

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

City of Rollingwood

March 17, 2021

Submitted by:

Wendi Hundley/Buck Shapiro, Council Members/Park Commission Liaisons

Agenda Item:

Discussion and possible action to repeal or amend Sec. 4-94(a)(1) of the City Code of Ordinances; and to create an Off-Leash Area Advisory Committee to identify needed improvements and maintenance; to assess public opinion; shape policy; survey off-leash users and park visitors who are not off-leash users; determine wants and needs; and form community partnerships to support maintenance, and operations; and move toward expanding the city's off-leash resources.

Description:

The City of Rollingwood ordinance 4-94(a)(1): Restraint and Confinement of Dogs was an amendment to add that dogs need not be restrained on the little league field numbers 3,4,5 so long as organized sports activities are not occurring, and the dog owner has the dog under reasonable control. At the time of adoption there were only a handful of Rollingwood residents using the little league fields for off-leash dogs. Since, the use of the fields for off-leash dogs has grown exponentially.

Little League spring season runs February 1 - June 30, the fields are heavily used until dusk for organized practices, games, and sublet for various uses. Fields 3,4,5 are currently suffering from erosion and grass degradation due to overuse. There have also been issues with maintenance and damage to the property, in addition to issues with dog behavior and etiquette by facility users. The spring season may be a good opportunity to repeal allowing off leash use on fields 3,4,5 to address maintenance and allow fields to recover, as well as give the off leash advisory committee time to form and provide guidance and recommendations.

The City has unfenced parkland that can be utilized for off-leash dogs, in the area commonly called the Endeavor tract. City Council may consider amending 4-94 to allow Delana tract be used for off-leash dogs. This will ensure an off-leash dog facility is available to the community during the little league seasons.

Action Requested:

Action to repeal or amend Sec. 4-94(a)(1) of the City Code of Ordinances allowing off-leash dog use on little league fields; a revision of the off-leash ordinance to allow off-leash use on the Delana park track.

Financial Impacts:

None at this time.

Attachments:

Off-Leash Dog Ordinance

City of Austin OLA Policy: <http://www.austintexas.gov/edims/document.cfm?id=140948>

Park Master Plan & Master Plan Appendix - Off Leash Dogs

Delana Track Map & Delana First PUD Amendment

Little League Lease Agreement