

**MAPLE GROVE PARK DOG OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2012 at 7:00 P.M.
LOUIS RIEL LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

1. Secretary-Treasurer Frank Machovec welcomed the group at 7:10 P.M.

2. Presentation of interest to the membership:

Matthieu Allard reported on his plans to establish an off-leash dog park in Saint Boniface. He noted that a proposed site for the park is in an industrial area near Lagimodiere and Marion. He also expressed interest in participating in a "super group" of dog park users' organizations.

Betty Braaksma reported on some difficulties experienced with a disgruntled member of the public in connection with the off-leash area ok King's park. King's Park does not yet have a formal dog owners' group, but she expressed interest in participating in the proposed "super group." It was also noted that King's Park now has a presence on Facebook.

Kimlerley Zebiere reported on the activities of Winnipeg Lost Dog Alert. She encouraged dog owners to visit and "like" their Facebook site. She also encouraged our members to volunteer with Lost Dog Alert.

3. The official part of the meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

4. Co-Chair report: Lance Pucknell noted that recent Association activities would be addressed as topics to be addressed later in the meeting.

5. Secretary-Treasurer's Report: Frank Machovec noted that the Association has \$4396.75 in its accounts. It was noted that the past fiscal year had unusual expenses, such as the Landscape architect's report and a financial commitment to the "Pet-iquette" brochure. Mr. Machovec briefly reviewed the variance between the past and previous year's cash flow. It was moved by Al Besson, seconded by Kim Unrau that the financial report be accepted as circulated—motion carried.

6. Report on Association's Activities since the last AGM:

News about off leash park closures- Frank Machovec noted that there are changes afoot regarding Little Mountain, Bourkevale, Transcona Trail, and Charleswood off-leash areas. It is not clear if there will be replacements for closed or diminished parks.

Meetings with City- It were noted that the Association has had two meetings with City Parks staff regarding the master plan and other park issues. The relationship with City staff has been favourable.

Meeting with other park user groups- The Association has participated in meetings between City staff and various other user groups from Maple Grove Park (MODS, St. Vital Mustangs, Rugby).

Meetings with other clubs around the “Pet-iquette” brochure. The Association has met with representatives from Little Mountain and Kilcona Parks to develop the dog behaviour brochure. City Parks and Animal services staff have also been involved in the process.

Proposed “super group”: Frank Machovec noted that discussion has taken place about a potential organization with representatives from various dog owners’ groups in the city. The intent would be to share resources and serve as a collective voice in dealings with the City. An inaugural meeting is expected shortly.

Insecticide spraying: Frank Machovec and Lance Pucknell reviewed the recent incident involving insecticide spraying for Dutch Elm Disease-carrying beetles in the Park. Concern was expressed about the inadequate notice given by the City Insect Control Branch regarding the spraying. There was also some general discussion of the need to preserve a positive relationship with the City while addressing client service issues. Kilcona club president (and MGDOA member) Donna Henry outlined the experience of the Kilcona Club in dealing with the City.

Wood chips: Frank Machovec reported on the issues involved in getting wood chips for trail maintenance in the Park. While the chips are freely provided by the City, any dispersal using heavy equipment will involve cost. The Association is working with the City to refine the system of obtaining and distributing the chips.

7. Nomination and Election of officers for 2013:

A prospective slate of officers for the positions of co-chair (two), secretary, and treasurer was presented, and members were asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

It was moved, by Pat Routledge, seconded by Kathy Guttek, that the following candidates be declared elected by acclamation—motion carried:

- Colin Lang and Frank Machovec—co-chairs
- Cindy Little—Secretary
- Rosalyn Smith-Jones – Treasurer.

A prospective slate of incumbent candidates for at-large board positions was presented, and members were asked for additional candidates from the floor. The following full slate of at-large directors was presented:

- Kim Unrau
- Jacquie Machovec

- Heather Hartry
- Sherri Tufford
- Kathy Guttek
- Allan Besson
- Lauren Smith
- Gordana Lemez

It was moved by Adele Delorme seconded by Elizabeth Cameron, that the proposed slate of at-large directors be elected by acclamation—motion carried.

8. Discussion of the recent park user's survey: Frank Machovec noted that we had recently conducted a survey of park users' preferences regarding park improvements identified in the landscape architect's master plan. The survey received approximately 200 responses from park users, and it indicated a high degree of interest in trail maintenance and improvement.

9. Based on the results of recent survey, the Association's board suggested that we target trail improvements, erection of a buffer fence to isolate dogs from Frobisher Road, and parking area improvement as priorities. With the exception of trail maintenance using wood chips, all other options carry significant costs, and would likely require grants.

General discussion ensued, and the consensus was that priority should be placed on trail maintenance at minimal cost to the Association. An incremental approach was recommended in connection with projects such as parking lot stabilization. The board is to use its discretion to move forward with improvements within the financial means of the Association. It is expected that meetings will take place between board members and City Parks and our City Councillor.

10. Discussion and recommendations for park fund-raising events: Frank Machovec reviewed the current approach to scheduling fund-raising events such as Spring and Fall BBQs and an evening coffee event. The possibility of having a pancake breakfast or indoor event were mentioned. It was agreed that decisions about the nature and scheduling of events should be left with the board of directors.

11. New business and General Discussion:

It was moved by Colin Lang, seconded by Pat Routledge that the Maple Grove Park Dog Owners' Association compose a letter of support for the creation of an off-leash dog park in Saint Boniface—motion carried.

General discussion took place about a variety of topics including the desirability of having a bylaw review (especially regarding the \$500 expenditure cap) and re-investigating the possibility of obtaining charitable status. A member expressed concern about the appropriate procedure for dealing with intoxicated park users.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Machovec

November 7, 2012