



**DATE:** June 6, 2017

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Community Services

**TITLE:** **Bubb Park Off-Leash Hours**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Permanently adopt the hours at Bubb Park Off-Leash Area to be seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to sunset.
- Provide staff authority to make operational modifications for off-leash areas that do not require a change in the City Code.

### **BACKGROUND**

In June 2014, the City enacted a pilot program to provide Off-Leash Areas (OLA) for dogs at Bubb, Cooper, Cuesta, Eagle, McKelvey, and Whisman Parks. The Council permanently adopted the program on May 26, 2015, and added Cuesta Annex and Rengstorff Park as OLAs.

Two years after formally being adopted, the program is working well. Staff received 11 concerns/complaints each of the past two years compared to 59 during the pilot. They generally concern failure of dog owners to comply with OLA hours and days, or dogs off-leash in nondesignated areas of the park. Staff responds to all complaints and visits the park to discuss issues with dog owners. The program only works when there is voluntary compliance by the user group.

### **ANALYSIS**

#### **Bubb Park Hours and Days**

At the June 8, 2016 Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) meeting, a group of Bubb Park OLA users requested weekends and evening hours be added. The PRC recommended a one-year pilot program and the Council approved it on June 21, 2016.

There was one complaint during the pilot of an off-leash dog in the playground. No other concerns were registered with staff. No residents spoke in opposition to the expanded days and hours at the May 10, 2017 PRC meeting. The PRC voted 4-0 in favor to recommend the Council permanently adopt the changes.

### **Authority for Operational Modifications**

Residents wanting to request minor operational changes need to address the PRC during the public comment portion of the meeting or send a written request. The PRC may then direct staff to place the item on a future agenda. Once placed on the agenda, staff writes a report providing background on the request and a recommendation. The PRC may then make a recommendation to Council for a pilot period. A second report is written and presented to the Council for approval.

If approved, staff monitors the site during the pilot and writes another report at its conclusion for the PRC with a recommendation. If approved by the PRC, another report is written and presented to Council for adoption.

Minor requests like these could be efficiently taken care of at a staff level. Staff would meet with user groups and residents following a similar template of using a one-year pilot and monitoring the results.

On May 10, 2017, the PRC voted 4-0 in favor the City Council grant staff the authority to approve future operational modifications that do not require a change in the City Code.

**FISCAL IMPACT** – None.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

- Do not recommend making the changes at Bubb Park OLA permanent.
- Leave operational decisions as recommendations to be approved by the City Council.
- Provide other direction.

**PUBLIC NOTICING**

Agenda posting and information on Parks webpage and notice has been posted at Bubb Park Off-Leash Area.

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Attachments: 1. [May 10, 2017 Parks and Recreation Commission Report](#)