

MINUTES
Twin Brook Advisory Committee
The Shelter Building at Twin Brook
Tuesday, August 2, 2011

6:30 p.m. Call to Order

Present:

Chairman John Leavitt
Member Joe Loring
Member Iwona Tarling
Member Theresa Maloney-Kelley
Member Jackie Stowel
Member John Eldredge
Member Kay Fowler
Chris Bolduc, Director of Public Services
Laura Neleski, Public Services Admin.
And Members of the Community

I. Floor open to the Public for Matters Concerning Twin Brook

Question was asked regarding the new horse trail markers. Discussion followed regarding the visibility of the new signs and how to locate them in the Park. It is not clear as it is now. It was decided that a few more markers would be added, signs would be front and back in some locations, and that Public Services would look into changing the symbol on the new map to match the signs.

Question was asked why the Wilderness Trail was not marked for horses. It was stated that the trail is not finished yet. Although it was okay if a horse rider wanted to take their horse over there now, the trail won't be marked until the cement culvert could be repaired or replaced and the trail could be maintained by the Park.

Question was asked if horses can be ridden around the front field by Greely Rd. The answer was yes if they stayed in the mowed area. Horses are not allowed in the hay field. There was additional conversation about inconsiderate horse owners and the need to address the problems as they occur.

There was some concern expressed over how horses and dogs get along when in the same area/trails. The horse and dog owners present didn't see this as being an issue.

Question was asked if there was a specific place for horse trailers to be parked. The answer was no. The best place changes seasonally and by day and by event.

Chairman Leavitt brought up a letter that he had received stating that there are dangerous dogs in the park. There was discussion about how to tell if a dog was dangerous. Several dog owners were in attendance and spoke about appreciating the park. All agreed the public should report any dangerous dogs they see to animal control as soon as possible. Discussion on this topic resulted in Ms. Neleski agreeing to add a tip line to the Twin Brook webpage to make it easier to report general abuses to the park. The town would then take the appropriate action on the reported abuses. That would allow incidents to be treated on an individual basis.

Several dog owners stopped by to thank the committee for their work on the park. They particularly wanted to say how much they appreciated the ability to exercise their pets off leash.

Mr. Bolduc announced that the foot bridge by the shelter would be starting soon. He updated the group on the community garden, saying that it was going well. Mr. Bolduc said there was another Boy Scout project that would be considering building a shed by the garden to keep that area tidy.

He also told the group that the kiosk at the head of the dog loop at the parking end on the Greely Road side of the Park is slated to be moved to the more visible gate by the access road. This will happen as time allows. And there are now three dog bag dispensers installed.

II. Approval of the Minutes

June 7, 2011

Motion to Approve the Minutes of June 7, 2011 by Kay Fowler

Motion Seconded by Jackie Stowell

Vote: 7 – 0 Unanimous

III. Group Walk

The Committee took the opportunity to walk to the Community Garden to see how it has developed. Group discussion was that it was a good project.

The Committee then walked over to see the maps on the Kiosks. Group discussion was that the horse trails need to be better marked and the Abbreviated Rules should be posted.

The Committee then split off to see other parts of the park and headed home.

IV. Next Meeting October 4, 2011

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm

