



## Memorandum

**To:** Parks & Recreation Board Members

**From:** Ricardo Soliz, Division Manager  
Parks and Recreation Department

**Subject:** Off Leash Area Advisory Committee (OLAAC)

**Date:** August 19, 2010

The Off Leash Area Advisory Committee (OLAAC) will have been in place for one year this October 2010 and have accomplished several goals. Some of these goals include:

- ✓ Completing the By-Laws of how the group would function;
- ✓ Completing assessments of all 11 off leash areas within the park system;
- ✓ Completing a draft set of rules and etiquette for the off leash areas;
- ✓ Completing a draft process for evaluating and processing new off leash areas;
- ✓ Attended several special events where members provided information on off leash areas; and,
- ✓ Working on a marketing campaign with three City Department, (PARD, Watershed Protection, and Health Department) to finalize a branding for all dog related information;
- ✓ Recruitment of new members to sit on the Advisory Committee since half of the members will be leaving the committee for new members in October 2010.

The Advisory Committee has been an asset to the Parks & Recreation Department for several reasons. The public who have issues in our Off Leash Area Parks have attended these monthly meetings to bring issues forward. PARD Staff is there to listen to the problems and in many times have the Advisory Committee weigh in on potential solutions. The Committee has also helped PARD on public relation approaches particularly on highly controversial decisions that may have a negative impact to the Off Leash Area Parks.

As the department liaison to the group this past year, with the help of Albert Perez, (Northwest District), I can not over emphasis the pleasure it has been to work with a group of stakeholders who are focused on an growing recreational activity in Austin that

provide assistance, support and solutions to staff on these special parks that are highly used. This is truly a collaborative working relations where both City Staff and volunteers are working together to provide advise, possible solutions to the Parks Department, Parks & Recreation Board, and to the general public on how Off Leash Areas can co-exist within the park system that can be more sustainable by design, reduce conflicts among multiple users, and promote better behavior of its users.

If I or the Chair of the Advisory Committee can provide you with more information, you can reach me at 974-9452.

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