

Safety Committee Minutes

Honorable Council
City of Newark, Ohio
April 17, 2018

The Safety Committee met in Council Chambers on Monday, April 16, 2018 following the Service Committee meeting with these members present:

Mark Labutis, Chair	Mark Fraizer
Sean Fennell	Jeremy Blake
Jeff Rath	

We wish to report:

1. **Ordinance No. 18-10** an ordinance amending Chapter 618 of the codified ordinances of the City of Newark, Ohio with regard to city owned or operated dog parks was considered.

Mr. Fraizer- we have been discussing getting dog parks in place in the City of Newark. I looked at the current legislation and wanted to this piece reciprocated the way current legislation is structured. I also wanted to make sure that there is clarity in this legislation, set clear definitions in order to give the superintendent of the parks as well as the Animal Control Officer authority. I wanted to make sure that the people using it understand and that we have a mechanism in place to allow for rules to be created to allow for the supervision and to create a safe work environment. Some of the key pieces that I put in here was the reasonable control clause to make sure that everybody is responsible for their own animals also the banning of dangerous or vicious dogs and the requirement to make sure all dogs are licensed. We basically copied the same penalties when it comes to violations to make sure we are being consistent throughout the law.

Director Baum-I didn't know if anybody had any questions about the dog park going in at the Newark skate park or if you had any animal control questions, I am available if you have any.

Mr. Rath- did you say Newark Skate Park?

Director Baum- Newark Skate Park at Everett Park will host a dog park

Mr. Fraizer- when it comes to the animal control responsibilities I put the Animal Control Officers as the ultimate person that is going to be in charge of enforcement in case of any violations. You agree with that and you have the capacity to do that?

Director Baum- absolutely.

Motion by Mr. Rath to send to full Council, second by Mr. Fraizer

Mr. Blake- Director Baum we have one Animal Control Officer is that correct?

Director Baum- the City of Newark has one Animal Control Officer; the county has more than one.

Mr. Blake- under Mr. Frazier's legislation your comment saying you have the capacity, give me an example what issues will you see? Most of these activities will be in the evening correct? What issues would you see coming from this dog park?

Director Baum- I think that dog parks will be used during the evening as well. I anticipate more people going to the dog park where now I believe that it is more bike path travel or neighborhood travel. What use an Animal Control Officer might find himself at a dog park that in a city park a dog is on a leash except in areas where they are allowed to be off leash to not necessarily conduct an inspection but to visually ensure all dogs are licensed. We also don't have so large of a dangerous dog population that our Animal Control Officer is not personally familiar with those people. If he saw a dog that he knew to be a dangerous or vicious dog because he handled the case being a singular officer in the City of Newark he can identify that person and tell them that the dog is not eligible to use that particular park with all of the other animals around. Those are some of the basic things that I see an Animal Control Officer doing at a dog park.

Mr. Cost- what will we do about issues in the after-hours of the Animal Control Officer at a dog park?

Director Baum- a patrol officer will handle the problem if they are incapable of handling the situation the supervisor on duty will give consideration to calling Toby in on an overtime status. If Toby Wills would be out of town then I would think that the supervisor would contact the county for one of their Animal Control Officers who would be off duty and in an overtime status as well but because we have a collective bargaining agreement we would have to call Toby Wills first.

Rachel Bolen Smith, 237 Violet Ct- will the areas of the skating park and the dog park be completely separated to make sure that it is a safe place for the kids?

Director Baum- not only is the dog park fenced off there is also a fenced area that separates small dog from big dogs within the dog park.

Mrs. Smith- and it is going to be kept clean?

Director Baum- of course, we will cut the grass and pick up the dog park.

Mrs. Smith- I thought owners would be responsible for that.

Director Baum- I would hope owners would be responsible but we know not all owners are responsible so the City of Newark will pick up the slack on that.

Motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Mark Labutis, Chair