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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

2012 DEC 13 AM 10:52

December 12, 2012

Members of the Council:

Another 100 pages of emails have come in since we last submitted the first 400 pages for public record.

We are submitting them to you now.

As mentioned in our previous note, please consider that you are each holding the heartbeat of a park in your hands. These are the words of a community pleading to keep a very small neighborhood park just as it is--open, green and unfenced.

Sincerely,

The 2000+ Members of Save Astro Park

From: Shana Lancaster <shana.lancaster@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Nov 30, 2012 at 10:27 AM

Subject: Leave Astro Park Alone, Please.

To: council@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

My great grandparents moved to Oakland in the 1930's. Since then, this community has been like a sanctuary for my family- a place where our scattered history was united.

I'm sure a lot of people feel that way. But I also know many people who have struggled to feel safe here. Who unfortunately live in the menacing Oakland; the ignored, resource deprived, and violent Oakland.

But a place like Astro park has forever been the meeting ground for all. The library, play structure, and "soccer" field was always a neutral plaza for all walks of life to come together. For the children of those who are privileged and those who are not to play, relate, love.

Putting a dog park in the middle of this incredible resource is an absolute nod to those who 'have' and another turned back to the 'have nots'. Many children who have grown up in the East, West Oakland or other neighborhoods that are a little rougher around the edge, are terrified of dogs. Their parents are frequently terrified of dogs too. Allocating almost a third of the park to dogs (even with a fence around them) will be a huge deterrent to many families who live in neighborhoods lacking nice play areas like Astro Park.

And finally, symbolically this is a disgraceful allocation of money. In a city like Oakland, we have a million and one problems that could use some money- schools, clinics, after school programs, youth centers, child care, community gardens, etc. If the City Council decides that spending money on improving the lives of dogs is it's phority, well I for one will have a hard time supporting the intellect and moral compass of that said council.

I plead with you to leave Astro Park alone.

Thank you kindly,

Shana Lancaster
Fourth Generation Oakland Resident

From: John Glynn <john@jglynn.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 29, 2012 at 12:06 AM
Subject: Fwd: Save Astro Park
To: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Glynn <john@jglynn.com>
Date: November 29, 2012, 12:04:38 AM PST
To: "Council@oaklandnet.com" <Council@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: Pat Kernlghan <pkernlghan@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear City Councilmembers,

Astro Park sits as the beautiful entrance of the Jewel of Oakland: Lake Meritt's Embarcadero.

As long time loving residents of this city and this neighborhood, we implore you not to foul it with a dog park that will bring thousands of dogs to this already heavily trafficked intersection.

The conflagrations that will erupt between the Splashpad Farmers Market, Saturday morning Parking-Fighters and now packs of dogs and their owners is simply unimaginable, unacceptable, and irresponsible.

Without any dog park in site, we have been attacked by no less than three off leash dogs on Lakeshore Ave whose owners were consistently shocked and amazed that their beloved animal had just done something they had never done before. The height of irresponsibility and arrogance they had. With the injection of an actual dog park, the frequency of such attacks can only increase exponentially.

Please do not let Astro Park go to the dogs.

Vote No on the proposal to build a dog park at this busy, beautiful intersection of commerce and community.

Sincerely,

John J. Glynn

711 McKinley Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Sincerely,

John J. Glynn
Sent from my iPhone

From: <BUDANDERSEN@aol.com>

Date: Thursday, November 29, 2012 1:04 PM

To: <Council@oaklandnet.com>

Subject: Council hearing on Dec. 4 on petition for a dog park

I am writing to urge you to DENY the petition that would turn a beautiful, much-used park into an ugly dog-run. There are many reasons why Astro Park should not be turned into an ugly dog-run.

Here are a few.

1. The ugly problem. Dog-runs are ugly. There is no magic formula that would make stripping off the lawn and covering the ground with wood chips a beautiful park.

2. There are several other places that would be good locations for a dog-run. One such place is Estuary Park.

3. Estuary Park. It is on property owned by the City, is quite large, and is part of the walking path along the Estuary that connects to Jack London Square nearby.

4. The dog-poop problem. Unless the owner catches his dog in a dog's signature stance for pooping, there is a problem in finding and collecting the poop. Are wood chips and dog poop similar enough in appearance to make its collection difficult and time-consuming? Or, are poop collectors going to get down on their hands and knees to collect it?

5. Drainage problems. The Park already has a serious drainage problem, which will be much worse if the grass is stripped off. Plant roots create little channels for air and water penetration of the soil, and thereby some drainage too. Many scientific, empirical studies have been done by the USDA and other governmental, university, and private researchers on soil drainage problems.,

6. Best-case and most-likely-case scenarios. The proponents of the dog-run present only best-case scenarios and ignore the most likely scenarios, such as the serious drainage and dog-poop problems.

Milton L.

Andersen

457 Hanover Ave.
Oakland

CA. 94606

budandersen@AOL

,com From: susbv@aol.com <susbv@aol.com>
Date: Thu, Nov 29, 2012 at 7:51 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: Council@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I have lived in Crocker Highlands for over 40 years. I took my children to the "Space Needle Park" as it was then called. Now I take my Grandchildren there. Having small children in the area where the proposed Dog Park is to be built is a bad idea. An untamed dog and a rambunctious 2 year old who ran away from his mother is a recipe for disaster.

The corner of MacArthur and Lakeshore is much too busy with car and bus traffic and pedestrians now. In addition, it is not clear how this Dog Park will add aesthetically or otherwise to the neighborhood for the benefit of the Dog owners who I am thinking probably are in the minority.

The Grand-Lakeshore area is having a renaissance with a great Farmer's Market, new restaurants and other shops. The Dog Park will be a deterrent to future development of the area. This neighborhood is one of Oakland's best assets, don't ruin it by permitting the Dog Park.

Susan Veit

From: Shaunnah Ray <floatingbubblesr@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 30, 2012 at 11:20 AM
Subject: Please Deny Dog Run Permit
To: council@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello, My name is Shaunnah Ray. I'm a lifelong resident of Oakland, and I am strongly against the proposed dog run that will in my opinion, ruin Astro Park. There are already very few

green spaces in this city that are functional for recreational use and converting on of them to improve the life of dogs seems ridiculous. The fenced enclosure would reduce or eliminate existing recreational uses, there isn't enough in the budget for maintenance, dogs would be too near the tot lot, and a dog park would create traffic and parking impacts near the Lakeview Library. Also the proposal would turn the green space brown, and there are six other dog parks nearby. I know I am just one of alot of committed oakland residents who fill this way. Thank You for your time. S.RAY

From: Heather DeSmidt <heather.desmidt@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Nov 30, 2012 at 12:33 PM
Subject: About Astro Park
To: council@oakland.net
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello, My name is Heather.

I'm a lifelong resident of Oakland, and I am strongly against the proposed dog run that will in my opinion, ruin AstroPark.

There are already very few green spaces in this city that are functional for recreational use and converting one of them to improve the lives of dogs seems insensitive.

The fenced enclosure would reduce or eliminate existing recreational uses; there isn't enough in the budget for maintenance; dogs would be too near the tot lot, and a dog park would create traffic and parking impacts near the Lakeview Library. Also, the proposal would turn the green space brown, and there are six other dog parks nearby.

I know I am just one of a lot of committed Oakland residents who feel this way.

Thank you for your time.

Heather

From: Barbara Newcombe <barbaranewcombe@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Fri, Nov 30, 2012 at 4:31 PM
Subject: dog park hearing
To: council@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I believe Oakland needs dog parks. The current selection of a part of Astro Park near Lakeview Library is no longer appropriate. This location was decided on about 10 years ago, according to my information. It is no longer suitable due to much heavier use by children and sports enthusiasts. In the meantime part of Lake Merritt environs has been much changed. Possibly Public Works or the Planning Commission can identify new and different locations. I have noticed a very lightly used area in Glen Echo Park below MacArthur Blvd. Another site is east of the Henry Kaiser Convention Center and across 10th St. from Laney College. In both these locations, parking is available.

If there were more small dog parks, the pressure would not be so great. Also, Oakland has a surplus of tiny parks that are nice to look at but not heavily used. These small parks are costly for Public Works to maintain. If the dog owners are responsible as they say they are, then upkeep will not fall so much on Public Works. Maybe an experiment could be set up to try an alternate area as long as the dog owners are willing to underwrite the cost.

Sincerely,
Barbara Newcombe

--

Barbara Newcombe
539 Merritt Av., #4
Oakland CA 94610
510-763-4406

From: Barbara Newcombe <barbaranewcombe@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Fri, Nov 30, 2012 at 4:31 PM
Subject: dog park hearing
To: council@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

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Park near Lakeview Library is no longer appropriate. This location was decided on about 10 years ago, according to my information. It is no longer suitable due to much heavier use by children and sports enthusiasts. In the meantime part of Lake Merritt environs has been much changed. Possibly Public Works or the Planning Commission can identify new and different locations. I have noticed a very lightly used area in Glen Echo Park below MacArthur Blvd. Another site is east of the Henry Kaiser Convention Center and across 10th St. from Laney College. In both these locations, parking is available.

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Sincerely,
Barbara Newcombe

--

Barbara Newcombe
539 Merritt Av., #4
Oakland CA 94610
510-763-4406

From: Kathryn Moll <kathryn@demonchaux.com>
Date: Sun, Dec 2, 2012 at 2:59 PM
Subject: Conditional Use Permit Application for Dog Park
To: council@oaklandnet.com

Dear Council Members,

i am writing to encourage you to deny the conditional use permit application for a fenced dog area in our neighborhood park.

My graduate work at Berkeley was focused on the environmental and urban quality of the spaces surrounding Lake Merritt. As such, I have a particular concern about the intersection of dog waste--a significant source of water pollution--and my neighborhood park at the base of the Lakeshore

watershed.

Our park is sited on land that was originally tidal marshland and an extension of Lake Merritt. This natural history begins to explain why the site was left undeveloped as the city grew up around it: Drainage is poor, and when Oakland experiences heavy rains as we did this past weekend, the site wants to revert to the marshy swamp that it once was. (Please see the attached photograph, taken after a heavy rain several months ago.) Dog waste leaching into Lake Merritt will harm fish and waterfowl, increase algae growth, and generally decrease the appeal of the Lake for all of its users.

Even if the City was willing to allocate resources to the enforcement of pet waste management laws and the maintenance of dog areas (including signs, clean-up stations, and park staff), the proposed site at Lakeshore and MacArthur is environmentally the wrong choice for a dog park.

Thank you for denying the application on December 4th.
Kathryn Moll

References:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Pet Waste Management:
http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm?action=factsheet_results&view=specific&bmp=4

The Oakland Watershed Map, showing the natural boundaries of creeks and marshland in our neighborhood:
<http://museumca.org/creeks/1180-OMSAntonio.html#>

From: Ailsa Steckel <drasteckel@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Dec 2, 2012 at 4:57 PM
Subject: Astro Park
To: council@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello.

I am writing to voice my disagreement with the idea of building a dog run and eliminating half the free space of Astro Park. I have lived in Crocker

Highlands for almost 20 years and raised my two daughters here. When they were babies, my husband and I often walked them down the hill in their strollers so they could play in the park. As they grew older, we'd meet friends there and watch as the children ran freely and played for hours. In recent years, I've continued to notice many children and also adults utilizing the space for exercise, recreation and just hanging out.

Please vote to keep this space for people, not dogs!

Ailsa Steckel

775 Longridge Road

Dear Councilmember Kernighan,

I am writing again to tell you how critically important it is that you stop the selfish dog owners from taking over and ruining a widely used and highly visible open space.

I have written to you before on this issue, but I will repeat the key points.

As a preliminary matter, your public statements on this topic have referred to the proposed "dog park" or "dog play area." A park is a pretty place for people to gather and recreate. What the selfish dog owners are proposing here is a filthy brown patch where animals relief themselves. The proper terminology is "dog run."

The main reason to reject the dog run is that there is absolutely no demonstrated need for it. Every dog owner has a residence in which he or she can maintain a dog. Further, the neighborhood is already chock full of places for people to walk their dogs. I refer you to saveastropark.org, which identifies seven nearby dog runs. The proposal to fence off an open green space is a brazen land grab by dog owners who insist that everyone

embrace their precious pets. Reject this selfishness and send them to the dog runs that have already been set aside.

In addition, the park that the selfish dog owners want to take over is already a well used public space. Drive or walk over there on any nice weekend day, as I often do. There are children playing; people playing soccer and other green space games; others exercising. My daughter, who has grown up in the neighborhood since she was a baby, used to walk there to sit and read (she has now left for college). How can you justify taking this thriving park away from our community, just because the selfish dog owners demand it?

Finally, this is highly visible public space, bordered on three sides by well traveled streets. It is literally the gateway to our neighborhood. At a time when you should be condemning urban blight and working to make Oakland a more attractive place, it would be disastrous for you to convert this lovely green space into a disgusting brown scab, for the whole world to see.

I am, of course, most disappointed with the selfish dog owners for their inexcusable persistence in trying to steal this public space for their private use. I will be equally disappointed with you if you vote in favor of the dog run, and it is distressing that you have not publicly stated your opposition to this ill-conceived proposal.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Steven Boranian
780 Tresle Glen Rd.
510-893-1402

From: Amy Catalano <atcatalano@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 11:16 AM
Subject: Dog part at Lakeshore and Macarthur
To: "Council@oaklandnet.com" <Council@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Councilmembers.

I live on Upper Lakeshore and have 2 little boys. We are often at the Lakeshore Library, and the playground near it. I am respectfully urging you to DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog park at Lakeshore and Macarthur.

This is not an appropriate location for a dog park for many reasons. I take my boys to this park as it is the only flat, grassy area near my home and losing half of the area would be very unfortunate for our family and the local friends we tend to meet there. Replacing one of the true open spaces that can be used for sports and recreation seems to take away options from the majority of local residents.

The area in question is now a multi-use facility for many people to enjoy. I have seen people playing soccer there, and volleyball, our school has had an impromptu going away party there for a teacher, and the kids like to include the grassy area near the playground in their play. Additionally, it is visually appealing to have an open space there, rather than a fenced in area that would make the space seem smaller and only serves a much smaller portion of the population.

This issue has been voted on in the past and turned down, please do not overrule what has already been deemed inappropriate for that location in our community.

Thank you and regards,

Amy Catalano

From: cheryl giuliano rubinstein <lightsky14@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 1:48 PM

Subject: AGAINST Dog Park at Lake Merritt
To: "Council@oaklandnet.com" <council@oaklandnet.com>,
"saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

I implore the City Council to DENY the Dog Park.

I first became very concerned about this issue, when I learned of it quite accidentally on a Yahoo neighborhood site. It immediately brought to mind what occurred at a former job on a college campus....a very similar flat, open, unfenced, grassy area existed at the College Campus I worked at. It, too, was home to students playing soccer, kite flying, picnicking, wild life, book reading, child play, and the like. The College decided to place a new building on this lawn, and did not get the participation of the community. Well, what an uproar occurred when the tractors came in and the fences were erected! Absolute anger!!! That beloved grassy area there, exactly like the Great Lawn of Astro Park, was such a blanket of green comfort. It horribly no longer exists at the College. We need this to be LEFT ALONE here. It ain't broke - it doesn't need fixing. Adding a fenced area, an area for EXCLUSION, is a downgrade to this park. A DOWNGRADE.

1- The maintenance issue is still an issue. The Proponents have not met their burden of proving that their volunteer efforts will be sustainable, over the years. In fact, it is clear that one time donations, and offers of supplies built on personal relationships will NOT be able to be carried out over the years. The structure simply does not exist for the maintenance to be sustainable. Does the Council want to put in a downgrade that ultimately will be the responsibility of the City, and require City resources that are already stretched to the limit?

2- Currently, for those who have the ADA disability of needing a bathroom frequently, they are able to be in the Lake Merritt area and use the bathroom near Astro Park, by having a pathway, flat land, and close to curb access. In other words, if you have this issue (as many Seniors and others do), you can RELY on this bathroom.

NOT SO, with the dog park. ANY dog-walker PERSON needing to use the bathroom with a dog, would have to TIE IT UP on the posts and thereby, blocking the ONLY pathway for the disabled OR leave it unattended in the dog park (thereby leaving it outside of owner control). The plan has not been vetted for this location for 11 years - if it had, it turned its noses up to the needs of the disabled, not considering the HUMAN needs and use of

the area, and its buildings/pathways.

3- It is not a matter of 'IF' problems will happen that will involve police (underage drinking in the dog park, hiding area for perps, unauthorized use of the dog park after hours, complaints of noise and conflict) it is a matter of 'WHEN'. That's plain common sense. Do the Council members wish to put in a downgrade that is going to require more **POLICE** resources to deal with????

I implore you City Council members to have the **VISION**, and the **COMMON SENSE**, to preserve what is good, healthy, safe, and working, and **DENY** that which is a downgrade, unsustainable, exclusionary, and a burden on the City.

Cheryl Rubinstein

From: Alice Akawie <akawie@aandlpc.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Against the Dog Park

To: Council@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I am a long time Oakland/ Crocker Highlands resident (30+ years) , and I am writing to voice my strong objection to the creation of a dog park at the corner of MacArthur Boulevard and Lakeshore Avenue. This is an extremely busy intersection and in my mind a totally inappropriate location for such a use. It will generate much additional foot traffic in a location where there is already a ton of fast moving traffic, and increase the risk of dog and pedestrian injury.

Moreover, the aesthetics of the park will be irretrievably damaged by a fenced in area: presently, you approach from any direction to a large green lawn area that flows into the lake area. This is very pleasant, and a fenced in dog run will destroy the appearance.

Adding dogs to an area currently used by children as a play area is another bad idea, as many children are afraid of dogs, and barking running dogs will certainly reinforce these fears.

Please do not agree to a change in use to a lovely park that is already heavily used. There must be some better location for this use than destroying an existing park.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Alice Akawie
Attorney at Law
Akawie & LaPietra
One Kaiser Plaza, Suite 480
Oakland, CA 94612
phone 510 874-7200
fax 510-874-7219

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From: Adam Sand <ASAND@ancestry.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 2:19 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park - DENY the Dog use permit
To: "council@oaklandnet.com" <council@oaklandneLcom>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Councilmembers,

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the off-leash dog park on the corner of Lakeshore Avenue and MacArthur Boulevard in Oakland. As you know, the area is vastly changed from 2002 when the dog park was first proposed for this area. Just as the city has evolved, so too has this neighborhood – numerous new restaurants, Trader Joes, and the weekend farmer's market (to name just a few). But the planned dog

park takes none of this into consideration. It is the wrong plan for this location. Indeed, any visit to this area on a Saturday morning will easily demonstrate that the best use of this area is exactly how the community uses it today – an open park for everybody.

In addition, I write to express my concern with the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Oakland Dog Owners' Group (ODOG). First, it doesn't take a legal education to see that this MOU in no ways guarantees any funding or maintenance for the proposed dog park. As drafted, there is no obligations on ODOG, no enforcement provisions and, of course, no penalties if ODOG fails to live up to their oral statements. Frankly, the only rational expectation from this MOU is that the full cost of building and maintenance for the dog park will fall upon the city. Or worse, the entire area will simply be left to the dogs. Please deny this permit and insist upon an enforceable agreement rather than a toothless MOU.

I will be there tomorrow so we can discuss these issues further.

Thank you for your time.

/Adam Sand

From: Fred Baumgartner <fredbaum@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 5:21 PM

Subject: Save Astro Park

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, pkernighan@oaklandnet.com, nnadel@oaklandnet.com, lschaaf@oaklandnet.com, idelafuente@oaklandnet.com, lreid@oaklandnet.com, atlarge@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Oakland City Council Members:

I urge you to deny the appeal for the dog park at Astro Park. There are good reasons this idea did not receive one affirmative vote when put before the Oakland Planning Commission earlier this year. First and foremost this open green space is used by many people for recreation. Adults and children alike use this space for soccer, volleyball, frisbee, sunbathing, picnicking, etc. The space is

conducive to many outdoor activities in a city that should be providing as much in the way of recreation for its youth as it can. I don't see how a dog park in this particular place best serves the needs of the majority of Oaklanders. There must be a better place in Oakland for an open space where dogs can run. Please deny this appeal so that its supporters can find a site well suited for a dog park while not at the same time denying space for our youth.

Thank you,

Fred Baumgartner
565 Bellevue
Oakland, Ca 94610

From: <loisanddan@comcast.net>
Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 8:36 PM
Subject: Fwd: No to dog park at Astro Park
To: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: loisanddan@comcast.net
Date: December 3, 2012, 8:32:41 PM PST
To: "Council@oaklandnet.com" <Council@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveaatropark@gmail.com" <saveaatropark@gmail.com>
Subject: No to dog park at Astro Park

I love dogs - I had a dog for many years and still miss him every day.

BUT I don't think the park at Lake Park and Lakeshore is a place to have a dog park. We walk by there several times a week and love seeing people enjoying the park - soccer, other games, working out, etc. I especially enjoy watching the young children - playing games, learning teamwork, getting exercise while having fun.

Let's remember the increasing obesity rate in the U.S. Let's not give the

children a reason to watch tv, play video games etc. because they no longer have a place to enjoy outdoor physical exercise.

Please vote NO to the proposed dog park.

Thank you.

From: Richard Chaikind <richjc@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 8:50 PM

Subject: Please save our Astro Park

To: council@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Council Members:

Children and adults in Oakland need more -- not fewer -- safe outdoor space for recreation. Astro Park is a popular spot for soccer and other healthy outdoor activities, especially for our youth. As someone who uses it often, it would be a tragedy for our community to limit its use. Please vote against the conditional use permit for a fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

Thank you,
Richard Chaikind

From: Lary Heath <laryheath@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Sunday, December 2, 2012 6:02 PM

To: <Council@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>

Subject: astro park

To all concerned,

This is not the site for a dog park.

Far too many people/ voters make use of this rather remarkable space for a myriad of activities, to turn it over to any singular activity or interest group.

Do not screw up this beautiful piece of open ground.

Lary Heath

Property owner near this park, (been here over 20 years)

From: Mani Homertgen <homertgen@outlook.com>

Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 9:30 PM

Subject: OPPOSE Astro Park Dog

To: pkernighan <pkernighan@oaklandnet.com>,

"council@oaklandnet.com" <council@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Pat and Oakland City Council Members,

I am once again writing you to ask that you DENY the request for a permit for a dog park at Astro Park. While I am a dog owner, I strongly oppose this proposal and ask that you deny the application. A dog park in this area is innappropriate.

This park is currently used and enjoyed by the entire community -- not just a select group. As an area resident living within walking distance of Astro Park, I enjoy running around the lake with my dog several mornings each week. Additionally, I participate in group excercise classes around the lake. From children to families and recreational athletes playing recreational sport, this area is used by a diverse group throughout the day. It is a flexible open space which seems to be at a premium in Oakland. A dog park is not appropriate for this space given the proximity of the proposed area to the playground and that it would allocate a large portion of the space to a select group of users.

Secondly, the proposed site would be an eyesore diminishing one of the most beautiful locations in Oakland. This area is the natural transiton between Splash Pad Park and Lake Merrit. The location is the main entrance or "gateway" to Lake Merrit and the Lakeshore area. We have spend years and many dollars including our tax dollars to beautify this collective area around the Lake. A fenced dog park will chop of the space and be extremely unsightly. I have yet to see

an attractive dog park and one that seamlessly blends in with the natural setting or existing area.

Third, this area is extremely congested as is and cannot support the additional traffic related to dog owners descending on the area -- whether by car or foot.

Again, this is not an appropriate area for a dog park and not a good use of the premium space being enjoyed by so many residents. I ask that your please deny the request for the dog park in this location.

Sincerely,

Mandana Homertgen
667 Trestle Glen Road
Oakland

From: Mary Stelletello <mary@vistaglobalcc.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 3, 2012 at 9:42 PM
Subject: Please Deny CUP for Dog Run at Astro Park- Align with Planning Commission
To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>, "lschaaf@oaklandnet.com" <lschaaf@oaklandnet.com>, "lreid@oaklandnet.com" <lreid@oaklandnet.com>, "brooks@oaklandnet.com" <brooks@oaklandnet.com>, "atlarge@oaklandnet.com" <atlarge@oaklandnet.com>, "nnadel@oaklandnet.com" <nnadel@oaklandnet.com>, "idelifuente@oaklandnet.com" <idelifuente@oaklandnet.com>, "PKernighan@oaklandnet.com" <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear City Councilors of Oakland,

I am a dog owner, live within walking distance of Astro Park, use Astro Park regularly to play volleyball and I OPPOSE placing a dog run in that location. I urge you to support the decision made by the Planning

Commission after review of more than 1,000 pages of documentation. I have been involved with Save Astro Park from the very beginning. I made the 5 minute presentation at the first community meeting in March 2011. The reasons I oppose placing a dog run in this location have not changed:

1. This is the gateway to the Grand Lake neighborhood, a precious jewel of green space that welcomes people to our community
2. It is used by thousands of people every year for dozens of different activities
3. Kids and Dogs don't mix (research has proven the incidence of injury of children dramatically escalates when they are in proximity to dogs)
4. Parking: There is already a parking problem in the Grand Lake area and "if you build it they will come... in cars"
5. There are already 6 dog parks within 2 miles of Grand Lake area
6. Design and Maintenance: The size of the space isn't even large enough to support a dog park according to national recommendations on building effective dog parks. There is no budget for maintenance, there is great risk of the area becoming unsightly and blighted (similar to Mosswood dog park)

Dog Parks can be enhancements to communities if they are designed and supported appropriately. This location and design will not accomplish any desirable outcomes. It will only take away the green space that is used by thousands of people every year.

The Planning Commission has done its work. Please support the thorough review that they have completed and deny the conditional use permit for the dog park at Astro Park. This is the Crown Jewel of Oakland and a destination for Oaklanders and visitors to our city. It is an open space that belongs to everyone and should remain available to everyone for decades to come.

"The silence between the notes is as important as the notes themselves." - Mozart

Thank you for your dedication to our city,

Mary Stelletello
645 Jean St.

From: Mahasin Abuwi Aleem <mahasin@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 4, 2012 at 5:24 AM
Subject: Please vote against the dog park being placed at Astro Park!
To: council@oaklandnet.com

Dear Council Members,

Please vote against the proposed dog park at Astro Park. Please leave that space for our children to play without the worry about being mauled by dogs. Please affirm the work done by the Planning Commission and other bodies and vote NO against the dog park!

My husband and two young sons live within walking distance of the park. We are residents of Cleveland Heights. My kids attend Cleveland Elementary. We shop at the Grand Lake Farmer's Market and the merchants on Lakeshore and Grand. This space has been the focal point of our social life and play for our kids since we moved back to the area several years ago. We fly kites there. My kids play soccer there. We've met so many wonderful people sunning and picnicking in the grass.

Just a few months ago, a dog owner allowed his huge dog to run off-leash at the park and knocked down a 2-year old who was bruised and crying. The parents who were around were afraid to say anything to the man for fear that he might unleash his dog on them. I couldn't take it any longer though, and asked him to please leave with his dog. It was an uncomfortable and dangerous situation for everyone. A dog park in this location will only invite more situations like this.

Please leave this space for the use of our children. Parents of children are fleeing Oakland's schools. Please don't give us another reason to consider leaving the city we love. The area should remain open for the use of all human residents of Oakland. There is an underused dog park at Mosswood Park, which is a short distance away. Please support our children and put the safety of our children first.

No dog park at Astro Park!

Thank you,
Mahasin Abuwi Aleem

From: Rabiya Tuma <rabiya@nasw.org>
Date: Wed, Dec 5, 2012 at 9:31 AM
Subject: a legal and financial liability -- Please DENY the dog park permit at Astro Park
To: Council@oaklandnet.com, atlarge@oaklandnet.com, idelafuente@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Councilmembers,

I am very disturbed that you continue to consider this possible dog park. I have listed many of my concerns below, but I would like to highlight one in particular: if approved, this dog park, will be a legal and financial liability for the city of Oakland if the dog park is approved. If any child is ever bitten by a dog at this park, the parents can tell the court that you, the City Council, had fair warning that this would be a dangerous mix.

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

My daughter and I play at that playground regularly and go to the Lakeshore library. We do not want a dog park taking over for numerous reasons:

- 1) The grassy area is already well-used by soccer players, kids, and impromptu games;
- 2) Dogs leave a mess behind, and even if most owners are considerate, there will always be a few who are not. This is not fair to the small children who use the playground and grassy area. We already have to contend with the goose poop at the playground by the lake (referred to as "goose poop park" by some parents); please don't let this playground turn into "dog poop park";
- 3) dogs and small children are not always a good mix. My daughter was chased and bitten by a dog at a playground in a neighboring city where there was a dog park near a playground. Again, most dogs are nice and most owners are responsible, but it only takes one bad seed to have a serious incident. Not only is this a concern for the safety of the children, but also a financial and legal liability for the city if the council knowingly votes to put a dog park right near a children's playground, and;
- 4) The area is now very pretty and opens the view to Lake Merrit -- why would we want to put in an ugly chain link fence and dirt?

Again, please deny this permit. Astro park is already heavily used and well-loved.

Sincerely,
Rabiya Tuma

1466 Allman Street
Oakland, CA 94602

From: Phoenix/Chong <chongppr@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: Phoenix/Chong <chongppr@yahoo.com>
Date: Friday, December 7, 2012 7:46 PM
To: "rkaplan@oaklandnet.com" <rkaplan@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>
Subject: Lakeshore Dog Park

Hi Rebecca: I voted for you but am disappointed that you voted FOR the dog park even though you asked very important questions: Who's going to clean up the dog park and take care of it when it deteriorates? Volunteer labor is not going to cut it. Now's not the time to increase our city's expenses, liability or projects.

Please vote NO when the dog park comes up again. Astro Park at Lakeshore is the WRONG place to have a dog park. Yes, the dog owners have worked long and hard on this matter, but this was the wrong location then and it is a worse location now as density and public uses have increased. I'm sure you

have visited Point Isabel in El Cerrito and have seen how large an open space is required for people and dogs to coexist. Astro Park is not that large and already have multi-users, without having to lop off a large section to be devoted only to dogs and their owners.

I live in this neighborhood and hope to live a long rest-of-my-life in this area. Please do not make a such a disastrous change to our neighborhood's ambiance.

Phoenix C.
Spruce St.
Oakland 94610

From: stephen cunningham <stephent_94606@yahoo.com>
Date: Friday, December 7, 2012 12:26 PM
To: <iquan@oaklandnet.com>, <ibrunner@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>
Subject: please save astro park

Hi,

Please do not develop this park into a place for dogs. I lived in this neighborhood for 40 yrs and see this park everyday and want it to remain open space for all to enjoy

Thanks
Stephen

From: Ashley Ziegler <Ashley@sfhoundlounge.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 12:34 PM

Subject: Save Astro Park

To: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com,
jqvan@oaklandnet.com, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

Hello!

My name is Ashley Ziegler. I am a dog lover (see attached pic) but I STILL oppose a dog park being put into astro park. It is loved and thoroughly enjoyed by many as it is. It is magical how it is. Thank you!!!

- Ashley

From: Emily Mendel <emily@mendelnet.com>

Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 1:12 PM

Subject: Save Astro Park

To: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Please bring some common sense to this issue and vote against the dog park. With few funds for parks, who will pay for the constant clean up? Who will eradicate germs, smells and poop? Who will prevent urine runoff in other parts of the lawn?

The lawn is heavily used for picnics, children playing (there is a playground on part of it), pick up soccer games, exercise and relaxing. The space has heavy auto traffic on three sides. Too many dogs will be congregating here for it to be safe. Dogs are unpredictable when several are suddenly on a narrow sidewalk with people and cars rushing by. An ugly chain link fence will be a blight.

With few open green spaces in Oakland, please consider the alternatives proposed.

Regards,

Emily S. Mendel

1109 Ashmount Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

From: HARDYIC@aol.com

To: Sent: 12/7/2012 2:04:34 P.M. Pacific Standard Time

Subj: Save Astro Park

Hello Ms Kaplan

I have lived in the Grand Lake District for just over 28 years. I have been the Chair of the local NCPC (14Y/16X), my Crime Block Captain, an organizer of my neighborhood, an active volunteer for community activities including but not limited to gardening, clean up, grime busters, manning booths at Lakeshore Street fairs, etc.

I have treasured the ONLY open green space in my area, at Lake Shore, Grand and MacArthur. This is the Gateway to our neighborhood.

I am an animal lovers having 3 of my own. I think the park regulations in Oakland are antiquated. I think dog parks are terrific. However, a dog park at that site, Astro Park, is ill conceived and not rational.

The flimsy "fence" (posts and wire spaced at 2 or 3 feet) shall be easy to jump over by large dogs or go through the "fence" by small dogs. The dog park, which is way too small in size is to be divided yet again into two areas, for large and small dogs, wedged between a children's playground and noisy, busy MacArthur Blvd where thousands of buses roar past, day and night.

Given the proposed dog park is too small, dogs shall be stressed, breach the "fences" and run into the tot play ground or straight out into traffic on MacArthur getting themselves injured or God forbid killed. If the dogs enter the tot playground I can only imagine what shall happen to the children. It would be a nightmare.

Who shall the parents sue? The volunteers at the dog park or the City? Who maintains the tot playground? That is the City. It shall be the City that is sued if the tots are attacked by stressed out dogs, the entity with the deepest pockets.

The "maintenance" of the dog park is to be done by volunteers, not City staff.

Having been an active volunteer just a few blocks from the proposed dog park, I can GUARANTEE you that the volunteers will be committed, in force, for a few months, then they shall die off. Their numbers will dwindle.

Within a year, or less, NO ONE will maintain the dog area. It will reek of dog urine and dog poop, the bark shall be soaked with excrement and flung about, all over the sidewalks, directly in the path of alighting passengers from the busses. When these riders alighting from the buses, slip and fall, whom shall they sue? The volunteers, AC Transit or the City? The City Risk Mgr and the Risk Mgr from AC Transit will not be happy about this as law suit folks look for the deepest pockets, and the City and AC Transit shall be targeted. I can guarantee this as I am a Risk Management Insurance Consultant and coincidentally have done work for the City.

I beg you to change your vote. Please save Astro Park. There are over 2,200 people in my neighborhood, just blocks from me and Astro Park, who are adamantly opposed to loosing Astro Park. Don't the local inhabitants have a voice or say? It is our hood, not those leading the charge to install a dog park at Astro Park. Some of the individuals that have been pressing this for over 10 years don't even live here. They live miles and miles away. It makes no sense. It is irrational. When the volunteers disappear and fail to keep the park clean, who gets to smell it daily, who gets to "volunteer" to clean it up as it is our neighborhood, who gets to pick up the poop? That would be us, the very people that didn't want it to begin with. If we don't clean it, who shall?

Please find it in your heart to listen and save the only open green space we have for all to enjoy. Please change your vote.

Thank you for reading and listening.

Jana M. Hardy, ARM
Hardy Insurance Consultants
Elwood Ave, Oakland, Ca

P.S. I know you have asked:

Who is responsible for cleaning?

That would be the volunteers that shall dwindle and die off within a year. I can guarantee this, having watched it happen over the last 28 years. When the dog park volunteers disappear, it falls to us, the neighbors to clean up our own area as AC Transit and the City have no money and staff to do so.

What happens if it's ugly and smelly?

It stays ugly and smelly. The volunteers will disappear. AC Transit and the City have not offered to maintain the dog park. They should not have to. It falls on the people, that live miles and miles away, to do it. What shall happen in the near future when they can no longer drive? They won't do it. They will be unable to do it. They don't live here within walking distance. And we locals are left holding the bag. Literally. AC Transit and the City Risk Managers will be less than thrilled with the law suits from the parents of children in the adjacent playground, law suits from alighting passengers from the AC Transit busses. Further the local businesses will not enjoy the reek of dog urine and poop. Would you? Should I go on?

From: Gail Price <gailprice1@comcast.net>
Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 2:40 PM
Subject: Astro Park for people NOT dogs
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

PLEASE DON'T LET ASTRO PARK GO TO THE DOGS!!

I voted for you repeatedly, and I am asking you NOT to let Astro Park go to the dogs. I live in the Lakeshore neighborhood and I and others constantly use this park for recreation. Astro is much used by families and children. We do not need these children exposed to an influx of biting, defecating dogs. Much better for dog owners to do what they currently do, WALK their dogs along the lake on leashes. Walking is good for the owners and helps fight obesity. Standing and watching your dog play is no exercise for the owners. Abandoning your dog in a pen while shopping is an invitation to dog fighting and city liability.

Plus the smell and additional cost to the city of cleaning up dog excrement is not something we need.

Please vote against turning Astro Park into a dog yard.

Gail Price

277 Wayne Avenue

Oakland 94606

From: Ronna Benjamin <ronnabenjamin@yahoo.com>

To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>;

"jquan@oaklandnet.com" <jquan@oaklandnet.com>

Sent: Friday, December 7, 2012 2:55 PM

Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Councilperson Brunner and Mayor Quan,

Please deny the permit for the proposed dog park in Astro Park.

The park is a wonderful green space in a busy part of the city. It is welcoming to all. It is heavily used by children of all ages and adults of all nationalities. It accomodates many different kinds of sports as well as informal play by children and families. It is visually pleasing to Pedestrians on all sides.

I am concerned with the possibility of losing half of this space to an ugly brown, smelly wood-chip area surrounded by a chain link fense. Although supporters of the dog park say they will landscape and maintain it, they will likely have no time or interest once it is in, driving their dogs to the park and driving away.

I live in Adams Point and walk in the Grand Lake area several times a week, to the Saturday Market, the library, the theater, the shops, and to the playground with my grandchildren.

Please search for alternative sites and wait for the guidelines concerning placement of dog parks. Please save this much needed and loved green space in our busy city.

Sincerely,

Ronna Benjamin

From: Sheila Baca <s.baca348@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 3:06 PM

Subject: APPLICATION FOR A DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK!

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com,
saveastropark@gmail.com

NO, NO, NO--a thousand times NO! This is poor use of our resources and would result in a smelly and unusable area for adults and children. The chain link fence would be an eyesore. Please don't let this ill-advised proposal go through.

From: Marc Bamuthi Joseph <mjoseph@ybca.org>

Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 4:02 PM

Subject: NO/ Astro Park

To: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

Cc: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Ms. Kaplan...

I am a dog owner/lover and I voted for you twice and I am VEHEMENTLY AGAINST turning the public space near Lake Merritt into a dog park.

I am also quite frankly incredibly disappointed in your vote at the last council meeting. I believe you to be reasonable and principled, but this particular action demonstrates neither quality.

I urge you to reconsider when the matter comes up again on the 18th.

Hopefully,

MBJ

--

--

Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Director of Performing Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

701 Mission Street

San Francisco, CA 94103

415-321-1304 (t)

415-978-9635 (f)

mjoseph@ybca.org

www.ybca.org

From: carol shepherd <carolsheph@yahoo.com>
Date: Friday, December 7, 2012 12:15 PM
To: <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: Sue Leyin <sue@heragency.com>
Subject: proposed dog run at Astro Park

Dear Councilwoman Brunner,

The proposed dog run is a good idea but a very bad location. Here are a few of many reasons over 30 years and I love animals.

1. The location, in the midst of a vibrant mixed commercial/residential area, is wrong. The despite claims to the contrary by proponents, they will endanger children in the playground.
2. The grassy area is already being used by humans: volley ball, soccer, picnics, strolling, or woodchip space full of dogs will ruin that wonderful lakeside space.
3. It is way too small. Large dogs, especially, need more area to run in, and they love char. East and West trails up at Redwood Regional Park are great examples.
4. The dog park will benefit a small minority of Oakland residents. The majority of Oakland particularly regrettable in good weather, when many Oakland residents from all over the city.
5. As a neighbor, I did not become aware of the planning for the park until it was practical stages.

Lake Merritt is called the jewel of Oakland. A too-small dog run in Astro Park will spoil that jewel.

Thank you for listening.

Carol Shepherd
620 Spruce St
Oakland CA
834-7743

From: Patti Byram <patti@trademarkeyents.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 12:18 PM

Subject: SAVE ASTRO PARK - DENY DOG PARK
To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>,
"jqvan@oaklandnet.com" <jquan@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Council Member and Mayor,

Please DENY THE APPLICATION FOR A DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK. This is just not the right place for a fenced, off-leash dog park. Please keep this park open and green. Thank you!

Patti Byram

Resident of Grand Lake Area, directly across the street from the park, 17 years

From: Ashley Ziegler <Ashley@sfhoundlounge.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 12:34 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com, jqvan@oaklandnet.com, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

Hello!

My name is Ashley Ziegler. I am a dog lover (see attached pic) but I STILL oppose a dog park being put into astro park. It is loved and thoroughly enjoyed by many as it is. It is magical how it is. Thank you!!!

- Ashley

From: Daniel Gutierrez <dan_zone@vahoo.com>
Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 10:58 AM
To: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>, Sue Levin

<sue@heragency.com>

Subject: Re: Astro Park-Not Saved-Urgent

Dear Jane Brunner.

I am a native Oaklander for 40 plus years. It would break my heart to have a dog park in A: are plenty of potential places along Lake Merritt like across from Ahn's Burgers or across f dogs. Like Caesar Milan says, " I rehabilitate dogs and train people." Unbalanced dog ownr benefits? Jane, please vote against the dog park. Thank you.

Daniel Gutierrez 510-517-3000

Sent from Yahoo! Mail on Android

From: j v <ja_7_4@yahoo.com>

Reply-To: <save-astro-park@googlegroups.com>

Date: Sunday, December 9, 2012 9:49 AM

To: "rkaplan@oaklandnet.com" <rkaplan@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: "save-astro-park@googlegroups.com" <save-astro-park@googlegroups.com>

Subject: [SAP] No Dog Park Please

Dear Councilmember Kaplan,

Please reconsider and vote against the proposed dog park at Astro Park. I have had dogs as my companions all my life and have two now but believe this proposal is a disaster in the making. There is no realistic plan to maintain it other than a promise that VOLUNTEERS will police the area. This is a highly visible and eco sensitive area that is visited by thousands of people every year and enjoyed by families daily and requires a dedicated plan that is fully supported by the city with a budget for it; this is not the case. Have you read the proposed plan for maintenance? At first blush, it sounds good, but after a second look, serious questions come to mind.

- What happens if/when the volunteers lose interest?
- Who is responsible to guarantee maintenance is ongoing?

- Where is the funding for the volunteer maintenance costs for supplies?
- What guarantees does the city have that the costs will be covered indefinitely?
- What happens when Odog and the volunteer group it created to maintain the park cease to exist?
- What remedies are available to the city and neighborhood if/when maintenance stops?
- What number is to be called to report problems?
- What is the plan if/when the park becomes blighted?
- What about the smell of feces and urine?
- Who cleans up after the dogs when their owners don't dispose of their poop?
- What about liability issues?
- When the above issue arise, what is the City's plan to address it?
- How long is the neighborhood expected to suffer while the wheels of city government grind?

While I appreciate the good intentions of the volunteers and the plan for maintaining the area, this plan is horribly flawed and is a bill of goods that should not be approved. This plan has twice been rejected because the governing bodies who voted against it agree that Astro Park is not a good place for a dog park.

Years ago, this dog park proposal included a \$400,000 budget to develop and complete at Astro Park. The current plan is a faded shadow of the original one, with a budget that has been slashed by 90% and has a \$40,000 - \$50,000 budget.

Please reconsider your position and vote against placing a dog park in such a well traveled and highly visible location.

Joseph Villatoro

--

From: Joshua Drake <jdjd123@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 12:21 PM
Subject: Please -- No Dog Park at Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

To the City Council and to Mayor Quan:

As an Oakland resident living two blocks away from Astro Park (at the corner of Lakeshore Ave and Macarthur Blvd), I am writing to ask that you DENY the application to create an area for dogs at Astro Park.

Here's why:

- 1) We have a severe shortage of open space and green space in our neighborhood. Creating a dog run is what you do with a surplus of open space. We have a shortage.
- 2) AESTHETICS -- It will spoil the beauty of that little patch of green in the midst of the gray roads and highways all around it.
- 3) FAIRNESS -- People need a green place to congregate, play sports, lounge and relax.
- 4) SAFETY -- There's a children's playground right there in the park.
- 5) OVERLOAD -- This is a small park. It is already home to a library, a playground, a sports field, and a small fitness (chin-ups) area. We don't want to cram in a dog run into our cute and already bustling park. Please find another place where it won't be so overloaded.

Please keep Astro Park the way it is.

Sincerely,
Joshua Drake
637 Beacon Street, Apt 16
Oakland, CA 94610

From: Emily Mendel <emily@mendelnet.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 1:08 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Brunner,

Please bring some common sense to this issue and vote against the dog park. With few funds for parks, who will pay for the constant clean up? Who will eradicate germs, smells and poop? Who will prevent urine runoff in other parts of the lawn?

The lawn is heavily used for picnics, children playing (there is a playground on part of it), pick up soccer games, exercise and relaxing. The space has heavy auto traffic on three sides. Too many dogs will be congregating here for it to be safe. Dogs are unpredictable when several are suddenly on a narrow sidewalk with people and cars rushing by. An ugly chain link fence will be a blight.

With few open green spaces in Oakland, please consider the alternatives proposed.

Regards,

Emily S. Mendel

1109 Ashmount Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

From: <HARDYIC@aol.com>
Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 2:04 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello Ms Brunner

I have lived in the Grand Lake District for just over 28 years. I have been the Chair of the local NCPC (14Y/16X), my Crime Block Captain, an organizer of my neighborhood, an active volunteer for community activities including but not limited to gardening, clean up, ghme busters, manning booths at Lakeshore Street fairs, etc.

I have treasured the ONLY open green space in my area, at Lake Shore, Grand and MacArthur. This Is the Gateway to our neighborhood.

I am an animal lovers having 3 of my own. I think the park regulations in Oakland are antiquated. I think dog parks are terrific. However, a dog park at that site, Astro Park, is ill conceived and not rational.

The flimsy "fence" (posts and wire spaced at 2 or 3 feet) shall be easy to jump over by large dogs or go through the "fence" by small dogs. The dog park, which is way too small in size is to be divided yet again into two areas, for large and small dogs, wedged between a children's playground and noisy, busy MacArthur Blvd where thousands of buses roar past, day and night.

Given the proposed dog park is too small, dogs shall be stressed, breach the "fences" and run into the tot play ground or straight out into traffic on MacArthur getting themselves injured or God forbid killed. If the dogs enter the tot playground I can only imagine what shall happen to the children. It would be a nightmare.

Who shall the parents sue? The volunteers at the dog park or the City, who apparently maintains the tot playground? it shall be the City, with the deepest pockets.

The "maintenance" of the dog park is to be done by volunteers, not City staff.

Having been an active volunteer just a few blocks from the proposed dog park, I can GUARANTEE you that the volunteers will be committed, in force, for a few months, then they shall die off. Their numbers will dwindle. Within a year, or less, NO ONE will maintain the dog area. It will reek of dog urine and dog poop, the bark shall be soaked with excrement and flung about, all over the sidewalks, directly in the path of alighting passengers from the busses. When these riders alighting from the buses, slip and fall, whom shall they sue? The volunteers, AC Transit or the City? The City Risk Mgr and the Risk Mgr from AC Transit will not be happy about this as law suit folks look for the deepest pockets, and the City and AC Transit shall be targeted. I can guarantee this as I am a Risk Management Insurance Consultant and coincidentally have done work for the City.

As your final vote on Counsel, I beg you to vote against the proposed dog park at Astro Park. Please save Astro Park. There are over 2,200 people in my neighborhood, just blocks from me and Astro Park, who are adamantly opposed to loosing Astro Park. Don't the local inhabitants have a voice or say? It is our hood, not those leading the charge to install a dog park at Astro Park. Some of the Individuals that have been pressing

this for over 10 years don't even live here. They live miles and miles away. It makes no sense. It is irrational. When the volunteers disappear and fail to keep the park clean, who gets to smell it daily, who gets to "volunteer" to clean it up as it is our neighborhood, who gets to pick up the poop? That would be us, the very people that didn't want it to begin with. If we don't clean it, who shall?

Please find it in your heart to listen and save the only open green space we have for all to enjoy.

Thank you for reading and listening.

Jana M. Hardy, ARM
Hardy Insurance Consultants
Elwood Ave, Oakland, Ca

From: HARDYIC@aol.com
To: Sent: 12/7/2012 2:04:34 P.M. Pacific Standard Time
Subj: Save Astro Park

Hello Ms Kaplan

I have lived in the Grand Lake District for just over 28 years. I have been the Chair of the local NCPC (14Y/16X), my Crime Block Captain, an organizer of my neighborhood, an active volunteer for community activities including but not limited to gardening, clean up, grime busters, manning booths at Lakeshore Street fairs, etc.

I have treasured the ONLY open green space in my area, at Lake Shore, Grand and MacArthur. This is the Gateway to our neighborhood.

I am an animal lovers having 3 of my own. I think the park regulations in Oakland are antiquated. I think dog parks are terrific. However, a dog park at that site, Astro Park, is ill conceived and not rational.

The flimsy "fence" (posts and wire spaced at 2 or 3 feet) shall be easy to jump over by large dogs or go through the "fence" by small dogs. The dog park, which is way too small in size is to be divided yet again into two areas, for large and small dogs, wedged between a children's playground and noisy, busy MacArthur Blvd where thousands of buses roar past, day

and night.

Given the proposed dog park is too small, dogs shall be stressed, breach the "fences" and run into the tot play ground or straight out into traffic on MacArthur getting themselves injured or God forbid killed. If the dogs enter the tot playground I can only imagine what shall happen to the children. It would be a nightmare.

Who shall the parents sue? The volunteers at the dog park or the City? Who maintains the tot playground? That is the City. It shall be the City that is sued if the tots are attacked by stressed out dogs, the entity with the deepest pockets.

The "maintenance" of the dog park is to be done by volunteers, not City staff.

Having been an active volunteer just a few blocks from the proposed dog park, I can GUARANTEE you that the volunteers will be committed, in force, for a few months, then they shall die off. Their numbers will dwindle. Within a year, or less, NO ONE will maintain the dog area. It will reek of dog urine and dog poop, the bark shall be soaked with excrement and flung about, all over the sidewalks, directly in the path of alighting passengers from the busses. When these riders alighting from the buses, slip and fall, whom shall they sue? The volunteers, AC Transit or the City? The City Risk Mgr and the Risk Mgr from AC Transit will not be happy about this as law suit folks look for the deepest pockets, and the City and AC Transit shall be targeted. I can guarantee this as i am a Risk Management Insurance Consultant and coincidentally have done work for the City.

i beg you to change your vote. Please save Astro Park. There are over 2,200 people in my neighborhood, just blocks from me and Astro Park, who are adamantly opposed to losing Astro Park. Don't the local inhabitants have a voice or say? It is our hood, not those leading the charge to install a dog park at Astro Park. Some of the individuals that have been pressing this for over 10 years don't even live here. They live miles and miles away. It makes no sense. It is irrational. When the volunteers disappear and fail to keep the park clean, who gets to smell it daily, who gets to "volunteer" to clean it up as it is our neighborhood, who gets to pick up the poop? That would be us, the very people that didn't want it to begin with. If we don't clean it, who shall?

Please find it in your heart to listen and save the only open green space we have for all to enjoy. Please change your vote.

Thank you for reading and listening.

Jana M. Hardy, ARM
Hardy Insurance Consultants
Elwood Ave, Oakland, Ca
From: Gail Price <gailprice1@comcast.net>
Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 2:40 PM
Subject: Astro Park for people NOT dogs
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

PLEASE DON'T LET ASTRO PARK GO TO THE DOGS!!

I voted for you repeatedly, and I am asking you **NOT** to let Astro Park go to the dogs. I live in the Lakeshore neighborhood and I and others constantly use this park for recreation. Astro is much used by families and children. We do not need these children exposed to an influx of biting, defecating dogs. Much better for dog owners to do what they currently do, **WALK** their dogs along the lake on leashes. Walking is good for the owners and helps fight obesity. Standing and watching your dog play is no exercise for the owners. Abandoning your dog in a pen while shopping is an invitation to dog fighting and city liability.

Plus the smell and additional cost to the city of cleaning up dog excrement is not something we need.

Please vote against turning Astro Park into a dog yard.

Gail Price
277 Wayne Avenue
Oakland 94606

P.S. I know you haVe asked:

Who is responsible for cleaning?

That would be the volunteers that shall dwindle and die off within a year. I can guarantee this, having watched it happen over the last 28 years. When the dog park volunteers disappear, it falls to us, the neighbors to clean up our own area as AC Transit and the City have no money and staff to do so.

What happens if it's ugly and smelly?

it stays ugly and smelly. The volunteers will disappear. AC Transit and the City have not offered to maintain the dog park. They should not have to. It falls on the people, that live miles and miles away, to do it. What shall happen in the near future when they can no longer drive? They won't do it. They will be unable to do it. They don't live here within walking distance. And we locals are left holding the bag. Literally. AC Transit and the City Risk Managers will be less than thrilled with the law suits from the parents of children in the adjacent playground, law suits from alighting passengers from the AC Transit busses. Further the local businesses will not enjoy the reek of dog urine and poop. Would you? Should I go on?

From: Ronna Benjamin <ronnabenjamin@vahoo.com>

To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>;

"jquan@oaklandnet.com" <jquan@oaklandnet.com>

Sent: Friday, December 7, 2012 2:55 PM

Subject: Save Astro Park

Dear Councilperson Brunner and Mayor Quan,

Please deny the permit for the proposed dog park in Astro Park. The park is a wonderful green space in a busy part of the city. It is welcoming to all. It is heavily used by children of all ages and adults of all nationalities. It accomodates many different kinds of sports as well as informal play by children and families. It is visually pleasing to Pedestrians on all sides.

I am concerned with the possibility of losing half of this space to an ugly brown, smelly wood-chip area surrounded by a chain link fense. Although supporters of the dog park say they will landscape and maintain it, they will likely have no time or interest once it is in, driving their dogs to the park and driving away.

I live in Adams Point and walk in the Grand Lake area several

times a week, to the Saturday Market, the library, the theater, the shops, and to the playground with my grandchildren.

Please search for alternative sites and wait for the guidelines concerning placement of dog parks. Please save this much needed and loved green space in our busy city.

Sincerely,

Ronna Benjamin

From: Sheila Baca <s.baca348@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 3:06 PM

Subject: APPLICATION FOR A DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK!

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

NO, NO, NO--a thousand times NO! This is poor use of our resources and would result in a smelly and unusable area for adults and children. The chain link fence would be an eyesore. Please don't let this ill-advised proposal go through.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Marc Bamuthi Joseph <mjoseph@ybca.org>

Date: Fri, Dec 7, 2012 at 4:02 PM

Subject: NO/ Astro Park

To: rkaplan@oakiandnet.com

Cc: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Ms. Kaplan...

I am a dog owner/lover and I voted for you twice and I am **VEHEMENTLY AGAINST** turning the public space near Lake Merritt into a dog park.

I am also quite frankly incredibly disappointed in your vote at the last council meeting. I believe you to be reasonable and principled, but this particular action demonstrates neither quality.

I urge you to reconsider when the matter comes up again on the 18th.

Hopefully,

MBJ

--
--

Marc Bamuthi Joseph, Director of Performing Arts
Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
701 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
[415-321-1304](tel:415-321-1304) (t)
[415-978-9635](tel:415-978-9635) (f)
mjoseph@ybca.org
www.ybca.org

From: **JACQUELYN LEWIS** <jsl510@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Sat, Dec 8, 2012 at 8:07 AM
Subject: Astro Dog Park Vote
To: nnadel@oaklandnet.com
Cc: Councili@oaklandnet.com, saVeastropark@gmail.com, David Calabretta <dc3441@gmail.com>

Dear Ms. Nadel,

I am very disappointed in your vote supporting the proposed dog park at Astro Park.

I have lived in the large apartment building behind the vacant lot at Lakeshore and MacArthur for 40 years and I feel as if the area is becoming one big "toilet". At least once a week (and many times more than that), I look out my window facing the empty lot and see men driving up and hopping out of their cars to relieve themselves in the bushes which are behind the empty lot. Then there is the issue of the pigeon excrement which is ever-present on both sides of the sidewalk underneath the freeway. Now you are supporting a dog park within the same four-corner area, where I doubt we

can rely on all owners to clean up after their dogs.

I am not against dog parks - I love dogs But I would urge you to reconsider your vote and try to find another more suitable place for an additional dog park.

From: Stephanie Mamane <steph0099@yahoo.com>

Date: Sat, Dec 8, 2012 at 9:32 AM

Subject: Opposition to dog park

To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Hello Ms Bruner-

I wanted to reach out to you as a resident of Oakland to voice my opposition to the proposed dog park at AstroPark. This is a very special space for my family and I and the thought of it becoming a fenced in dog park is disturbing and disappointing. The planning commission voted against this for good reason and now it has come to a City Council vote. I urge you to vote NO!

My 3 young children all play soccer and flag football on that field. When they were all babies, they spent several hours a day picnicking on the lawn and playing in the tot lot. On Saturdays after the farmers market, we head across the street to let our kids play on the open field and always have a spare soccer ball in the trunk to kick around.

Oakland is thriving. We moved here from SF 9 years ago and have a half dozen other friends who left the city to come to Oakland to start a family. This area in particular is a mecca for foodies and a beautiful backdrop to the lake.

While I understand dog owners need a space to allow their dogs to run, please don't use this space. I'm sure there are other alternatives that the creative folks who propose this can come up with.

Thank you for your time and please vote no..

Stephanie Mamane
Oakland resident

And, for the record, a dog owner....

From: Karen Mead <ckmead@comcast.net>
Date: Sat, Dec 8, 2012 at 9:24 PM
Subject: Please save Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Quan and Councilmember Brunner,

We are adding our voices to the hundreds of our neighbors – and Oaklanders in general – who beg you not to allow a dog park to destroy our friendly, green Astro Park. Long before this proposal was put forward, I took particular note of the diversity of use that this park receives. The open grassy field encourages both structured and free play, and it's a perfect complement to an active, vibrant community resource anchored by Lake Merritt and the Grand/Lakeshore business districts.

If funds are to be expended for this community treasure, please let them be used to make the existing playground safer and cleaner, and not to bring noise, odors, and fences to our open space. If a dog park is located next to the playground, a big chunk of the grassy field will be lost. In addition, many children are afraid of dogs and will be too frightened to use the playground, despite the fencing.

Please vote to deny the use permit.

Thank you.

Karen and Chris Mead

From: Annie Mohler <annie@hank.org>
Date: Sun, Dec 9, 2012 at 8:05 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

I have been a resident of Crocker Highlands for 18 years. Only last night did I hear about plans to put a dog park at Astro Park. I highly object. This is a multi-use area that I hold dear. My kids stomped in mud puddles there

when they were little. They use the area now to practice frisbee. It is the only large open space in our neighborhood for play of this type.

The most precious part of this large open space is the pick up soccer games. Here is where people from all walks of life come and play together. This is what makes Oakland unique. My kids used to experience this on the swim team at Live Oak Pool. Families from both sides of the freeway would work with one another as a team. My kids had the chance to get to befriend kids from all sorts of backgrounds. Now the pool is closed. Don't take away this opportunity to play together from others by creating a dog park. By playing together we create a community.

--

Annie Mohler, MD
annie@hank.org

From: Greg Macchi <gmac619@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Dec 9, 2012 at 11:04 AM
Subject: Please no dog park at Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Hello -

I'm a resident of Oakland close to Lake Merritt in Cleveland Heights. I'm writing to voice my opinion and urge all of you to not allow the dog park to go in at Astro Park. I believe the open grass field provides more recreational space and opportunities for everyone as it is. The dog park would be an eye sore and a terrible loss of open space.

Best,

Greg Macchi

From: Rachel Broadwin <chezrachel@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Dec 9, 2012 at 1:41 PM
Subject: Montgomery Wards
To: "idelafuente@oaklandnet.com" <idelafuente@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Ignacio,

You did good, really good, when you accomplished what you did at the old Montgomery Ward site. That's a true example of your legacy.

Please don't sully that legacy by helping the political hacks that are trying to shove this dog park down the throats of a very large majority of the people who live in this neighborhood.

A truly wise solution to this dilemma would be to modify the clumsy and restrictive policies of the park and rec, they are the ones that make it difficult for dog owners all across the city to use any park facilities. There are very lightly used park grounds that could be devoted to dog parks in sites around the city, that would help all dog owners.

On Saturday, December 8th, there was flag football game with twenty year olds, and, also a soccer game with what looked to be eight year olds, going on simultaneously at exactly the site where this dog park would take over. Those games, that's sharing.

Please do not give this beautiful, useful patch of lawn to one group for one use only.

Rachel Broadwin and Lary Heath
MacArthur Blvd, near Park Blvd

=====

Greetings from Rachel B.

chezrachel@yahoo.com

From: Rachel Broadwin <chezrachel@yahoo.com>

Date: Sun, Dec 9, 2012 at 2:27 PM

Subject: Parks

To: "Ischaaf@oaklandnet.com" <Ischaaf@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: pkernighan@oakland.com, "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Libby,

On Saturday, December 8th, there was flag football game with twenty year olds, and, also a soccer game with what looked to be eight year olds, going on simultaneously at exactly the site where this dog park would take over. This kind of activity appears every weekend, and would be completely supplanted by this dog park, which will dominate that entire open space.

A truly wise solution to this dilemma would be to modify the clumsy and restrictive policies of the park and rec; they are the ones that make it difficult for dog owners all across the city to use any park facilities. There are very lightly used park grounds that could be devoted to dog parks in sites around the city, that would help all dog owners. If you really want to help broaden the use of parks in Oakland, let's allow the dog owners the opportunity to construct dog parks to serve more of the neighborhoods in Oakland. It would be nice if they could just walk to their local dog park.

Our neighborhood has already rejected this dog park - just ask Pat Kernighan.

We are of the neighborhood impacted by your vote. We love to see all the various groups playing at a wide range of games and activities every time we walk and drive past this

lovely gathering place near the lake.

Please do not give this beautiful, useful patch of lawn to one group for one use only.

Rachel Broadwin and Lary Heath
MacArthur Blvd, near Park Blvd.

=====

Greetings from Rachel B.
chezrachel@yahoo.com

From: Rachel Broadwin <chezrachel@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Dec 9, 2012 at 3:08 PM
Subject: 5-Minute Parking Grace Period Victory
To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Jane,

Thanks for the help with the at times painful enforcement of meter infractions. You did good, Jane.

Now, we need your help on another matter.

On Saturday, December 8th, there was flag football game with twenty year olds, and, also a soccer game with what looked to be eight year olds, going on simultaneously at exactly the site where a dog park would take over. This kind of activity appears every weekend, and would be completely supplanted by this dog park, which will dominate that entire open space.

A truly wise solution to this dilemma would be to modify the clumsy and restrictive policies of the park and rec; they are

the ones that make it difficult for dog owners all across the city to use any park facilities. There are very lightly used park grounds that could be devoted to dog parks in sites around the city, that would help all dog owners. If you really want to help broaden the use of parks in Oakland, let's allow the dog owners the opportunity to construct dog parks to serve more of the neighborhoods in Oakland. It would be nice if dog owners could just walk to their local dog park.

Our neighborhood has already rejected this dog park; we've been looking at this for several years and our neighborhood thinks it's a mistake.

We are of the neighborhood impacted by your vote. We love to see all the various groups playing at a wide range of games and activities every time we walk and drive past this lovely gathering place near the lake.

Please do not give this beautiful, useful patch of lawn to one group for one use only.

Rachel Broadwin and Lary Heath
MacArthur Blvd, near Park Blvd

=====

Greetings from Rachel B.
chezrachel@yahoo.com

From: Victoria A. Barbero <vabarbero@comcast.net>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 9:02 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park for the Children
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, JQuan@oaklandnet.com,
saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Councilmember Brunner and Mayor Quan,

My husband, Reinaldo Barbero, and I heartily recommend that you save Astro Park for the children, the football and soccer players. This open lawn is far too valuable to be fenced off for one user group. If you look every single day this park is used by children and adults for recreational purposes. Many of those who lived in our area are poor and/or live in apartments and have no other chance to enjoy a lawn and playground. Please do not deny them this pleasure.

Sincerely,

Victoria A. Barbero

Barbero Communications LLC
510-387-3071

From: Timothy Terry <tterry21@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 11:20 AM
Subject: Save Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com
Cc: Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Councilwoman Brunner,

I ask you to oppose the plan to put a dog park at Astro Park.

I am concerned over the long term environmental consequences of this action and feel these issues have not been taken seriously by those council members supporting this plan. Namely if nearly an acre of grass is torn up it is going to affect the natural rainwater balance in this area. Businesses around the Grand Lakeshore area have gone through years of flooding and drains and businesses were flooded during last weeks big storm. What may end up happening is the dog park will fill with water. Combine this with feces and urine, all of this will eventually flow into Lake

Merritt. Embarking on this project without studies of water drainage and flow is just irresponsible.

The MOU with the supporters of the dog park is weak. The responsibility for maintaining and following through on building this dog park will eventually fall on the tax payers, and our resources must be spent on more important things. Dog owners do not have a Right to have a dog park. Compare this to the closing of 5 elementary schools in Oakland because we didn't have enough money to keep them open.

Astro Park has existed as beautiful open space for this community for the past 100 years. With the amount of community opposition to this plan, I urge you to proceed cautiously and do not go against the City Planning Department's opinion. This was a bad idea 10 years ago and it is a bad idea today. It is obvious from the council statements supporting this plan that there is political posturing. Please do the right thing.

Thank you,

Tim Terry
491 Crescent Street #307
Oakland, CA 94610
415-407-8591

From: Jennifer Chin <jentchin@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 11:30 AM
Subject: Fwd: Off-leash dog area permit at Astro Park--Please DENY
To: "Brunner, Jane" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>, jquan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Jane and Mayor Quan,

Please VOTE AGAINST the off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

I've been an Oakland Lake Merritt resident for nearly 15 years. I love dogs--I've owned one, and I've cared for others' dogs at my Lake Merritt home. I'm also a parent of a 4-year old who loves the green area of Astro park because my he can run around the field and play soccer on Saturday mornings before we walk over to the Farmers' Market. We can fly kites and play baseball there on Sunday afternoons. We also play in the play area but sometimes my son just wants to run on the green grass. All of

these things will be changed or not even a possibility if there is a fenced, off-leash dog run built. Adult soccer games will compete for space with the ongoing toddler and young children soccer sessions that are year round. That doesn't even take into account others who just want to throw a frisbee around or run around in open space. I respectfully, but strongly request that you deny the permit request for the proposed dog run.

With all the wonderful park upgrades and road and walkway improvements done under Measure DD, I'm finding it very hard to imagine how a off-leash dog run with a wrap around fence, RIGHT on the corner of Lakeshore and MacArthur is even a consideration. So many people use this space--adults have their own soccer games alongside the kids. Little toddlers run and chase the geese, kites are flown. There isn't enough room to push all the soccer and field games to the area near the library parking lot. There are many dog parks in walking distance. Why do we need to have a chain fenced (and eye-sore) obstruction right in the heart of the busiest and attractive parts of Lake Merritt? Why are we going to put in something that will take away the green grass, block park access, increase traffic, and put off-leash dogs closer to tots?

I'm a single mother who is finding urban Oakland harder and harder to raise a child in. I own property and I pay Oakland taxes. I support Oakland businesses because I believe in this city. Frankly, I will be extremely disappointed if this permit is allowed to push out more recreational space for residents and children where it is needed most. Why are we pushing out the people and children and making room for dogs in a neighborhood with high-traffic and near areas where dogs should not be off-leash (e.g. farmers market/tot park)? Dogs can have space--it's just not appropriate here.

I'm including photos of my son and his buddies making good use of this space as it is. Please don't take that away.
https://picasaweb.google.com/107385679758804445215/AstroPark?authuser=0&authkey=Gv1sRgCP_j27T-u5f6cA&feat=directlink

Respectfully,

Jennifer Chin (Oakland Lake Merritt resident since 1997)

Alex Chin (Oakland Lake Merritt resident since 2007)

1438 Lakeshore Avenue

From: Sarah Frankfurth <sfrankfurth@hotmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 11:37 AM
Subject: Please vote to save Astro Park for people!
To: jquan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Jean

I live a few blocks from Astro Park and use the park several times a week. I'm writing to urge you to decide against creating a fenced dog run at the park. I take my children to the tot lot and I'm worried about having a dog run so close to where young toddlers and babies come to play. I'm concerned for my children's safety and for the cleanliness of the park. As I understand it, there's no clear plan for maintenance of the dog run to make sure the fence is intact and that the ground is cleaned and treated for acid. Having a muddy, acrid smelling dog run a few feet away from a heavily used toddler playground is not a good idea. This area of Astro Park is the only place around the lake that has a large, flat open space where people can play soccer. Whenever I go to the park, I see people using the space where the dog run would be, either for soccer or frisbee and on windy days - people fly kites here. It's a beautiful green spot and it would really detract from all of the improvements being made to the Lake Merritt area to destroy some of our green, open space to create a fenced dog run. I hope you'll decide against putting a fenced dog run in this valuable piece of community space.

Thanks

Sarah Frankfurth

----- Forwarded message -----

From: THOMAS, MAX J <mt6862@att.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 11:43 AM
Subject: Jean and Jane - Please do not let the wonderful open park get subdivided for a dog run. Thank you - max j thomas, 1830 Lakeshore ave #401.
To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>, "jquan@oaklandnet.com" <jquan@oaklandnet.com>, "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Max J Thomas
Business Application Solutions

415-644-7335
415-606-3963 mobile
Mt6862@att.com

From: L Finney <finneylp@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 11:45 AM
Subject: Astro Park-no dog park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com,
saveastropark@gmail.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

Thank you for taking the time to hear my opinion on the dog park proposed in Astro Park. I'm a 4 year Lake Merritt area resident, dog lover, and frequent user of the Astro Park and other areas around Lake Merritt.

When I first discovered this issue, I was walking by the proposed location while a group of Special Olympics children practiced soccer in Astro Park. As a resident, I'm aware that open space is incredibly rare, and I support these kids and others having the opportunity to be active near their home.

I'm asking you to vote AGAINST the dog park proposal for the following reasons:

- According to the American Kennel Club, this is Not Big Enough for a dog park.
- This space does not meet the ideal criteria for a dog park. It is near children's play area and currently used for other purposes.
- Who will keep it clean? I often see dog poop on the sidewalk. If owners can't pick up in the middle of the sidewalk, I doubt they would be incline to do so in a dog park
- Who will fund upkeep? Oakland resources are already stretched thin and volunteers are unreliable. Where will the funding come from to upgrade the fence and buy new wood chips when required?
- This is the only flat open space around, how can we take it away from those who use it?

Last night, at 4:50 pm I took the attached photo of a group playing frisbee in the proposed dog park area. Additionally, there was another group playing soccer and a parent playing with his children in the area outside the proposed dog park. There were 25+ people enjoying this open space. If this dog park is installed, where will those people gather to exercise and enjoy the neighborhood? Where

will I lay to read a book and enjoy a beautiful afternoon in Oakland?

Please vote against the dog park. Allow Oakland residents this small area of open space to enjoy as we see fit.

Thank you,
Lecia Finney

From: Grace Webber <grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 12:00 PM
Subject: Please don't approve Astro Park as a dog park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com
Cc: Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Jane,

I've been to see Grove Shafter and I think you did a great job there in your district. Well done! You found a place that wasn't being used, and that wouldn't detract from potential future use, to convert into a pretty neat dog park.

For dogs, having a big rock to stand on and leap up to and show off to their buddies is great. It would totally mess up most human athletic activities to have that big rock there. Likewise, the highway stilts would mess up a sports game, but don't really interfere with dogs' running, and the highway provides some summer shade. And of course the sloped nature of the site absolutely increases the interest for dogs while making the site unworkable for a soccer game.

You put the entrance to the off-leash area way at the back of the recreation field. Where there's no risk from nearby traffic. So dogs and owners are safe from interference by vehicles when getting into and out of the park. Even the one road that does abut the dog park, is not that busy. Oh, and there's enough parking for the fairly low utilization of the dog park because there aren't any other commercial activities or visitor attractions nearby. There aren't too many people near the "magic cans" where the dog poop is sitting and the overall utilization of the site is low enough that the few bits of poop lying around don't have an overpowering smell.

I really like Grove Shafter as a dog park. I think it really works. (It's a shame it isn't a bit better known, really).

Not so Astro Park. There you have a well-used, well-loved, highly visible green common, on a flat piece of land waterlogged in winter, right in the middle of three very busy roads and two highway interchanges, with inadequate parking to meet demand, beside the Lake, the Library and the shops. A light sprinkling of wood chips like you have at Grove Shafter wouldn't nearly be enough to hide the dirt and keep the dust down with the volume of dogs one might expect at that spot. People are jammed in so close on all sides that any infringement by the dogs and dog owners would have consequences all over, and create lots of tension.

There's a reason why Grove Shafter went in so easily but Astro/Lakeview has so much opposition. They are very different parks.

Please protect the green open space of Astro Park for its myriad of compatible existing and future human uses, and don't create a site for conflict. Great spaces can be found for a dog park - just as you found Grove Shafter.

Thank you.

Grace Webber
Save Astro Park!

--

Please use grace.webber@sloan.mit.edu
It's my "email for life".

From: Gerald Mutphy <murphygp22@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 12:05 PM
Subject: Dog park
To: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Please vote no on the Astro dog park application thanks
Gerald Murphy
398 Euclid # 108
Oakland , Ca 94610
Sent fro

From: sunnywindow@juno.com <sunnywindow@juno.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 12:06 PM
Subject: Please preserve our urban meadow, Astro Park.
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Councilmember Brunner and Mayor Quan ~~

This is to ask that you vote to keep Astro Park as it is: Invitingly Vast and Green. For everyone. Astro Park is our Urban Meadow, gladdening and soothing all people.

We smile at the sight of it and at the feel of it beneath our feet. It's profound benefit will be diminished if a dogpark is put on it.

Please vote to deny the conditional use permit application regarding an off-leash dog area in Astro Park.

Thank you!

~~Gayle Mohrbacker

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From: Christopher Flores <chrisf@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 12:10 PM
Subject: Kindly say NO to dog run application for Astro Park
To: jquan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Mayor Quan,

As a long-term resident of the Lakeshore area and frequent user of AstroPark for recreational purposes, I think a dog run is a totally inappropriate use of the space: too small for a dog run, not easy to integrate with other park uses (usually dog runs are stand alone), additional staffing to keep clean, and aesthetically out of place.

I urge you to vote to deny the application, as recommended by the Parks Commission.

Thanks.

Christopher Flores

Christopher Flores
4114 Lakeshore Ave
Oakland, CA 94610
Tel: +1 (510) 834 4046
Cell: +1 (510) 599 7353
Email: chrif@sbcglobal.net

From: **Boots Rule** <bootsrule@comcast.net>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 1:24 PM
Subject: The upcoming vote on proposed dog park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Councilmember Brunner and Mayor Quan:

We need your votes to defeat this misguided measure...I love dogs, I have a dog, but this area should be reserved for children, and sports..It should not be further sullied w/dog poop...Right now, we are awash in geese poop. It is unhealthy, and very unpleasant to have to sidestep constantly...

Thank you for your consideration...

Boots Rule

From: **William J. Lyons** <willwjl@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 2:04 PM
Subject: Please no dog park @ astro
To: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Parks in such a congested area should remain open and for people. Dogs would create chaos and more mess. Can the city afford to maintain this? I say please no dog park keep it for the people!! Thanks

William J. Lyons

From: Peter Cole <peter94610@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 2:20 PM
Subject: Dog Park
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

To who

I urge you to drop plans to construct a dog park on the playfield at Astro Park.

I am a man in my seventies and was saddened to learn that you all propose to create a dog park in the middle of the playfield at Astro Park. I walk to the park almost every day and today was no exception. I saw no dogs or persons walking dogs in the area of Astro Park but I did notice that right where you propose to construct the dog park there were a meaningful number of young adults playing. This is often the case. So it seems to me that while persons of all ages use the proposed dog park area for recreation purposes, a dog park would substantially limit recreation space for persons. While on weekends the dog traffic is likely heavier there is ample area around the lake for persons to walk and exercise their dogs on leash. Worse still is the possibility that the dog park would not attract the number of dogs the proponents may argue but it certainly would deprive people use of the area for recreation. In effect the proposed dog park gives priority to dogs and/or dog owners, which I do not think is appropriate given that there are alternatives places for dogs.

Secondly, while it does not occur frequently there I have witness times when certain dogs became unruly and a threat particularly to small children who sometimes stray from their central play area. A dog park would presumably increase the number of dogs present and thus increase the chance of a dog attack.

For the reasons stated above I urge you to please deny the conditional use permit application for a fenced off-leash dog area

at Astro Park.

Sincerely,

Peter Cole

From: Scott Willis <scottwillis724@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 4:57 PM
Subject: Astro Park is not a dog run
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com,
saveastropark@gmail.com

Jane & Jean,

Please do not vote in support of a dog run in Astro Park. This is just bad use of this prime real estate. This is the entrance to Grand Lake. So much work has been done to improve the paths, landscaping, and general sense of beauty. A dog run with fences & landscaping would just spoil the sense of leaving the freeway (and its fences) behind and entering the relaxation of the Grand Lake.

Thanks.
Scott Willis
510 409 2832

From: Debbie Cooper <debjoy.cooper@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Dec 10, 2012 at 8:52 PM
Subject: Please reconsider your vote and SAVE ASTRO PARK!
To: RKaplan@oaklandnet.com, "Jones, Andre"
<AJones@oaklandnet.com>, Save Astro Park
<saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Councilmember Kaplan,

First, I want to thank you and your staff for all of the effort that has been made towards evaluating the Lakeview Dog Park proposal at Astro Park. I agree that this issue should never have gotten so contentious.

I also agree with you that the reason this issue is so “fraught” is because the city’s current dog policies are too restrictive. I am completely comfortable with having dogs on-leash around the lake, and many others that I’ve spoken with about dog policy are as well. But I don’t think that developing the Lakeview Dog Park is the answer. This site has far too much potential for problems because it is so heavily trafficked. It’s a risky proposition for Oakland.

I believe that this incredible battle has actually moved the discussion about the need for dog areas forward in a very positive way. The PRAC Dog Park Task Force would never have been created and they would not be writing a dog park policy right now, if not for the community’s outcry about changes to Astro Park. I hope that the guidelines will be taken seriously and a progressive dog policy can be developed for our city.

During his public comment, John Sutter, (Vice President of the East Bay Regional Park District Board and former Oakland City Council Vice Mayor) stated that the City Council should act as the stewards of Lake Merritt, Oakland’s crown jewel, and that the lakeside is not appropriate for off-leash dog areas. I agree with this statement whole-heartedly. One comment made by Emily Rosenberg during the dog park “mediation” is that she would accept a dog area within a mile of the lake. That is a much more reasonable criteria than she has been demanding thus far.

I suggest that a citywide plan be developed with multiple strategies for solving the needs of dog owners. This might include the lake perimeter as a strictly on-leash area, a number of small off-leash pocket parks distributed across the city, and a larger off-leash park or two. Strawberry Creek Park in Berkeley (1260 Allston at Bonar) is an excellent example of a successful pocket park. If you or your staff has the time, I recommend

taking a look at it.

You asked several very reasonable questions about the park's maintenance during the hearing that were not answered by staff, so I was surprised that you voted in favor of the park when your concerns were not addressed. Further to your questions, I am wondering if the "smelly" urine-soaked wood chips will ever actually be replaced or just replenished. It will be quite difficult to remove them, so over time the odor is likely to become pungent (to say the least). Perhaps you can pursue an answer to this question as well. And if you can't get good answers, I sincerely request that you reconsider your position and vote against a dog park at Astro Park. Please take the long view on this issue.

Thanks again.

Debbie Cooper

From: Rachel Gregg <rachelgregg@hotmaii.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 7:53 AM
Subject: Astro Park is not for safe dogs
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Greetings Ms. Brunner and Mayor Quan,

As you know, a debate has been brewing over the placement of a dog park at the busy intersection of t.akeview and MacArthur. When Fairyland objected to the more logical placement of the park in the old police horse training stables, dog park advocates rallied around the Astro Park location.

Who can blame them? Dog parks are nice amenities.

But Astro Park? Thats an awful location. Plain and simple.

Are the mayor and councilmembers ready to defend their decision to place a dog park next to a tot lot when the first toddler is bitten? What will the response be when a pet owner loses a beloved dog to a car accident or a family member who lost control when swerving to avoid a dog?

Astro Park is tenuously located next to busy streets and busy on and off ramps - it works for people because we have instinct enough to stop ourselves before we hit the asphalt. Dogs are so sensibly equipped.

I would love to see an underutilized portion of green space developed into a dog park. Astro Park is not an UNDERUTILIZED portion of green space.

As a resident of 626 Grand Avenue I have a sweeping, daily view of the park and know as well as anyone how vibrant and loved the park is, as it is. I can also plainly see the hazard a dog park would present to both the dogs and the tots.

We have whole swaths of land that don't see any activity and that could benefit from an investment in infrastructure. Astro Park isn't on that list. Lets keep our commitment to smart development. Save the private (and surely some public) money for tending to the parks we already have or developing a dog park in an area that is blighted (horse training stables, anyone?).

I trust you'll make the right decision.

-Rachel Gregg

626 Grand Ave #4

Oakland, CA 94610

From: mejonathan@netzero.net <mejonathan@netzero.net>

Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 8:03 AM

Subject: Proposed Astro Dog Park - I say No

To: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com,
jquan@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I live on Haddon Hill and have a dog. I use dog parks. I applaud ODOG trying to increase the number of dog parks, in general.

I have attended a community meeting and planning meeting to support "no" efforts. I have e-mailed elected representatives to ask that it not be approved.

Why?

The proposed location, size, and financing find me being against the proposed dog park on Lakeshore.

It takes away precious un-programmed space. It is too small. There are no funds in sinking fund to clean or remove the park if volunteer efforts fade over time.

I can say more (much more) but that is the core of my reasoning -

Please vote no.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Paul Narvaez <cutty51@hotmail.com>

Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 11:33 AM

Subject: astro poo park
To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>,
"jqvan@oaklandnet.com" <jquan@oaklandnet.com>,
"saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

that's what it will be. PLEASE don't let this happen to the only open space in the vicinity!

From: Allison Millar <allison.m.millar@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 11:40 AM
Subject: Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Good morning Councilmember Brunner,

I am writing this morning to encourage you to preserve Astro Park as a green space for families and children to enjoy in Oakland, rather than turning the space into a dog park. I am fortunate to live within walking distance of the park and I nearly always see people using the space for recreational purposes-- young children learning to play soccer, adults getting together to play frisbee, parents with toddlers enjoying the space. As a child I had three dogs in my family and understand that they can be wonderful companions and deserve space to play, but ultimately it is Oakland's people, Oakland's families, that make Oakland the great city that it is.

Thank you,
Allison Millar

From: Jeanne Brown <jeannemab@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 12:25 PM
Subject: NO on Astro Park
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dog runs do not belong in this park or in any high density area because they will be overcrowded and overrun.

There are at least 50 dogs In my condo building alone.

It would attract dogs from miles around!

We need to make sure that people understand how out of control the situation would be.

A dog park would definitely degrade the beauty and serenity of our most valued treasure.

I'd prefer to spend my taxes on beautifying, rather than scarifying Oakland!!

From: Laura Sweitzer <laurasweitzer@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 12:38 PM
Subject: No Dog Park
To: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

Dear Rebecca Kaplan,

I am one of your long time supporters here in Oakland. I have gone to the Grand Lake farmers market every weekend for many many years and played numerous soccer games at Astro Park. I understand that good dog owners need space for their pets to exercise. However, Astro park is not the right location for a dog park in Oakland. With so many geese around the lake, grass that you can sit & play on without worrying about animal poop is limited. I believe it makes no sense to turn this beautiful grassy recreational area into an area for dogs. Please keep this grass clean for us to enjoy!

I am On December 18th, please vote no dog park

--

Laura Ann Sweitzer
260-908-2395
Oakland, CA

From: Laura Sweitzer <laurasweitzer@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 12:42 PM
Subject: No Dog Park please
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

Jane- My apologies for not addressing my last e-mail correctly.

Dear Jane Brunner

I am one of your long time supporters here in Oakland. I have gone to the Grand Lake farmers market every weekend for many many years and played numerous soccer games at Astro Park. I understand that good dog owners need space for their pets to exercise. However, Astro park is not the right location for a dog park in Oakland. With so many geese around the lake, grass that you can sit & play on without worrying about animal poop is limited. I believe it makes no sense to turn this beautiful grassy recreational area into an area for dogs. Please keep this grass clean for us to enjoy!

I am On December 18th, please vote no dog park

--

Laura Ann Sweitzer
260-908-2395
Oakland, CA

From: "Wingate63@Yahoo.Com" <wingate63@yahoo.com>
Date: Monday, December 10, 2012 4:52 PM
To: schaaf lib <lschaaf@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: Dog Park: A Vital Question that needs your Answer

Dear Council Person Schaff,

I was deeply disappointed in your vote to overturn the Planning Commission's denial of a years I have a question which I need a definitive answer for from you.

As you voted to turn over responsibility for this city property to a volunteer organization, in and any actions taken in the courts? Is the city of Oakland, which as you know is in financial settlements for the Police Dept, the entity which bears the responsibility?

You did not address this issue when you voted yes.

Also since ODOG is a volunteer organization, what happens when it's leadership changes(term.

As a taxpayer I feel you should respond to this issue of legal and financial responsibility be I await your answers,

Sincerely,
Jerry Wolfe

From: <karenengel09@comcast.net>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 1:34 PM
Subject: My letter
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

Hi to all dog-gone park-savers!

Below is my letter, which I sent today to Kaplan, Kernighan, Brunner, and Quan:

Dear Councilmember Brunner:

I am a Grand Lake area retiree and homeowner who volunteers at Lakeview Library, which is adjacent to Astro Park, so I have been familiar with the park for over twenty years.

Part of he park is in danger of being transformed into a dog park. This seems really stupid to me for the following reasons:

1. Other Dog Park Nearby. Dog owners in the neighborhood have the use of two dog parks (which my daughter uses when she visits with my "grand-dogger," just a few blocks away: the Dog Trail off of Wildwood Avenue, and the Dog Park across the street from Beach School. Both are always open and well-maintained.
2. No Parking Available. Our library parking lot is always full. There is absolutely no capacity for more cars.
3. Astro Park Current Usage. Families and groups of kids are constantly playing softball and other games at the park, and they use all the space available.

4. Maintenance Responsibilities are Unclear. I haven't heard one thing about which entity will be responsible for keeping the proposed dog facility from becoming messy and smelly. Most dog owners are very responsible, but there are exceptions, and my understanding is that our City workers are already being stretched beyond new responsibilities.

5. Lakeview School Sits Empty. Have you looked into the possibility of using what was formerly a children's play area at the now-closed school across the street for the dog park? The former teacher's parking lot could be used for dog owners driving to the dog park.

Thank you for listening. I hope you will do the right thing once again!

Sincerely,

Karen Engel
811 York St. #114
Oakland, California 94610

From: NIKKI SCHRAGER <schrager@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 2:43 PM
To: <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>, <jqquan@oaklandnet.com>, <saveastropark@gmail.com>
Cc: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>
Subject: NO NO NO TO THE DOG PARK

I am writing yet again to beg you NOT TO GIVE IN to people who don't even live in my neighborhood who want this dog park. I live a mere 1.5 blocks from Astro Park. I cannot believe you are going to let people who live in Montclair, not here by the lake, determine whether to have their dogs run around in my neighborhood.

PLEASE leave the park for kids who really have no place to play

and others who might just want to relax on a sunny day.

I am extremely upset that you are even considering letting a dog park come into being. This would be a huge mistake.

If you don't live in this neck of the woods then you don't have the right to say what we can have at Lake Merritt.

PLEASE PLEASE do not sign on for a dog park. Remember what happened in Albany when they did that. I have a friend who lives near the Albany dog park and she informs me that (1) it is messy, muddy, and full of poop; (2) that people who don't live there, who live in Richmond, bring their dogs to Albany; and (3) there are often dog-fights at that facility.

Thank you.

Nikki Schrager
647 Beacon Street
Oakland, CA 94610
(510) 444-2553

From: Ariel Luckey <arielluckey@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 2:20 PM
Subject: Please Save Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com

Please deny the dog park. I grew up in the neighborhood playing as a kid and now I bring my children to the park. A dog park would be ugly and messy and a bad use of that land.

--

Ariel Luckey

From: Jon Barrilleaux <jonb@jmbaai.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 2:23 PM
Subject: people first, dogs second
To: saveastropark@gmail.com

The proposed area for the dog park is used on a regular basis for people

activities. Find another place for a dog park.

--jon

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Greg Macchi** <gmac619@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 2:44 PM

Subject: Dog park at astro park

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Hello All -

PLEASE DENY THE APPLICATION FOR A DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK!

I live on Newton Ave and pass by and use the park and field with my children. I believe the dog park would be a major nuisance, eyesore, and loss of open green space.

Please NO!

greg macchi

452 Newton Ave

From: **Carmelia Stanton** <cstanton@leapfrog.com>

Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 3:28 PM

Subject: FW: Astro Park - NO Dog Run

To: "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: "jquan@oaklandnet.com" <jquan@oaklandnet.com>,

"saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Councilmember Brunner,

I sent the points below (in black) in opposition to the dog run to various councilmember addresses in September. Now, I understand you are the swing vote. I'd like to tell you about how my 4 year old son and I enjoyed the area designated for the proposed dog run this past Sunday, December 9.

It was a gorgeous sunny day. We loaded up the tote bag with a little bat, whiffle balls, a Frisbee and a soccer ball, and headed over to Astro Park. We played and played, running around with the soccer ball, and practicing batting swings, catching and throwing. We could really run around because the area is so nice and large. Near us, a dad and his young son were enjoying tossing a football back and forth.

The grassy space on the corner is often the only area available for little kids to play ball games if there are other organized games going on at the baseball cage area and in the center where adults enjoy soccer and volleyball.

Our use and enjoyment of this incredibly beautiful and convenient park could not have occurred with a dog park at that same location. As a single mom with a young child, I treasure this space for playing ball games with my son. A dog park would take away the ability for parents like me to enjoy a rare grassy flat open space with our children. Without this space, we would be left without a nearby, safe location which to play soccer and baseball.

I therefore ask that you DENY the application for the dog park. Please preserve the space for children and families. There simply must be a better place for a dog park in the area.

Carmelia Stanton

Grand Lake Resident & Mother with Young Child

I ask that you DENY the application for a conditional use permit for the proposed dog run at Astro Park for the following reasons, among numerous others:

- Children and other community members frequently use the area proposed for the dog run. Just two days ago, I saw a parents lying on**

the grass watching their toddler learning to walk exactly where the dog run would be. My 4 year old son loves to run across the field to the playground after we cross the street. He would not be able to do this with the dog run on that corner of the field. He would not be able to run *at all* for safety reasons, with dogs all around entering and exiting the dog run.

- Proximity of the proposed dog run is too close to where children play. There is serious risk of bodily injury from dogs that are not properly controlled by their owners. As a child, I was bitten by a neighbor's dog, which darted out, knocked me down, and bit me on the back of the leg as I ran by on the sidewalk. The gate had been left open accidentally, and the dog attacked. There are myriad similar incidents throughout Oakland. Human error is likely at the proposed dog park, and a dog run so close to a popular playground is a recipe for serious injury to children. We need to put safety first.
- Dog runs are unsightly and dirty. The run-off of urine and feces is likely to further pollute Lake Merritt and the adjacent areas of the park. The smell would be noxious. The corner is currently a beautiful open space with lush grass leading to the playground, and beyond, views of the lovely portico and sparkling lake. The space is a jewel in Oakland and should be preserved.
- Many children are afraid of dogs. My son is afraid of dogs and barking unnerves him. A dog run so close to one of his favorite playgrounds is likely to cause him anxiety and significantly hinder his enjoyment of the playground.
- Parking is already limited. I go to the park a couple of nights a week at about 5:15pm, on my way home from picking my son up from preschool. Parking nearby is often a challenge. With a dog run, parking will be even more difficult.

Again, I urge you to DENY the application for the dog run. It's simply the wrong place.

Carmelia Stanton

Grand Lake Resident & Mother with Young Child

From: Renee Grimani-Kardener <kardener632@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 3:55 PM

Subject: Astro Park

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jqvan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com, Pat Kernighan <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>

Please keep Astro Park as it is. It is a wonderful SMALL park not big enough for dogs. We need this park for all the people who go there constantly to play with their kids, to play team sports, to relax. Making part of it into a dog park is NOT good. It will mean less space for people, more cars and traffic because a lot of people with dogs will come by car and will need to park. More pollution, less clean (we have to deal with the goose droppings). I love dogs BUT ASTRO PARK IS NOT FOR THEM.

Thanks

-Renee Kardener

Trestle Glen Rd

From: Ray Muhammad <rmuhammad407@yahoo.com>

Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 4:00 PM

Subject: Astro Park

To: jqvan@oaklandnet.com, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Please do not convert part of Astro Park into a dog park.

When I lived on Alta Vista, The park served as a lovely place where I could enjoy the greenery.

Now this park is one of the only beautiful and fairly clean areas, where I can go to play and have fun at the Lake. The smell, droppings and influx of dogs has driven away most families turning the park into a smelly place that will drive away

children.

The other park near the Lake has already been taken over by the birds. so nasty and saturated with bird feces, that I stopped taking my children

Thank you
Ray Muhammad

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Smith <ds@netwanderer.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 4:07 PM
Subject: SAVE ASTRO PARK
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com, jqvan@oaklandnet.com

I am writing in support of Astro Park as it stands. I believe that the addition of a dog park at that location would introduce an eye sore to the park, a safety concern for the children's playground next to the dog park with an increased liability concern for the city, a safety concern for the dogs with the high traffic around the park, a potential aromatic nuisance to all visitors to the park, and no clear ownership to ensure it is well-maintained or problems are resolved in a timely fashion. I think there are alternative locations which can better serve the dog owners of the Lakeshore area.

From: Ann Arizu <aarizu@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 4:56 PM
Subject: NO on the Dog Park!
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jqvan@oaklandnet.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

I voted for you, I have faith in you, so please vote no for the Astro Dog park!

Ann Arizu

Adams Point home owner since 1981

From: Liz Silzle <liz.silzle@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 5:05 PM
Subject: Astro Park - No Dogs Please!

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jqvan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Councilwoman Brunner and Mayor Quan,

The thought of a dog park going in at Astro Park brings me to tears. This is the THE park for my boys (ages 6 & 4) to play at. We recently moved back to the Lake Merritt area from Lafayette - because I love the neighborhood & the community. I wanted my kids to grow up with the diversity and culture Oakland has to offer. I truly don't think I would have moved back here if Astro Park was not the open play space it is right now. We go to the park at least twice a week to play soccer, tag, football, etc. We don't even mind the geese! Often we walk to Lakeshore or Grand, shop at the local businesses and finish our walk with time outdoors at Astro. There is no other park like Astro Park that we can walk to. A dog park would significantly reduce our enjoyment of this park and likely mean we need to spend our weekends elsewhere. Please vote NO on the dog park in Astro Park on 12/21/12.

Sincerely,

Liz

From: J. Mates-Muchin <jmatesmuchin@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 5:40 PM
Subject: Astro Park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jqvan@oaklandnet.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Brunner, Ms. Kaplan, and Mayor Quan,
I was distraught to hear the results of the city council meeting where 4 council members voted in favor of turning Astro Park into a dog park. While i understand that the dog owners group has been through the due process for establishing a park, I think there are several things that were not considered. Firstly, the location is not conducive for a dog park. It is adjacent to a children's play area and a library and these uses just don't mix. Secondly, maintenance, I am not confident that the dog owners can maintain this facility without the support of the City. At this time, does the city want to take on the burden of a dog park?

I hope you will consider voting no on the dog park and maintaining our vibrant Grand-Lakeshore community as is.

Regards,
Jonathan Mates-Muchin

From: Andrew Jones <amjjunk@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 5:54 PM
Subject: Save Astro Park - No dog park
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I love Lake Merritt and am lucky to call the area home. Among the things I love is the green grass of Astro Park, where people play frisbee, kick around a soccer ball with their kids, and otherwise enjoy themselves outdoors.

I would hate to see a huge portion become a brown dog park, which would make the area not only less enjoyable aesthetically, but inaccessible to people wanting to exercise and enjoy themselves outdoors.

I hope you'll vote against the dog park.

Thank you,
Andrew Jones

From: NIKKI SCHRAGER <schrager@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 5:36 PM
To: <rkaplan@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>
Subject: Fw: NO NO NO TO THE DOG PARK

Dear Rebecca: You asked - who was going to clean up after the dogs? That is a great question. In my note below, I mention that when a dog park was forced on people in Albany, there were a number of issues including: (1) it is messy, muddy, and full of poop; (2) people who don't live in Albany but who actually live in Richmond, bring their dogs to Albany; and (3) there are often dog-fights among those people and their dogs at that facility.

Please read my note below. I have written three letters about the dog park already. My main concern is that people from Montclair want this and have been fighting to get it for years. They don't live here; I do, and I don't want it. Please consider the children who live in this 'hood and have literally no place to play soccer, etc. Sure, give up a beautiful green lawn area so dogs can run and bark and poop. Who thought that was a good idea?

I hear there is a plan afoot to try to share the space -- that is not fair. Who wants to play next to a chained-in area full of barking and dog poop? Please Rebecca, do the right thing. Leave it as it is.

Thank you.

~N~

From: Samba Funk <sambafunky@gmail.com>

Date: Tuesday, December 11, 2012 3:10 PM

To: <rkaplan@oakiandnet.com>

Subject: Please VOTE No on the dog park in Astro Park.

Hello Council member Kaplan,

This is Theo Williams, Oakland native & Artistic Director of SambaFunk!
(Malonga Center for the Arts)

I am sending you this email asking you to reverse your decision to bring a dog park into Astro Park.

As a native that grew up playing in Astro Park since the mid 70's, i feel that it would be a travesty to decrease the open grass playing area. This park historically has been a jewel in the city for children and all types of sports enthusiast and we should keep it that way.

When i grew up, baseball and football were played regularly in the park, however now that soccer is the sport of choice, you can find soccer games being played in that same are which you would convert into a dog park. Astro Park is not for dogs owners, it's our park.

Also, SambaFunk! uses the park for out door practices in preparation for Carnaval. I can foresee issues arising between our drummers and complaining dog owners who feel that our music is disturbing the animals.

I grew up with & luv dogs. However, i do not support building a dog park in Astro park. And frankly, i was VERY surprised that you voted in favor of this. Surprised and disappointed, which i why i decided to send you this email.

Until now, i had not been active in the struggle to save Astro Park, however when i saw that you voted against us - i felt compelled to express my opinion.

If you only get two things from this email let them be that 1) Many Oakland Natives want the park to remain as it is, without adding dog park and 2) that this email represents many others that have not and will not take the time to express themselves to city officials - it took me this long and i am fairly aware of city politics.

yes, there are many others who do not want any part of Astro Park converted in to a dog park.

Again, i urge you to reverse your vote and stand with us.

NO DOG PARK IN ASTRO PARK!

thanx.

Theo.

From: Mary Anne Brady <dr_management@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 7:23 PM

Subject: DENY THE APPLICATION FOR A DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK!

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

Cc: Mary Anne <dr_management@sbcglobal.net>

Greetings,

As a resident of Oakland and a walker of Oakland including the Lake and the library, I really would like to be able to walk without the little or big animals running all over the beautiful green area we have between the library and shopping and the Lake. I think the animals would be happy somewhere else away from all the people and cars.

While I do not have a small child, I would be concerned having the animals run amok and have my child on the play structure. Where else should the children go.... do they have to move to allow for the animals. I don't think so.

Please think more clearly about this issue and DO NOT allow a beautiful piece of urban green be taken over by animals.

Mary Anne

Dr. Mary Anne R. Brady, SMP

From: David Calabretta <calabretta@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 8:51 PM
Subject: Deny Astro Dog Park Permit
To: "jqvan@oaklandnet.com" <jquan@oaklandnet.com>, "saveastropark@gmail.com" <saveastropark@gmail.com>, "jbrunner@oaklandnet.com" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: Fran Slate <fspm@sbcglobal.net>

Dear Jane Brunner & Mayor Jean Quan

Subject: Deny Astro Dog Park

Please DENY the conditional use permit application for the fenced off-leash dog area in our neighborhood park.

i live in this neighborhood across the street from Astro Park for over 10 years now at 1 Excelsior Court and currently Astro Park is already filled to capacity with parking. Furthermore the size of this park is limited and cutting it in half or more would reduce the services we have come to enjoy.

Currently I am cleaning up a lot of dog waste along my property green belt which is on MacArthur Ave / Excelsior Court from people walking their dogs to and from Astro park. And as you may know Astro park has no dog waste pick up stations for dog owners who wish to do the proper disposal of their animals waste.

I do not see this situation getting any better as you attempt to import more people with more dogs into my neighborhood park

which is already crowded for parking and play space.

I am very disappointed in any vote supporting the proposed dog park at Astro Park.

I have lived in the large apartment building behind the vacant lot at Lakeshore and MacArthur for over 10 years and I feel as if the area is becoming one big "toilet". At least once a week (and many times more than that), I look out my window facing the empty lot and see men driving up and hopping out of their cars to relieve themselves in the bushes which are behind the empty lot. Then there is the issue of the pigeon excrement which is ever-present on both sides of the sidewalk underneath the freeway. Now you are supporting a dog park within the same four-corner area, where I doubt we can rely on all owners to clean up after their dogs.

I am not against dog parks - I love dogs. But I would urge you to reconsider your vote and try to find another more suitable place for an additional dog park.

Twenty-two hundred local residents of the Grand Lake community signed a petition against the proposed dog park at the corner of MacArthur and Lakeshore. Why does the dog owner lobby have so much influence when even the planning commission recommends against it because of its potential for blight?

"Occupy" is now a national late-night punchline because it took so long for Oakland to figure out that you cannot rely on people behaving themselves on public property. Oakland does not have the financial means to provide another service to a special interest just as it does not have the budget or manpower to

enforce its existing blight ordinance.

For over ten years I have managed and operated a luxury 88-unit apartment house located on the corner of Excelsior Ct and MacArthur Blvd. We pay \$8,000 a year for a business license for the privilege. We overlook the former Chevron Gas Station lot, now an unmaintained parking lot for a contractor working on Highland Hospital. We are the nearest housing to the proposed dog lot. Every day requires a mounted effort by either myself or other on-site personnel to deal with blowing litter, the homeless, abandoned vehicles and dog owners who do not respect the ivy in our greenbelt and allow their dogs to poop and leave it behind for us to clean up.

What will the City of Oakland do to help us out? Here's a solution -- invite even more people to come into our neighborhood with their dogs! The proposed dog "play" area is where our residents access Lake Merritt. Lakeside Park is the "Gateway" of the Lake Merritt Park System. My property does more than its part to keep the area clean and desirable. Whose team are you on?

**David Calabretta
Property Manager, CCRM
1 Excelsior Court Apartments # 110
Oakland, Ca 94610
(510) 832-0845 phn. & fax**

Sent from my iPhone

One wouldn't want to remove grass from a location that is adjacent to a steady stream of carbon emissions from the freeway and surface level autos. The climate action plan might suggest it would be better to retain the green grass and to add trees in this location to absorb the carbon from the cars.

Once again, I appeal to your willingness to understand that in this case, we the neighbors of the park, want to keep our park as it is. Finally, I state this: please work with the PRAC to develop sensible dog run policies and locations.

Thank you,
Brian Auerbach

From: Milton Andersen <budandersen@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 9:26 PM
Subject: DENY the use permit
To: jquan@oaklandnet.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com,
jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

I want to urge you to DENY a use permit that would allow a beautiful and much-used park to be turned into an ugly dog-run. I call it a dog-run because an area, stripped of its lawn, and for the exclusive use of a few for the single purpose of letting dogs run about off-leash, cannot be described as a park. I refer, of course, to that lawn-covered area bounded by Grand, Lakeshore, and MacArthur. I will refer to it as Astropark.

There are many reasons why that area should not be converted into a dog-run. Here are a few.

1. Drainage problems. That area already has a serious drainage problem. Stripping off the lawn will make it much worse, because plants, including grass, create little channels which facilitate air and water penetration of the soil. We can expect that throughout the rainy season, the ground stripped of lawn, and with or without wood-chips, will be an ugly mud hole. If you doubt this, go look at some dog-runs, to see just how ugly they can be. Or, on your computer, go to saveastropark@gmail.com, then

click on "the city green? Or the city brown"?

2. The dog poop problem. Who cleans up? How easy, or difficult, is it to distinguish dog poop from wood chips while standing upright and searching for the poop? Or, will the clean-up crew get down on their hands and knees? It may be easy to find the poop only during the time the dog is in its signature pooping stance. Will this unpleasant task be done by city employees, or volunteers?

3. The chain-link fence. Chain-link fences are not works of art known for their beauty. Flowers and other plants may be planted to hide the fence, but there are often large blank spaces in an attempt to hide the fence. Also, The height of the fence, I have heard, will be only 4 feet. Any self-respecting medium-size dog could easily jump a 4 foot fence.

4. Interaction with people in the park. The park is used by many people for many purposes: volleyball, softball, soccer, badminton, and just sitting on the grass with family and friends. The Kiddie Lot is often full of Kids and their parents. There would be interaction between the dogs and the Kiddies and others if that area became a dog-run. What if a dog bit a child who put her hand through the fence to pet the "Doggie." What if there is continuous barking? What if there's a dog fight? I don't know what will happen. But I think that having many off-leash dogs and young children in close proximity can lead to interactions that are harmful. Who is responsible, ethically and legally?

5. Best case scenarios and reality. I think that those who advocate putting in the dog-run are thinking in terms of a best case scenario and not considering reality, the most-likely-case scenario. I think that with all the possible problems, the proposed dog-run is a good idea, but in the wrong place.

Milton L. Andersen

457 Hanover Ave.

Oakland, CA.

budandersen@gmail.com

From: cherryshari@netzero.net <cherryshari@netzero.net>

Date: Tue, Dec 11, 2012 at 10:29 PM

Subject: Save Astro Park from the dog park - Right Idea. Wrong Place.

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com,

saveastropark@gmail.com, rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

Please vote no for the dog park in Astro Park. I always see lots of people playing soccer or enjoying the grass in that space.

Who is responsible for cleaning?

What happens if it's ugly and smelly?

From: <joffer@juno.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 8:24 AM

Subject: Dog Park

To: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Hello Rebecca Kaplan, Jane Brunner, Jean Quan, et al,

It amazes me that anyone could even think of slicing even more space out of that land by the Library. It is the only flat, open land for literally miles around where kids can play ball, or run freely. Please realize that a large percentage of the children who use that park are of color, probably because they are the ones whose parents can't drive them to soccer games, state hiking trails, and beaches.

A bunch of smelly dogs are going to have a serious effect, even fenced off. Many kids are that afraid of dogs, or their parents are. (It would be immediately adjacent to an extremely popular play area for toddlers and wee people.) And besides, there IS going to be at least one owner per week who feels that HIS dog is perfectly controlled and doesn't need any leash getting from car to doggy area, and whose dog then bites another dog, knocks over some kid, or grabs lunch from someone waiting for a bus. We live on Plot B in the Crocker Highlands, and I hear the "controlled" dogs charging other dogs at the rate of about 1 a day. I hope the City sets aside money for that law suit.

My suggestion would be the relatively unused grassy area next to the Veterans Building on Grand, along the Harrison Street side. The Seniors are not lolling around there having picnics; in fact I have never, in 33 years, seen someone sitting on it. Children in Fairyland

are two blocks away. It is right next to a commercial area, so that there might be lots of working people happy to stop by and view dogs. (Or bring office dogs for a run.) Also, it is also at the bottom of Adams Point, so all those apartment dwellers pushing for this will still be nearby. Finally, a stream runs through, which could provide some sort of unique "doggy water feature" if desired.

The Astro Dog Park is a bad idea by someone who can't see other peoples' needs.

Judith Offer
Poet, Playwright, Mom, Civic Volunteer. (12-year dog owner)

From: Claudia Hartley <claudiamhartley@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 9:17 AM
Subject: Please vote NO on astropark site
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Councilmember Brunner and Mayor Quan,

My partner Tess and I represent 100,s of women who own dogs, love dogs, and have app dogparks. BUT we don't want one at Astropark.

The reasons why have to do not with Fear as Emily suggested at the last council meeting Expectations based on Experience at all of the off-leash sites in the past 40 years. The A small and in the wrong location. If you look at Berkeley's Ohlone dogpark you will see why will clean woodchips mingled with dog feces and urine and regularly maintain flowers and Fantasy. Claiming that dogs will Not jump the fence and run into the street or the playgrou Claiming that a lot of dogs in a small space will not generate dogfights is Not a Fact but a The unfortunate impact of this on kids and adults who regularly use the park and on shop create a clean fresh atmosphere at the Farmers Market is expectable. The increase in dog coming through the rest of the park where we do not want them, en route to the proposed expectable.

Yes we are dog people but we are Oaklanders first. We love our park; we remember wher safe and couldnt be used by all of us. We want to keep it the treasure that it is for all of the isn't right to give only SOME of the people a part of what belongs to us all. Please if you h: NO on the Astropark project.s Thank you,

claudia hartley and tess hoover

485 elwood ave

oakland, ca 94610

From: richard meyers <rgmwbw@comcast.net>

Date: Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 9:47 AM

Subject: Astro park

To: saveastropark@gmail.com, jqvan@oaklandnet.com, jbrunner@oaklandnet.com

Hello:

I am opposed to the dog park at Astro Park. I have heard there is a possible sight for a dc think that is a better location. There is a dog park on Linda Ave., not too far from Astro Pa don't think Astro Park is the best place for one. My kids have played at Astro Park for mai set up.

i hope they can build a dog park in the site closer to Fairyand.

thank you for consider this option.

richard meyers
oakland, ca
415-730-4000

From: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2012 8:50 PM

To: <jquan@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: <acampbell-washington@oaklandnet.com>

Subject: Dog Park-Alternative Idea

Hello Mayor Quan,

I am writing to you about a potential solution to the divisive dog park situation at Lake Mer

and Libby Schaaf know about this idea (Pat likes it, have not heard from Libby- I emailed her your newsletter tonight that you are actively seeking solutions so I wanted to communicate as well.

For background, I am a resident of the Grand Lake area. I am a dog owner, member of Gre Therapy Pets.org. I am also highly opposed to siting a dog run on the corner of Lakeshore a aesthetic, use and safety concerns—so much so that I helped to start Save Astro Park, a gr members. I am hugely motivated to find a way to keep our gateway green and unfenced fo

Concept: For people living in the 94606 and 94610 zips, neighborhoods around the Lake, w dog license the City of Oakland you will offer you the option of purchasing a Piedmont licer \$10 (we decide.) Oakland will subsidize the rest of the cost to Piedmont. A Piedmont licen: Piedmont dog parks including one that is only .9 miles from Astro Park <http://www.saveasthis-dog-run-is-a-bad-idea/how-far-is-it-to-other-dog-parks> Note: the City of Piedmont act other areas to buy Piedmont licenses as this helps them pay for things like dog waste bags.

Implementation: When you purchase an Oakland dog license at the Oakland Animal Shelter residence and if you live in the 94606 or 94610 area codes and for an additional \$5 or \$10 license too. This is highly subsidized as Piedmont charges \$37 to \$68 per year depending if unaltered respectively. This will limit the program to motivated nearby residents and only 1 are licensed which means they also have their animals chipped and are current on rabies. 1 huge as there are only 1360 dog licenses in these zips to begin with (Public Information Re large percentage from there would likely opt for the add-in and, even if they did, the base l quite low to begin with.

Benefits: Access to three more dog parks for responsible dog owning Oakland residents livi miles from Astro, the other two are 1.1 and 1.5 miles. This is a fraction of the cost of constri hugely less controversial, divisive and painful to the residents who are in very strong oppos some extra revenues to help pay for maintenance and dog waste bags, etc. In the meantime PRAC guidelines that will allow the City to approach both its on and off-leash dog play spac less divisive manner.

Costs: As mentioned, currently only 1360 dogs are licensed in the 94606 and 94610 zips. If program that would only mean purchasing Piedmont 272 licenses. If Oakland pays \$27 and assume most will be fixed/cheaper dog licenses) that will only cost Oakland \$7290 (\$27 x 2 budget for the dog park is \$70,000 (which some may question as being way too low) and th a year (again probably very low.) For only \$7300 (estimate) we can get access to three mor

residents. If 40% took advantage (unlikely) that still would only cost \$14,600 (estimate.) Given the dog park construction comes from a different type of fund than this program would cost, it saves Oakland a lot of money and headaches.

Summary: This solution gives Lake Merritt area residents three more dog park options and an important play field and gateway that it is. It takes some pressure off the need and sends the message that we're working on programs, more to come. It preserves a very important play field and for future generations. In regards to proximity to the Lake, this solution is a terrific way to meet the needs of those who want more dog play space and those who want to preserve and protect the Park.

I believe with a nod from the Oakland and Piedmont Animal Directors this type of program could be offered for a couple of years and then evaluated after that point. I have suggested to your office that you are much more likely to get a meeting with Piedmont and Oakland Animal Directors to brainstorm vs. me or any member of our team.

Appreciate your listening and your concern to the matter. If you need any information in terms of the data let me know. We want to help.

Sue Levin
Save Astro Park
www.saveastropark.org

Sue Levin
sue@heragency.com
510-663-4693
510-827-6419 (cell)
President
HerAgency.com
BabyForceMedia.com

From: Robin Gibson <robin.christina.gibson@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 10:24 AM
Subject: PLEASE NO DOG PARK AT ASTRO PARK
To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, jquan@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Brunner and Ms. Quan,

I am a resident of the Lake Merritt community, a parent of three and an Oakland Unified School District parent. I am asking that you please deny the building of a dog park at Astro Park. The city has worked hard to create a beautiful place; a dog park will take away from these efforts. Plans for the park indicate the vicinity as a children's park designed for two to five-year-olds. This does not make sense. The area, let's work together to find a more appropriate space away from young children. What if a child gets hurt or knocked over by an excited dog leaving or entering the proposed park? I am actively opposed to this project and its creation will only continue to divide and frustrate the community. Thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail and thank you for your commitment to serving our community.

Sincerely,
Robin Gibson

From: Odette Pollar <opollar@matchesthatmatter.com>
Date: Mon, 10 Dec 2012 13:30:49 -0800
To: Pat Kernighan <PKernighan@oaklandnet.com>
Conversation: Dog park - thanks for your vote
Subject: Re: Dog park - thanks for your Vote

Hi Pat,

Thank you for voting against a dog park at the astro park location. I am still collecting information and viewpoints, here are my thoughts:

1. **Cramped space.** This space is not very large as dog parks grow. Dog parks increase the number of dog fights because there is not enough space for dogs to distance themselves from each other. Both vets and vet techs have discussed this at hearings.

2. **Size impacts.** Additionally when you include the required set-back of the dog park the effective area is a lot more than the 25% that was removed from the common, open area. This is easily confirmed and should be considered.

3. **Safety.** A 4-foot fence is not tall enough to keep dogs from running. Chasing a ball thrown too high, another athletic dog just having

child just a few yards away. This is a very easy jump for many (small dog breeds like terriers could clear this easily not to mention dogs get hit by cars on MacArthur can you imagine...) And although dogs and kids go together not all dogs like kids. Low fence, next to a road. Just one biting accident would potentially make the city liable.

4. Maintenance. The drawings look great with lovely flowering wood bark or chips. Although most dog owners are responsible left by their dogs not all do. Who maintains this as regularly as How is this possible and where will the money come from? And media need to be replaced since it is a small park and will become pretty quickly. Then there is the smell.

5. Aesthetics. I like the flat open expanse that leads to the large open space to remain open.

6. This was denied by the planning commission for very good reasons and I do not believe that those reasons have been successfully rebutted. Please study their concerns carefully as you consider the project.

I understand that there are volunteers ready to help keep this park great. What is the plan for when they stop volunteering or are not enough? Even if this is just made a small dog park area only – how is it enforced?

I do very much like the idea of a dog park somewhere at or around the park. I understand that one mediation session has been held to try to come up with alternatives. Please do not give up. Have another session when people and paw folks attend. There is a way to work this out. Start with the facts that can be determined and from those we can build. (Are we looking for a park that could be made off leash if not a full-on dog park?) Just because we were not able to come to agreement does not mean that we should not attempt.

Odette

Please note our new address below.

Odette Pollar,
CEO & Founder
Matches That Matter
1700 Broadway, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 496-0040 phone
(510) 763-0790 fax
www.MatchesThatMatter.com
Meet More Singles Over 40, Faster and More Affordably

From: Odette Pollar <opollar@matchesthatmatter.com>
Date: Mon, 10 Dec 2012 14:32:25 -0800
To: <atlarge@oaklandnet.com>
Conversation: Dog park at the lake
Subject: Dog park at the lake

Hi Rebecca,

Since this seems to be a contentious issue I wanted to ask you below and vote against the dog park at the lake.

1. **Cramped space.** This space is not very large as dog parks g parks increase the number of dog fights because there is not en dogs to distance themselves from each other. Both vets and vet discussed this at hearings.

2. Size impacts. Additionally when you include the required set of the dog park the effective area is a lot more than the 25% that removed from the common, open area. This is easily confirmed and considered.

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Thank you.

Odette

Please note our new address below.

Odette Pollar,
CEO & Founder
Matches That Matter
1700 Broadway, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

(510) 496-0040 phone

(510) 763-0790 fax

www.MatchesThatMatter.com

Meet More Singles Over 40, Faster and More Affordably

From: Frank Cobourn <fcobourn@mac.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 11:58 AM

Subject: please deny the application for a Dog Park in Astro Park

To: jbrunner@oaklandnet.com, saveastropark@gmail.com

Cc: rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

I live in that area and i think it's a bad idea for many reasons:

- distraction for drivers
- more traffic
- more trash
- unsanitary for kids park nearby

- loss for people who use it for general recreation

Thank you,

-frank cobourn

From: Debbie Cooper <debjoy.cooper@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 5:05 PM

Subject: Please vote to SAVE ASTRO PARK -

To: "Brunner, Jane" <jbrunner@oaklandnet.com>

Cc: Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Councilmember Brunner,

First, I want to thank you for visiting the stake-out that Save Astro Park held some time ago. I had a conversation that day that you hold Planning Commissioner Zayas-Mart's opinion in high regard. My comments during the Planning Commission's discussion, including Ms. Zayas-Mart's, about the proposal for a dog park at Astro Park's presentation to the Planning Commission is also below.

I believe the dog run at Astro is problematic in numerous ways - aesthetics, maintenance, safety for recreation field users - and I know that you've heard many of these repeatedly from Oakia residents in the surrounding districts. This site is so congested and heavily trafficked that there is far too much potential for a dog park. This site is considered a good location for dogs.

I believe that the incredible battle over this park has actually moved the discussion about dog parks forward in a very positive way. The PRAC Dog Park Task Force would never have been created if not for the community's outcry about changes to dog park guidelines. The PRAC guidelines will be taken seriously and a progressive dog policy can be developed for our community.

During his public comment, John Sutter, (Vice President of the East Bay Regional Park District and Oakland City Council Vice Mayor) stated that the City Council should act as the stewards of the park, the crown jewel, and that the lakeside is not appropriate for off-leash dog areas. I agree with him wholeheartedly. One comment made by Emily Rosenberg during the dog park "mediation" is that the dog park should be an area within a mile of the lake. That is a much more reasonable criteria than she has been

I suggest that a citywide plan be developed with multiple strategies for solving the needs & include the lake perimeter as a strictly on-leash area, a number of small off-leash pocket parks in the city, and a larger off-leash park or two. If San Francisco can create 21 dog areas in half the city, we should be able to find more suitable locations than the 5 we currently have.

I sincerely request that you vote against a dog park at Astro Park and recommend that the city create a good dog policy and dog runs that are appropriately located.

Thanks again.

Debbie Cooper

Three minute Planning Commission denial (3 minutes): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=>

Save Astro Park presentation to the Planning Commission: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=> (3 min)

From: Debbie Cooper <debjoy.cooper@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Dec 12, 2012 at 5:15 PM
Subject: PLEASE SAVE ASTRO PARK!
To: jqvan@oaklandnet.com
Cc: Save Astro Park <saveastropark@gmail.com>

Dear Mayor Quan,

First, I want to thank you and your staff for all of the attention required to evaluate the proposed dog park at Astro Park. It should have never gotten all the way to your office. The Planning Commission must reject the dog area at this already well-utilized and heavily trafficked site. The Planning Commission's decision about the dog run at Astro Park is included in the link below, as is Save Astro Park's presentation to the Planning Commission.

I believe the dog run at Astro is problematic in numerous ways - aesthetics, maintenance, safety, recreation field users - and I know that you've heard many of these repeatedly from Oakland residents.

Subject: Hardy, Mosswood & The Reality of Dog Park Aesthetics

Rebecca and Ignacio,

I wanted to send a few shots of what a couple of Oakland dog parks look like today vis-a-vi:

100_3138 Hardy Dog Park taken a few months ago.

100_3327 Mosswood's signage take about a month ago.

100_3122 Hardy-fine for a dog park, not for a visible gateway.

100_3120 Hardy bulletin board-- fine for dog park, not a gateway.

100_3317 Astro Park Soccer dudes on a Sunday.

Please consider these photos. No city should site a dog run in such a visible location. The st I in no way doubt that there are some motivated volunteers, we cannot, as a City depend s can in less visible locations. But not at a gateway.

Furthermore, please consider who the City is leaving the maintenance up to, specifically. TI Lakeview Park Dog Owners Group. And it's not only maintenance that this group is respons responsible for all the fund raising and the construction as well (page 49 of 1436 of the Pla the Lakeview Park Dog Owners group and found nothing. If ODOG is involved, the only per: legally tied to that group is Emily Rosenberg. In either case, whatever group does or does n up of volunteers. And that, again, is not good enough for a gateway setting.

Enormous neighborhood opposition, aesthetics, safety concerns and not one affirmative n Commission point to the fact that this plan is fraught. In fact, it is a recipe for disaster. I ask

There are solutions. I have provided an alternative solution to Mayor Quan to consider; thi Oakland subsidizing Piedmont dog park licenses to give nearby residents access to their do; solution, inexpensive to the City of Oakland and offers Lake Merritt area residents an inexp terrific dog parks in Piedmont. This proposal also gives Oakland some breathing room to fi guidelines. A copy of the outlined proposal sent to Mayor Quan is below.

In summary, a dog park amenity should be happily anticipated and embraced by the major should in no way be as fraught with contention. _There are some very serious red flags flyi and please consider denying this appeal.

Sincerely,

Sue Levin

From: Sue Levin <sue@heragency.com>
Date: Saturday, December 8, 2012 8:50 PM
To: <jquan@oaklandnet.com>
Cc: <acampbell-washington@oaklandnet.com>
Subject: Dog Park-Alternative Idea

Hello Mayor Quan,

I am writing to you about a potential solution to the divisive dog park situation at Lake Merced. Pat and Libby Schaaf know about this idea (Pat likes it, have not heard from Libby- I emailed her about your newsletter tonight that you are actively seeking solutions so I wanted to communicate with you as well.

For background, I am a resident of the Grand Lake area. I am a dog owner, member of Greener Than Green Therapy Pets.org. I am also highly opposed to siting a dog run on the corner of Lakeshore due to aesthetic, use and safety concerns—so much so that I helped to start Save Astro Park, a grassroots organization with many members. I am hugely motivated to find a way to keep our gateway green and unfenced for the future.

Concept: For people living in the 94606 and 94610 zips, neighborhoods around the Lake, when you purchase an Oakland dog license the City of Oakland you will offer you the option of purchasing a Piedmont license for \$10 (we decide.) Oakland will subsidize the rest of the cost to Piedmont. A Piedmont license is required for Piedmont dog parks including one that is only .9 miles from Astro Park <http://www.saveastro.com/this-dog-run-is-a-bad-idea/how-far-is-it-to-other-dog-parks> Note: the City of Piedmont acts in other areas to buy Piedmont licenses as this helps them pay for things like dog waste bags.

Implementation: When you purchase an Oakland dog license at the Oakland Animal Shelter and if you live in the 94606 or 94610 area codes and for an additional \$5 or \$10 license too. This is highly subsidized as Piedmont charges \$37 to \$68 per year depending if unaltered respectively. This will limit the program to motivated nearby residents and only 10% are licensed which means they also have their animals chipped and are current on rabies. This is huge as there are only 1360 dog licenses in these zips to begin with (Public Information Requested) a large percentage from there would likely opt for the add-in and, even if they did, the base license fee is quite low to begin with.

Benefits: Access to three more dog parks for responsible dog owning Oakland residents living miles from Astro, the other two are 1.1 and 1.5 miles. This is a fraction of the cost of construction, is much less controversial, divisive and painful to the residents who are in very strong opposition. It provides some extra revenues to help pay for maintenance and dog waste bags, etc. In the meantime, it allows the City to approach both its on and off-leash dog play space in a much less divisive manner.

Costs: As mentioned, currently only 1360 dogs are licensed in the 94606 and 94610 zip codes. If we implement a program that would only mean purchasing Piedmont 272 licenses. If Oakland pays \$27 and we assume most will be fixed/cheaper dog licenses) that will only cost Oakland \$7290 ($\27×272). The budget for the dog park is \$70,000 (which some may question as being way too low) and that is for a year (again probably very low.) For only \$7300 (estimate) we can get access to three more dog parks for residents. If 40% took advantage (unlikely) that still would only cost \$14,600 (estimate.) Given that the dog park construction comes from a different type of fund than this program would cost, it saves Oakland a lot of money and headaches.

Summary: This solution gives Lake Merritt area residents three more dog park options and an important play field and gateway that it is. It takes some pressure off the need and sends the message that we're working on programs, more to come. It preserves a very important play field and for future generations. In regards to proximity to the Lake, this solution is a terrific way to meet the needs of those who want more dog play space and those who want to preserve and protect Lake Merritt Park.

I believe with a nod from the Oakland and Piedmont Animal Directors this type of program could be offered for a couple of years and then evaluated after that point. I have suggested to your office that you are much more likely to get a meeting with Piedmont and Oakland / Piedmont to brainstorm vs. me or any member of our team.

Appreciate your listening and your concern to the matter. If you need any information in terms of the data let me know. We want to help.

Sue Levin
Save Astro Park
www.saveastropark.org

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sue@heragency.com