dog parks are great. Pls put the new one elsewhere.
Thanks.
Joel Freid

Sent from Joel's iPhone

Groupon&#8482 Official Site
1 ridiculously huge coupon a day. Get 50-90% off your city's best!
http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL3141/4d84cb5e51b9623ec10st04duc
From: JamesEVann@aol.com
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 6:35 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: re COMMUNITY MEETING -- Comments on the proposed dog play in Astro Park

Hello Pat (& Nancy):

I plan to attend the meeting on the proposed dog park. Below are my thoughts and concerns, which I have previously communicated to Councilmember Nadel's staff.

1. Fundamentally, I think Astro Park is an improper location -- (due to present park uses, and prominence as green space in a key location). Alternately -- rightly or wrongly -- I recognize that a lot has gone into getting to this stage. If reconsideration is open, my preference would be a non-park location, or a little-used park in a non-prominent location.
2. The present layout is too large, extends too far toward Grand, and leaves too little park surface for the many groups that frequently gather for group activities.
3. The large dog area seems huge (How does this proposed area compare with other dog parks in less prominent locations ? In no event should the large dog area extend past the second tree on MacArthur toward Grand.
4. Wood chips are the wrong surface material. Droppings cannot be picked up without also removing the chips. The chips will constantly need replacing. Many people do not pick up, and the soiled chips will create a highly objectionable permanent odor, located adjacent to the very popular and heavily used children's play area.

5. An alternative possible site is in Lake Merritt Park, appx one block west of the arbor at the Embarcadero, and just over the "rise" half way between the Lake and Grand. Being on the downhill side would lessen visibility from Grand Avenue, and is an area of the park rarely used by other than geese. (However, any mention of locating such a facility within Lake Merritt Park will bring demands for a "lynching.")

james vann
763-0142

From: slind2@oaklandnet.com
To: jamesevann@aol.com
Sent: 3/18/2011 11:41:17 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time
Subj: COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd)

WHAT: COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd).

WHERE: Barnett Hall, behind the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave

WHEN: Wednesday, March 23, at 7:00 PM

This is to invite all interested residents to come to a Community Meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the off-leash dog play area proposed to be installed in the field near the Astro Park play structure and Lakeview Library. You can learn more about the proposal here
<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bef9v8bab&et=1104875809241&s=1680&e=001gwjf980h9zb3nF8e871iq5qphPDvRJLIPYPwX-M-5AV-yURTt0CFPRFuEW1b5p0SO8vQfVAFavZDYthwcmeVwjLJ04D_uIBO39aeTIRkrD315yfgTpUh-ak0H2JdRXoUF3an0hb3sJ4N0kwL2VtYMA==> .

Councilmember Nadel and a group of residents have been working to create the dog park for a number of years. The proposal was widely announced about two months ago and has generated a lot of feedback, both pro and con. I have received at least 184 comments via email. The comments are quite split. Many nearby residents look forward to walking their dogs to the location. Others object to this particular location on a variety of grounds. The purpose of this meeting will be to clarify and discuss the various issues that have been raised.

If you have an opinion on the topic, or just want to learn more, please attend the meeting. You may also email <mailto:pkernighan@oaklandnet.com> me with your thoughts.

Joining me in sponsoring this meeting is Councilmember Nancy Nadel. Our co-sponsors are the Adams Point Action Council, Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Network and Grand Lake Neighbors. We look forward to seeing you.

Pat Kernighan

City Councilmember for District 2

From: Eric Mullen [emullen55@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 5:01 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: opposed to the dog park!

i am opposed to the dog park. i do not want to see this space usurped by a single group of people. Plus dogs and their irresponsible owners create a stinky mess! i do not want to walk by this area on many a warm summer evening and smell dog poo! that is exactly what will happen if this space is given over to the dogs. if people want a dog park then they need to be willing to transport their dog to an area that is not so heavily trafficked.

thank you,
Eric Mullen
Staten Avenue

From: cheryl giuliano rubinstein [lightsky14@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 2:10 PM
To: Lin, Sarah D2; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy; atlarge; Office of the Mayor
Subject: RE: COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd)

Ms. Pat and Ms. Nadel:

Please let us know how the neighborhood residents will be ensured seating and a fair voice when activists from allover the East Bay are being urged, and invited to come? The meeting is being posted on internet sites of all types concerning dogs. This has been going on for days now, in unrelenting fashion. Your

invitation says its for *residents*. How will this be ensured? Dog activists are huge in number.

Cheryl Giuliano Rubinstein

Date: Fri, 18 Mar 2011 14:42:30 -0400
From: slind2@oaklandnet.com
To: lightsky14@hotmail.com
Subject: COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd)

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WHAT: COMMUNITY MEETING to discuss the dog play area proposed for the field near Astro Park and the Lakeview Library (at the intersection of Lakeshore Ave and MacArthur Blvd).

WHERE: Barnett Hall, behind the Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, 3534 Lakeshore Ave

WHEN: Wednesday, March 23, at 7:00 PM

This is to invite all interested residents to come to a Community Meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the off-leash dog play area proposed to be installed in the field near the Astro Park play structure and Lakeview Library. You can learn more about the proposal here
<http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=bef9v8bab&et=1104875809241&s=4137&e=001gwjf980h9zb3nF8e871iq5qphPDvRJLIPYPwX-M-5AUkHDdcQGUWbNu0mH38C6-wsAQkn6vxPxC5nOuS0F7qlEf2IMfdsuSLZKT8683nelGp-6vb2pqKXlrIP-jedTkhKniQSPf_uk0X8cny59i_6Q==> .

Councilmember Nadel and a group of residents have been working to create the dog park for a number of years. The proposal was widely announced about two months ago and has generated a lot of feedback, both pro and con. I have received at least 184 comments via email. The comments are quite split. Many nearby residents look forward to walking their dogs to the location. Others object to this particular location on a variety of grounds. The purpose of this meeting will be to clarify and discuss the various issues that have been raised.

If you have an opinion on the topic, or just want to learn more, please attend the meeting. You may also email <mailto:pkernighan@oaklandnet.com> me with your thoughts.

Joining me in sponsoring this meeting is Councilmember Nancy Nadel. Our co-sponsors are the Adams Point Action Council, Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Network and Grand Lake Neighbors. We look forward to seeing you.

Pat Kernighan

City Councilmember for District 2

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From: Naomi Schiff [Naomi@17th.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:25 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: My views on dog area

Dear Pat and Nancy,

A number of people have asked me my views on the dog area. Some think that the historic preservation community should weigh in against it, as interfering with a historic landscape or park or library. Others think that as a lifelong dogowner and inveterate neighborhood walker I ought to be in favor of a dog park.

I may not be able to make the Wednesday meeting, as my mother has had an accident and is in a Santa Barbara hospital. However, here are my two cents:

I understand the need for a dog area, especially for those who don't have cars for schlepping their hounds to further distant dog run places. I completely understand the love of the green areas around the lake, especially in this area where way too much concrete has intruded, with too many multiple roadways, freeways, ramps, and under-freeway parking. I wish we could take out a freeway ramp, myself.

I have also been extremely unhappy that ever since Jerry started running the late dog Dharma around Lake Merritt, the No Dogs In Parks rule has been honored only in the breach. It is tough to enforce when a mayor breaks the law every day. My own dogs have always been kept far away from Lake Merritt.

To me, the most serious issue is this presence of dogs near the migratory and resident birds in the sanctuary that is our National Historic Landmark, Lake Merritt, and among the many strollers and walkers around it.

My proposal would be that in exchange for a green-bordered (that is, no visible chain link, please; plant screening is a must, on the outside of the fence) dog area, there be a firm, enforceable, paid-for commitment to police the no-dogs rule at Lake Merritt, with the cooperation and perhaps with the assistance of the dog-owner advocates.

It could be helpful if as a militant lake-bird-loving self-anointed monitor, one could point to a place where it IS okay to take one's dog. That is why I could accept a dog park.

What I cannot accept is the continued presence of dogs near the lake AND a dog park. That is something I would really be motivated to fight.

I appreciate very much your willingness to engage with the community on what seems an overheated issue, in the grander scheme of things.

As I worry about nukes in Japan, seismic safety here and everywhere, violence among our own young people, government budget failures, class divisions, and uprisings in the middle east, I feel so cushioned in an existence where people can expend so much energy on negotiating park uses and pet accommodations. I beseech everyone to keep a sense of proportion.

Thank you so much, both of you stalwart ladies, for all that you do and endure!

Naomi

--

Naomi Schiff
Seventeenth Street Studios
410 12th Street, Suite 300
Oakland, CA 94607

510-835-1717
fax: 510-835-1820

http://www.17th.com
From: Patricia Hardy [hardypatricia@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:24 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Community Meeting to discuss dog play area for the field near Astro Park

Hi Pat, I have both a dog and grand children. I take my grand children to that particular park as it is one of our best. I love dogs however the proposal appears to allow for too much space for the dogs. I love my dog but I want my grand children to have space priority for that park. Please consider my perspective in forming your decision. (As an after thought my children also enjoyed that park and I am probably not the only grand parent in the area who has had the same experience. We look forward to having generations of children play there.) Again first consideration should be humans first both old and young and please remember to provide accommodations for people with special needs.

Sincerely,
Pat Hardy
From: Erik Okada [EOkada@HNTB.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:22 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park No Vote

Hi Pat,

I am unable to attend the community meeting next week, but wanted to let you know that I am opposed to the dog park near Astro Park.

Best Regards,

Erik Okada, SE

Associate Vice President

Department Manager - Structures

Note Our New Address:

HNTB Corporation

1111 Broadway, Suite 900

Oakland, CA 94607

Tel (510) 208-4599

Cell (510) 368-5241

Fax (510) 208-4595

<http://www.hntb.com/> www.hntb.com

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From: John and Kira Lancaster [johnandkira@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 12:01 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Hi Pat,
As much as I love dogs(I have been trying to convince my wife to get one for years), I would have to voice opposition to a dog park there. I can see it clearly; plastic bags filled with dog poop left laying around by folks to lazy to walk to the garbage cans and the other spoils of a dog park in an area that is consistently used for soccer, volleyball and a host of other activities by the public. That spot is particularly valuable as a human park and not a dog park.
Thanks for taking up the issue and offering us the chance to give you our input,
John Lancaster

From: Jane Gabel [jane.gabel@mindspring.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:50 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Please say NO to the dog park! Any area you give to the dogs is area that you take away from the children.

Jane Gabel

From: Marisa Williams [marisawilliams@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 10:27 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: The Dog Park

Dear Pat,

I am a local resident, and I am against the dog park in its currently proposed location. Very much against it.

Cheers,
Marisa

--
? http://marisawilliams.com

If you don't go, you'll never know Robert De Niro

From: ainparker@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 1:08 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lakeshore dog park

I write as a resident of Haddon Hill.and an avid dog lover. I stand firmly against the dog park. It is not the best or even an appropriate use of the lovely green space where I, friends and family walk, play volley ball, picnic, practice our soccer skills and just lazily bask in the sun, read and romp with small.children and teens.

It seems there is a rush to fill.the few open spaces that remain in Oakland. Under freeway parcels, pocket parks that aren't so central to our city's centerpiece should be the options. Everyone i know uses pt. Isabel in nearby Richmond, Piedmont's two dog parks, the dog parks in Berkeley and the park on Claremont. Responsible pet owners have a number of options. This space should be preserved for everyone to use as valuable open space, scenic parkland.

From: j v [ja_7_4@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 10:40 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; sue@heragency.com; leal charonnat; bradmccrea@comcast.net; ken@katzpjs.com; Emily Rosenberg; Gerard, Jennie; Jones, Andre; Chan, Ada
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Re: March 21st Lakeview Dog Run meeting

Xiaojing,
Thank you for the proposed agenda. It looks like this meeting is focused on stating why and how the proposed dog run is a glowing success already. Speaking for myself, I am interested in having a balanced discussion.. At a minimum, I would like to add the following topics;

* Why supporting a dog run at this location is wrong for Oakland
* Alternative locations
* Why was this location offered to odog
* Were other locations considered
* Why were other locations rejected
* What are the facts that support privatiizing of this space
* Neighbor and business know practically nothing about this prposal, why has community outreach been virtually non-existant
* Why is the plan size and graphics being grossly mis-represented
* Why have impact studies not been conducted to access this drastic change in land use, such as; Traffic, community,business and tax revenue impacts

Joseph Villatoro

From: "Wang, Xiaojing" <XWang@oaklandnet.com>
To: sue@heragency.com; j v <ja_7_4@yahoo.com>; leal charonnat <lealcharonnat@gmail.com>; bradmccrea@comcast.net; ken@katzpjs.com; Emily Rosenberg <dogpeople@comcast.net>; "Gerard, Jennie" <JGerard@oaklandnet.com>; "Jones, Andre" <AJones@oaklandnet.com>; "Chan, Ada" <AChan1@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "Nadel, Nancy" <NNadel@oaklandnet.com>; "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>; "Kaplan, Rebecca" <RKaplan@oaklandnet.com>
Sent: Thu, March 17, 2011 5:38:27 PM
Subject: March 21st Lakeview Dog Run meeting

Hi everyone,

I've attached an agenda for our upcoming meeting to discuss the proposed Lakeview dog play area. The meeting will be next Monday, March 21 at 4pm in City Hall, Council offices.

Looking forward to our discussion,
Xiaojing

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst
Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel
Oakland City Council, District 3
(510) 238-7031

From: Lorna E.Jones [lorna_jones@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:07 PM
To: Kaplan, Rebecca; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

I support the idea of dog parks in the city because it encourages folks to be responsible about where they walk their dogs.

However, I think the location under discussion is ill-advised, not only for the reasons put forth in the E.B. Express article (16-22 March), but because dogs bark. In fact, when they are romping in a dog park they bark furiously! I go with a friend and her dog to such a park and the noise is constant. I suspect the dog owners don't hear it, but if I were living across the street from that park I would be extremely unhappy about the ruckus. No ordinance is going to be able to resolve that.

On a personal note, I frequently walk from Lakeshore, where I eat and shop, to the Library and I will need to make alternate plans if this park becomes a reality.

Please make some other location available.

Thank you. Lorna E. Jones
From: stephen cunningham [stephent_94606@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 1:19 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Fw: Astro Park needs to remain open space

--- On Thu, 3/17/11, stephen cunningham <stephent_94606@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: stephen cunningham <stephent_94606@yahoo.com>
Subject: Astro Park needs to remain open space
To: PKernighan@oaklandnet.co, nnadel@oaklandnet.com
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2011, 1:14 PM

Hello Pat and Nancy,

I am contacting both of you to advise you that my family and I are opposed to the doggie park proposal at Lakeview next to the library. Our primary concern is loss of open space to ALL the public. Over the past 40 years i have lived in this neighborhood and it is so disturbing to think that the open space will disappear from the public so only a select few can utilize this particular green space. Please use your resoucres and find a better place for the proposed park.

Thank You
StephenT
Haddon Hill

From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 1:18 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: against dog park

-----Original Message-----
From: Mary Jo Sutton [mailto:mjmatrix2@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 1:07 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: against dog park

Dear Nancy,

I live in the Grand Lake area and am opposed to the construction of a dog park at Astro Park. We currently have open green space which serves not only as a scenic vista for drivers, pedestrians and shopppers, it also provide a nice large level place for sporting activities. It's proposed location by the toddler playground is also not appropriate for obvious reasons of safety and sanitation. Lastly, I am concerned about having less parking on farmer's market Saturdays.

Please vote no on this idea,

thank you,
sincerely,

Mary Jo Sutton
455 Valle Vista Ave
From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 11:26 AM
To: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Opposed To Dog Run: Nissan Saidian-Owner 3008 Lakeshore Avenue

Nancy and Pat,

The owner of 3008 Lakeshore, a building that sits directly across from the proposed dog run space, is officially opposed. He knew nothing of the dog run, does not do email and was shocked that he received no notification, especially in light of his location.

Given that he does not have access to email he asked that I send this one on his behalf.

Best,

Sue

510-663-4693

From: Jerry Wolfe [wingate63@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 9:52 AM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: RE: strong opposition of dog park

Dear Ms. Nadel,
When was the last time your office did a complete canvass or survey of your constituents regarding this matter? It appears that the small group who asked for this does not reflect the majority opinion now that the project has really seen the light of day.
Also, the Lake Merritt complex and adjoining area(where the dog park is planned) is a GEM of our city which attracts ALL Oakland residents and many guests and tourists and thus is not really just the domain or concern of those who live in the area(of which I am one).
So please before you continue to push for this ill conceived idea take a new read on the desires of Oakland residents.
Jerry Wolfe

--- On Wed, 3/16/11, Nadel, Nancy <NNadel@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

From: Nadel, Nancy <NNadel@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: RE: strong opposition of dog park
To: "Jerry Wolfe" <wingate63@yahoo.com>
Cc: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>, "Wang, Xiaojing" <XWang@oaklandnet.com>
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2011, 3:29 PM

Dear Jerry,

Thank you for your opinion. My support for the project is not based on longevity of effort but my constituents' expressed need for the use. Perhaps the quote was taken out of context because I did say that people have been working on it for years.

Nancy

From: Jerry Wolfe [mailto:wingate63@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 2:47 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: strong opposition of dog park

Dear Council Person Nadel

As a forty year Oakland resident and strong supporter of our City I strongly oppose the use of the area at Lake Merritt for a dog park. I do live in walking distance of the area and have seen a great rebirth of grand and lakeshore avenues, the saturday market etc. I read a quote from you saying in effect that because some people have been working on this for years it should go through. Not the soundest of thinking from someone who makes decisions which impact the lives of others. It is quality and impact on citizens lives which should generate your decisions not longevity of a small group wanting something for their dogs.

So please stand against this park in the Lake Merritt area for the good of the city and it's citizens.

Sincerely,

Jerry Wolfe

From: John J. Glynn [john@jglynn.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 6:27 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Tina Monaco; Patrick Glynn; Christopher Glynn
Subject: Save Astro Park

Hi Pat,

Tina and I will be out of town on the 23rd, but wanted to let you know that we think having a dog park at Astro Park is just an awful idea and hope that you oppose this project.

That area is a beautiful entrance to the Lake and our neighborhood. It has been a terrific and frequent spot for our boys and their friends to play soccer, fly kites and simply fly like the wind in large open spaces over the years.

Putting a dog park right there will destroy that beautiful entrance, detract from all the fabulous improvements you've made to the splash area and embarcadero, and sever our families most frequented open space in the neighborhood.

We absolutely love dogs and know first hand the importance of exercising our four-footed son but putting a dog park in a high traffic commercial location will not only create an eyesore, but will compete for precious parking without contributing to the revenue in the district.

An influx of dogs at this busy freeway intersection will also create a public safety hazard for drivers and the dogs themselves running unleashed across intersections to get to an exciting destination. Three times our own dog, Mercury, has been violently attacked by irresponsible dog owners who let their dogs off leash, now turning poor Mercury into such a defensive animal we can no longer take him to Peets on Lakeshore any longer.

An unfunded, revenue detracting project in this location will quickly become an eye sore on this beautiful Neckless around the lake. Please vote no on this ill placed project.

Thanks for all you do, Pat!

Sincerely,

John J. Glynn
711 McKinley Ave
From: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 10:43 PM
To: 'bstamant@sbcglobal.net'
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Re: dog park

Thank you for your opinion.

Nancy

From: Barb St. Amant <bstamant@sbcglobal.net>
To: Nadel, Nancy
Sent: Wed Mar 16 22:36:44 2011
Subject: dog park

Dear Ms Nadel;

I am firmly not in favor having a dog park by the Astro Park playground. I'm a veterinary technician and I live on Beacon. While I love dogs and wish there were more large dog parks available, I believe that this location is absolutely the wrong place for it. It won't be large enough to comfortably and safely accomodate all the dogs and owners that are sure to frequent it. In my work as an emergency veterinary nurse I frequently see the results of the combination of ill-mannered owners, poorly trained dogs, and owners who can't control their dogs. I've seen it range from minor to disastrous - eyes popped out that are not salvageable, simple lacerations, chest injuries that are life-threatening. Not to mention the increased chance of dogs jumping the very short 4 ft tall fence and getting HBC (hit by car).

While all of these may occur in ANY dog park, the chance of injuries/conflict happening are MUCH greater in a smaller area. This area may look big to the untrained eye but dogs need plenty of room and this does not provide it.

And then there are the esthetics. I've lived on Beacon for 8+ years - I drive down it all the time and view this beautiful expanse of green that sometimes is being used/occupied by people and sometimes not. But the tally/tracking of use is only part of determining the value of this empty space. Cliche perhaps, but it is the gateway to our wonderful neighborhood. What will be the continuity between the jewel of Oakland, Lake Merrit, and all the businesses on Grand and Lakeshore? What will people pass by while on their way between the two? A beautiful expanse of green, SO rare these days, or a fence inside of which is a smelly dog park?

And finally, people are sure to park in the library parking lot. This library is a little gem itself and will be negatively affected by a dog park.

Sincerely,

Barb St. Amant
From: Patricia Coe [pattycoe@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 8:52 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Proposed Dog Park Opposition

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I'm writing to voice our opposition to the proposed dog park at MacArthur and Lakeshore. We have lived in the neighborhood since 1990, and raised 2 large dogs during that time. As dog owners, we had firsthand experience with local dog parks, Point Isabel, and dog parks in other cities. The proposed Astro dog park will be bad for both dogs and the neighborhood. In such a small enclosed space, problem dog behaviors will be exacerbated. Dogs will not have enough room to roam, which will not justify the cost and problems it presents in creating it.

We agree with the points mentioned by the Save Astro Park group arguing against the park. Many groups use the field in that part of the park to play sports, and children (our own included) also play in that area of the field. We are opposed to the creation of this park.

Sincerely,
Patricia Coe and Barry Freifeld
711 Jean Street
Oakland, CA 94610
510-654-8518
From: Edy Horwood and Don Selcer [almagarden@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 5:43 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro Dog Park

Hi Pat:

Despite owning a dog, I am not a fan of dog parks. I'm weighing in on the side of not building the dog park near the Lakeview Library for the following reasons:

1. There will be more dog feces there than at present, because more dogs will visit the area if a dog park is built, and there are always a percentage of dog owners unwilling to bag and remove their dog's excrement.

2. Because many dog owners can't afford or don't believe in flea preventatives, which are expensive, dog parks are often full of fleas. The fleas can be a nasty problem requiring hours of work, and toxins of some kind if they get in your clothes, car or home or on your dog. According to my vetrinarian, the fleas can spread canine tapeworm to dogs and can easily migrate from the dog park to nearby areas such as the tot lot.

3. You'll notice existing dog parks are ugly and devoid of vegetation. Even if they start out mulched, the mulch disintegrates after a season or two, and what is left is a bare dirt surface, dusty in summer and full of puddles in winter. Even if trees are planted, they rarely survive the onslaught of urinating dogs, inadequate watering and compacted soil. Unless the city is committed to re-mulching twice a year, an ugly, dusty brown one-acre scar will result.

3. There is an existing landscape there now which is attractive, has been there a long time, and is used and loved by many different kinds of people for many different legitimate park uses. These park users will be displaced.

4. Parking at the Lakeview library will become even more problematic than at present.

Hope you'll vote no!

Thanks, Pat,

Edy Horwood
Constituent
From: Lisa Hopper [hopperello@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:21 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park comments

Hi Patricia,

I have been loosely following the dog park plans, have voiced my lack of support for the dog park and would like to officially communicate (thank you for providing the opportunity) that it seems to me an unattractive place to plan a dog park. Although convenient for many dog owners, this park takes up valuable open space in the neighborhood that is already highly used. I am a dog owner. I take my dog for walks around the neighborhoods, around the lake and into the off leash sites around the local area. I find this sufficient. I have always liked coming home off of 580, passing the open park that is always being used by children & adults who are engaged in sports, physical fitness activities and general "romping about" on this grassy field. I think that is the best use for this spot of park. I do not wish to see it turned into a space for just dogs.

Thanks for listening,

Lisa Hopper
Haddon Road
District 2 Resident

From: stephen saffold [spsaff@att.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 4:35 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Please count me in the people that use the park regularly for our grandson and would hate to have it go to the dogs
please reconsider
Dr Stephen Saffold
spsaff@att.net
From: Renee Einarson [reneeeinarson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:59 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Opposed Astro Park Dog Park

Want to share my opposition to the proposed Dog Park at Astro Park on Lakeshore and MacArthur. Astro Park is my neighborhood park. I walk there with my daughter (toddler) at least 3 times a week. We attend Farmers Market every Saturday and usually end up eating lunch on the grass at the park, watch a local soccer game on the field and play in the park. I am also a dog owner ~ yet, I still oppose a dog park. We have so many great open areas to walk our dogs, on and off leash, Pt Isabel, Redwood, Roberts, Joaquin Miller, we are so fortunate. The idea of a smelly, muddy, fenced in dog area is heartbreaking at our neighborhood park ~ such an eye sore and a poor use of our precious open community space. We already have two fenced in dog parks nearby - Just a mile or so away... ..... we don't need another one.

Sincerely,
Renee Einarson
510 628-8482

From: Renee Einarson [reneeeinarson@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:55 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Opposed to Astro Park Dog Park

Want to share my opposition to the proposed Dog Park at Astro Park on Lakeshore and MacArthur. Astro Park is my neighborhood park. I walk there with my daughter (toddler) at least 3 times a week. We attend Farmers Market every Saturday and usually end up eating lunch on the grass at the park, watch a local soccer game on the field and play in the park. I am also a dog owner ~ yet, I still oppose a dog park. We have so many great open areas to walk our dogs, on and off leash, Pt Isabel, Redwood, Roberts, Joaquin Miller, we are so fortunate. The idea of a smelly, muddy, fenced in dog area is heartbreaking at our neighborhood park ~ such an eye sore and a poor use of our precious open community space. We already have two fenced in dog parks nearby - Just a mile or so away... ..... we don't need another one.

From: Jon Barrilleaux [jonb@jmbaai.com]
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 1:54 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

The area is popular with children and for sports throughout the week, and there are no good public playgrounds in the immediate area. Take the money that would have been put into a dog park and instead apply it to fixing up the area for use by people.

--jon
From: MLKatzin@aol.com
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 9:39 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: MLKatzin@aol.com
Subject: Fwd: Concerns regarding doggie park - Against

Attachments: Concerns regarding doggie park

Hi, Pat,
I will not be able to attend the community meeting about the dog park, but just wanted to be sure that my vote against the dog park was registered.
Thanks.
Marcy Katzin
From: Camillis Saffold [camillisss@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 10:08 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park issue

I would like to weigh in on the issue of the proposed dog park that is being seriously considered for a portion of Astro Park. I regularly take my young grandson to this park and want you to know that I am opposed to the idea that a large portion of this park will be fenced off for the use of dogs to go off leash. This park is a prime location for families to take children to play and for many of the young people we enjoy watching play soccer and catch...It is a shame that the city would use this prime area in such a fashion. I feel dog parks are an appropriate use for some areas...but, this area is not suitable.
Sincerely, Camillis Slater

From: Nthompson46@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 9:28 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Comments re dog park...

Dear Pat:

Thanks for asking for comments on the dog park issue.

Because of the discord it has stirred up in the community, I don't think it is wise to move forward on the dog park at this time. While it will be

disappointing for dog owners, action should not be taken on an issue that has already begun to polarize the community. Based on so many anti-dog park responses, it appears that what was decided years ago is just not applicable today.

I also have a strong concern about who will be responsible for keeping the dog park clean. While there are many conscientious dog owners who do pick up their dog's poop, there are many who do not. This is based on personal experience of dogs dumping on my property and me having to clean it up. I am also having to step around dog poop left on the sidewalk. So, unless there is somebody who is responsible for the cleanliness of the area, I don't think you should assume that all dog owners will clean up after their dogs.

There are many other reasons why I don't think this location is suitable, but my major concern is that the issue is just too volatile.

Thank you,

Nancy Thompson

230 Acton Place

Oakland, CA 94606

510-268-1146

From: Heather Johnson [heatherrjohnson@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 13, 2011 3:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park by Lake Merritt

Hi Mrs. Kernighan,

I am a resident of the Grand Lake/Lakeshore neighborhood and am writing to express my concern over the proposed dog park in "Astro Park" near Lake Merritt.

I moved to Oakland from San Francisco about two and a half years ago and couldn't be happier. I love my neighborhood (I'm near the corner of Lakeshore and Mandana Ave.); I love walking to the Farmer's Market and other local business and I am very pleased with the recent improvements to Lake Merritt.

I am a competitive distance runner and as you might expect, spend quite a bit of time circling the lake. I also love frolicking through the grassy field on my way to/from home. Based on the number of people I see in "Astro Park" on a sunny day, lots of other people do too. I see kids playing in the grass and playground, young adults playing volleyball and people just generally enjoying the outdoors. It's a nice respite in a congested neighborhood.

That would change with the addition of a dog park. Kids, active adults and other local non-dog-owning people would have less green space to enjoy in a

neighborhood already lacking such benefits. Kids and dogs don't always get along. Runners and dogs don't always get along. Dogs don't often get along with much of anyone except for their owner. I also spend a lot of time in doggy Redwood Park and have been jumped on and lunged at more often than I care to count. I tend to go in the early morning to avoid peak dog hours. Even though this dog run would be fenced in, the potential for conflict exists. And based on my experience in other parks, people don't always keep their dogs leashed when and where they are supposed to, nor do they clean up after their dogs as they are supposed to.

Keeping the park clean presents a potential problem, not to mention the added car traffic to an area that already has a lot of it, especially on Saturday/Farmer's Market mornings. And isn't the Farmer's Market closed to dogs? The two areas are a bit too close for comfort.

If there was a vote on the dog park issue, I would vote a definite "no." The only people I could see it benefiting would be a few dog owners, and I would suspect they are in the minority when compared to the entire neighborhood population.

There's my two cents. I know you will do what's best for our district.
I'm sorry I can't make the meeting on March 23. Please consider this my written opinion in lieu of the meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Heather Johnson

Heather Johnson
832 Erie Street #35
Oakland, CA 94610
tel. 510-893-0850 cell. 615-294-5655
e-mail. HeatherRJohnson@sbcglobal.net

From: Ed Sweeney [tvote@pacbell.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 10:49 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: one more "no dogpark" email

Thanks for the quick reply, Pat.
If I believed that there was a solid maintenance plan it would change my opinion to "don't care". But "trust us volunteers to keep it clean" would not be my idea of a solid plan :-)
Ed

From: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
To: Ed Sweeney <tvote@pacbell.net>
Cc: "Nadel, Nancy" <NNadel@oaklandnet.com>
Sent: Fri, March 11, 2011 5:16:27 PM
Subject: RE: one more "no dogpark" email

Ed,

I will report the pothole.

Regarding maintenance for the dog park, I think Ms. Nadel and the group who have been planning the park do have a maintenance plan and perhaps she can fill you in on the details. Also, most of the money for the dog park has been raised privately. Does that change your opinion?

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: Ed Sweeney [mailto:tvote@pacbell.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: one more "no dogpark" email

Councilmember Kernighan,

After reading a bunch of postings on the dog park topic, I have developed the opinion that I'm against creating it. My main objection is that the isn't any plan for maintaining it. I believe it's likely that it will become a smelly eyesore, and that we will then demand that the city keep it up. This will take away from the other areas that they already struggle to support. It's not that I hate the idea of a dogpark at that location, it's just not a priority and I think we need to prioritize.

ps: I saw a brand new BIG pothole on Grand in front of the Grand Bakery this afternoon. That's where I'd put my money, although I realize that not all city money is fungible.

Regards, Ed Sweeney

From: Wendy Winter [wintermade@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2011 8:43 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog run - against

Dear Councilwoman Kernighan, I do object to the dog run at Astro Park. There are currently 3 dog parks and all of the other Oakland Hill Parks (Redwood, Chabot, etc) all within minutes of this area.

There is nothing attractive about a chain link dog run and I do believe that this simply detracts from the beauty of the area. I am a dog lover but this is an ill conceived idea - no plans for extra parking, no money to fund clean up, 100% reliance on dog owners for clean up, a kids play area adjacent... I'm simply unclear on the benefits to the greater community so I hope I (and my neighbors) can be enlightened at the community meeting - otherwise, please count my vote in the "against" column.

Wendy Winter
589 Kenmore Ave
94610

From: Mike Rose [MRose@semifreddis.com]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 6:27 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park at Lakeview

I am opposed to the dog park for the reasons stated below:
1.Who wil be paying to construct and maintain this area? City funds are extremely limited and I am opposed to any unneccessary expenditures.
2.There is alreay a dog park nearby (above the Rose Garden).
3. This was not part of the master plan for the lake.

Mike Rose
495 Fairbanks Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610
From: Sikwaya Condon [sikwaya@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:56 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park at top of lake

No, this area is used all the time for kids' soccer practice, adult pickup volleyball, football and soccer games, etc. There is plenty of unused space on the Grand Ave side of the lake where a dog park would be much less of an intrusion.
thanks for listening,
Sikwaya Condon

From: Ed Sweeney [tvote@pacbell.net]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:42 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: no to dogpark (don't doublecount me)

Councilmember Kernighan,

I already sent you an email saying that I don't support the dogpark on Lakeshore, but I did not include my address. In case you need it to ensure that I'm a local resident it's 809 McKinley Ave.

thanks, Ed Sweeney

From: Joyce Mende Wong [jurzgurl@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:40 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog vs kids

I can't believe this dog park idea is being revisited! It's a bad idea to take the open playing family/volleyball/soccer space away from humans and turn it over to dogs. I still oppose.

Sent from my iPhone
From: Tom Freeman [tmf@marionsinn.com]

Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 4:20 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Proposed Dog Park

It looks wonderful and will be a great addition to the neighborhood. Tom Freeman

From: Joseph P. Pinon [JPPinon@sgh.com]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 3:27 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: RE: Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Attachments: image001.jpg; image002.jpg

Hi Ms. Kernighan,

Thank you for your representation and seeking input from the residents in your district. I live in the Haddon Hill area at 852 MacArthur Blvd. and am opposed to the dog park. My sons practice soccer there with a group of friends on Monday and Friday. Also, that is a well used park. Just about every day you will find a pick-up game of some sort.

I would think that they could find another less used and less central area for a dog park. One suggestion I have is to lease that space across Lakeshore Ave. from the park where the Chevron station used to be. It already has a chain link fence!

Please add me to the "Opposed" side of your tally.

Thanks,

Joe Piñon

852 MacArthur Blvd.

(510) 836-2135

From: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
[mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:13 AM
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan

Oakland City Councilmember, District 2

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

510-238-7002

pkernighan@oaklandnet.com

www.patkernighan.com

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Reply to
<mailto:PKernighan@oaklandnet.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> sender | Reply to
<mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> group | Reply
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJxdHUxZW0xBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzEwNzE0ODAwBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTE3MTExNgRtc2dJZAM3MDk3BHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA3JwbHkEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyMDM5Nw--?act=reply&messageNum=7097> via web post |
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJmb3RvNjhtBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzEwNzE0ODAwBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTE3MTExNgRzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBHN0aW1lAzEyOTg5MjAzOTc-> Start a New Topic

Messages in this topic
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/message/7097;_ylc=X3oDM
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AM3MDk3BHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA3Z0cGMEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyMDM5NwR0cGNJZAM3MDk3> (1)

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NsawN2bWJycwRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwMzk3?o=6> New Members 2

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors;_ylc=X3oDMTJmcjNzODZ1BF
9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzEwNzE0ODAwBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTE3MTExNgRzZWMDdnRsBHNsawN2Z2
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custom.yahoo.com/fibromyalgiazone/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlcDRpNWxpBF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzEwNzE0O
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From: ema.a@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 10:33 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Dog park near Astro Park

Hello,
I take my nephew and sons to Astro Park almost every week. I would hate to see the area next to the play area turned into a dog park. There are many other areas that would be better suited for a dark park, near a play area and the Farmer's market is a terrible place to put a dog park.
Thank you,
Ema S. Politzer

From: Kathleen S. [roundish@earthlink.net]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2011 9:16 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No to a dog run in Astro Park

I strongly oppose adding a dog run area to the Astro Park open space by the Lakeshore Library and playground. The additional car congestion would make it even harder to use the library and playground. And the dried dog feces in the air would be a health hazard to the children in the playground and soccer players on the grass.

Please try to find an alternate location that would not adversely impact an existing green open space.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Schwab
Lakeshore neighbor
395 Van Buren Ave
Oakland, CA 94610
From: david wingate [savvydavid@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 7:49 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: proposed dog park

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I take my son to Astro Park often and think it's a terrible idea to fence in the grass area for dogs. Dogs and children who aren't familiar with each other have complicated interactions that often result in conflict. Please reconsider where you locate the dog park.

Sincerely,

David Miguel Wingate
From: William Rogers [william@ix.netcom.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 6:09 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No, I am not in favor of the Dog Run

While I support dog parks in concept, the location for this proposal is totally inappropriate. we need to find a more suitable location.

William Rogers
McKinley and Capell
510-967-9242
From: Beckmann, Ellen [Ellen.Beckmann@McKesson.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 5:52 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Aaron Lander
Subject: I object to turning the park across from Gold's into a dog park

Dear Pat,

I understand that the plan is to take a large portion of that open space and fence it off as a dog run.

I don't like the idea of taking a public space, especially in Oakland where free public spaces are critical recreation locations for families, and turning it into a limited-use area. It goes against the idea of public space. It's also already difficult to park in that area, so additional car volumes would be problematic.

And unless there's some artistic and beautifying method for fencing it off, the last think I want to see right next to the lake is chain-link.

Finally, I understand that Oakland parks are currently suffering from a lack of maintenance staff. I can only imagine that encouraging a type of usage that has the potential for increasing and concentrating dog bio-waste would be a bad decision.

Please, Pat, reconsider your support for this change in park usage.

Thank you,

Ellen Beckmann

862 Walker

Oakland, CA 94610

Ellen Beckmann

Director, ISMC Programs, Generics Program Management

McKesson Pharmaceutical

One Post Street

San Francisco, CA 94104

(o) (415) 983-8397 | (m) (415) 505-5541 | (f) (916) 267-6401

From: mkourjanski@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 5:11 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: mkourjanski@gmail.com
Subject: Mikhail Kourjanski - against the dog park

Dear Pat,

in response to your request for comments regarding the proposed dog park by the lake:
Our household (Mikhail & Natalia Kourjanski and our children - yes, I've asked them) - are against the proposed dog park by the lake.
Our house is at Montcalir & Prospect, and you have my contact info on file otherwise.

Kind regards,

-Mikhail

From: Angela Taylor [angela.taylor@sacredsf.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:11 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No, I'm against the dog run

I live at:
MacArthur and Capell

From: Johnny Symons [johnny@johnnysymons.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:51 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: A constituent weighing in on the dog run: No

Hello,

I'm against the proposed dog run at Astro Park.

Thanks,

Johnny Symons
McKinley Ave at Capell St.

From: Adam Sand [ASAND@ancestry.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:39 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog run...

Attachments: image003.png

I am against the dog run near Lakeshore.

/Adam Sand

Prospect Street at Spruce.

ADAM SAND

Associate General Counsel

<http://www.ancestry.com/> Ancestry.com

P

415.744.1742

M

415.572.8080

E

<mailto:asand@ancestry.com> asand@ancestry.com

501 Second Street

San Francisco, CA 94107

<http://www.ancestry.com/>

From: Shaw [taylorspl@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:38 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park, lake merritt

Hello Pat,

I wanted to send out a brief highlighting my concern against the dog park. Given the limited park use in our urban/suburban environment, we can ill afford to give up valuable parkland for kids and others to dog owners. Moreover, the only people that will actively monitor such sites are indeed dog owners.

Strongly against the idea as the land is far too valuable and limited to go to the dogs!

Shaw Taylor
675 Capell St

From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 11:13:05 -0800

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: carol shepherd [carolsheph@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 3:37 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: proposed dog run near the Lakeview library

Dear Councilwoman Kernighan,

I have lived in China Hill, now apparently morphed into Haddon Hill, since 1978. I oppose the proposed dog run near the Lakeview Library. The Lake Merritt park area has traditionally been a "no dogs" park, although that prohibition is widely ignored. At least, most owners leash their dogs and clean up after them. All good.

Howver, the area in question is currently widely used by people: youth playing soccer or other games; children playing, families having picnics. We do not need a leash-free dog run here. A dog run would also increase noise and traffic in the area, neither welcome.

My vote is a vigorous no.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Carol Shepherd
620 Spruce Street (between McKinley and Prospect)
Oakland, CA 94610
510-834-7743

From: lasaffold@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 12:32 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: proposed Lakeshore dog park

Dear Ms. Kernighan,

I'm writing to let you know that I take my 3-year-old son to Astro Park several times a week and enjoy running, chasing, playing ball on the lawn adjacent to the park. I'm opposed to fencing in the lawn for the use of dogs in that location. I love dogs, grew up with dogs, have had my own in the recent past, and know how valuable a space for them to run off leash is, but think the location being proposed is not well-conceived. I'm also terrified at the prospect of the accidents that will occur (and they will) to dogs, children, cars, etc. in such a highly trafficked area.

Sincerely,
Leigh Saffold
From: Starks, Carletta
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:34 AM
To: 'Caroline Kim'; Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: RE: MacArthur Dog Park

Hi, Caroline:

Thank you for your comments.

Xiaojing Wang is the contact on the dog park, and I will share your e-mail with her.

Take care,

Carletta L. Starks
Community Liaison/Policy Analyst for
Councilmember Nancy Nadel, District 3

Phone: 510/238-7032
Fax: 510/238-6129

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,
but they will never forget how you made them feel. Maya Angelou
-----Original Message-----
From: Caroline Kim [mailto:carhkim@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:31 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Starks, Carletta
Subject: MacArthur Dog Park

Dear Pat,
I thought the whole issue of the dog park in that space was over and done with ten years ago and for the same reasons that people are against it now:
1. Heavy traffic and lack of parking
2. Smell
3. Area already heavily used and fencing off a chunk limits other uses.
4. Size
5. Overall, just an inappropriate place.

I can't find the email now but I think it may have been from Carletta that said formation of a dog park there had been under discussion for a few years with the space and fencing already designed at a $30,000 cost. I was just shocked because that was the first that I had heard about it. There are too many things that don't always get wide notification in Oakland that really do affect people's lives. Therefore, I think the NCPC list serve is definitely an appropriate place for the dog park discussion and any other because it lets me know not only what interests my neighbors but the intensity of the subject. I think it's an excellent forum for communication. If other sites are created for spin-off, it's too easy for information to go out of sight. I can always just delete.

Yes, I am against a dog park in that area.
Caroline Kim

From: Caroline Kim [carhkim@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:31 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Starks, Carletta
Subject: MacArthur Dog Park

Dear Pat,
I thought the whole issue of the dog park in that space was over and done with ten years ago and for the same reasons that people are against it now:
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2. Smell
3. Area already heavily used and fencing off a chunk limits other uses.
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5. Overall, just an inappropriate place.

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Yes, I am against a dog park in that area.
Caroline Kim

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:02 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Dog Park- Opposed

-----Original Message-----
From: jeffrey lipsett [mailto:jeffdiver1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 10:44 AM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Dog Park- Opposed

Dear Councilwoman Nadel:

I am opposed to the proposed dog park at Astro Park for several reasons. I like the fact that the space is unprogrammed, my toddler toddles there while learning to walk. He sees soccer, frisbee, t ball, picnicers all enjoying the space - I must assume they wouldn't like that space being dedicated to a dog run only too. And I look forward to using this space for these reasons as my son grows. So clearly I value unprogrammed open space. Another reason is this: I also don't know why would we want dogs congregating within 50 feet of a children's playground. I understand that it will be fenced but one see's so many dog owners breaking the law with unleashed dogs already in the park (and many aggressive breeds) that I cannot see the justification for rewarding this illegal behaviour, even if you say this will cure the bad behaviour what is your remedy if it does not? The question is of getting to and from the dog park- will dogs be on leash to be unleashed and then re leashed prior to exiting? Where is Oakland's enforcement- dog owners simply do not obey the rules themselves as I have observed. The potential for dog bites rises as does the odor factor. Finally the fenced dog area seems quite large to me, much larger than the tot area which is generally oversubscribed a wait time for swings and it is pretty crowded, and it seems to overwhelm the entire corner of the park.

Respectfully,
Jeffrey Lipsett
563 Walavista Ave

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2011 10:02 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt dog park

-----Original Message-----
From: Ian Cooper [mailto:coopstar1@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 4:59 PM
To: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park

Hello,
I just wanted to voice my opinion against the proposed dog park. I live in the Glenview neighborhood and use the grass area fairly regularly both to play volleyball and as an area for my daughter to run around during farmers market days. Based on my observation, many other families do the same, as well as soccer games, football, etc. It would be a shame for all of us to lose this rare bit oF open space.
Thanks,
Ian Cooper

From: Lary Heath [laryheath@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 09, 2011 2:37 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: necklace of lights and dog park

Pat,

I live five blocks from the lake, on MacArthur, and would like to help with the lights around the lake. I was part of the team that designed and built the Necklace, and I now notice how they are on earlier than need be. If you can get me access to the timers, I would be glad to periodically adjust them to more accurately reflect sunset. This would save thousands of dollars in kwh and maintenance. I will do this for free.

I would like to offer my opinion on the prospect of the dog park issue. Do not put it where there are presently soccer, football, softball, badminton, frisbee, kid's baseball, etc, players of all ages, on a very regular basis. How about near the oaks across from Ahn's burger place, instead?

Thanks

Lary Heath
From: Marilyn Kosinski [marilynkosinski@att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 4:23 PM
To: Schaaf, Libby; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Subject: Proposed Lakeview Park/ Dog play area

TO: Councilmembers Nancy Nadel, Pat Kernighan, Libby Schaaf, and Member-at-Large, Rebecca Kaplan

Dear Councilmembers:

Regarding the proposal by certain groups to make the park area near the Grand Lake Theater into a play area for dogs:--

It is my vote that we NOT turn this beautiful little grassy area of Lakeview (Lakeside?) Park into a play area for dogs. There are several good reasons behind this vote:

1) As a resident of the Glenview Area for over 50 years, and the proud owner of a very rambunctious 75-lb. dog, I am familiar with most, if not all, of the available dog parks in the East Bay Area. I would LOVE to have more parks for dogs to enjoy off-leash play without having to drive to Richmond or other non-Oakland locations all the time. However, I have never yet seen a dog park retain green grass, ivy or any other ground cover after it is opened up for use.

2) The dog park on Linda Street just off of Grand Avenue is a perfect example of the abuse caused to the land by continuous activity from of our four-footed friends. The dogs have denuded a hillside that was once covered with ivy. The one in Alameda near Crown Beach is just mud a good portion of the year. Some dogs love to dig big holes in the dirt.

3) Dog parks attract flies, and those of us who are dog owners know that everyone who owns a dog is not diligent about cleaning up after their pets. We wish they would be, because they give the rest of us who are responsible dog owners a bad reputation. Park services have been severely reduced in parks all over Oakland. Where will the money come from and the personnel to maintain this park?

4) Parking would undoubtedly become a problem and dropping off dogs and picking them up can become a real traffic hazard. That area is usually very busy with pedestrians as well as automobiles from all of the businesses on Grand and Lakeshore Avenues, the Grand Lake Theater, the Farmers' Market, Trader Joes, coffee shops and many restaurants.

4) It does not seem fair to the residents, businesses and pedestrians of the area, especially in hot, summer months, to have to contend with a fenced-off area blocking access to a nice little parkway which brings unwanted insects and unpleasant odors.

This small area of grass is much better suited for the informal neighborhood use for youth sports activities (soccer, football, catch, etc.) and exercising which often takes place there now, or a toddlers' play area, or people just lying around enjoying the sun or a picnic lunch. The traffic and congestion on Grand in front of Gold's Gym is pretty annoying as it is, because everyone is always ooking for a parking space.

Please do NOT turn this portion of the park into a dog park! Surely there must be other open spaces in Oakland which would be nicer for a dog park.

Marilyn Kosinski
4600 El Centro Avenue
Oakland, Ca 94602
510-530-2962

From: Ed Sweeney [tvote@pacbell.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 2:58 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: one more "no dogpark" email

Councilmember Kernighan,

After reading a bunch of postings on the dog park topic, I have developed the opinion that I'm against creating it. My main objection is that the isn't any plan for maintaining it. I believe it's likely that it will become a smelly eyesore, and that we will then demand that the city keep it up. This will take away from the other areas that they already struggle to support. It's not that I hate the idea of a dogpark at that location, it's just not a priority and I think we need to prioritize.

ps: I saw a brand new BIG pothole on Grand in front of the Grand Bakery this afternoon. That's where I'd put my money, although I realize that not all city money is fungible.

Regards, Ed Sweeney

From: Chris Reidenouer [creidenouer@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 2:11 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park proposal

No, unless you remove the dogs already around the lake. There are signs posted around Lake Merritt for "no dogs allowed", but like so many of Oakland's rules, there is no enforcement. Small children are endangered by unpredictable dogs that bite. Instead of considering a dog park, please enforce dog rules already in place. Thanks Pat.

Chris

From: Alice Kuo [alatcal@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park proposal

Hi Pat,

As a resident of Erie and Prince area, I would like you to know that I oppose the dog park. I love dogs, as does my 11 month old baby. We love seeing them on the sidewalks on Lakeshore and Grand, and all around the lake. But the problem is, not all dog walkers will obey the rules, and we really need people to do so when the large lawn is such a well trafficked area for walkers. I'm sure you know that there are plenty of signs around the lake forbidding dogs, but does ANYONE obey it? No! Even I took my neighbor's dog on a walk around the lake. What's more troubling was that I took my baby to the playground last week, and guess who was there off leash? A dog! It was a small dog but regardless, it should not be there with kids running around. It's not safe for either the dog OR the children. To have the dog park so close to cars, joggers, CHILDREN, is just asking for disaster or accident to happen. There are times when I think the government makes obviously stupid decisions, and I think to put a dog park at the proposed site is exactly that, because it's just asking for trouble to happen. Please DO NOT implement proposal. Thank you!

-Alice Kuo

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Eduardo Portal [eportal@elword.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 5:23 PM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [GrandLakeNCPC] Please wait for the community meeting for any further comments on the dog park

Pat,

We live on 697 Calmar Ave. and cast a no vote on the dog park at the proposed location. Being a dog lover, i consider the plan a disaster from the get go. Not enough space, wrong location, could go on longer but will let you go to the next...

Best,

Eduardo Portal.

-- Sent from Eduardo's Palm Pre

El mar 7, 2011 11:18 AM, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> escribió:

I am still encouraging all residents with an opinion of the dog park proposal to send their comments directly to me at

pkernighan@oaklandnet.com

Councilmember Nadel and I will compile all the messages we get and make a tally of support and opposition. It would helpful if people would tell us where they live when they send their opinion. (I am mainly interested to know the opinions of residents of the surrounding neighborhoods--Cleveland Heights/Haddon Hill, Adams Point, Grandlake, Crocker Highlands, Rose Garden--i.e., those who live within walking distance of the site.)

Thanks,

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com [mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of BETSY
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:05 AM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Please wait for the community meeting for any further comments on the dog park

To all my neighbors,

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Please let this distribution list come back to being unifying community tool.

Regards and respect,
Betsy

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From: Shell, Gordon (CDPH-CID-DCDC-VRDL) [Gordon.Shell@cdph.ca.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 12:40 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park: NO

Gordon

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com on behalf of forellen@earthlink.net
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 12:29 PM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Please wait for the community meeting for any further comments on the dog park

I live on wesley and iam opposed
I think the dog park if any should be more internal to the park

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 7, 2011, at 11:18 AM, "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

I am still encouraging all residents with an opinion of the dog park proposal to send their comments directly to me at

<mailto:pkernighan@oaklandnet.com> pkernighan@oaklandnet.com

Councilmember Nadel and I will compile all the messages we get and make a tally of support and opposition. It would helpful if people would tell us where they live when they send their opinion. (I am mainly interested to know the opinions of residents of the surrounding neighborhoods--Cleveland Heights/Haddon Hill, Adams Point, Grandlake, Crocker Highlands, Rose Garden--i.e., those who live within walking distance of the site.)

Thanks,

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
<mailto:pkernighan@oaklandnet.com> pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com [mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of BETSY
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:05 AM
To: <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com> GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Please wait for the community meeting for any further comments on the dog park

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Regards and respect,
Betsy

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__'_'_'___
From: Gary Meyer [garymey@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 12:09 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: RE: Dog Park

Pat,
Obviously a hot issue and I am so surprised that they are using this listserv for airing what are becoming scary responses. I signed up to get basic timely news of interest as a person living in Crocker Highlands for 22 years.

If you are keeping tally, we are a dog family and always have been. But we think this location is terrible. It might be central for many people but it is problematic in several ways from our perspective.

1. It is not a good idea for many people to be walking their dogs across those busy streets that are on 3 sides of the space. I foresee accidents with injured animals and humans as congestion increases.

2. Dogs should be in a place without so many distractions beyond playing with their owners and other dogs. As a confined space, dog fights are more likely to break out.

3.There are numerous places where dogs can be walked and even be off leash in the area, though I realize they may require driving though there are two beautiful off leash parks in Piedmont open to all.

4. That open space is an important part of the local landscape. I played on it as a child when there was a Captain Satellite spaceship play structure. My kids played on the climbing structures and played various ball games there. We have had picnics on the lawn. With a fenced area breaking it up, smells of dog feces wafting towards people and dogs being walked through picnickers, people playing or relaxing, the entire feeling of that space will change. Tension will replace peacefulness.

I vote no for a dog park there.

Gary Meyer
510 290-8224

--- On Mon, 3/7/11, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: RE: [GrandLakeNCPC] Please wait for the community meeting for any further comments on the dog park
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Date: Monday, March 7, 2011, 11:18 AM

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Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
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510-238-7002
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Regards and respect,
Betsy

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/J=1299525491261030/K=WAJ3oTTHD5rbfYxny3mQrQ/A=6078812/R=0/SIG=114ae4ln1/*http:/
/dogandcatanswers.yahoo.com/> Visit the Dog & Cat Answers Center.

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8/stime=1299525491/nc1=5741392/nc2=4025373/nc3=5898812>

__'_·_'___

From: Martha Lyman [martha_lyman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 12:04 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: my vote - NO on the dog park

Hi Pat,

Thanks for your post on the Grand Lake mailing list about the dog park. I live on Walavista Ave in the Grand Lake mailing list and I do not think the dog park near the library is a good idea. I frequently walk to the park and library with my four and two year old daughters and I think a fenced dog park would be a very unpleasant addition to that area.

Martha Lyman

From: S.Keane [sallykeane1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 11:43 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: Dog Park on MacArthur: NO vote by a dog owner

Crocker/Trestle Glen resident..

S. A. Keane

----- Forwarded Message ----
From: S.Keane <sallykeane1@yahoo.com>
To: pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
Sent: Mon, March 7, 2011 11:40:11 AM
Subject: Dog Park on MacArthur: NO vote by a dog owner

Oakland needs to protect this rare green open space in the middle of the city... I see lots of people using that spot as a field for soccer, baseball, volleyball and for picnics or just laying in the sun! It is a calm spot in the middle of a busy area.
Although I have a dog, that location should be kept as is.
Thanks.
Let me know when you are having the community meeting.
S. A. Keane

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:48 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Ailian Chong [mailto:chongppr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 12:00 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Lake Merritt Dog Park

Although we have been informed that this dog park has been in planning for the past 10 years, only within the past 6 months of discussion has it come to our attention. We are residents of the Lake area and heard nothing about it until now.

We are firmly OPPOSED to the use of this open green space for dog park. Many of our friends use this open field for pick-up soccer and other ball games which will be negatively impacted. This will seriously add to the congestion in this area. Conditions around the Lake have changed in 10 years including the farmer's market, traffic patterns and revamped Lake landscaping. This is not the right place for it.

Other viable suggestions are Park Ave. or even the estuary side of the lake since they are re-doing that area. Thanks for counting my vote.

Oy-Lene Chong

Spruce & McKinley

Oakland, CA 94610

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:48 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: dog park - NO!

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Abby Tolin [mailto:abbytolin@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 8:03 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: dog park - NO!

there are too many pit bulls to entice me to bring my eleven year old spaniel, (who would be too big for a small dog park) to a play area around here.

it is beyond me why it has become fashionable in the temescal/uptown area to adopt a breed known to turn on the people who care for them. i am appalled to see how many young mothers - with an infant in a stroller - also have a pit bull on a leash by their side.

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:47 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Comments regarding Astro Park Dog Play Area

Attachments: OFOS_Astro_Letter_Of_Concern.doc

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: Mary Stelletello [mailto:marystel@comcast.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 9:10 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Comments regarding Astro Park Dog Play Area

Dear Council Member Nadel,

Thank you for the request for comments on the proposed dog play area at Astro Park. As an Oakland Citizen and resident of District 2, I have already emailed Pat Kernighan about this. However I will also submit my comments here for the record.

I know that the Parks & Recreation budget has been decimated with the budget crisis. I live next to the Oakland Morcom Rose Garden and have been very involved in the volunteer group that cares about our green space.

The request to build a dog park on some of the last-remaining unprogrammed green space in Oakland is taking another one of Oakland's gems that is used by all citizens and restricting its use to only those that have dogs. I am a dog owner and I cannot support the approval of the Astro Park Dog Park. I have attached a letter from a citizen's group that I belong to, Save Astro Park that opposes this action. Not only does it eliminate some of the last standing precious unprogrammed green space in the city, it is ill-conceived as a dog park. It does not meet the recommended size standards for dog parks. It is really a lose-

lose. The space is taken away from use by all and it is not even adequate for the small constituent group that it is intended to serve.

I urge you to not allow our last bit of precious green space around the lake to be squandered by this ill-conceived plan. If your staff has any additional questions, I can be reached by email at marystel@comcast.net or 510-868-1046.

Thank you,

Mary Stelletello

marystel@comcast.net

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:47 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: grace duenas [mailto:indaytibo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 05, 2011 9:18 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area

Dear Council Member Nadel,

I am writing as a resident of the 595 Merritt Ave Apartments in opposition of the proposed dog park in my neighborhood, specifically the plan to enclose/fence a section of the Lakeview Park for use as an off-lease dog run for dogs to exercise, and for both dogs and their guardians to socialize.

This has been a hot topic in our Cleveland Heights Neighborhood Network, and I wanted to take this opportunity to express my concerns about introducing dogs when there is already such limited green space for children and adults to play, exercise, and socialize in this neighborhood. I would rather see the budget allocated to actually cleaning up the park and thinking of sustainable ways to clean out the duck feces.

I used to live in the Mission close to Dolores Park, and I witnessed the rapid deterioration/ decrease of aesthetic value of the sections of the park that became dog areas. The ground areas became extremely dusty and dirty because the dogs would tear up and dig the grass. I also noticed more dog feces, not only in the grass but also on the sidewalks in the neighborhood. And then there is the issue of the foul dog smell.

Currently, there is already limited resources to maintain the park without it being a dog park. In an era of shrinking resources, why are we introducing a dog park that will require additional resources to be cleaned and maintained?

I have very strong public health concerns about this proposal. I strongly feel that the area for the proposed dog park is already a high traffic area being close to the freeway and being a major bus thoroughfare. I take the bus lines 12, 57, and 26 which are on the periphery of this proposed dog park, and the last thing I want to have to experience when I get of public transportation is to negotiate additional human traffic and dog traffic. Adding a dog park in this area will decrease the community feeling when you walk from Lakeshore to the colonade.

Couldn't you move the proposed dog park closer to the duck area/bird estuary? Somewhere more internal where it's a narrow longer dog run that doesn't overtake the entire area. I feel that its a higher priority to preserve the field where the community plays soccer. Dogs don't need a wide field to run around, children and adults do.

Please help preserve the charm and cleanliness of this neighborhood and human-gathering spaces by moving the proposed dog park to a more internal area of the lake. We have an opportunity to improve the environmental sustainability of this neighborhood.

Respectfully yours,

Grace Villarin Duenas, MPH

595 Merritt Ave, Apt 17

Oakland, CA 94610

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/message/7122;_ylc=X3oDMTJyODVzYnBwBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzEwNzE0ODAwBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTE3MTExNgRtc2dJZAM3MTIyBHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawN2bXNnBHN0aW1lAzEyOTkzMjA3OTk-> Proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area

Posted by: "Starks, Carletta"
<http://us.mc328.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=clstarks@oaklandnet.com&Subject=%20Re%3A%20Proposed%20Lakeview%20Dog%20Play%20Area> clstarks@oaklandnet.com
<http://profiles.yahoo.com/clstarks52> clstarks52

Fri Mar 4, 2011 11:44 am (PST)

PROPOSED LAKEVIEW DOG PLAY AREA

Councilmember Nadel is requesting feedback from District 3 constituents living in the Lake Merritt/Adam' s Point/Cleveland Heights neighborhoods on the proposed Lakeview Dog Play Area.

This project was included in the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan and the Adams Point Urban Design Plan in 2002. Since 2009, volunteers have worked with City staff on a new design for an off-leash dog run at corner of the Lakeview Park bordered by MacArthur Blvd to the north and Lakeshore Ave to the southeast. In December 2010, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) approved the dog run redesign, including landscape and irrigation plans.

Recently, there has been heated discussion on neighborhood yahoo groups about the merits of this dog play area. We would like to invite your comments on this proposed project. Please email your thoughts to Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst at
<http://us.mc328.mail.yahoo.com/mc/compose?to=xwang%40oaklandnet.com>
xwang@oaklandnet. com

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

To enclose/fence a section of the Lakeview Park for use as an off-lease dog run for dogs to exercise, and for both dogs and their guardians to socialize.

Specific elements of the project include:

* Separate play areas for large and small dogs
* 4' chain link fencing to enclose the dog run, which will be 21,300 sq. ft. total in area
* Double gate entries that are ADA accessible with supply vehicle access
* Concrete mow-band around 2/3 of the fence to provide easy access for lawn maintenance
* Two in-ground waste receptacles
* Wood chips to provide the ground cover
* Vine plantings at the fence line
* Tree planting between the fence line and MacArthur Blvd

Carletta L. Starks

Community Liaison/Policy Analyst for

Councilmember Nancy Nadel, District 3

1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 2nd Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

Phone: 510/238-7032

Fax: 510/238-6129

Please sign up to the District Three Listserve

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Visit our website at
<http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityCouncil/o/District3/index.ht>
http://www2. oaklandnet. com/Government/ o/CityCouncil/ o/District3/ index.htm

People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,

but they will never forget how you made them feel. Maya Angelou

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJybHEyZTdyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE1BGdycElkAzEwNzE0ODAwBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTE3MTExNgRtc2dJZAM3MTIyBHNlYwNkbXNnBHNsawNycGx5BHN0aW1lAzEyOTkzMjA3OTk-?act=reply&messageNum=7122> Reply via web post

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Messages in this topic (1)

From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:47 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Dog park

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

-----Original Message-----
From: Nimia [mailto:nimiamrb@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 9:38 AM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Dog park

As much as I believe places for human mascots are important., in time of diminishing budgets and funds I'd like to see our funds go to bettering and creating safer environments for human use parks. Actually I'd like to see the funds used for safety issues around Oakland and safety prevention programs before funds are used for any type of park.

Nimia Ramos Beauchamp
193 Montecito Ave.
Sent from my iPhone
From: Wang, Xiaojing
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 10:47 AM
To: Gerard, Jennie; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: Lakeview Dog Play Area

Hi Jennie & Pat,

In case you are not overwhelmed with these emails already (!), I'm forwarding all the dog park emails that are being sent just to my email address.

FYI: I just did a count of all the messages that we've gotten since early December (just before PRAC), and it's 55% for, 45% opposed.

Xiaojing

Xiaojing Wang, Policy Analyst

Office of Councilmember Nancy Nadel

Oakland City Council, District 3

(510) 238-7031

From: bob.shurtleff@gmail.com [mailto:bob.shurtleff@gmail.com] On Behalf Of Bob Shurtleff
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 11:21 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Subject: Lakeview Dog Play Area

The Lakeview Dog Play Area is proposed for the park by which many, many vehicles pass when going east on MacArthur to Lakeshore Avenue and the 580 freeway. I am concerned that the dog park will be ugly, replacing the grass currently there with wood chips and an ugly fence.

I am also concerned that dog owners will bring their pets in cars. The parking near Lakeview Library is already severely limited and I am afraid it will impact the ability of patrons to park by the library and of parents to park their cars when the bring their children to the playground which is next to the area where the dog park will be installed. Although there is parking available under the freeway on week days, this parking is already jam-packed on Saturdays. Adding dog owner vehicles will only further interfere with weekend parking. The parking problems from the farmer's market already adversely effect parking for the Grand Lake Theater. Adding dog walkers to the mix would make matters worse.

That said, it would be good to have a dog play area near Lake Merritt. One suggestion has been to create the play area in Athol Plaza, where parking space would be available in the lot by Merritt Bakery and the Lucky Store.

In addition, there are already dog parks nearby at Mosswood Park and Piedmont Park, and in Washington Park in Alameda.

-- Bob Shurtleff

From: Frank Christensen [iingvard@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 8:08 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Hi Pat and staff

For the sake of the family's that have a tough enough time with the minority of disrespectful bicycle/skateboard riders to watch out for, adding a dog park would only drive those with young children away to other areas. What will keep tennis balls off the sidewalks/highway, a tall eye sore 8' fence? Does the city have the resources to manage said dog park?
Please no to a dog park at Grand Lake
Thank you
Frank Christensen
From: Jerry Wolfe [wingate63@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2011 7:20 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Oppose the dog park

Dear Elected Officials Nadel and Kerrigan,

As a forty year resident of Oakland and living near and visiting the proposed dog park area frequently I strongly oppose the creation of a dog park in the proposed area near Lake Merritt, The reasons are many including traffic, health concerns, child safety concerns, etc. Please listen to the voices of your constituents and oppose this move to detract from the forward progress of our great city.
Jerry Wolfe

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Mark Lightfoot [marklightfoot@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 8:52 PM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Why I oppose the dog run and favor the open space

Thank you for the very persuasive argument against the dog park proposal. I also feel the space should be kept a common area - there's precious little open space in this neighborhood.

Mark Lightfoot

On Mar 6, 2011, at 6:57 PM, bradmccrea@comcast.net wrote:

The following is why I'm opposed to the dog run at the corner of MacArthur and Lakeshore.

Please email pkernighan@oaklandnet.com to give her your opinion.

The public benefits of the dog run project do not clearly exceed the public detriment from the loss of unprogrammed open space.

Unprogrammed public open spaces are vital to dense urban areas. When located in the heart of thriving neighborhood districts, open spaces provide a place of respite within the context of their vibrant residential and commercial surroundings. Astro Park is no exception.

A growing number of dog owners and non-dog owners alike are responding to the unreasonable proposal to eliminate shared open space for the purpose of creating a fenced dog area within this prime park location. I firmly believe that the proposed dog park is detrimental to the existing uses at Astro Park and must not be approved, even with conditions.

The historic open space serves as the front lawn to the Lakeview Library and the gateway to the Grand Lake District. But it does much more than that. Astro Park is currently "the commons" for our neighborhood, a public resource that is collectively shared between the diverse Lake Merritt neighborhood populations. It is unfenced, unenclosed and available to the majority of Oaklanders. Changing the use of the park to an enclosed dog run would effectively privatize a significant portion of the public open space.

The green space at Astro Park is currently available to nearly everyone: joggers, walkers, volleyball players, soccer players, excercisers and families. Individuals and groups, old and young use the space. The site has few physical improvements. However, the simple design of Astro Park and its flexible program are precisely the reason that the open space has been successful for generations. This is why it is entirely unacceptable for the larger community to lose this amount of unprogrammed open space for the sole gain of one special interest group. It's too much. I would feel the same regardless of whether it was for dogs, soft ball, tot lots or lawn bowling. Dog parks can be sited in many locations - and should be. But not here.

The proposed dog park would have adverse impacts on other public benefits besides open space. The proposed use would increase parking demand in the immediate area, including an additional burden on the Lakeview Library parking lot and the parking for Grand Avenue restaurants. Additionally, the proposed dog use appears to be incompatible with the adjacent wildlife refuge, a National

Historic Landmark. Further, the proposed use would come with no funding for operations and maintenance, thereby diverting resources from other City parks. Finally, the odors resulting from the proposed dog use (dog urine and feces) may adversely impact existing public spaces, especially after periods of rains or irrigation.

This historic park at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue is a vibrant neighborhood space where informal, active recreation takes place. More importantly, it is an inviting, uninterrupted greensward at the northern end of Lake Merritt where residents, all residents, are welcome. Currently, Astro Park serves the greater community. Conversely, the proposed dog park use would result in the direct loss of a large amount of unprogrammed public open space in a prime location within the City of Oakland. This action cannot be mitigated.

For these reasons, I believe the proposed use of Astro Park for an enclosed dog area is unacceptable and that the minor conditional use application, when formally submitted, should be denied.

Thank you for you time.

Brad

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<mailto:marklightfoot@comcast.net?subject=Re%3A%20%5BGrandLakeNCPC%5D%20Why%20I%20oppose%20the%20dog%20run%20and%20favor%20the%20open%20space> Reply to sender | <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20%5BGrandLakeNCPC%5D%20Why%20I%20oppose%20the%20dog%20run%20and%20favor%20the%20open%20space> Reply to group | Reply
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__,_._,___
From: bradmccrea@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 6:58 PM
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors; GrandLakeNCPC
Cc: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Why I oppose the dog run and favor the open space

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lose this amount of unprogrammed open space for the sole gain of one special interest group. It's too much. I would feel the same regardless of whether it was for dogs, soft ball, tot lots or lawn bowling. Dog parks can be sited in many locations - and should be. But not here.

The proposed dog park would have adverse impacts on other public benefits besides open space. The proposed use would increase parking demand in the immediate area, including an additional burden on the Lakeview Library parking lot and the parking for Grand Avenue restaurants. Additionally, the proposed dog use appears to be incompatible with the adjacent wildlife refuge, a National Historic Landmark. Further, the proposed use would come with no funding for operations and maintenance, thereby diverting resources from other City parks. Finally, the odors resulting from the proposed dog use (dog urine and feces) may adversely impact existing public spaces, especially after periods of rains or irrigation.

This historic park at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue is a vibrant neighborhood space where informal, active recreation takes place. More importantly, it is an inviting, uninterrupted greensward at the northern end of Lake Merritt where residents, all residents, are welcome. Currently, Astro Park serves the greater community. Conversely, the proposed dog park use would result in the direct loss of a large amount of unprogrammed public open space in a prime location within the City of Oakland. This action cannot be mitigated.

For these reasons, I believe the proposed use of Astro Park for an enclosed dog area is unacceptable and that the minor conditional use application, when formally submitted, should be denied.

Thank you for you time.

Brad

From: beth christensen [bbfc612@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 6:29 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: oppose dog park near Lake Merritt

hi Pat, we're opposed to locating a dog park near Lake Merritt because it will stink of dog urine. How about some place in West Oakland; we've seen lots of vacant land there.
thanks, Beth and Frank Christensen
From: Howard Burrows [howard.burrows@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 6:07 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Cc: Howard Burrows
Subject: NO Dog Park at Astro Park

Dear Oakland City Council Members Kerninghan and Nadel,

For the record I want to state that I'm very opposed to any dog park in the beautiful, highly trafficked Astro park area (or whatever you call it). Lake Merritt is a gem of Oakland and shouldn't be allowed to go to the "dogs". As a tax payer I want this area to be reserved for people not dogs. Furthermore, the mere fact that the City has no budget for this project and it is a "volunteer" effort has me strongly opposed. What will happen when it becomes worn down,

neglected, vandalized, graffitied, etc. I have no faith that "volunteer" effort will have the financial means or energy to maintain it. The City puts all kinds of beautification money into the Lake but let's a volunteer effort dog park go in at one of the most spectacular spots just doesn't make any sense to me. Would we allow public bathrooms be erected in this spot and allow their maintenance be volunteer? NO. Oakland is full of green spaces and you need to find another space that isn't so visible and highly coveted. Furthermore, if this is a volunteer effort where does the liability fall when a problem arises. I'm not opposed to dogs or dog parks, but I'm very opposed to using this space for one.

Thank-you,

Howard Burrows
551 Montclair Ave.
Oakland, CA. 94606
From: Steve Saffold [stevesaffold@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2011 5:15 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: [CHNeighbors] Elected representatives Kernigan and Nadel - manipulating public opinion?????

I am opposed to the dog park.

Thank you

Steve Saffold
510-282-9169 mobile
stevesaffold@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message ----
From: Mikhail <mkay422@gmail.com>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, March 6, 2011 4:38:36 PM
Subject: [CHNeighbors] Elected representatives Kernigan and Nadel - manipulating public opinion?????

Good evening all,

I have received a very interesting email today. While the original subject is related to (sigh!) the dog park, it is rather about how our elected representarives deal with the issue behind the scene.
We all have seen the invitation to the public meeting being organized by Representative Kernigan, and Representative Nadel promised to attend too. We also know that the dog park proposal is a contention point.
I will also put a disclaimer that I personally oppose the dog park proposal.

Today I have received an email that had been addressed to "Terry" and signed by Laura Sutta. I acknowledge that the sender had apparently confused me with Terry. Nevertheless, I am publishing the entire content (incl. header) below because I strongly believe that the information in this message should be known

to the entire community. Please scroll down to read the original message that I have received.

If the message is representing the true facts, then our elected Representative Kernigan is selectively and proactively reaching out to identified proponents of the dog park. I am not aware if she did the same to the opposition. If the facts in the email message correctly convey the communication, the message reflects the current expression of the public opinion to date (6:1 against the park).

Here is my open question to our elected Representative:
- would it make sense to keep the communications with your constituents transparent? Is anyone here aware of Representatifve Kernigan reaching out to the both sides in the same way? I am not aware of her calling the opponents. Does it not look weird when Representative Kernigan explicitly reaches out to one side and asks them to ramp up their activities?

Is it just me seeing here a bias and agenda, working the issue behind our backs in a rigged way?

========== Full text of the email from Laura Sutta ========
From: sutta@earthlink.net <sutta@earthlink.net>
reply-to sutta@earthlink.net
to mkay422@gmail.com
date Sun, Mar 6, 2011 at 3:30 PM
subject dog park
mailed-by earthlink.net
signed-by earthlink.net

Hi Terry,
I am very much in favor of the dog park. Pat Kernighan called me and told me that she is getting emails 6 to 1 opposed to the dog park and suggested I mobilize those in favor to contact her and Nancy Nadel , stating their positions. So, I urge you to do that (if you haven't already).
Her address is pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
Nancy Nadel is nnadel@oaklandnet.com

Thanks and please pass on this message.
Laura

Laura Sutta, Fine Art Photography
www.laurasutta.com
510-444-3820
========== end of email from Laura Sutta ==========

I would be interested in hearing our tcommunity's opinion.

Kind regards,

-Mikhail

Yahoo! Groups Links

<*> To visit your group on the web, go to:
    http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/

<*> Your email settings:
    Individual Email | Traditional

<*> To change settings online go to:
    http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/join
    (Yahoo! ID required)

<*> To change settings via email:
    ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-digest@yahoogroups.com
    ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-fullfeatured@yahoogroups.com

<*> To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
    ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

<*> Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to:
    http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

From: Emmy Fearn [emmyf@pacbell.net]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 5:14 PM
To: joffer@juno.com; Wang, Xiaojing
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; pamelad205@sbcglobal.net; Carole_K@hotmail.com; cberner@sbcglobal.net; Danielle@bonpain.com; GailRVW@aol.com; JCBensick@comcast.net; ktopp@att.net; LindaVAdams@mac.com; margemaloney@hotmail.com; psbrody@gmail.com; raebryant1@sbcglobal.net; SEM1020@aol.com; ssugarman@pacbell.net
Subject: RE: Dog Play Area

I echo Jody's feelings about not having a dog park at the lake. We are already frustrated by the folks who don't control their animals in the neighborhoods and around the lake and suspect that the having a dog park adjacent in the area would not be an attraction to most families and residents.

BTW-Aren't there leash laws on the books that can be enforced? I wish there were tickets being given out for having dogs off-leash. Maybe the "metermaids" could be redeployed.

Onward,

Emmy

****
Emilene J. Fearn, MBA, MA
PhD Candidate
University of California, Berkeley, and San Francisco State University
510-451-3490; 510-325-2230 (cell)
emmyf@berkeley.edu

-----Original Message-----
From: joffer@juno.com [mailto:joffer@juno.com]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 3:40 PM

To: xwang@oaklandnet.com
Cc: nnadel@oaklandnet.com; pkernighan@oaklandnet.com;
pamelad205@sbcglobal.net; emmyf@pacbell.net; Carole_K@hotmail.com;
cberner@sbcglobal.net; Danielle@bonpain.com; GailRVW@aol.com;
JCBensick@comcast.net; ktopp@att.net; LindaVAdams@mac.com;
margemaloney@hotmail.com; joffer@juno.com; psbrody@gmail.com;
raebryant1@sbcglobal.net; SEM1020@aol.com; ssugarman@pacbell.net
Subject: Dog Play Area

Hello Xiaojing,

Councilwoman Nadel asked that we send our opinions about the proposed dog run to you. I will copy her and a couple of other City Council members.

I have been a resident of the Crocker Highlands for over thirty years. I heard about this dog run when it was first proposed--at least five years ago, I would say. I was definitely against it then, and I have not gotten any information to change my mind. Here are the reasons:

The park is extensively used, especially for ball games, on weekends. It is the ONLY large, flat open space for blocks, maybe a mile, in every direction. (You could say Oakland High is flat and open but it is fenced off.) Cutting off that strip would really crimp the pickup volleyball and soccer games, as well as a number of picnics.

Dog parks are inevitably ugly unless they are very large. Note the one on Linda and the one under the freeway in the Temescal. You can't keep anything growing--even ivy!--so you end up with dirt and mud. Since this one would be highly visible, it would detract from the attractiveness of both the neighborhood and the Lake. Especially with our small parks staff right now.

With so many dogs coming and going, and with so many little children nearby, there is too much risk of a really bad dog attack. In order to get into the dog area, people would come near many little children. (You can't tell them not to park near the play structure.) Also, wouldn't balls go into the area? Who would want a child going in and taking a ball away from a strange dog?

You may say people would be very careful in a situation like that. Of course most people are careful and law abiding, but in a public place like this, you INEVITABLY have the idiot who thinks HIS dog is so special, and he is so dynamic and wonderful, that he doesn't have to follow the rules.

I have myself had two such experiences of this while walking around the Lake. In one incident, we were walking our dog (on her leash) on the sidewalk just going past Fairyland. We had a sweet, non-confrontational Golden Retriever who didn't bark very much, and never did bite any person or animal in her whole 13 years of life. As we passed the grassy area in front of Fairyland, a man sat with his Doberman Pinscher on a leash. That dog started growling and FROTHING at the mouth when our Belle passed. He then BROKE his collar and lunged at her and bit her foot. It took us a few minutes to get them apart, and Belle needed stitches and about three weeks to heel. The owner was TEACHER at

Oakland High!!!!! It was a Sunday afternoon and the Park was crowded--and he was right near Fairyland with all the kids. I told him to his face I thought he was stupid to bring a dog like that to a crowded public park, and that I couldn't believe he was actually a teacher.

In another example: not long after Jerry Brown started walking his dog around the Lakeside trail, other people started to copy him. For some months I tried to discourage it by saying to people, "Did you know dogs aren't allowed at the Lake?" One day, just in front of the bird sanctuary islands, I passed a man walking THREE pitt bulls. I posed my usual question. "Shut up, Bitch," he replied, "or I'll let them loose." He clearly thought he was an extremely clever, funny, and powerful man, though to me he seemed the perfect example of a very stupid one.

Of course that man was on the street without a dog play area. But if you have one in an Oakland park, you ARE going to have some people like that from time to time.

Finally, thanks to Jerry, our Lake has now become quite an extensively used dog walking area, creating a great walk for a dog. (See attached poem from my new book, DOUBLE CROSSING.)

If you do build it, I hope you set aside money for the law suits that will follow.

Judith Offer

From: joffer@juno.com
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2011 3:40 PM
To: Wang, Xiaojing
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; pamelad205@sbcglobal.net; emmyf@pacbell.net; Carole_K@hotmail.com; cberner@sbcglobal.net; Danielle@bonpain.com; GailRVW@aol.com; JCBensick@comcast.net; ktopp@att.net; LindaVAdams@mac.com; margemaloney@hotmail.com; joffer@juno.com; psbrody@gmail.com; raebryant1@sbcglobal.net; SEM1020@aol.com; ssugarman@pacbell.net
Subject: Dog Play Area

Attachments: Lake Merritt Doggie Park.doc

Hello Xiaojing,

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If you do build it, I hope you set aside money for the law suits that will follow.

Judith Offer
From: Stephen Catalano [srcatalano@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 5:56 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Pat/Nancy - I wanted to send my input on this topic. I am very against a dog park at Macarthur Blvd and Lakeshore. It is hard to think of a worse place than this. It is a central location for pedestrians, children, exercisers, etc. What may have been a good idea a decade ago is not now. As you know the area is bustling and putting a dog park in middle of it would definitely detract from the neighborhood.

I struggle to understand the logic of picking this location. While I am not categorically against dog parks, the proper location is paramount. And Macarthur and Lakeshore is not a proper location. In fact, I feel the location suggested is one of the worst places possible. I cannot imagine how unfortunate it would be to have a fenced off area next to the playground. We are so challenged with open space and to take a good portion of one of the larger grassy areas for the exclusive use of dogs would be a loss.

In all of this debate, it would be helpful to understand who in Oakland's leadership is sponsoring this idea, why and what other alternatives have been investigated. As I have asked around, there is very little awareness of this proposal. I look forward to a public discussion as following a plan that was devised many years ago without reevaluating it would be a mistake.

Regards,

Steve

From: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:13 AM
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the

debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

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<mailto:PKernighan@oaklandnet.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to sender | <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to group | Reply <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJwcnNobnRiBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBG1zZ0lkAzMwNjAEc2VjA2Z0cgRzbGsDcnBseQRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwMzk4?act=reply&messageNum=3060> via web post | Start a New Topic
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZzcwZmEyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA250cGMEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyMDM5OA-->
Messages in this topic
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/message/3060;_ylc=X3oDMTM0a2xzMzlyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBG1zZ0lkAzMwNjAEc2VjA2Z0cgRzbGsDdnRwYwRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwMzk4BHRwY0lkAzMwNjA-> (1)
Recent Activity:
Visit Your Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC;_ylc=X3oDMTJlNGc0YnM1BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwN2dGwEc2xrA3ZnaHAEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyMDM5OA-->

<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJkMHFzdTY4BF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA2dmcARzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwMzk4> Yahoo! Groups
Switch to: Text-Only <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change%20Delivery%20Format:%20Traditional> , Daily Digest <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email%20Delivery:%20Digest> • Unsubscribe <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> • Terms of Use <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
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<http://geo.yahoo.com/serv?s=97359714/grpId=7331736/grpspId=1705043011/msgId=3060/stime=1298920398/nc1=4836044/nc2=5898812/nc3=4025321>

__,_._,___

From: grace.webber@gmail.com on behalf of Grace Webber [grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu]
Sent: Thursday, March 03, 2011 12:02 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: Lake Merritt dog park proposal: would like more information?

Pat,

I hear you are now taking tallies... since I wrote to you on Feb 15th I'm no less concerned about the process so far nor enthused about changing the space from green to brown. I hear you are holding a public meeting and additional discussions. This is a good thing. Thank you.

Please tally me for keeping the green space beside the lake for all kinds of humans to enjoy in many ways for generations to come.

Grace

On Tue, Feb 15, 2011 at 3:53 PM, Grace Webber <grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu> wrote:

Pat,

Thanks for representing me, as you do, in the Cleveland Heights neighborhood. Just to let you know, I am seeking info from Nancy Nadell's staff to find out more about the proposed dog park down the street - in what was the backdrop to your election poster photo!

It seems this park was planned years or even decades ago, and is now perhaps about to be approved and put into action. However, the people in the neighborhood have changed since then, and the makeup of the area and what makes it special. Whatever surveying/consultation and studies were done, they don't seem comprehensive or if comprehensive versions do exist, I haven't been able to find them. And they may be out of date.

I am concerned that we might be about to slip into having a permanent fenced-off area for dogs without an active and informed decision from the local people as to whether they in fact want to have it exactly "there".

I hope you can bring any insight you have about the facts of the situation or the process involved from here on, to the Cleveland Heights Neighbors list. We are short on facts and long on argument at the moment.

Thank you for your help!

Grace

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: Grace Webber <grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu>
Date: Tue, Feb 15, 2011 at 3:27 PM
Subject: Lake Merritt dog park proposal: would like more information?
To: xwang@oaklandnet.com

Hello there, thanks for your presence on the Cleveland Heights Neighbors list.

I've asked for some information on that list about how much it would cost to turn the dogpark (once installed) back into green space as it is now.
I have also asked what traffic/parking studies have been done that indicate how many people with cars are expected to come with their dogs to use the dogpark,

and what the consequent impact will be on the availability of parking spaces for the library and neighboring businesses, and on congestion in the immediate vicinity.

Can you please tell me what I need to do to get hold of the data above?

Also there seems to be some uncertainty as to when it will be possible for people living in the neighborhood today to have their say on this proposal - if indeed the proposal was designed 10 years ago, various things have changed since then, and I for one was not living here then so was not involved in any consultation at that point. Please could you tell me if there is an event I can show up to or how else I can get involved, when and where it is. I likely need to take a day off work to attend since I work in Mountain View, so early notice would be helpful.

Thank you!

Grace Webber

--

Please use grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu
It's my "email for life".

--

Please use grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu
It's my "email for life".

--

Please use grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu
It's my "email for life".

From: MLKatzin@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 8:00 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: MLKatzin@aol.com
Subject: Concerns regarding doggie park

Hi, Pat,

I'm familiar with the recent conversations on the Yahoo group regarding a fenced dog area at Astro Park and have pondered the many opinions that have been expressed. I've lived in this area since 1999 and until recently, had no idea that a dog park area was proposed. The purpose of this letter is to share my concerns.

First, I live within a 7 minute walk of the area where the dog park is proposed. Whenever possible, I walk to do errands in this area: shop, go to the bank and

post office, the library, farmers' market, movies, etc. Adding a dog park will it obviously attract more dogs, but people, traffic and cars will be vying for space. As a pedestrian, it is often unnerving to cope with fast moving traffic, distracted drivers and bicycles on the sidewalk. Knowing that a dog park could increase all of these problems is anxiety producing for a walker like me and makes the area less desirable. We should be increasing increase safety for walkers, not making it worse.

Second, the possibility of an attack by a dog is a major safety issue. Over the years, there have been dog attacks (some serious) around the Lake. There is absolutely no guarantee that dogs will be adequately controlled at the dog park. In my neighborhood alone, there are sometimes dogs that are roaming around (have gotten loose from backyards or owners) and I frequently see dogs off leash, even around very busy streets. (Some dog owners find it offensive or inconvenient to keep their dogs on leashes.) It seems reckless to introduce this kind of safety issue into an area filled with people, including children and elderly people who cannot so easily get away from an aggressive dog. In addition, this is a business area that many people depend on. What if folks are afraid of dogs? With an increase in the dog population in the area, how will they comfortably go to the library or wait at the bus stop?

Third, it is not uncommon to see dogs - loose and leashed - even in areas that are designated as the bird sanctuary around Lake Merritt. If there is a dog park, who will monitor the area to make sure that dog owners are properly taking care of their dogs or following requirements? There is no City of Oakland staff to monitor dog rules around the Lake where no dogs are allowed, so what would happen in this area, especially if folks aren't controlling their dogs?

Fourth, as I'm sure you're aware, dog feces is a health hazard. As a homeowner, I am all too often cleaning up dog poop from my small yard. Today, there were two piles of dog poop in the middle of the sidewalk right in front of my house and steps. If dogs are brought to that area, who is going to make sure that all the doggie poop is picked up? With all the dogs around, eventually, from the urine and feces, the area will begin to be very odiferous, especially on hot days, and on rainy days, any poop that is not cleaned up will end up in the lake. This may sound silly, but is a very real concern.

Fifth, in an area as densely populated as this, it is so imperative that we see and at least some open space. Whenever I walk by that area, it is a bit of a relief to see the grassy area as a little buffer between all the busy-ness. I urge you to keep the area open.

Let me assure you that my remarks arise out of my concern about the area rather than any dislike of dogs. The area is already congested. Adding a new use will only make it more crowded for cars and pedestrians. This area should be preserved for all people to use, not just people who have dogs. I strongly suggest that another area be found

Thank you for your opening your door to comments. I truly appreciate your reaching out to the community.

Marcy Katzin

From: Lee Byrd [jleebyrd@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 2:47 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat

Subject: No on Dog Park

Pat,

I am against the dog park for the following reasons:

1. The area is well-used by adults and children. I know that the space has been described as underutilized by people in favor of the dog park. I've not seen anything that describes what this means objectively, but I do know that I regularly see the park being used for soccer and other activities.

2. There is not enough park space in Oakland, particularly flat space that can be used for sports and exercise. People turn to Piedmont fields for these things, but Piedmont is increasingly implementing rules that prevent non-residents from using the city's fields and other public spaces. If the Lake Merritt space is used for a dog park, valuable usable space will be lost.

3. It's not a good location for a dog park. The space is highly visible and located near vital commercial areas. It's also near busy walkways, a library and a farmer's market. A fenced-off, dirt dog park would be an eyesore in the middle of this vibrant area, and might harm local businesses.

4. The space bordering the proposed area is heavily used by pedestrians, and the nearby playground is heavily used by children. A dog park in this location creates safety risks.

5. There are already dog parks nearby. I've seen no evidence that the needs of dog owners are not being served.

Thank you for soliciting input and organizing a community meeting.

Lee Byrd

701 Jean Street, Oakland, CA 94610

From: m r [veloveritas@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2011 12:17 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No on Dog Park proposal

I am opposed to the proposed dog park on MacArthur between Grand and Lakeshore.

Not opposed to Dog Parks per se. That location is simply not appropriate for a dog park.

Michael Restifo
921 York
Oakland
m r
From: Rachel Broadwin [chezrachel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 11:07 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Lary Heath
Subject: Dog Park Proposal

Thanks Pat for setting up a community meeting regarding this issue. The intended location may have at one time been a reasonable spot, but clearly it no

longer is. I completely agree with the arguments that it is too open, too green, and too attractive a spot to place a dog park.

Rachel
======
Greetings from Rachel B.
chezrachel@yahoo.com
From: Maria Alderete [maria_aldo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 1:43 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Hi Pat.

Thanks for taking this one. I've been silently reading the community posts.

Here's my opinion. We need more space for dogs and dog parks can be a good addition to the neighborhood. Unfortunately, I do not support the current proposal given the site location. The Rockridge dog park took an unsightly public space (under a freeway) and turned it into a well used community area for dogs and others. Mosswood is an underutilized park with a history of drug use and muggings. Now more people come w/ their dogs. Linda park is the side of a hill that was underutilized, yet functions great for dog owners. However, the current proposed spot is in the middle of a beautiful, open, visible, green area that is used frequently by soccer & volleyball players. So, it's a great idea in the wrong place.

I recognize a lot of work has been put into this project and applaud the efforts & passion to date. I'm pretty engaged in the community & play soccer most Saturdays at the proposed site, but it was only until a couple of months ago that this project came to my attention. I would appreciate any feedback on how to keep abreast of these kinds of projects, it clearly was not widely communicated within our email group until recently. I'm also deeply concerned about any process that takes over 10 years to implement and would strongly encourage someone to audit the process to see what improvements can be made.

There have been other site proposals that should at least be considered. Additionally, most Oakland parks do not allow dogs. Even if we don't have a "dog park", allowing dogs in some parks could alleviate some of the urgency around this issue.

Thanks and let me know if there's any meeting preparation you need support on, I'd be happy to dedicate some time to help facilitate a more effective meeting.

Best.

Maria/Wayne

--- On Mon, 2/28/11, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>

Subject: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com, GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011, 11:13 AM

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
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www.patkernighan.com

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From: Breanna Morris [breannadrew@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 1:37 PM
To: Riley, Dana; Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No to Dogpark

I love dogs but building a dog park seems like a very poor decision to make right now. In light of tight financials for the whole city wouldn't improving the current infrastructure (which could use some repairs) we have for our children be a better use of funds then taking space away from families and devoting to pets? I appreciate that dog owners and many dog lovers would like to have a dedicated place in the middle of the city where their dogs can roam freely but I have a very hard time prioritizing this over the many many things that our human neighbors are in desperate need of.

There are other dog parks in Oakland and while convenience for city dwellers is great its not a necessity and even less of one when it benefits only a small number of citizens.

Thanks,
BRE
(415) 343-5481

From: Yung Chang [ychang@bcj.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:53 AM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com; Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Pat,

I have been a resident in this neighborhood and your constituent since you were chief of staff for Danny Wan and after you were elected. Thank you for your hard work and contribution to many improvements that you have helped realize.

I have raised my family here and have enjoyed the park (at interest) immensely; it is an open area and plays such a pivotal role in providing a soft transition between the freeway overpass and the playground and library. The open grass area affords multitude of flexible and impromptu activities, and it can not afford to be reduced to accommodate a dedicated dog park.

I would not like the park to be dedicated to any particular activity. Wonderful part of this park is that it is open to all activities at various times of the day and week and to all members of the community. In this instance, I would like to keep the park as is and express my view that current proposed location is not appropriate for a dog park.

Thank you,

Yung Chang

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com [mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:13 AM
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan

Oakland City Councilmember, District 2

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

510-238-7002

pkernighan@oaklandnet.com

www.patkernighan.com

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__'_.'_'___

From: Victoria Wong [vwoakland@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:51 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No on Dog Park

Pat,

Thank you for organizing a community meeting. I am against the dog park in the proposed location for several reasons:

1. Area is heavily used. That area is heavily used by children, groups of people playing soccer and volleyball (especially in warmer weather), and others. Because it is heavily used, I do not see it as "underutilized," a characterization used by some pro-dog park people. If a dog park is built there, this heavily used space will be lost to current park users. I haven't heard of any evidence that this space is actually "underutilized." Has there been any study done of the utilization of that area? In general, the area has a shortage of field space for soccer, volleyball, etc., so the loss of this space would leave no space for those purposes in the immediate area.

2. Aesthetics. The area is a highly visible part of the neighborhood, in the middle of a busy intersection, and very close to the farmer's market, playground, library and lake. It would cause great aesthetic harm to the neighborhood to have the proposed area fenced off and the grass removed. The the pleasant vista of open space that you see as you come off the freeway or approach from the surface streets would be lost. It would be especially unfortunate to harm the aesthetics of this area, given all the money and effort that has gone into imrpoving the lake area, including landscaping and road reconfiguration. Other dog parks in the area are placed in much less conspicuous places--for example, the dog park off of Linda in Piedmont and the dog park under the freeway, near Frog Park in Rockridge/Temescal.

In addition, the smell of a dog park would cause significant aesthetic harm to the area, with its high volume of pedestrian traffic. No one wants to walk past a smelly dog park, which faces sidewalks and play areas on all sides, on their way to the grocery store, farmer's market, park, playground, school or library. I am guessing the City has no resources to perform maintanance of an additional park, and I am not comfortable with an assertion by dog owners that some people will volunteer to clean the park. While the current advocates of the park may volunteer, if they move out of the area or later no longer own dogs, the park could be completely unmaintained. And as one of the members of the GrandLake listserv pointed out, even with the best intentions, volunteers eventually may peter out, as in the case of the Santa Clara traffic circle.

3. Economics. The dog park could also have economic impacts if the prospect of walking past a smelly dog park deters people from walking to the farmer's market and Grand/Lakeshore shopping areas. Recent developments on both commercial strips, including the Trader Joe's you worked hard to bring, have really helped the neighborhood and have encouraged people to patronize local businesses. A dog park could threaten that progress by deterring pedestrians and local neighborhood users.

4. Safety for kids and other pedestrians. A dog park at this location would create hazards for the many children who use the park, playground, school and library, and who walk with their families to the farmer's market and Grand/Lakeshore shopping areas. Although many dog owners are responsible, inevitably there will be dog owners who let their dogs off-leash in areas where that is not allowed. (For example, this happens every day in the Rose Garden--there is a "No Dogs" sign posted, but nonetheless many, many people walk their dogs there, and some let their dogs off-leash.) Placing a dog park here would inevitably lead to some dogs running off-leash in the adjoining park, right next to the playground and library and very close to the Lakeview School. This can present hazards, especially to small children, who can easily be knocked over and intimidated by dogs.

5. Safety for dogs and drivers. The high volume of traffic at this intersection makes it a hazardous location for dogs and drivers. As stated above, a dog park is likely to lead to some dogs running off leash in the area, which creates the potential for dogs being hit by cars as they come off the freeway or drive through the busy intersection. Most dog parks are in lower-traffic areas, with people driving at lower speeds, which makes sense from a safety perspective.

Thank you for your efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,
Vicki Wong
701 Jean St.
Oakland

From: jeffrey lipsett [jeffdiver1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:26 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: Dog Park

Dear Councilwoman Kernighan:

I too am opposed to a dog park in the Astro Park location as it is proposed. It is interesting to note that the children's play appears smaller than the proposed dog park in the photos I have seen. I have often seen pick up soccer games at the proposed dog park site and at other times many people enjoying themselves at that spot. I do not at this time have an alternative location for a dog park.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Lipsett

From: C Sweeney [cathi.sweeney@ymail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 10:10 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Fw: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Dear Pat & Nancy,
Thanks for setting up a public forum for debate beyond the frantic and increasingly rude email listserve exchanges.

I oppose the dog park at the suggested location because it fails to provide adequate parking. Yes, parking. As a planning commissioner for 15 years in Union City, CA I saw the idea of a dog park kicked around for over a decade. Proponents said they wanted to walk to it. Eventually Union City picked a location adjacent to two large, dog rich neighborhoods. Guess what? People drove to the dog park even when it was only 5 or 6 blocks from their house. They said it was 'more convenient' to drive. Luckily Union City picked a spot with lots of street parking available. That is not the case here.

Adding a dog park to the parking demand on Saturday mornings will just drive off folks who want to shop at the farmer's market, go to one of the gyms, or catch a movie. Parking demand is already high in this area at the most popular dog park hours.

I'm fortunate to live where I can walk to all of the above so this is not about me. But I cherish the opportunities I have in the area and would be very sad to see the farmer's market or the Grand Lake theater negatively impacted by a poor choice in city planning. Take a closer look at other suggested locations and, please, let's try not to make this about whose council district 'gets' to have the dog park.

Cathi Sweeney
McKinley@Montclair

----- Forwarded Message ----
From: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>

To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Mon, February 28, 2011 11:13:05 AM
Subject: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

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From: Debbie Cooper [debbie@argsf.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 9:49 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park

Hi Pat -

I'm writing to express my opposition to the dog park. My understanding is that it is going to be a fenced area on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur. A fenced area in a large open space will be an eyesore. The improvements made to public space between Grand, Lakeshore, MacArthur and the lake over the last several years are wonderful. The dog park is going in the wrong direction. A dog park should be located in an area that is naturally separate from other open space (with barriers such as hills and roads) rather than fences.

I am glad you are planning a community meeting about this. I reluctantly 'unsubscribed' from the neighborhood listserve because of the volume of mail recently.

Best,

Debbie Cooper

681 Spruce Street, Oakland

Deborah J. Cooper, AIA, LEED AP

Senior Associate | Sustainability Coordinator

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From: Terry Stein [terry.stein@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 8:51 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Chris Carmichael
Subject: Dog park

Hello Pat,

Thanks for opportunity to check in RE the proposed dog park. I wanted you to know that I have been following the discussion on one of the listserves and have a clear sense of what I think the right actions would be. I think BOTH that a dog park should be created AND that it should NOT be at the proposed location. We live on Scott St. above Grand and Lakeshore and it is literally impossible some Saturday, and other, mornings to get through the Lakeshore/MacArthur and /Lake Park intersections. I do strongly support responsible dog owner rights (we just lost our dog in the fall) but I think that location is simply too congested already and locating the dog park there will, I fear, make it impossible to even go into that area on Saturdays. The flow of terrific remains quite unhelpful as well, especially at the corner of Lakeshore and Embarcadero (crossing over to Grand). Placing traffic sensitive lights at that corner would make an enormous difference in traffic flow. I believe there is already a plan to relieve congestion at the Lakeshore/Lake Park intersection, or at least I hope there is.

It seems like the only problem with not having the dog park at the proposed location is the need to find another less congested site for it. I don't have an answer to that question but think it could quickly be located.

Thanks for listening to your constituents.

Terry

Terry Stein
980 Scott St.
Oakland, CA 94610
(510 836-60050
From: dipak pallana [dpallana@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 8:46 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Hi Pat,

I hear your keeping tally of votes for the dog park.

I'm one of your constituents on Walker Street. I'm not a dog owner, but we do keep a neighbor's dog most of the week. I find the piedmont dog walk (next to the high school) a great space and close enough for our neighborhood access.

I think the small park next to the Lakeview library is heavily utilized by the community. Kids are usually there during the week, as well as pick up soccer games over the weekend. I work out with others occasionally near the space. All that I have asked there were not aware of the issue. All I talked to were strongly against having a dog park there.

My vote is keep the space as is. I believe dogs need space too, just not at the expense of their two legged friends.

Regards,

Dipak Pallana
763 Walker Ave

From: Mary Kastner [mvkquilt@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 5:36 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park

Dear Pat,

Thank you for doing this tally for the neighborhood. My husband Rod and I are both against putting a dog park at this location.

Thank you,
Rod and Mary Kastner
1008 Trestle Glen Road
From: Julie Feinstein [juliefeinstein@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 6:51 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: against the dog park

Mark us down as against. The proposed wood chips would not be sanitary and that location would become an eyesore.

Julie, Scott, and Jonah (age 3)
1006 Mandana Blvd

From: Betsy [betsy.tyler@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 6:07 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Thanks Pat! We are not dog owers, but we do support a dog ark in the lake merrit area. However, that green space seems like a terrible location. Any chance that old gas station lot accross the street could be converted to a dog park? i imagine its considered a brown field now.

Also, wanted to share the news our son Caleb was born at home over on east 17th st on Feb 6! I wont be leading any neighborhood events for a while, but the Lake Neighbors are still moving and shaking with some new leadership like Skye Livingston anf Devin Martin.

Thanks for all u do!

Betsy

On Feb 28, 2011, at 11:13 AM, "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicatesi to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
<mailto:pkernighan@oaklandnet.com> pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

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<mailto:PKernighan@oaklandnet.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to sender | <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to group | Reply <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJxdHUxZW0xBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzEwNzE0ODAwBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTE3MTExNgRtc2dJZAM3MDk3BHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA3JwbHkEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyMDM5Nw--?act=reply&messageNum=7097> via web post | Start a New Topic
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From: susan veit [susbv@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 6:03 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park Proposal

Pat,

Since you Are keeping the tally, I am strongly against having a dog park in Astro Park for all the reasons that have been well voiced.

Susan Veit

From: crystalchw@aol.com
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 5:42 PM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Cc: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Ditto. Dog parks should be tucked away and not at a busy intersection heavily trafficked by automobiles, children, fitness enthusiasts, the farmers market, and vendors. It will be replete with feces and urine, after all. We don't put our bathrooms in the middle of our livings rooms, so why would we put a dog park at a critical location that should represent beauty and cleanliness in our and beloved and beleaguered city?

Crystal

-----Original Message-----
From: cheryl giuliano rubinstein <lightsky14@hotmail.com>
To: grandlakencpc@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Mon, Feb 28, 2011 1:30 pm
Subject: RE: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Thanks, Pat.

I would love it if your office, and those of your colleagues, would host facebook or other interactive pages on hot topics, as I believe we all wish to be peaceful and respectful neighbors. Then maybe the lists can stay informative in nature. If no interactive spots exists, yahoo groups become defacto hosts for debate, unfortunately.

I wish that beautiful space to continue as is. No dog park, or parking lots, either, in that space.

Cheryl Giuliano Rubinstein

To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
From: angjlee@yahoo.com
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 13:21:25 -0800
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Thanks, Pat.

I would not want that space taken from current use and given to dog park use. I'm also almost ready to quit this list because there is so much about this one issue.

Jeff Lee

--- On Mon, 2/28/11, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com, GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011, 11:13 AM

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

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Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
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pkernighan@oaklandnet.com <http:///mc/compose?to=pkernighan@oaklandnet.com>
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From: Michael Foster [mfoster@fosterlaborlaw.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 4:34 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Gerard, Jennie; Karchmer, Joanne
Subject: Astro Park - Dog Run

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Ms. Kernighan: I own the commercial space at 3000 Lakeshore Avenue and write in opposition to the proposed fenced dog run proposal for Astro Park. As a dog owner, I understand that additional space for animals may be a desired objective; nonetheless, the proposed project as I understand it will result in the loss of valuable open "green space" enjoyed by Oaklanders on a daily basis. I purchased this property in part due to the green space directly in front of it. I will be saddened by changes creating a concrete, fenced area for dogs.

I often drive by the dog park space under Hwy 24 at Claremont Ave and have taken my dog there to play. Simply put, I would not want a similar space in Astro Park. Indeed, the Claremont Ave space serves a potential model for future dog parks. That space was not formerly open green space with heavy park-related use. Instead, conversion to a dog run was a clever conversion of otherwise underused space for the general good of dog owners, such as myself. Converting an otherwise, often used green space for this purpose seems ill advised.

Moreover, placement of a dog park next to a structure occupied by very small children seems like a potential litigation risk that should be avoided. As you are well aware, Lakeshore is a busy road, particular at rush hour and on Saturdays (due to the heavily populated Farmers' Market). Placing together small children, significant traffic and a large contingent of dogs (many of whom will be off leash) does not strike me as sound planning policy. Instead, it is likely to result in injury to people and animals.

Finally, as a commercial property owner, I request that you consider the negative effects that a dog run is likely to have on property values. Mine is one of only three occupied buildings between Our Lady of Lourdes Church and the 580 Freeway! We have enough trouble finding potential buyers/developers for this area. Removing the beauty of Astro Park and replacing it with a fenced dog run would be a disaster to this effort.

Best,

Michael W. Foster

Foster employment law

3000 Lakeshore Avenue

Oakland, CA 94610

(510) 763-1900 ext. 101

(510) 763-5952 (fax)

mfoster@fosteremploymentlaw.com

mfoster@fosterlaborlaw.com

From: Mr David Stokke [waystokked@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 3:38 PM
To: atlarge@oakland.net; Quan, Jean; Kernighan, Pat; Nadel, Nancy
Subject: Please no dog park

Dear Councilperson,
I'm writing to let you know that I'm strongly opposed to the proposed dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. Although this may not be in your district, this is a beautiful green space in the center of the city. Your consituents and people

from all over Oakland go to this nice grassy area to exercise and spend their leisure time. It would be a very unenlightened use of this space to turn it into a dog park with a 7 foot high chainlink fence and tanbark.

Thank you for your consideration,
David Stokke, Oakland resident

From: Josh Mailman [josh@nextobject.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 2:41 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park at Lake Meritt

Dear Pat,

I strongly oppose the dog park that is proposed in the Lake Merritt area. I am afraid that the dog park will not be adequately maintained by the city and it will occupy green space that is enjoyed by adults, children, and families in the neighborhood. I hope that another location can be found for the dog park.

Thank you,
Josh Mailman
743 Stratford Road
Oakland 94610
From: Gary Meyer [garymey@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 2:24 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: RE: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Gary Meyer
I don't want to feed the Listserv and like others am about to cancel because of the volume of emails the dog park discussion is generating. I want it to provide me with time sensitive information about our wonderful area.

If you are keeping tally, we are a dog family and always have been. But we think this location is terrible. It might be central for many people but it is problematic in several ways from our perspective.

1. It is not a good idea for many people to be walking their dogs across those busy streets that are on 3 sides of the space. I forsee accidents and injured animals and humans as congestion increases.

2. Dogs should be in a place without so many distractions beyond playing with their owners and other dogs. As a confined space, dog fights are more likely to break out.

3.There are numerous places where dogs can be walked and even be off leash in the area.

4. That open space is an important part of the local landscape. I played on it as a child when there was a Captain Sattelite spaceship play structure. My kids play on the climbing structures and played soccer there. We have had picnics

there. With a fenced area breaking it up, smells of dog feces wafting towards people and dogs being walked through picncers, people playing or relaxing, the entire feeling of that space will change. Tension will replace peacefulness.

I vote no for a dog park there.

Gary Meyer
510 290-8224

--- On Mon, 2/28/11, cheryl giuliano rubinstein <lightsky14@hotmail.com> wrote:

From: cheryl giuliano rubinstein <lightsky14@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
To: grandlakencpc@yahoogroups.com
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011, 1:30 PM

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From: angjlee@yahoo.com
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 13:21:25 -0800
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

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Jeff Lee

--- On Mon, 2/28/11, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com, GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011, 11:13 AM

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510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com <http:///mc/compose?to=pkernighan@oaklandnet.com>
www.patkernighan.com

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5/stime=1298928605/nc1=1/nc2=2/nc3=3>

__,_._,___

From: Sue Sigler [reefrover@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 2:14 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: dog park - no

Hello, Pat and thank you for taking thoughts on the proposed dog park.

I do not support having a dog park in the identified space because it is too small for a real dog park, the space is already being well-used by people, and it is poor urban design to bifurcate that space.

Thank you,

Sue Sigler
245 Perkins Street

From: Juliette Linzer [juliette@nextobject.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 1:20 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog Park Proposal

Dear Councilmember Kernighan,

I wanted to express my opposition to the proposed dog park. I have a four year old son and find that area to be one of the few spaces where he can run free and play with balls.
I also have concerns about maintenance of the dog park - clean up, smell, etc. A fenced in space of that size would also ruin a beautiful view of the lake, from the Lakeshore Avenue area.

Thank you for listening,
Juliette Linzer

Juliette Linzer
743 Stratford Road
Oakland, CA 94610
juliette@nextobject.com

From: Andrew Park [baypark@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 1:17 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat

Subject: Fwd: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

HI Pat,

My vote is NO for the dog park.

Andrew

Delivered-To: baypark@gmail.com
Authentication-Results: mx.google.com; spf=pass (google.com: manual fallback record for domain of sentto-10714800-7097-1298920397-baypark=gmail.com@returns.groups.yahoo.com designates 98.136.45.79 as permitted sender) smtp.mail=sentto-10714800-7097-1298920397-baypark=gmail.com@returns.groups.yahoo.com; dkim=pass header.i=@yahoogroups.com
DKIM-Signature: v=1; a=rsa-sha256; c=relaxed/relaxed; d=yahoogroups.com; s=lima; t=1298920397; bh=3EvTuut3guHezfI0y3nY80sRz/xUf2i7xlSI9nF8e74=; h=Received:Received:X-Yahoo-Newman-Id:X-Sender:X-Apparently-To:X-Received:X-Received:X-Received:X-Received:X-MimeOLE:Content-class:Message-ID:X-MS-Has-Attach:X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:Thread-Topic:Thread-Index:To:X-Proofpoint-Virus-Version:X-Proofpoint-Spam-Details:X-Originating-IP:X-eGroups-Msg-Info:From:X-Yahoo-Pro <file://\\Sender:MIME-Version:Mailing-List:Delivered-To:List-Id:Precedence:List-Unsubscribe:Date:Subject:Reply-To:X-Yahoo-Newman-Property:Content-Type\> file:Sender:MIME-Version:Mailing-List:Delivered-To:List-Id:Precedence:List-Unsubscribe:Date:Subject:Reply-To:X-Yahoo-Newman-Property:Content-Type ;
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DomainKey-Signature: a=rsa-sha1; q=dns; c=nofws; s=lima; d=yahoogroups.com;

b=GweFTHUt3/X1oWRSpCah3eReIgd/4sKpdOzxjT1io3Tam5qhNedwKZBd4VCsOFxXiqzc7voFXgDMwyaf/yiXbPZsjzcazhftUf2Iz3w3mQsmcMezQMXHWXWUuipMdLml;
X-Yahoo-Newman-Id: 10714800-m7097
X-Sender: PKernighan@oaklandnet.com
X-Apparently-To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
X-Received: (qmail 89465 invoked from network); 28 Feb 2011 19:13:06 -0000
X-Received: from unknown (98.137.34.46)
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  by mta3.grp.sp2.yahoo.com with SMTP; 28 Feb 2011 19:13:06 -0000
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        by ppmail1.oaklandnet.com (8.14.3/8.14.3) with ESMTP id p1SJD6Su015908;
        Mon, 28 Feb 2011 11:13:06 -0800
X-MS-Has-Attach:
X-MS-TNEF-Correlator:
Thread-Topic: Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
Thread-Index: AcvXe2FpFvjAEL9TT8+odDyf0Hk7Gg==
To: <ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com>,
        <GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com>
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X-Originating-IP: 209.232.103.180
X-eGroups-Msg-Info: 1:12:0:0:0
From: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
X-Yahoo-Profile: patkernighan
Sender: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
Mailing-List: list ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; contact
ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-owner@yahoogroups.com
Delivered-To: mailing list ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
List-Id: <ClevelandHeightsNeighbors.yahoogroups.com>
List-Unsubscribe: < <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-
unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com> mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-
unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com>
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 11:13:05 -0800
Subject: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
Reply-To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com
X-Yahoo-Newman-Property: groups-email-ff-m

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

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In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

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510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
<http://www.patkernighan.com/> www.patkernighan.com

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<mailto:PKernighan@oaklandnet.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to sender |
<mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to group |
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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJmb3RvNjhtBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzEwNzE0ODAwBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTE3MTExNgRzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNudHBjBHN0aW1lAzEyOTg5MjAzOTc-> Start a New Topic

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/message/7097;_ylc=X3oDM
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this topic (1)
Recent Activity:

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hwBHN0aW1lAzEyOTg5MjAzOTc-> Visit Your Group
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/us.toolbar.yahoo.com/?.cpdl=grpj> Stay on top of your group activity without
leaving the page you're on - Get the Yahoo! Toolbar now.

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/custom.yahoo.com/fibromyalgiazone/> Find useful articles and helpful tips on
living with Fibromyalgia. Visit the Fibromyalgia Zone today!

<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJlcDRpNWxpBF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzEwNzE0O
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Yahoo! Groups
Switch to: <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-
traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change Delivery Format: Traditional> Text-
Only, <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email
Delivery: Digest> Daily Digest • <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-
unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> Unsubscribe • Terms of
<http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/> Use
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From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Richard Burge
[rwburge@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 1:09 PM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community
meeting

Hi Pat,

I am opposed to the dog park as planned. I think it is too small as planned and I oppose filling in open space just because it's there.

Thank you for stepping in and distilling down everyone's stand.

Regards,
Richard Burge

--- On Mon, 2/28/11, Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com> wrote:

From: Kernighan, Pat <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com, GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Date: Monday, February 28, 2011, 7:13 PM

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

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<mailto:rwburge@sbcglobal.net?subject=Re%3A%20%5BGrandLakeNCPC%5D%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to sender |

<mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20%5BGrandLakeNCPC%5D%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to group | Reply
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJwMTYzMGNrBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBG1zZ0lkAzMwNjIEc2VjA2Z0cgRzbGsDcnBseQRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTI3MzUy?act=reply&messageNum=3062> via web post | Start a New Topic
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJlcGQ5b2FkBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA250cGMEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyNzM1Mg-->
Messages in this topic
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Recent Activity:

Visit Your Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC;_ylc=X3oDMTJlbG1qaW83BF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwN2dGwEc2xrA3ZnaHAEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyNzM1Mg-->

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Switch to: Text-Only <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change Delivery Format: Traditional> , Daily Digest <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email Delivery: Digest> • Unsubscribe <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> • Terms of Use <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
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<http://geo.yahoo.com/serv?s=97359714/grpId=7331736/grpspId=1705043011/msgId=3062/stime=1298927352/nc1=5191954/nc2=5741392/nc3=5028924>

__,_._,___
From: mejonathan@netzero.net
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:56 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fw: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Super idea - thanks for doing this.

As for me, I have lived near Haddon Hill for almost six years (and Oakland for over eight). I do not have a dog but love them and if some day I buy a house with a yard I will adopt one (or two).

I love the Grand/Lake area and spend a lot of time there. I have nothing against a dog park but do think open space has a quality that, curiously, is most appreciated when it is absent. Does this mean a dog park must go to areas where people have less political influence? I hope not. People who have dogs now had them without regard for the existence of _any_ additional dog park(s).

Perhaps of greater concern than green space preservation is the cost to the city to maintain and cover the risk of a dog park. One dog attack is all it takes, whether the dog is that of an Oakland resident or not.

My vote is to preserve the precious open space that all can enjoy.

Jonathan

<><><><><><><><><><><><>

E-mailing you from a browser.

---------- Forwarded Message ----------
From: "Kernighan, Pat" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
To: <ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com>,
<GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting
Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 11:13:05 -0800

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

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Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

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<http://geo.yahoo.com/serv?s=97476590/grpId=10714800/grpspId=1705171116/msgId=7097/stime=1298920397>

Your email settings: Individual Email|Traditional
Change settings via the Web
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors/join;_ylc=X3oDMTJnNGE0d
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wNzdG5ncwRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwMzk3> (Yahoo! ID required)
Change settings via email: Switch delivery to Daily Digest
<mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email Delivery:
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fullfeatured@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change Delivery Format: Fully Featured>
Visit Your Group
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ClevelandHeightsNeighbors;_ylc=X3oDMTJlNjZqYjNqBF
9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzEwNzE0ODAwBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTE3MTExNgRzZWMDZnRyBHNsawNocG
YEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyMDM5Nw--> | Yahoo! Groups Terms of Use
<http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/> | Unsubscribe
<mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors-
unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe>

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<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3242/4d6bfde745cf6507772st06duc> $65/Hr
Job - 25 Openings
Part-Time job ($20-$65/hr). Requirements: Home Internet Access
Channel11NewsReport.com
<http://thirdpartyoffers.netzero.net/TGL3242/4d6bfde745cf6507772st06duc>
From: cheryl giuliano rubinstein [lightsky14@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:53 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat; cheryl giuliano rubinstein; carlos@carlosrubinstein.com
Subject: Opposed to Dog Park - 3 constituents

Dear Pat -

Dear Pat,

We saw you at the Lakeshore Baptist Church meeting alongside OPD officers
several months ago, when you hosted an event about crime in our neighborhood.
I haven't met you personally but my husband and I initiated the National Night
Out for our block two years ago (according to Ken Katz it was such a great
event, the firemen making the rounds never left ours!)
I am also a graduate of Citizen's Police Academy (Paula White's last class). Lea
Rubio is also a reference for me.
I am working with the core group of Sue L., Joe V. etc.
I have much more to write to you but in the short term, please record the
following:

Opposed:
Carlos Rubinstein (your constituent and works on Grand Avenue)
Cheryl Giuliano Rubinstein (wife, constituent, disabled)
Audrey Rubinstein (age 6, constituent, promoter of National Night Out)

3 Opposed

Please feel free to post yourself on Save Astro Park page on facebook.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. 510.759.6447

Sincerely,
The Rubinsteins
812 Erie Street

From: Terry McCarthy [tmc@tmcphotography.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:48 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park

Hi Pat,

Thank you for the opportunity. I am strongly opposed to the dog park.

Terrence McCarthy
455 Valle Vista Ave.
Oakland, CA 94601
From: Eric Hughes [hughesearthur@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:44 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Fwd: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Pat,

It is the wrong solution for the problem. The problem is that Oakland dog owners (and I am one) have to go to San Francisco or Marin to find dog-friendly parks and beaches. Oakland is incredibly dog-unfriendly, so we have to come up with fenced-in areas that make pretty much everybody unhappy. The right solution is to look at the current regulations and revisit why I can't even walk my dog across that vast expanse of green at Lakeshore and MacArthur without someone yelling at me. In this day and age, that is just silly.

I probably have hundreds of dogs walk in front of my house every week, and everyone picks up after them. Many years ago, that was the exception, not the rule. Rules need to evolve with culture change.

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Date: Mon, 28 Feb 2011 11:13:05 -0800
From: Kernighan, Pat <mailto:PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
<PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Reply-To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
To: <mailto:ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com>
<ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com>,
<mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com> <GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com>

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pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

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<mailto:PKernighan@oaklandnet.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to sender | <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com?subject=Re%3A%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to group | Reply <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJwcnNobnRiBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBG1zZ0lkAzMwNjAEc2VjA2Z0cgRzbGsDcnBseQRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwMzk4?act=reply&messageNum=3060> via web post | Start a New Topic <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJlZzcwZmEyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA250cGMEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyMDM5OA-->
Messages <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/message/3060;_ylc=X3oDMTM0a2xzMzlyBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBG1zZ0lkAzMwNjAEc2VjA2Z0cgRzbGsDdnRwYwRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwMzk4BHRwY0lkAzMwNjA-> in this topic (1)
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Switch to: Text-Only <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change%20Delivery%20Format:%20Traditional> , Daily <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email%20Delivery:%20Digest> Digest • Unsubscribe <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> • Terms of Use <http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
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__,_._,___
From: Tim Lohnes [tim@lohneswright.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:32 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Dog park, no

Pat,

Thanks for suggesting the meeting.
I vote against the dog park.
There are endless pros and cons, but I believe at the bottom line
it is inappropriate to have a dog facility in such proximity to a children's playground.
So many small kids have dog issues and I just can't imagine how this idea
of a dog park here has gotten this far. It just seems like a really bad idea.

Thanks,
Tim

From: mesherma [mesherma@cisco.com]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:31 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: FW: [CHNeighbors] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Attachments: IMAGE.xxx; IMAGE.xxx

Dear Councilmember Kernighan,

Please mark me down as voting no for the dog park.

Thank you!

Best regards,

Melissa Sherman
635 Spruce Street
Oakland, CA 94610

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the

community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan
Oakland City Councilmember, District 2
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor
Oakland, CA 94612
510-238-7002
pkernighan@oaklandnet.com
www.patkernighan.com

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Victoria A. Barbero [vabarbero@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:23 AM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Hi Pat,

Thanks for doing this. I'd like to vote against the dog park.

Cheers,

Victoria

Victoria A. Barbero

Barbero Communications, LLC

vabarbero@comcast.net

510-387-3071

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com [mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Kernighan, Pat
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2011 11:13 AM
To: ClevelandHeightsNeighbors@yahoogroups.com; GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com

Subject: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog park proposal - Let's have a community meeting

Dear Cleveland Heights and Grandlake Neighbors,

The dog park proposal is certainly a topic of great interest and I think the neighborhood listserves have been a good forum to notify more residents about it. The volume of comments indicates to me that a community meeting is in order. I have asked Councilmember Nadel if she would participate and she said she will. We are still in the process of finding a date and location for the community meeting and will notify the listserves when we have it scheduled. (I'm thinking the date will be in about three weeks.)

In the meantime, feel free to email your opinions to me and Councilmember Nadel. I am keeping a tally. Perhaps that will be an alternative that can take the debate off the listserves, as I see that some of you are annoyed with the volume and intensity of the comments.

Pat Kernighan

Oakland City Councilmember, District 2

1 Frank Ogawa Plaza, 2d Floor

Oakland, CA 94612

510-238-7002

pkernighan@oaklandnet.com

www.patkernighan.com

__.-._'-._.__

<mailto:vabarbero@comcast.net?subject=RE%3A%20%5BGrandLakeNCPC%5D%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to sender | <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com?subject=RE%3A%20%5BGrandLakeNCPC%5D%20Dog%20park%20proposal%20-%20Let%27s%20have%20a%20community%20meeting> Reply to group | Reply
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJwcG12ZzAzBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBG1zZ0lkAzMwNjEEc2VjA2Z0cgRzbGsDcnBseQRzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwOTYx?act=reply&messageNum=3061> via web post | Start a New Topic
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrandLakeNCPC/post;_ylc=X3oDMTJlOWYwbXVwBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE0BGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA250cGMEc3RpbWUDMTI5ODkyMDk2MQ-->

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/;_ylc=X3oDMTJkOHRxbDU4BF9TAzk3NDc2NTkwBGdycElkAzczMzE3MzYEZ3Jwc3BJZAMxNzA1MDQzMDExBHNlYwNmdHIEc2xrA2dmcARzdGltZQMxMjk4OTIwOTYx> Yahoo! Groups
Switch to: Text-Only <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-traditional@yahoogroups.com?subject=Change Delivery Format: Traditional> , Daily Digest <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-digest@yahoogroups.com?subject=Email Delivery: Digest> • Unsubscribe <mailto:GrandLakeNCPC-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe> • Terms of Use
<http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>
.

<http://geo.yahoo.com/serv?s=97359714/grpId=7331736/grpspId=1705043011/msgId=3061/stime=1298920961/nc1=1/nc2=2/nc3=3>

__,_._,___
From: Alicia Chakrabarti [aliciacohn@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 3:57 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro Park dog park

Pat,
I recently heard about plans to create a dog run next to the tot play area near Lake Merritt and I am very much opposed. I believe that having a dog run at the gateway to our neighborhood would degrade the character of the area. As a mother of a small child I also believe it would degrade the experience at the tot park. I hope the plans can be stopped.
Sincerely,
Alicia Chakrabarti
1450 Trestle Glen Rd
Oakland CA
From: Dominique [degeezus@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2011 1:23 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: No, on Astro dog park!!

I love coming to Astro Park with my 4 year old. She is very curious about dogs and it's hard to keep her from approaching dog to pet them. I'm afraid that having small children and Dogs so close together can be hazardous and a big attraction for law suits. I also think that the green land is beautiful and I really hope it stays this way. It's a good welcoming walk to the lake. Please, please, please keep this are green and welcoming.

Sincerely,

Dominique Deyto
Resident of the lake Merrit area
Sent from my iPhone
From: oakeduc@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Saturday, February 26, 2011 3:50 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Astro Park --Proposed Dog Park

Please tally our votes against creation of a dog park at this location. Former dog- and current cat owner.

Jim & Phyllis Forsyth

From: Paul Hollenbach [hollcs@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Saturday, February 26, 2011 8:22 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Please- No Dog Park At Astro Park!

Hello Pat,

First of all I want to say I appreciate the work you do for our district. A dog park in Astro Park would eliminate a flat play field for many, ruin the nice sight lines to Lake Merritt. We have a dog and though it would be convenient to have a dog park close by Astro Park is the wrong place. Open space near Lake Merritt is at a premium, we cannot cordon off such a large space.

Thanks,
Paul Hollenbach
Hollenbach Construction Services
Email: hollcs@sbcglobal.net
C. 510.502.8108
F. 510.465.8108

From: Michelle Bullard [mabmslac@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 6:44 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: no dogs at astro park

Hi. I am writing to ask you to vote against turning the field next to Astro park into a dog park. Astro park is my favorite playground in Oakland to take my boy. We meet so many nice people there and the atmosphere is so friendly. We always end up playing in the field when we go to the park. That area is for kids and should stay that way!

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Content-Type: text/html; charset=us-ascii

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in Oakland to take my boy. We meet so many nice people there and the atmosphere is so friendly. We always end up playing in the field when we go to the park. That area is for kids and should stay that way!
</td></tr></table>
--0-1256414866-1298687775=:40223--

From: Lisa Borden [lborden@pacbell.net]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 2:15 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Nadel, Nancy
Subject: proposed dog park at current Astro Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Hello Ms. Kernighan,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed dog park on the current site of the Astro park open space. I live in the Grand Avenue Heights neighborhood (between Grand and Lakeshore) and my family and I frequently walk to the lake and the library, crossing the park. We enjoy using the open space for frisbee, kicking the soccer ball around, and just enjoyment of the open feeling after passing underneath the heavy dark structure of the freeway. I feel the proposed dog park would destroy the lovely open space and recreation space that currently exists for all residents to use, in favor of a smaller group of dog owners. I am not an expert on dog parks, but have also heard the concern expressed that the size of the dog park is not big enough to be really beneficial to the dogs. Why destroy a great multi-use park for something that may not work well?

I do not know what the process is for obtaining final approval for this dog park, but I hope that if you are involved, you will vote against it.

Thank you for your time.
Lisa Borden and family
From: arcepol [arcepol@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 8:30 AM
To: Reid, Larry
Cc: Kernighan, Pat; atlarge
Subject: Save Astro Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Dear Mr. Reid,

I'm writing to let you know that I'm strongly opposed to the proposed dog park at Lakeshore and MacArthur. Although this is not in your district, this is a beautiful green space in the center of the city. Your consituents and people from all over Oakland go to this area to exercise and spend their leisure time. It would be a very unenlightened use of this space to turn it into a dog park.

Thank you,
Ema Politzer

From: David Smith [ds@netwanderer.com]

Sent: Friday, February 25, 2011 7:33 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: "Astro" park...

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

I would like to voice my desire to keep Astro park as it stands today - a nice outdoor play area for the neighborhood - and not converted into a large sea of wood chips and questionable maintenance plans. As a Father who would like to take his kids out to play ball on occasion, that field is optimal and a little less risky than the narrow park on Lakeshore.

Thanks for all you do for our neighborhood.

David Smith
542 Weldon Avenue
From: HARDYIC@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 7:04 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat; Karchmer, Joanne; Gerard, Jennie
Subject: Proposed Lakeview Dog Park

Hello Pat, Joanne and Jennie,

I have been uncharacteristically silent over the dog park brouhaha over the last few months. I am a cat person, not a dog person, and felt I had nothing to add to the mix. However, with the escalating tensions and emotions being exhibited, and countless e mails, I felt I needed to throw in my two cents.

I am against this dog park, not because I am not a dog person or that I don't like dogs. I like dogs. I just don't have one of them given my cats are opposed to that idea. I am not opposed to all dog parks. In fact, I have taken walks with friends and their dogs at the dog park at Point Isabella. Terrific dog park, perfect for many dogs. Great location . I am against the Lakeview dog park for the following reasons:

1. it is too small, only 1/2 acre. Most dog parks are 8 acres (Alameda) to 40+ acres (Pt Isabella), or bigger.
2. location, not remote and off the beaten track, like many dog parks (I reference Pt Isabella)
3. location, not happy for the dogs...just below a busy freeway (noise and pollution) and adjacent to very busy streets with buses and cars zooming by (MacArthur, Grand, Lakeshore). Also, too small of a space for bigger dogs and many dogs. I see discrimination going on against big dogs with this park. Only small dogs allowed? And only a few small dogs for that matter.
4. Lack of parking for participants. We all went to school on parking re the Farmers Mkt. They use the school parking lot and as it is, people park in front of my house on Elwood and up the hill and walk to the market on Saturday mornings.
5. Increase of traffic on MacArthur, Grand and Lakeshore. Kwik Way conversion to a potential MacDonalds taught us all on traffic flow and how AC Transit will probably be very opposed to this idea of a dog park. MacArthur/Lakepark are major hubs for AC Transit. They don't need packed in dogs adjacent to their routes. If I was a dog, it would freak me out totally. Has anyone checked with AC Transit re their position on this dog space?
6. maintenance of dog park by volunteers. We all know how that goes, everyone is on board for a few months and then they fade away. I cannot get more than 3

or 4 people out to help me weed the traffic circle and bulb out on Elwood and Santa Clara (only once or twice a year) after blanketing the area with no less than 300 flyers, e mails, etc each time I need help. If not maintained, what does a dog park smell like? And do you want that as the gateway to your council district Pat and the neighborhood?
7. the loss of green space currently being used by a variety of people for baseball, soccer, appreciating the green space. We cannot afford to lose hard fought green space. We would be giving this away to a poorly thought out plan that just won't work well for humans and dogs alike.
8. The lake is a protected wild life preserve. Will dogs packed into a relatively small space right next to the lake be in keeping with the protected preserve of the lake and adjacent areas?
9. Does this dog area mesh well with Measure DD Pat? Is this what you envisioned when you spearheaded the passage of Measure DD? A poopy dog park, all the grass demolished with the green space destroyed?

As an addendum, I believe that Ken Katz was also very suspect of this dog park working and not 100% on board. If anyone knows what will work for the Grand Lake area, it is Ken. He and Ann have lived here longer than me and I have only been in my Elwood home for 27 years. I trust his reluctance to endorse this plan. It is telling to me if Ken does not believe it is a good idea. I know I am in good company with him.

So, Pat, I request you take a firm position in opposition to the dog park. I cannot see where it would be good for my neighborhood. I would rather see energy be used to clean up the on and off ramps from 580 into the Grand Lake area. I know Ken has worked diligently on these on and off ramps as they are also the entrances and gateways to our hood. They could use some help. Also reconfiguring the area of Lake Shore and Lake View so Ann Katz and others are not hit by cars again. And need I mention the ever present pot holes???!!!!

Okay, I'll shut up now.

I would appreciate a response to the above. Pat, are you opposed to the dog park? I know it is not officially in your district, but I think your opinion should carry great weight nevertheless.

Jana Hardy
441 Elwood Avenue
Oakland, Ca 94610
1-510-444-2913
Crime Block Captain
Retired NCPC Chair

From: Gilbert Vahanian [gvahanian@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 10:50 AM

To: Angstadt, Eric; Miller, Scott
Cc: Nadel, Nancy; Kernighan, Pat; Kaplan, Rebecca
Subject: Oakland Heritage site and Historic National Wildlife Refuge now a proposed dog park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Attachments: OAK025247[2].pdf

Dear Oakland Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning Eric Angstadt,
Dear Oakland Development Services Manager Scott Miller,

I am writing to inform you of a provision in the Oakland Municipal code in connection with a request by Ms. Nadel's office to create a dog park located at Lakeside Park, a site listed in the National Regist of Historic Places as "Lake Merritt Wild Duck Refuge" (presently at <http://nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/CA/Alameda/state2.html> http://nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/CA/Alameda/state2.html)

Plans for the dog park were apparently approved at the December 8 meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (attached).

The project is now entering the Conditional User Permit stage and will be presented to City Planning. Oakland Municipal code, 17.135.040 (http://tinyurl.com/6fx5b4f) states that:

Any project in the Open Space (OS) zone requiring a major or minor conditional use permit shall be subject to review by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board if that project is located:

A.Within the S-7 zone;

B.On a site that could potentially impact a structure, site, or feature that is listed on the State or National Registers, or that has been formally designated as an Oakland landmark.

For projects requiring a minor conditional use permit, this review shall be made after the public hearing of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and before the final decision of the Director of City Planning. For projects requiring a major conditional use permit, this review shall be made after the public hearing of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission and before the public hearing of the City Planning Commission. The Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board may recommend modifications to the project that it deems necessary to ensure that the historic value of the structure, site, or feature is not adversely impacted. If no action is taken by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the application, the project will be forwarded to the Planning Commission (for major conditional use permits) or Director of City Planning (for minor conditional use permits).

As guardians of Oakland's natural and architectural heritage, I strongly urge you to give even more careful consideration to the above city code in your deliberation with respect to this dog park, located at what is described on the Oakland city web site as the "crown jewel" of Oakland.

Thank you for all your hard work in making our city beautiful.

This letter is informational only. Emphasis in the quoted code sections is mine.

Respectfully yours,
Gilbert Vahanian

635 Spruce St.
Oakland, CA 94610
415.624.7532

From: j v [ja_7_4@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2011 9:33 AM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Save Astro Park

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Red

Attachments: Save Astro Park.doc

Hi Pat,
A concerned group of Oaklanders recently became aware of the proposal to place a dog run at the corner of MacArthur Blvd and Lakeshore (Astro park). The proponents claim this is a part of the Lake Merritt Master Plan (plan) and that, aside from the initial city outlay of approximately $35,000, there will be no further cost to the city for maintenance and up-keep. A review of the plan reveals that while every other aspect included is part of the plan, it refers to the dog run as "proposed". Additionally, the plan calls for funded managed maintenance and that those maintenace costs for the lake area are expected to increase as time passes.

Beyond the obvious loss of valuable green space (currently enjoyed by all Oaklanders), according to the American Kennel Club's (AKC) recommendation for dog specific areas, it asserts a one acre space as a minimum requirement. The Astro park proposed dog run is far inferior to that requirement.

Additionally, the Volunteer Maintenance Model proposed for the dog area is not in keeping with the master plan's specifications. Contrary to proposed dog run proponents, feedback gathered as part of this group's need to better understand this proposal revealed that the VMM has not been a sucessful approach in other dog run areas. Complaints such as, "This place should be renamed to Hardly Dog Park. It's a sorry excuse for a park where I will only bring my dog in desperation. The neighborhood dog people need to get together and seriously rehab this place!" are not uncommon. Given the monumental effort(s) of community and city time (not to mention the millions of dollars spent thus far) invested in the Lake Merritt revitalization, this proposed dog run is completely contradictory to the overall spitit and direction of the master plan.

It appears that beyond a decades old dialogue about a dog run at Astro park, very little outreach has occurred recently. Given that with time, needs, opinions, business and personal make-up, traffic patterns and appriopateness of an idea often changes.

This proposed dog run is ill-concieved, its maintenance is completely unsupported and based on the recommendations from the AKC, its size is inferior to the minimum acreage recommended by them. Valuable open green and un-programmed space is a valued comodity within an urban area. Lake Merritt, also known as the "jewel" of Oakland, has precious little unprogrammed open green

space where soccer, volleyball, kite flying, excersizing and whatever other outside activity people gather out of doors can enjoy.

As we reaching out to you to gain your support in maintaining our valued Astro park open space, so too are we identifying concerned Oakland group(s) and their members to gather their support for preserving this valued gateway to Lake Merritt.
Joseph Villatoro

From: Mary Stelletello [marystel@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 10:12 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Subject: Opposition to Astro Park Dog Park

Attachments: OFOS_Astro_Letter_Of_Concern.doc

Dear Councilor Kernighan,

Congratulations on your re-election! I have lived in your district for 5 years and have been very active in saving the Morcom Rose Garden. I am one of the citizens that helped get the volunteer group, Dedicated Deadheaders get started.

Given your commitment to the Rose Garden, I know that you care about our city's green space. I am writing you with an urgent request to oppose the Astro Park Dog Park.

The request to build a dog park on some of the last-remaining unprogrammed green space in Oakland is taking another one of Oakland's gems that is used by all citizens and restricting its use to only those that have dogs. I am a dog owner and I cannot support the approval of the Astro Park Dog Park. I have attached a letter from a citizen's group that I belong to, Oaklanders for Open Space that opposes this action. Not only does it eliminate some of the last standing precious unprogrammed green space in the city, it is ill-conceived as a dog park. It does not meet the recommended size standards for dog parks. It is really a lose-lose. The space is taken away from use by all and it is not even adequate for the small constituent group that it is intended to serve.

I urge you to not allow our last bit of precious green space around the lake to be squandered by this ill-conceived plan. If your staff has any additional questions, I can be reached by email at <mailto:marystel@comcast.net> marystel@comcast.net or 510-868-1046.

Thank you,

Mary Stelletello

marystel@comcast.net

From: Sue Levin [sue@heragency.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 5:37 PM
To: Kernighan, Pat
Cc: Office of the Mayor; Brunner, Jane; atlarge; Gerard, Jennie; Karchmer, Joanne
Subject: Proposed Lakeview Park Dog Park

Attachments: OFOS_Astro_Letter_Of_Concern.doc

Hi Pat,

I am writing to express my continued concern regarding the proposed Lakeview dog park inside of Astro Park. I first want to preface my concerns by saying that I'm a dog person. And I'm a dog person who uses our dog parks on a near daily basis.

However, I am also a citizen and homeowner here on Elwood in the Grand Lake district.

I have a good many concerns but first and foremost: I know from experience that dog parks/runs are not pretty places. You can make pretty drawings of how it will look but in the end, for the most part, they're fenced areas with chips on the ground. Generally, the way it goes is that dog parks are created in out-of-the-way places where people don't have to look right at them. Or in blighted areas where a dog park actually makes things possibly look better, safer, more populated.

Dog parks should *never* take over a beautiful green space like the one proposed in Astro Park. Astro Park is the gateway to our fantastic neighborhood. Do you think the people in Montclair would agree to a dog park in the middle of their bustling shopping district? Never. So why should we?

Additionally, this dog park will serve only a small sub section of the community. Not only can non-dog owners not use the space or even enjoy it visually anymore, a good many dog owners won't use it either. It's way too small. The American Kennel Club says a dog park needs to be a minimum of an acre to be useful. Alameda Dog Park is eight acres. At half an acre, this proposed park is *sixteen* times smaller than Alameda's. I am pointing this out not to advocate for this proposed park to increase in size but to demonstrate that we are sacrificing currently un-programmed open space for everyone to give it to a very small sub section of the population.

There is also the issue of parking. People will drive there. Every dog park I go to—every single one—people drive to. People will drive and they will want to park in the library lot which is already impossible to park in. It's just a really poorly conceived location for a dog park. Again, I'm pro dog-park but *not* there.

I am attaching a letter of concern from Oaklanders For Open Space (OFOS), a group that was formed and that I have joined because of this situation. This group is rapidly moving forward to get the word out that this is happening. We understand that this dog park was in the works a long time ago but it appears to be only very recently resurrected and has caught a lot of people off guard.

I love our 'hood. I've lived here and owned a home for twelve years. I've voted for you--twice. I've walked the neighborhood on safety walks with you. Your husband came to my door to canvas and I said don't waste your time—I'm in—I am a PatK supporter. I voted for you because, quite frankly, I think you have good common sense. I know it sounds funny but common sense is not all that common and I appreciate it. This proposed park, to me, really flies in the face of common sense.

In closing, please know, I am not a political person. I am a *dog* person. But I'm first and foremost a person concerned about having a really nice neighborhood. I've seen this place take off—I'm so proud to live here—but this proposed effort has me really, really down.

Sue

Sue Levin

President
HerAgency & Babyforcemedia
Brand, Buzz, and Build: We Reach Moms Online

510-663-4693 (V)
510-827-6419 (M)
509-461-2116 (F)
sue@heragency.com <mailto:sue@heragency.com>

From: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Yung Chang [ychang@bcj.com]
Sent: Monday, February 14, 2011 3:15 PM
To: GrandLakeNCPC@yahoogroups.com
Cc: cheryl giuliano rubinstein
Subject: Re: [GrandLakeNCPC] Dog Park Proposal at Lakeshore and MacArthur

I would like to add one important issue that should be shared: that is "adjacency".

With most urban planning and landscapes, we've learned lessons from past mistakes where freeway overpasses have divided one area from another (literally from one side of the freeway to another). The success of Splash Pad Park and Flea Market is its ability to pleasantly connect many activities, interaction, and pedestrian flows.

The area in discussion is an open, welcoming grass area that also helps to connect the Lake Merritt side to the Splash Pad Park side. Once fences are added (any barrier), the area no longer connects but divides.

In many instances, a successful park is one that is not intended for any specific use, but rather open to many and unplanned uses, as one example noted in an email on pitching a tent. The open grass area may not seem much, but it offers us a thread to connect both sides of the freeway.

Sorry Cheryl for misspelling your name the first time.
Yung Chang

On 2/14/2011 1:42 PM, cheryl giuliano rubinstein wrote:

Disclaimer: Don't read this if you don't have time, or patience for a very personal point of view on the dog park.

@Richard -
Thank you for the equanimity you have brought to the thread. I like that you boiled it down to the big picture. And you do bring up important specifics, as well.

--- This is what I notice...point 1 and 2 sound as if we just moved into a new house and we have to determine what to use each room for. However, I don't think that we are a group of people who is looking at all open spaces in Oakland, and dividing what to do with it.

The points I agree with in (Richard's) posting, are about the various populations who do utilize that space, but are not represented in this thread. They may or may not be neighbors, but one thing for certain is that they are doing things good for their total health and wellness. Things like Tai Chi, can be performed by elderly, children and disabled, for example...and I find the presence both inspiring and comforting. I, however, do not find dog parks, either.

Coming from NYC, I can tell you that it is not common to see people do all forms of physical activity outdoors with city businesses in such close proximity. I am also familiar with dog parks in Manhattan such as Washington Square Park in the Village; and while I always enjoyed a game of chess there, and watching the

various interactions of friend and stranger dog owners and their pets, I also noticed the barking, leash pulling, dogs leaping off the ground trying to fight one another, and I tell you, seeing that bothered me more than walking through the streets of the South Bronx, where my mom worked. It's a visceral thing...not an intellectual argument.

Sure, I see "empty spaces" and see opportunity too. I salivate when I see the empty storefronts on Grand Avenue, etc. when I personally know visual artists who would love to display there, or actors who would love to do a staged reading or environmental performance there, or non-profits who would love some visibility and benefit from foot traffic.

If you love something, you will see things in your environment that can answer the needs of the thing you love. It's natural. And so using the space for a dog park, would seem natural for dog owners.

I am simply using my voice here to speak for the elderly, the children, and the disabled in our neighborhood. For it is precisely these populations who may be most affected by the added "challenges" in the proposed dog park. For those on rent control, and who don't own cars....for the mobility challenged, like myself.....for parents who want to enjoy their own neighborhood old school style...to get to playgrounds without getting in a car.....etc.

I hope I can speak for those folks who have long contributed to our neighborhood but can't afford a computer, wifi, , or never learned how to use one. They are in our neighborhood. They walk to casual carpool and the bus. Would they all oppose the dog park? Of course not. But maybe they would if it made it tougher to cross the street. Face it, the intersections around MacArthur feed directly in and out of 580, and they are quite challenging at times, for drivers, and pedestrians alike. Wasn't the movie theatre intersection rated as one of the most dangerous intersections?

I am speaking for little ones without words yet who are dog phobic, whose adrenaline races through their little bodies when confronted with a dog.

And, as Richard brings up, there are soccer folk, tai chi practioners, etc. who just might not be on here.

I don't for a minute think anybody here is a dog hater; not at all. And Ruby, I can totally sympathesize with the decisions most of us have to make, in this tough economy. And, when misfortune befalls us; my husband, too, took in dogs when his parent died. But I think it is important to look at the larger picture. I welcome the continuation of the soccer players, etc. I think we do enjoy tremendous diversity in our neighborhood. And part of it, is keeping spaces open for individuals to fill it with spontaneous activity*.

However, I think, it is important to keep as much peace and safety and spontaneity in the neighborhood. From reading Sue's arguments, I am even more convinced that this is not the appropriate place for a dog park.

I note that as folks contribute to this thread, more currently existing dog park locations are being fleshed out (btw, welcome Ruby).

*One holiday weekend, we pitched a tent on that open space, with our 4 year old, and a local pizzaria delivered to our tent. LOL!!! Only in Oakland!

Peace, and thank you for reading.

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