



Item No. 5d Town of Atherton

PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – REGULAR AGENDA

TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
FROM: STEVE TYLER – PARK SUPERINTENDENT
DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2016
SUBJECT: OFF LEASH DOGS HOURS AT THE PARK

DISCUSSION

At the October 5, 2016 Park and Recreation Committee meeting and Park Facility walkthrough, a discussion occurred regarding the possibility of allowing off-leash dogs in the park during certain hours of the day.

ANALYSIS

Regarding dogs being off leash anywhere in Town, Atherton Municipal code 6.04.060 states the following:

6.04.060 Prohibited conduct.

No owner or possessor of any animal shall cause or permit it to do any of the following:

- A. To be upon any public street, sidewalk, park, school ground, any public property, or upon any unenclosed premises in this jurisdiction unless the animal is properly licensed, if such licensing is necessary hereunder, and under the control of the owner by being saddled, harnessed, haltered, or leashed by a substantial chain, lead rope or leash, which chain, lead rope or leash shall be continuously held by some competent person capable of controlling such animal;

Should the Park and Recreation Committee agree that having a dog off leash time and/or area at Holbrook Palmer Park was a good park enhancement, they would need to recommend staff bring an amendment to the City Council to change the current Municipal code section (above) to allow for an exemption. This change would require a passing vote by the Council, and a first and second reading before becoming valid (an approximate three (3) month time period).

DISCUSSION

The Park & Recreation Committee should focus the following:

1. Do they believe this action could co-exist in the park with other park uses?
2. What time(s) and day(s) of week they believe would be best suited to this type of activity.
3. What location of the park would best suit this need (entire park, walking paths, lawn areas, other areas)?