

Buckhannon City Council
Town Hall Meeting – Dog Park
8 May 2017

TOWN HALL MEETING- DOG PARK

This special Town Hall meeting, held in the Buckhannon Public Safety Complex, opened at 6:00pm.

Attendance – Maria Bray, Aaron Critchfield, Lisa Critchfield, Elissa Mills, Joshua Hinchman, Robyn Simons, Ginny Dixon, Brooke Scott, Robin Keough, Chris Scott, Jim Townsend, Steven Beer, Susan Aloï, Pam Cuppari, Robbie Skinner, Dave Thomas, Matthew Saldahna, David McCauley, Katie Kuba.

Meeting Notice Posted 03-22-17

Town Hall Meeting Notice of the City Council of Buckhannon for Monday, May 8, 2017 – 6:00pm- located at the Public Safety Complex Community & Training Room at Two Friendly Way

CITIZENS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND & CONTRIBUTE INPUT REGARDING THE PROPOSED BUCKHANNON DOG PARK

POSTED 03-22-17

Press Release

Buckhannon Dog Park Development Underway

BUCKHANNON, WV- March 25, 2017. The Buckhannon Dog Park Committee announces the establishment of a dog park to be an added enhancement to the River Walk trail. The City of Buckhannon and the Buckhannon Dog Park Committee are collaborating with West Virginia Wesleyan College to develop a park for canines and humans alike while maintaining the beauty of the area.

There are currently thousands of public dog parks throughout the United States. Surrounding cities report overall good response from citizens and dogs regarding dog parks. The proposed park will consist of a gated area with a double-gated entrance and separate areas for large dogs and for small or timid dogs to socialize off leash.

Members of the Buckhannon Dog Park Committee hope to have fundraising complete and have the first phase of the park open for Labor Day weekend. Please visit our Facebook page Buckhannon Dog Park Discussion and share your hopes and dreams for this community venture.

Fundraising is underway and will continue in order to fund phase one and establish a maintenance fund for ongoing improvements. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation please visit the dog park Go Fund Me page at <http://www.gofundme.com/fxnbxw-dog-park> or send a check to Buckhannon City Hall at 70 East Main Street, Buckhannon, WV 26201, with "Dog Park" written in the memo.

A Town Hall meeting scheduled on May 8, 2017, at 6 pm in the Public Safety Complex Community & Training Room will allow for open discussion and idea sharing. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend regarding the dog park in Buckhannon.

McCauley – opened with moment of silence for Timmy Baxa and other four 20-something year olds whom we've lost to drug overdose since February 2017.

- McCauley mentioned that this discussion began last November. Currently working with the College to secure about a 1-acre spot near the river trail.
- Lisa Critchfield – This started as a sub committee of Animal Care & Control. Been working on securing location and raising money for the project. Some fundraisers – close to \$6,000 in the GoFundMe account. Next fundraiser is a bingo on June 11.
- Elissa Mills – Suggested walking dogs and collecting donations in the Junior Royalty Parade for Strawberry Festival on Thursday, May 18.

- Robin Keough volunteered to walk a dog, but is not interested in asking for money. She would like to borrow the Scooby costume.
- Discussion on various ideas and plans for participating in the parade. Elissa Mills will coordinate.

**West Virginia Strawberry Festival
Junior Royalty Parade**

Name of Group Buckhannon Community Dog Park

Contact Person or Persons Elissa Mills

Address 14 Park St Phone 304 472 4647

Buckhannon WV 26201 Cell Phone SAME

Email elissalinger-mills@yahoo.com

Float : yes / no Length of Float _____ Make & Model of Pulling Vehicle _____

Twirling Group : Small _____ (30 members or less)

Large _____ (31 members or more)

Dance Team _____ Number of Members _____

Band _____ Majorette Line : yes / no _____ Drum Major: yes / no _____

4 - H Club _____ Girl Scouts / Brownies _____ Novelty Dog Park Comm.

Boy Scouts / Cub Scouts _____

Church Group _____ Number of Members _____

Costume Character Scooby What Kind? Walking Canine Cartoon Character

Miscellaneous _____ What Kind? _____

Walking Unit _____ Number of Members _____

Information about your group : To support: raise funds for the upcoming Community Dog Park as well as helping the TNR group Weston Friends of Ferals - Strays.

Please Return this Form by May 4th to: WVSE Jr. Royalty Parade
P.O. Box 117
Buckhannon, WV 26201

- Josh Hinchman expressed concern about limited amount of parking. McCauley explained that multi-use parking is being developed in two phases, and the City doesn't currently own all of the surrounding property.
- Maria Bray explained that the cost of the dog park project has reduced through re-use of materials, donations, and volunteer service.
- Robin Keough suggested asking people to donate trees in honor/memory of their pets.
- Jim Townsend suggested making the water stations/fountains more artistic looking. Lisa Critchfield explained that initially there would be just a spigot to save money, then as funds are available these can be applied toward better foundations, benches, artwork, etc. will be added.
- Aaron Critchfield, who owns a construction company, will provide a bulldozer and operator to move the dirt. Date will be worked in around other projects.
- Jim Townsend offered an animal life pack for the dog park, as there are a few extra resulting from the fundraising efforts of clowns, Fuzzy & Stubbles.
- Matt Saldahna suggested some stationery locations for a few volunteers and their dogs to stand throughout the parade.

The goal is to have the park open in time for Labor Day.

- Chris Scott suggested soliciting donations at Festival Fridays and giving dog treats as thank you. He asked for volunteers who'd like to help him to get in touch. Susan Aloï will check to see if there is any kind of permit required to give out/sell dog treats.
- Pets Supply Plus sponsors a Bark for Your Park grant program for dog parks. Maria explained that the City has completed the approval letter and the grant proposal can be submitted.
- McCauley also reported that Wal-Mart makes small community grants and this might be an option for dog park funding.

Discussion about lack of awareness about the dog park project and need for donations. Josh Hinchman suggested putting a “Coming Soon” banner at the future location of the dog park. Information about how to donate to the park will be included.

- McCauley suggested holding a competition on what to name the dog park and asking people to donate a penny per suggestion. Lisa Critchfield suggested doing this at Festival Fridays.

Next meeting will be sometime before the Bingo scheduled for June 11. Maria Bray will let all know when a date and time have been decided.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Mayor David McCauley

Recorder Susan Aloï