

**Council Meeting: December 3, 2013****SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Las Palmas Dog Park Location****BACKGROUND**

Council Study Issue DPW 13-14, *Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System* evaluated the general need, feasibility and costs associated with constructing additional dog parks and off-leash alternatives within the City of Sunnyvale's open space system. (See Attachment A - Council Study Issue DPW 13-14). On July 23, 2013, City Council approved a Budget Modification, with RTC 13-178, to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14 for the purpose of making improvements to Las Palmas Dog Park, including the addition of natural turf and a separate area for small dogs. Council also directed staff to come back with a second optional budget modification to consider relocating it somewhere in the park farther away from people's homes.

Staff identified four possible sites including the current location and three additional options within Las Palmas Park for consideration. Three public outreach meetings were conducted on August 22, 23, and 24, 2013, at Las Palmas Park. On October 1, 2013, a Joint City Council Study Session with the Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Las Palmas Park to consider relocating the dog park within Las Palmas Park. As directed by Council at the Joint Study Session, this report completes further study of site options, including cost estimates and options for the existing Las Palmas Dog Park site, if the dog park were to be relocated. (See Attachment B – City Council Study Session Summary).

**EXISTING POLICY****General Plan**

**Goal LT-8: Adequate and Balanced Open Space:** Provide and maintain adequate and balanced open space and recreation facilities for the benefit of maintaining a healthy community based on community needs and the ability of the city to finance, construct, maintain and operate these facilities now and in the future.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Should Council authorize the construction of additional dog parks in Sunnyvale's existing park system, the projects are categorically exempt pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act guideline section 15303.

## **DISCUSSION**

Staff identified four possible half-acre sites, including the current location, within Las Palmas Park for a dog park. Each option would contain the same elements, including: natural grass surfacing, separate areas for small and large dogs, water fountains for dogs, benches, shade, and landscaping. Staff received a petition signed by 65 residents opposing the proposed option near the park entrance by Spinosa Drive; Council eliminated that option from further consideration at the October 1, 2013 Joint Study Session, leaving three options for further study. (See Attachment C –Las Palmas Dog Park Location Options).

### **Las Palmas Dog Park Location Options & Cost Estimates**

Current Location	Keep the dog park in the current location at Las Palmas Park.	\$100,000
Relocation Option #1	Keep partial use of the existing site for small dogs with the addition of a separate area for all dogs (both large and small).	\$190,000
Relocation Option #2	Relocate to site between the tennis courts and ornamental pond.	\$230,000

The cost estimates for relocation options #1 and #2 include: design fees, demolition, grading and site preparation, connection to water and sewer, fencing and gates, irrigation, amenities (e.g. benches, water fountain for dogs, shade), drainage, and temporary fencing during renovation. The current location does not require an architectural consultant, site planning or connection to utilities.

## **Pros and Cons of Relocation Options**

### **Maintain Current Location**

Las Palmas Dog Park was established over 20 years ago. If the current site is maintained, then the cost of improving the site will be significantly lower due to the existing infrastructure. The current location is 50 feet from the closest resident, and 130 feet from the adjacent apartments. If moved, the dog park would be further away from a few residents on Stella Court. However, it would be closer to other near neighbors on Russet Drive. The attractiveness of the park would be impacted as the dog park is now largely hidden. If moved closer to the pond, then it would be prominently visible. Improvements to the current dog park would include natural grass surfacing and barrier vegetation that would lower noise and dust. The majority of participants (63% of survey results) attending the August 2013 public outreach meetings, as well as

ensuing email correspondence, supported keeping the dog park in the current location.

*Relocation Option #1 - Keep partial use of the existing site for small dogs with the addition of a separate area for all dogs.*

This option provides a separate area, approximately 7,000 square feet for small dogs, utilizing part of the existing dog park. A separate 14,500 square feet area for all dogs (both large and small) would be situated between the pond and the small dog area. Relocation Option #1 would be more visible in the park, and closer to Russet Drive residents (475 feet, instead of 600 feet), as well as closer to the ornamental pond and children's play area. It would be further away from current residents on Stella Court (160 feet instead of 50 feet). If this option is selected, then the cost for relocation and alternative use of the existing dog park area would need to be considered. This option received support from 30 percent of the participants at the August outreach meetings.

*Relocation Option #2 - Relocate to site between the tennis courts and ornamental pond.*

This option provides a half-acre site prominently visible in the park, adjacent to the ornamental pond. Relocation Option #2 is the most expensive. The cost of relocating the dog park and determining an alternative use for the existing dog park site is significant. This option would be closer to Russet Drive residents (375 feet instead of 600 feet), and further from Stella Court (200 feet instead of 50). The majority of Russet Drive residents voiced strong opposition to moving the dog park. This option received support from only five percent of the participants at the August outreach meetings.

**Alternative Uses for Existing Dog Park Site**

If Relocation Option #1 or #2 were selected for a new dog park site, then an alternative use for the existing dog park site needs to be considered. Based on direction from Council at the October 1, 2013 Joint Study Session and public input, four alternative uses were explored: landscaping, basketball court, additional parking, and modular restrooms. The following chart illustrates possible alternative uses and the costs associated with each:

**Preliminary Total Cost Estimates for Alternative Uses**

Alternative Use	<b>Relocation Option #1</b> (16,000 square feet at existing site available)	<b>Relocation Option#2</b> (23,000 square feet at existing site available)
Base Cost of Dog Park	\$190,000	\$230,000
Landscaping	\$80,000	\$115,000
Basketball Court and Landscaping	\$175,500 Half Court	\$370,000 Full Court

Additional Parking	\$231,000	\$300,000
Restrooms and Landscaping	\$235,000	\$305,000

Note: See Attachment D –Cost Estimates and Cost Comparisons

The total square footage of the existing site is 23,625. With Relocation Option #1, approximately 16,000 square feet of the existing dog park site would be available for an alternative use. With this option, relocation of a portion of the dog park is estimated to cost \$190,000. Improvements to the area freed up by the relocation range from an additional \$80,000 to \$235,000.

### **Parks and Recreation Commission Review and Recommendation**

The Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) reviewed a draft of this report at their November 13, 2013 meeting and voted 3-2 to support the staff recommendation with amendments. Staff recommends that Council approve Alternative No. 1, to proceed with improvements to Las Palmas Dog Park in its existing location, including the addition of natural grass and a separate area for small dogs. The PRC also recommends an amendment requesting that Council consider the reduction in the size of the dog park by moving the southern border north to provide more space for the neighbors. Their action was based on Alternative No. 1 being the most cost effective option, and its support by the majority of the public. Commissioners further expressed that the south end of the dog park could be reduced in size to increase the distance from near neighbors without adversely affecting the usability of the dog park. (See Attachment F – Excerpt of Draft Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2013.)

Staff does not support the amendment from the Parks and Recreation Commission to reduce the size of the dog park. After creating a separate area for small dogs, reducing the size of the dog park will impact the usability of the site, and there has not been demonstrated public support to reduce the size of the dog park. Improving the existing dog park, by adding natural turf and including additional landscape screening, will help alleviate concerns about noise and dust from neighbors.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Fiscal impact will vary, from \$100,000 to \$600,000, depending on the chosen alternative. The total estimated cost to renovate Las Palmas Dog Park in the current location is \$100,000, which includes the installation of natural grass and the addition of a separate area for small dogs. The ongoing maintenance of the natural grass is estimated to cost \$6,000 per year and would be funded by the General Fund. These ongoing maintenance costs will be incorporated into the Neighborhood Parks and Open Space Management Program's operating budget starting in FY 2014/15. On July 23, 2013, Council approved Budget

Modification No. 2 to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund Capital Project Reserve in FY 2013/14 for the Las Palmas Dog Park Renovation. There was capacity within this reserve to appropriate these additional funds without impacting other projects currently programmed over the 20-year planning period.

If Council were to select Relocation Option #1 or #2 for the Las Palmas Dog Park, then the fiscal impact would range from \$270,000 to \$600,000, depending on the option selected and would require a budget modification. Park Dedication funds are the appropriate funding source but these options may impact other projects currently budgeted depending on the amount of funds required.

### **PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, at the Sunnyvale Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; and by making the agenda and report available at the Sunnyvale Public Library, the Office of the City Clerk and on the City's Web site.

Extensive public outreach has been conducted since April 2013, for this dog park study issue. Three public meetings were specifically focused on Las Palmas Dog Park, and conducted by City staff on August 22, 23, and 24. A Web page, DogParks.inSunnyvale.com was created to inform the public about the study and outreach meetings. Meeting notices were sent to residents and businesses within 1,000 feet of Las Palmas Park. Sunnyvale neighborhood associations, participants at previous meetings held at Las Palmas Park in April 2013, and interested parties, such as, the *Friends of Parks and Recreation*, were sent email announcements. Flyers were posted at all Sunnyvale parks, including Las Palmas Park and dog park. A total of 53 attendees completed a survey and provided input on the possible relocation of the dog park. 63 percent supported keeping the dog park in its current location. 30 percent supported Relocation Option #1. Five percent supported relocating the dog park to Relocation Option #2. (See Attachment E - Las Palmas Dog Park Public Outreach and Comments Summary)

The Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed a draft of this report at their November 13, 2013 meeting and voted 3-2 to support staff's recommendation of Alternative No. 1 with amendments (See Attachment F - Excerpt of Draft PRC meeting minutes of November 13, 2013).

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Confirm Council action from July 23, 2013 with RTC 13-178, including approval of Budget Modification No. 2 to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14, and proceed with improvements to Las Palmas Dog Park in its existing location, including the addition of

natural grass and a separate area for small dogs, maintaining the current location of Las Palmas Dog Park.

2. Approve Relocation Option #1, partial use of existing site, for the new location of Las Palmas Dog Park and direct staff to prepare a Budget Modification to appropriate \$190,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14 for the purpose of relocating the Las Palmas Dog Park and making improvements including the addition of natural grass and a separate area for small dogs.
3. Approve Relocation Option #2, relocate site to between ornamental pond and tennis courts, for the new location of Las Palmas Dog Park and direct staff to prepare a Budget Modification to appropriate \$230,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14 for the purpose of relocating the Las Palmas Dog Park and making improvements including the addition of natural grass and a separate area for small dogs.
4. Provide direction to staff regarding improvements to existing dog park area if Alternatives 2 or 3 are approved. The cost of chosen improvements will be included in the budget modification for either option. Depending on the level of funding required, reprioritization of other parks projects currently funded might be necessary.
5. Provide other direction to staff as Council deems appropriate.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends Alternative No. 1: This alternative addresses the need for improvements of the City's only existing dog park, with the lowest cost and least impact to the attractiveness and usability of Las Palmas Park. Further, the majority of the participants at public outreach meetings (63%) indicated support for keeping the current location of Las Palmas Dog Park. Staff does not support the amendment from the Parks and Recreation Commission to reduce the size of the dog park. After creating a separate area for small dogs, reducing the size of the dog park will impact the usability of the site, and there has not been demonstrated public support to reduce the size of the dog park. Improving the existing dog park, by adding natural turf and including additional landscape screening, will help alleviate concerns about noise and dust from neighbors.

Reviewed by:

Kent Steffens, Director, Public Works

Prepared by: Patricia Lord, Senior Management Analyst, and Scott Morton, Superintendent of Parks, Golf and Trees

Reviewed by:

Grace Leung, Director, Finance

Approved by:

Gary M. Luebbbers  
City Manager

**Attachments**

- A. 2013 Council Study Issue DPW 13-14 *Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System*
- B. City Council Study Session Summary, October 1, 2013
- C. Las Palmas Dog Park Location Options
- D. Cost Estimates and Cost Comparisons
- E. Las Palmas Dog Park Public Outreach and Comments Summary
- F. Excerpt of Draft Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2013

## ATTACHMENT A

2013 Council Study Issue

## **DPW 13-14 Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System.**

**Lead Department** Public Works

**History**                    **1 year ago** None            **2 years ago** None

### **1. What are the key elements of the issue? What precipitated it?**

At the December 4, 2012 council meeting, Vice Mayor Whittum proposed a study to examine the general need, feasibility and costs associated with constructing additional dog parks within the City of Sunnyvale's open space system. Dog owners have historically expressed an interest in being able to exercise their pets off-leash in public parks. In response to that need many cities have built enclosed dog parks with restricted access as a separate amenity in existing parks or as a stand-alone facility. There are approximately 750 acres of open space maintained by the Parks Division and dogs are not allowed in the majority of that space including at Baylands Park, Schools and Golf Courses. Dogs are allowed on-leash at approximately 25 sites comprised of 200 acres and including parks, JWC Greenbelt, Community Center and other special use areas.

In 1990 Council authorized a legislative study issue entitled "Consideration of Dog Runs" and in 1991 a follow-up study entitled "Feasibility of Constructing a Pilot Dog Park." These studies resulted in the construction of the City's only dog park located at Las Palmas Park. The amenity is approximately 0.5 acre in size and has been in continuous operation and well-used since its opening in 1992. Since then there has been no organized or significant interest for another dog park until 2011 during public input meetings to discuss the conceptual design for Seven Seas Park. Neighbors of the planned park requested that an off-leash "dog run" area be included in the design for the new park. Current preliminary designs include a dog run area approximately a quarter of an acre in size.

This study would review parks and other City-owned property and identify a select group of sites for further study. Community outreach would be conducted to engage park users, park neighbors, community residents and other stakeholders to accurately if more dog parks are needed in Sunnyvale and if there are other issues that should be considered as part of the study. Three to five sites would be studied to determine the feasibility of all aspects of constructing dog parks.

### **2. How does this relate to the General Plan or existing City Policy?**

General Plan Goal LT-8 "Adequate and Balanced Open Space". Provide and maintain adequate and balanced open space and recreation facilities for the benefit of maintaining a healthy community based on community needs and the ability of the city to finance, construct, maintain and operate these facilities now and in the future.

### **3. Origin of issue**

**Council Member(s)** Whittum, Spitaleri

### **4. Staff effort required to conduct study** Major

#### **Briefly explain the level of staff effort required**

Staff from the departments of Public Works and Library and Community Services would need to collaborate to determine the feasibility of constructing additional dog parks and how they would affect the current uses of open space.

5. Multiple Year Project? Yes Planned Completion Year

6. Expected participation involved in the study issue process?

Does Council need to approve a work plan? No
Does this issue require review by a Board/Commission? Yes
If so, which? Parks and Recreation Commission
Is a Council Study Session anticipated? No

7. Briefly explain if a budget modification will be required to study this issue

Amount of budget modification required 0

Explanation

The study could be performed within existing staff resources.

8. Briefly explain potential costs of implementing study results, note estimated capital and operating costs, as well as estimated revenue/savings, include dollar amounts

Are there costs of implementation? Yes

Explanation

Capital costs to construct additional dog parks vary greatly depending upon the number, size and design. Operating costs may increase depending upon the amenities any new dog parks would replace within an existing facility.

9. Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommendation Support

If 'Support', 'Drop' or 'Defer', explain

The feasibility of additional off-leash dog areas should be carefully studied to ensure the needs of dog owners are balanced with the interests of neighbors and other park users. The study would engage all interested stakeholders to identify issues related to the construction of additional dog parks.

Reviewed by

Kent Steffens 12-14-12

Department Director Date

Approved by

[Signature] 12-14-12

City Manager Date

**CITY OF SUNNYVALE  
CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION SUMMARY  
DISCUSS DOG PARK AT LAS PALMAS PARK  
OCTOBER 1, 2013**

The City Council met in Joint Study Session with Parks and Recreation Commission at Las Palmas Park in the Las Palmas Park Building, 850 Russet Drive, Sunnyvale, California on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. with Vice Mayor James Griffith presiding.

**City Councilmembers Present:**

Mayor Anthony (Tony) Spitaleri  
Vice Mayor Jim Griffith  
Councilmember Christopher R. Moylan  
Councilmember David Whittum  
Councilmember Pat Meyering  
Councilmember Jim Davis

**City Councilmembers Absent:**

Councilmember Tara Martin-Milius

**Parks and Recreation Commissioners Present:**

Henry Alexander  
Robert Harms  
Ralph Kenton  
Craig Pasqua

**Parks and Recreation Commissioners Absent:**

Robert Powchoski

**City Staff Present:**

City Attorney Joan Borger  
Assistant City Manager Robert Walker  
Director of Public Works Kent Steffens  
Director of Libraries and Community Services Lisa Rosenblum  
Superintendent of Parks, Golf and Trees, Scott Morton  
Superintendent of Community Services Daniel Wax  
Parks Division Manager James Stark,  
Senior Management Analyst Patricia Lord

**Visitors/Guests Present:**

Members of the Public

**Call to Order:**

Vice Mayor Griffith called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Public Comments:**

19 members of the public commented and asked questions regarding the agenda items listed below.

**Study Session Summary:**

1. Director of Public Works Kent Steffens provided an overview of the Council Study Issue, *Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System* and results of the RTC 13-178. On July 23, 2013, Council approved "Budget Modification No. 2 to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/2014 for the purpose of making improvement to Las Palmas Dog Park, including the addition of natural grass and a separate areas for small dogs, and to direct staff to come back with a second optional budget modification to consider relocating it somewhere in the park farther away from people's homes."
2. Senior Management Analyst Patricia Lord presented three new possible location options within Las Palmas Park, location criteria and an overview of proposed new dog park amenities.
3. Parks Division Manager James Stark led a site visit to the identified location options for a dog park within Las Palmas Park.
4. Superintendent of Parks, Golf and Trees, Scott Morton, presented an overview of Las Palmas Dog Park survey results from public outreach meetings conducted on August 22, 23 and 24 with 63% in favor of keeping the Las Palmas Dog Park in its' current location. Superintendent Morton provided an overview of cost estimates for the various site options.

**Council and Parks and Recreation Commission Comments:**

Numerous comments were made by Councilmembers and Parks and Recreation Commissioners in response to public questions and comments regarding the agenda items listed above. Council directed staff to complete further study of site options #1 and #2, including cost estimates and options for the existing Las Palmas Dog Park if the dog park were to be relocated.

**Adjournment:** Vice Mayor Griffith adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia A. Lord, Senior Management Analyst

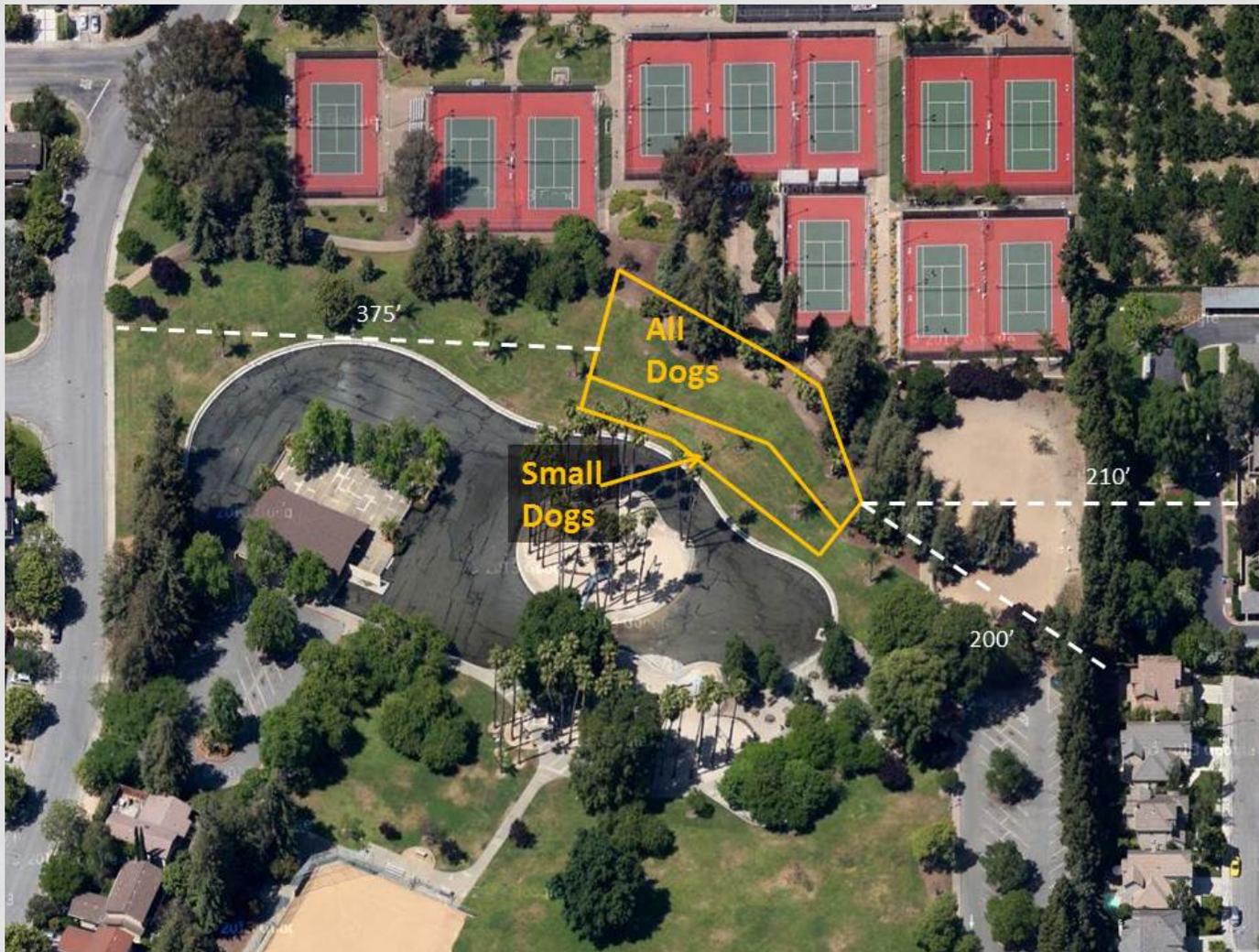
# CURRENT LOCATION



# OPTION #1



# OPTION #2



## COST ESTIMATES AND COST COMPARISONS

The following table illustrates the total cost estimates for dog park site options and alternative uses at the existing site:

### TOTAL COST ESTIMATES FOR SITE OPTIONS

Site Option	Cost for Dog Park	Alternative Use at Existing Site	Total Cost for Dog Park with Alternative Use at Existing Site
<b>Maintain Current location</b>	\$100,000	n/a	\$100,000
<b>Option #1 Partial Use of Existing Site</b>	\$190,000	a) Landscaping @ \$80,000	a) \$270,000
		b) Half-Court Basketball @ \$175,500	b) \$365,500
		c) Additional Parking @ \$231,000	c) \$421,000
		d) Restrooms and Landscaping @ \$235,000	d) \$425,000
<b>Option #2 Between tennis courts and pond</b>	\$230,000	a) Landscaping @ \$115,000	a) \$345,000
		b) Full-Court Basketball @ \$370,000	b) \$600,000
		c) Additional Parking @ \$300,000	c) \$530,000
		d) Restrooms and Landscaping @ \$305,000	d) \$535,000

The following table illustrates options, from the least expensive to most costly:

### COST COMPARISONS

Site Option	Alternative Use of Existing Site	Total Cost Estimate
Current Location	n/a	\$100,000
Option #1 - a	Landscaping	\$270,000
Option #2 - a	Landscaping	\$345,000
Option #1 - b	Half-Court Basketball	\$365,000
Option #1 - c	Additional Parking	\$421,000
Option #1 - d	Restroom & Landscaping	\$425,000
Option #2 - c	Additional Parking	\$530,000
Option #2 - d	Restrooms & Landscaping	\$535,000
Option #2 - b	Full Court Basketball	\$600,000



## **SUMMARY MEETING NOTES**

### **City of Sunnyvale Public Outreach Meetings**

#### **Council Study Issue DPW 13-14: Feasibility of Establishing Additional Dog Parks and Alternatives in Sunnyvale's Park System**

##### **Purpose of Meetings:**

At the July 23, 2013 Council meeting, with RTC-178, Council to action to:

*Approve Budget Modification No. 2 to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14 for the purpose of making improvements to Las Palmas Dog Park, including the addition of natural grass and a separate area for small dogs, and to direct staff to come back with a second optional budget modification to consider locating it somewhere in the park farther away from people's homes.*

City staff facilitated the meetings, including a site visit of the four options, and solicited input on:

1. To consider relocating the dog park within Las Palmas Park;
2. What amenities should be included in the improved dog park;
3. Other comments related to dog parks and off-leash options

##### **Public Contact**

Public contact was made by posting flyers at City Hall, Sunnyvale Public Library, Sunnyvale Community Center, Department of Public Safety, Sunnyvale Senior Center, and in Las Palmas Park. Public notices were mailed to approximately 1,660 properties (including single family homes and apartments) within 1,000 feet of Las Palmas Park. A Web page, *DogParks.inSunnyvale.com*, was created to inform the public about the study and public meetings. In addition, email notices were sent to: Sunnyvale neighborhood associations, participants at previous outreach meetings held at Las Palmas Park in April 2013, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Friends of Parks and Recreation.

##### **Summary of Public Comments**

The following is a summary of public comments recorded at a total of three community meetings held on August 22, 23 and 24 at Las Palmas Park, 850 Russet Drive. A total of 53 participants signed in at the meetings.

##### **Community Outreach Schedule**

Thursday, August 22	7 to 8 p.m.	21 participants
Friday, August 23	Noon to 1 p.m.	14 participants
Saturday, August 24	10 to 11 a.m.	18 participants

## Survey Results

The following results are based on 56 surveys completed at the public meetings:

Options	Meeting #1	Meeting #2	Meeting #3	% in support of option
#1 Partial Use of existing site for small dogs with the addition of a separate area for all dogs.	11	3	3	30%
#2 Between Tennis Courts and ornamental pond	1	1	1	5%
#3 Park entrance off Spinosa Drive	0	1	0	2%
#4 Keep dog park in current location at Las Palmas Park	11	12	12	63%

- 63% of respondents favored Option #4 - keeping the dog park in current location.
- 30% of respondents favored Option #1 - partial use of existing site for small dogs with the addition of a separate area for all dogs.
- 5% of respondents favored Option #2 - between Tennis Courts and ornamental lake.
- 2% of respondents favored Option #3 - park entrance off Spinosa.

### Petition

Staff received a petition from resident, Arlene Goetze, with 65 signatures opposing Site Option #3, park entrance off Spinosa Drive.

## Location & General Discussion

- Don't like taking away public facilities for a small percentage of people to use
- Keep it where it is
- Extend existing dog park to the east toward the apartments and install some type of screen or fence
- Concerns about loose dogs in the park and fast moving bicycles
- Reverse "all dogs park" and "small dog park" on option #1
- Set up separate times for small dogs and large dogs to be in the dog park
- "Do we know that option #1 will mitigate the complaints from the neighbors?"
- Abandon existing dog park and move Option #2 closer to Russet Dr.
- Concerned about additional maintenance costs associated with natural grass
- Divide up park so it is less desirable for large dogs to discourage large dogs from using the park
- Like Option 4 because less cost, good parking access, does not affect other park users
- Any option other than #4 unacceptable: moving into park will double fence within the park (currently ½ fence is on boundary)

- Fence within park is an eye-sore
- Option #3 would interfere with volleyball
- Lights (other than foot lights) unacceptable
- Nobody wants to get rid of current park (with a few exceptions)
- I like option #2 because it is furthest away from all residents
- No on option #3; it will ruin the view of an open park for the neighbors
- Extend existing space along west fence
- Small dog area should not impact length of run for larger dogs
- Do not do option 1,2 or 3 - all will detract from beauty of Las Palmas Park

## Amenities

- Additional lighting for daylight savings time
- Odor reducing waste receptacle
- Waste bags; extra scoopers
- Signage on etiquette
- Tree shade
- Some way to mitigate noise
- More benches
- Double fence between all and small areas
- Water play area
- Not standing water for drinking
- Something to wash dogs
- Dog safe benches - no openings large enough to get a paw stuck in
- Better gate system
- Par Course/Exercise stations for people
- Tunnel/tube for dog play
- More shade
- Swim up bar (kidding)
- LED overhead lights (not sodium lamps)
- Well-maintained turf
- Solar lighting
- Improve ground to eliminate dust in summer and mud in winter
- Drinking fountain for people
- Notice for dog park should be on gate; it could not be seen, even from parking lot
- Add restrooms closer to dog park
- Artificial grass would be nice
- The current layout with water spigot inside the pass through region is not acceptable. The normal rule is that you only bring your dog into the pass through when no other dogs are inside for safety reasons. If someone is inside the pass

through trying to wash off their dog(s) then no one is able to get in to enter/exit. There should be a separate area next to pass-through for rinsing off dogs.

- Rolling hill/with grass areas
- Big concrete tunnel for dog play; grass over the top is ideal toy play area
- Natural fencing
- Double fence between small and all dog area to minimize “fence fighting”
- Provide hoses around the dog park to rinse off areas where dogs have relieved themselves; think of a way to keep odor to a minimum
- No picnic tables
- Sound barrier to help neighbors near dog park
- Fix gate lock system
- Replace metal benches with wood
- Bench area should accommodate about 15 - grouped together

### Uses for Abandoned Dog Park

- Basketball court
- Restore to landscaping
- Fishing lake
- Picnic tables/benches
- Restrooms
- Ice rink
- Cat Park

### Additional Comments

The following summarizes comments received with the survey (not already noted):

- In case of budget shortfall, they can ask for donations;
- Option #4 seems to be the most cost effective for the City;
- Interested parties won't be in town on Oct. 1 so Council should have two meetings to make sure everyone gets input
- Concerned about current location because of rat poison issue; would like a safe option
- Longer hours “open at night” with lighting
- Consideration of old people without dogs.
- Small dog park should be at another location - Lakewood, etc. Doesn't need to be relocated in another place in Las Palmas.
- Options #1, #2, and #3 would cost the City a lot of additional costs and destroy our beautiful park - especially option #3
- If grass is added, make sure it doesn't add to the yearly maintenance costs of the park.

- Keep fountain full all year at Las Palmas
- Last day before fountain drained have a dog day in the fountain
- Conserve resources keeping/using existing fencing. \$100K only goes so far
- No waste/water recovery for grass
- Appreciate taking time to consider neighbors, but money is best spent on #4
- Consideration for temporary dog park during construction

Summary notes prepared by:

Jim Stark, Parks Division Manager

Patricia Lord, Senior Management Analyst

levy system, its hazards, lack of parking, lack of signage and the variety of uses of the levy system.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing at 7:52 p.m.

**MOTION: Vice Chair Pasqua moved to approve Alternative 2 - direct staff to explore Baylands Park as a location for AAH in Sunnyvale, Alternative 5 - direct staff to further evaluate the technical feasibility of adding park enhancements to the Sunnyvale Landfill site, and Alternative 6 - direct staff to further evaluate the technical feasibility of constructing a dog park at the Sunnyvale landfill site, with a modification to locate the dog park on the South Hill. Commissioner Pochowski seconded the motion.**  
**VOTE (3-2) APPROVED. Chair Alexander and Commissioner Kenton opposed the motion.**

Commissioner Harms suggested consideration of Alternative 3 (evaluate the feasibility to build a sports field), since Sunnyvale is losing sports fields. Chair Alexander and Vice Chair Pasqua liked the idea of a sports field but felt costs associated with building it at the landfill location were too expensive.

Commissioner Pochowski felt Alternative 2 (explore Baylands Park as a location for AAH) is important for the community. Commissioner Kenton would like to see further work on this Alternative.

Commissioner Pochowski, and Vice Chair Pasqua opposed Alternative 4 (bike skills park) as it would serve a limited segment of the community.

Commissioner Pochowski felt the West Hill should be reserved for park like activities described in Alternative 5. Commissioner Kenton agreed.

Vice Chair Pasqua and Commissioner Pochowski supported Alternative 6 (further study of the best location of a dog park at the landfill) based on the communities' interest in dog parks. They felt this location would not disrupt neighbors, and if developed in the right location it would not disrupt the natural habitat of the landfill.

Chair Alexander opposed Alternative 6. Instead he would like to see the area stay as "wild" as possible. Commissioner Kenton also opposed Alternative 6 because it is remote and would not serve Sunnyvale residents. He also has concerns about the limited parking.

**MOTION: Commissioner Kenton moved to approve Alternative 4, further study of a bike skills park not on the West Hill, but on another hill. The motion died for a lack of a second.**

### **3. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Las Palmas Dog Park Location**

Superintendent Morton, Parks Manager Stark, and Senior Management Analyst Lord presented the Staff Report. Superintendent Morton provided the background of the report

and the direction provided by Council. Manager Stark described pros and cons of the three locations and the public's preference for each location. Ms. Lord provided financial data for each of the options. She responded to Commissioners questions regarding costs associated with each option.

Chair Alexander opened the public hearing at 8:20 p.m.

Arlene Goetze spoke about dog related contaminants in the sand at Los Palmas Park and her experience with illnesses associated with contaminants. She made multiple suggestions to create a healthier environment including fencing around the playground and signage to alert the public of contaminants. She does not support moving the dog park closer to the playground. She suggested reducing the size of the dog park by 30 feet to benefit nearby neighbors.

Phil Smith is a neighbor to Los Palmas Park and supports the staff recommendation to maintain the current location of the dog park. He stated that if the dog park is moved to another location, he does not support any new features, but does support landscaping. He expressed that alternative features such as a basketball court would have negative impacts on the neighbors.

Chair Alexander closed the public hearing at 8:28 p.m.

**MOTION: Commissioner Harms moved to approve Alternative 1 - confirm Council action from July 23, 2013 with RTC 13-178, including approval of Budget Modification No. 2 to appropriate \$100,000 from the Park Dedication Fund in FY 2013/14, and proceed with improvements to the Las Palmas Dog Park in its existing location, including the addition of natural grass and a separate area for small dogs, maintaining the current location of Las Palmas Dog park. Commissioner Kenton seconded the motion.**

Commissioner Pochowski supports Alternative 1 because it is the most cost effective option and it is supported by the majority of the public. He wondered if neighbors would experience any benefit from moving a portion of the dog park fence away from the nearest residential area.

Commissioner Kenton agreed that the dog park could be reduced in size. Based on his experiences, he indicated that dogs mainly congregate in the middle of the dog park and do not often run near the tennis court boundary. He offered the idea that there may be reduced costs in maintenance if the dog park were smaller.

Commissioner Pasqua agreed that reducing the size of the dog park should be considered. He added that Council might also consider adding another dog park at the landfill.

**FRIENDLY AMENDMENT: Commissioner Pochowski offered a friendly amendment to reduce the size of the dog park by 30 feet or an amount determined by staff or Council on the south end. Commissioner Harms did not accept the friendly amendment.**

Chair Alexander opposed reducing the space, because there is an adjustment time for dogs to acclimate to a group or pack of dogs. He agrees that there may be cost benefits to making it smaller and it may be beneficial to the residents.

Commissioner Pochowski would like the size or the dog park to be evaluated. If it would be reasonable to move the southern fence some distance towards the north, as best determined by Council or Staff, it could reduce the nuisance to near neighbors.

**AMENDMENT: Commissioner Pochowski moved an amendment requesting Council consider the reduction in the size of the dog park by moving the southern border north to provide more space for the neighbors.**

**VOTE on AMENDMENT: (3-2) APPROVED. Commissioner Harms and Chair Alexander opposed.**

Commissioner Harms indicated that since the main park is used by the majority of the visitors, the dog park should keep its original location and size. He felt \$100,000 is a sufficient allocation to make improvements.

**VOTE on MAIN MOTION as AMENDED: (3-2) APPROVED. Commissioner Harms and Chair Alexander opposed.**

#### **4. Review and Approval of Annual Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials**

Superintendent Wax provided a review of the Annual Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Official for 2013. He invited Commissioners to provide comments for Council's consideration. Commissioners had no questions or comments.

Chair Alexander opened the public hearing at 8:40 p.m. and there being no public comments, closed the public hearing.

**MOTION: Commissioner Pochowski moved to approve the Annual Code of Ethics and Conduct for Elected and Appointed Officials as written. Commissioner Kenton seconded the motion.**

**VOTE (5-0) APPROVED.**

#### **5. Rank Proposed Study Issues**

Superintendent Wax reviewed the Study Issues to be considered by the Commission and the process to drop, differ or rank each Study Issues. He answered the Commissioner questions regarding staff recommendations.

Commissioner Pochowski indicated that he agrees with the intent of some of these Study Issues, and any motion he makes to drop a Study Issue is based on the information provided by staff that the issue does not impact existing policy, as some are actually budget issues.