

PRESERVE PIONEER PARK



A resident committee to keep Pioneer Park
Clean, Green and Serene

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Dated: March 7, 2006

To: Montgomery City Council, Parks and Recreation Commission
Subject: Off-Leash Recreation Area Report and Contained Proposals

Good evening, my name is Dr. Christopher Bewick-Sonntag of 10405 Londonridge Ct., here in Montgomery.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on the (Off-Leash Recreation Area) Report and Proposals here tonight.

Turning to the executive summary, page 3, last paragraph, I quote: "The research that has been completed has been compiled into a comprehensive report. The report includes recommendations ... based on extensive review".

While this report pertains to be comprehensive and extensive, I believe that a considerable degree of effort is still required to ensure that the Montgomery City Council and the PARC is provided with a balanced and thorough report to base your decision on.

I am going to focus on the question of how to enlist financial support for the proposed construction of the facility to demonstrate this.

The Executive summary [page 2, last paragraph] states, I quote: "that contacts have been received from interested donors on both local and national level that have expressed their interest in participating and partnering on the construction of an OLRA"...

The report continues to detail, most favorably [see pages 12-13 and 31] the potential of corporate sponsorship. In fact, one is left with the impression that sponsorship is likely

to be very forthcoming: Page 32, 1st paragraph I quote: "The DPAG anticipates very favorable results from a well-timed and focused effort."

The report fails to mention that a leading contender (Jan. 2006 PARC meeting) for sponsorship, IAMS has already declined to sponsor the effort.

Next: The report prominently highlights the interest of support expressed, by the Cincinnati Kennel Club. [See letter in Exhibit "C"].

Page 13, 1st paragraph I quote: "Upon hearing of the off-leash area proposal, the Cincinnati Kennel Club reached out to City Manager, ... , to express its interest in donating funds towards the construction" and I quote "to donate funds towards the construction"

I would like to point out that there appears to be a significant misunderstanding here. Based on follow up e-mails and telephone calls I would like to clarify: The Cincinnati Kennel Club believed the park was already built. This is, in fact, also clearly stated in their letter - See Exhibit "C". Now, contrary to the report, it appears to us that the Cincinnati Kennel Club is not expressing any desire to provide financial support for the dog park construction.

Next there are several critical assumptions being made as to the prospect of fundraising efforts that may not hold up in this case.

Montgomery is a relatively small city, the proposed dog park limits registrations to 400 dogs and limits access to the dog park to 25 dogs at a time. There are only 68 parking spots. With these significant limitations its hard to imagine how I quote "future special events sponsorship" rallies can actually be run at Pioneer park or generate adequate marketing to drive significant corporate support.

The point I want to make is that what is fact and what is speculated is definitely not clear here in this report and certainly not in many other areas of this report.

Finally, I personally, would not feel comfortable making such an important financial-impacting-decision (to develop an off leash recreational area within Pioneer park) based on anything less than facts. As a Montgomery tax payer I sincerely hope that you also hold yourselves to just such standards.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to talk here today.