

NEWSBITES BULLETIN

A Letter from the President

JASON and CENTENNIAL Parks are in JEOPARDY of being taken away from OUR DOGGIE LOVERS and Our Members !

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL!

We citizens enjoy many privileges in these United States, and especially in Englewood. Englewood is a unique community with many, many dog owners and enthusiasts. Like all privileges, they can be taken away when some people abuse or blatantly disregard the rules.

We now have a serious **THREAT** facing our Dog Lovers in Englewood again, because of people who bring their dogs to Jason Park unsupervised. People have been coming to Jason Park and letting their dogs go wherever they want, including the Playground Area and the Picnic Pavilion. It has come to the City Council's attention, by a family who made formal complaints, in letter and attended an open forum to speak before the Mayor and the City Council on Monday, June 1, 2009. This family was well prepared with written statements, picture albums documenting the violation of the basic dog rules (which are posted in Jason Park), and testimony of their small children.

THEIR GOAL: TO HAVE JASON PARK be a Park for Humans only - NO DOGS ALLOWED... period! They even showed a picture of a group of people and kids enjoying the playground without dogs to the City Council. The picture was captioned: "This is how Jason park should look like: NO DOGS"!

VIOLATORS ARE BEING WATCHED and DOCUMENTED by PEOPLE who want TO CLOSE OUR PARKS to DOGS! EVIDENCE is "MOUNTING" (Pardon the Pun)!

Englewood Unleashed Board Members were present at this City Council meeting, and spoke on behalf of our many members and all those who use the Jason Park with their dogs. We presented City Council several solutions, which we are already taking a "Pro-Active" stance on.

IMPORTANT: We need all of you to do a couple of things:

FIRST: Please, obey the rules concerning bringing your dogs to Jason (or our other 4 Off-leash Parks). Especially, keeping your dogs OFF the PLAYGROUND, PICNIC AREAS, and Playing Fields especially when young teams are there doing Soccer, T-Ball, or Baseball! Jason Parks is large, and there are plenty of other areas that you can have your dogs play.

SECOND and MOST IMPORTANTLY: We MUST have all of you, members and non-members alike SHOW UP EN-MASS when the need arises to make our VOTE KNOWN at any City Council Meetings. We will keep you informed, however we estimate the next City Council meeting to review this topic will be on **July 20th, starting at 6pm (Study Session).**

IF YOU ENJOY your OFF LEASH PRIVILEGES at any of our parks, and care about KEEPING THEM, then we need you to FOLLOW THE RULES... and voice to CITY COUNCIL that we CARE about our privileges and DO NOT WANT THEM TAKEN AWAY!

We will keep all of you informed through our Emails, the Newsbites Newsletter, and our web site as often as possible.

Englewood Unleashed Board Meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2009 determined:

MAIN GOAL: To work in numbers towards a solution where all Jason park attendees can coexist peacefully.

ACTION PLAN:

1. EU will request that the City's Code Enforcement regularly monitor the parks with unleashed privileges, especially Jason Park, preferably in plain clothes and during the daytime, and then give tickets rather than just warnings to dog owners that are not obeying the rules. EU will continue to educate park attendees of the rules and consequences of bad behavior, but need the City's backing.
2. The existing "Park Rules" sign is not large enough and is too low to the ground. EU suggested having 2-3 much larger and taller signs installed at both ends of the parking lot and one along Quincy.
3. EU suggested installing 3-4 "No Unleashed Dogs in Playground and Pavilion" signs around the playground and pavilion. The Board unanimously approved a motion to spend up to \$500 for signage at Jason Park with the goal to purchase 3-4 "No Unleashed Dogs" signs and 2-3 "Park Rules" signs.
4. EU suggested planting a natural barrier, such as 2-3 ft B&B Shrubs, or a fence around the playground. At minimum one low fence or railroad ties retaining wall separating the playground from the NE section of Jason Park.
5. EU will assist Envirowagg (selected by the City for "upcycling" dog waste for compost) in accurately installing new poop bag dispensers at all parks with unleashed privileges. Estimating July 2009.
6. EU will suggested the City that the Parks Chart in the Activities Guide be revised as follows. Change the title "Dog Park" to "Off-leash Dogs Allowed", then check Jason Park, Centennial Park and Duncan Park, and add the Canine Corral to the list. This will set expectations for new park goers, especially those looking to rent a pavilion.



Best Wishes for a GREAT SUMMER,

Kim Love, President
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Email sign up at: www.EnglewoodUnleashed.org

Note: Please don't hesitate to call me anytime, if you would like to speak about this directly, or e-mail me at: avilarcomm@yahoo.com and I guarantee you a prompt reply!

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas on this situation. Thank you for your time! – Kim Love