



## Item No.5d Town of Atherton

### **PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE – REGULAR AGENDA**

**TO: PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**FROM: SALLY BENTZ-DALTON – PARK MANAGER**

**DATE: MARCH 2ND, 2022**

**SUBJECT: Discussion of dogs off leash at HPP**

#### **Discussion**

The Parks and Recreation Committee has received multiple complaints that there are dogs off leash in the park, so this has been added to the agenda. Atherton has an off-leash ordinance, but it does not seem to be enforced in the park. The Committee will discuss options to further educate offenders, encourage Atherton Police to enforce the ordinance, and discuss making the recommendation to council to ban all dogs from the park if such ordinances cannot be enforced to ensure the safety of all citizens in the park.

Per the municipal code (below) dogs in Holbrook-Palmer Park must be on leash.

Dogs off leash is a safety issue for park users.

The Town has a new Code Enforcement Officer, and she stated the policy as below:

“Dogs off leash is enforced by the Atherton Police Department. Calls for service when a dog is off leash should be made to the non-emergency number. You can provide this number to MCE employees, and they can call for service. The MCE employee may continue to provide the warning verbally to the dog owner, but it will not be enforced upon without a follow up call for service. Officers (or myself, depending on time/availability) will respond to the violation and refer it to me for enforcement.

For a citation to be issued, I require the name of the dog owner (or person present at the scene with the dog), phone number, address, dog’s name, and preferably a photo of their ID and a photo of the violation and the dog. I do not expect the MCE employees to obtain this information; When they call dispatch for service, they should be able to provide them with the color of the dog (breed if known), collar color, and where the violation is taking place. They can take a photo with their cell phone and send it to me, and I can cross reference this with the police incident number.”

PD has also recently placed signs in the park stating the code. (See below)

Staff wants to be clear that MCE is not in the park to enforce codes. They are in the park to do facility and landscape maintenance. However, because they are the face of the park every day, they get the complaints and see the issues firsthand.



Atherton Muni Code:

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;