

Hamden Responsible Dog Owners Group

April 6, 2009

The meeting was preceded by a meeting of Hamden Community Playground officers (Veronica Soell, Dawn Tiedemann, guests Nancy Gulash and Leo Taylor); (Eleanor Andújar and Ann Levison were unable to attend). The following were appointed as officers for the next year: president Nancy Gulash, vice-president Veronica Soell, treasurer Ann Levison, secretary Dawn Tiedemann. The organization will stay intact. The IRS report will be prepared by the accountant and the annual report submitted to the CT secretary of state.

RDOG meeting began at 7:30pm. Nine people were in attendance. The minutes from the April 2, 2008 meeting were read and approved.

A thank you note was received from the Happy Tails group for our donation.

Treasurer's Report was distributed. Expenses totaled \$2028.71, and consisted of disposal bags, administrative fees, and \$405.28 for work to the walkway. Income (\$534) consisted of contributions in the jar at Two Smiling Dogs (which are matched by TSD owner), photos at TSD, and a few donations. The balance is currently \$4215.71. Disposal bags are increasing to \$240 (case of 30 at 200 bags per roll). We bought 6 cases this year. That is 36,000 bags per year or 98 bags per day.

2008 Work party was held May 17, 2008 and was attended by 22 volunteers. Mulch and crushed stone was distributed. Weeds were removed. A plumber installed a drain at the entrance to prevent ponding. A masonry person offered to repair the siding of the walkway which is receding. T-shirts were given to the volunteers.

Tshirts: we still have about 80 left. They are for sale at Two Smiling Dogs for \$5.

Dog Parks in other towns: 14 towns have contacted us over the past year regarding advice, literature, and answering questions. Some towns are exploring the idea, others have completed and opened (this year Wethersfield, Windsor, Trumbull), others are fundraising.

Emails: Leo will continue for now. Jen Saslatshy said she might be able to take this over.

Disposal bags: As above, we bought 36,000 bags this year. There is likely some theft going on. The bags are increasing to \$240 per case. In looking on the Internet, there are no alternatives. We will continue to ask for donations of plastic bags, and Leo replaced the broken blue IKEA holder.

Trash cans: Can by the bulletin board is again missing. Gary Shark will contact the town.

Sand barrel was placed by the town for ice. The dumpster is used by the town to dispose of the trash.

Aggressive dogs: There has been evidence of an increase in aggressive dogs at the park, and some unlicensed dogs. Members have pointed out the problem, but the owners are not always agreeable to leave. There are rules about not allowing aggressive dogs, and that all dogs must be licensed. One owner installed a hanging tire for his dog to strengthen his bite. This was taken down.

Officers to continue: president Dawn Tiedemann, treasurer Ann Levison, secretary Dawn Tiedemann, web master Veronica Soell, email Leo Taylor, town contact Gary Shark.

Action to be done:

1. 2009 Workparty: Scheduled for May 16 from 9-11am; rain date May 17 if really pouring only. To be done: wood chips, gravel, filling in holes under the fence, weeds, general cleanup. Leo will put up a sign and do email. Free T-shirt to volunteers.
2. Donations needed. It was decided that an actual fundraiser would create too much work for our small group, and people at the park have indicated they would like to donate. Leo put up a notice at the park regarding mailing donations. The group decided to have volunteers sit at the park on selected dates for a couple of hours to collect donations. The dates will be posted. Volunteers needed. A sign will also be placed at the park indicating the cost of the bags, which is not paid for by the town.
3. Dawn contacted the animal control officer, who states he makes rounds on a regular basis during working hours. I asked him to visit at the end of the workday when large numbers of dogs are present, and he will ask the police if they can make walk-throughs on the weekend. Another sign will be placed at the park, again indicating the responsibility of the dog owner. Attendees are encouraged to call the animal control officer or police for problems.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Dawn Tiedemann