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The General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting on a Dog Park was held at the **893 Southwood Boulevard (IVGID Admin Building)** starting at **4:00 p.m.** on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

A. Roll call of the committee members (4:00 - 4:05)

Committee Members: Simi Balter, Myles Riner, Judith Miller, Michelle Lintzner, Janet Pahl, Indra Winqest, IVGID District General Manager and Shelia Leijon, Director of Parks and Recreation. Administrative Support Staff: Susan Herron. Guest: Kate Nelson, IVGID Engineering Manager

Rules of Engagement: All committee members shall be respectful of one another and treat each other with kindness. No one member shall talk over another member. All ideas are welcome however, they may not be discussed in depth or in detail depending upon time and/or merit and that determination is solely held with the General Manager. All committee members are equal participants.

B. Update from the District General Manager

District General Manager Winqest said that he met with Ms. Roney and she seems very neutral, he liked what he heard from her as she really wants to help and that she uses the dog park every day. He sent her an email with a link to the website page and she will then meet with Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon and/or District General Manager Winqest so she can hit the ground running. Additionally, we have let the USFS know that we are no longer pursuing that site and the USFS responded that they have taken it off their docket. Now is the time to focus on Village Green and that the committee should come up with the general design of the dog park. Following that work, a community survey will be conducted and then a consultant will be hired to do the design and estimate for the dog park. Staff would then work on the maintenance estimate and updating what they already do and what those costs are; this is the fun part of the committee's work. Dr. Miles Riner asked if we can hold off on the survey before the design is done. District General Manager Winqest said yes and Engineering Manager Kate Nelson concurred and that Staff could sketch up one but that it won't be as

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beautiful as a true designer but it will give you a pretty design. District General Manager Winquest said that the community needs to understand that this is going to cost money. Dr. Riner said that once we have a design, he would like to open this up to donors as a conceptual design. District General Manager Winquest said he has had several conversations and he knows that the money is there.

C. Discussion with IVGID's Engineering Manager Kate Nelson

Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon introduced Engineering Manager Kate Nelson who then went over what she is looking for and identified several items which included that we only have an acre to work with and so things will be a little smaller. The committee then had their discussion with the following outcomes:

- ✓ Parking
- ✓ Large restrooms with a changing room
- ✓ Xeriscape
- ✓ Areas of interest (multiple)
- ✓ Attractive and fun for the dogs
- ✓ Could fence what we have and keep it flat – have an option
- ✓ Preference is for grass
- ✓ Have as much room for dogs to run
- ✓ Water feature in the corner
- ✓ Don't need an agility course because of the trails across the street
- ✓ Management of the resting cycle of the grass is a problem to solve
- ✓ Ms. Nelson offered to contact the Rancho San Rafael dog park manager to understand the resting period of their grass
- ✓ Need a climate specific understanding of what kind of things can be done including what type of sod you plant, etc.
- ✓ Our own people probably have a pretty good idea as they do the work on our own parks
- ✓ Look around at other communities that get snow during the winter and how they manage their dog parks

Ms. Nelson said she wants to have a list of wants and needs so we can provide that to the consultant so they know what the end product should be.

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Once those are nailed down, we will have to go out for a Request for Proposal which will take about 6 weeks (4 weeks advertising, 1 week for review and if interviews are needed and then go to the Board for approval which may require 2 weeks or so). Once the Board gives direction, we can move ahead. Ms. Nelson will work with Washoe County and TRPA with a pre-determination meeting. Dr. Riner asked if there was access to fresh water from Incline Way. Ms. Nelson said she thinks there is a water line available. Dr. Riner asked if additional parking will be needed. Ms. Nelson said it depends on how you look at it. Michelle Lintzer suggested a parking area and Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said not really as there is a Native American artifact in that area. Dr. Riner suggested angled parking, going east to west, at the north end of the field with a barrier against Incline Way which would allow you to have 15-20 parking spots in that area. Engineering Manager Nelson said probably 10-12 parking spots with an ADA spot. Ms. Miller said what if we did the most basic with just a fenced in area – just asking to build a fence. Engineering Manager Nelson said it depends on the height and yes, it would probably still have to go through the process. Dr. Riner said if we are really going to go cheap, let's not do anything. Ms. Lintzer said it was a just question and it was a fair question. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that she thinks that it should be one of our options as it is a good question. Ms. Miller asked if we are going to be able to present a variety of options or just our recommendation. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that what she got was that we have the information that we needed as 73% people responded they wanted a dog park. If we start, as a committee, that we narrow it down, then we can create a survey to ask those questions. Ms. Lintzer asked who is going to work with the grounds people – Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon. Ms. Lintzer said can we ask what are the difficult spots to work with and where are the problem zones and then let's use those areas to possibly have a feature. Ms. Lintzer said her goal is to help maintain the grounds and can we help with the problem areas and putting a feature there is alleviate two challenges. Dr. Riner suggested a fence around a water feature so there is a way to keep the dogs out of the water feature and suggested a corner. Engineering Manager Nelson said wants, needs and what you can live with and that is what is needed to have that list to develop the survey. Dr. Riner said that there is a lot of stuff that we need to inform the community about before they take the survey and that our pros and cons should go in there. Director of

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Parks and Recreation Leijon said we are close to having a survey ready with some modifications such as site location. Dr. Riner agreed and asked if there is any way we can go back to the Board and explain that we need more information and do the survey. Ms. Lintzer said that is part of our list which will be in our amenity list. Janet Pahl said if it's not broken what are we fixing? Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we do get a lot of complaints about small dogs. Ms. Lintzer said it is more of an issue of dogs versus dogs. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon outlined a rough sketch. The committee then discussed the sketch and made some suggestions. Simi Balter said let's elevate the existing space with things such as bathrooms, etc. Dr. Riner asked about the walking trail. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said it would be on the outside of the dog park. Ms. Pahl said a seasonal water feature – yes. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she and the Engineering Manager looked at some options today. Dr. Riner said he would suggest a splash pad with a central sprayer that is relatively fine as the point of it is to cool off the dogs. Ms. Miller said there are dogs that like to go up to their chests to get really wet. Dr. Riner offered a variation on the splash. Engineering Manager Nelson said that she would prefer this to be close to the restroom so we don't have to extend the utilities. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that environmental sensitivity is important to this committee and Engineering Manager Nelson suggested doing recycled water for any water feature. Dr. Riner said that having some specific measurements, etc. would be helpful. Engineering Manager Nelson said, regarding parking, we will have to work with Washoe County and that she has concerns about snow storage/plowing and consider closure. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we could move parking to the south end because there will be no boats during the winter and reviewed her overview drawing.

Engineering Manager Nelson left the meeting at 5:02 p.m.

- D.** Group discussion pinpointing the best location, parking options, possible amenities, park size, fencing, etc.

Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon went over the list provided by the Parks and Recreation Association. Ms. Miller said we have irrigation lines there and we can't mix the two (irrigation and drinking). Director of Parks and

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Recreation Leijon showed where the water meter is possibly located and then went over locations if it is a preferred item. Ms. Balter said she isn't a fan of having it in the middle of the area. Dr. Riner said it would be fresh water so you don't have worry about giardia. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon then turned their attention to shade structures and do you want to go with trees or shade structures? Dr. Riner said trees take a long time to provide shade and he would like to have picnic tables with shade structures built in overhead. Ms. Miller said she expects people to watch their dogs and therefore she would almost rather have benches facing the dogs. Dr. Riner said as long as they are comfortable and that we do have to have places for people to sit. Ms. Lintzer suggested benches along the sides. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that trees could be purchased and IVGID is part of Tree City USA so our Staff would be willing to maintain them. Ms. Lintzer said she thinks the dogs would love to have trees. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she added trees and benches and showed the committee her revised drawing. Ms. Balter asked how many options we would be presenting. Dr. Riner said probably three or four options. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that we have come to the Board of Trustees with a well thought out idea, they will appreciate that. Ms. Miller said that a water feature is a must for her dog. Dr. Riner said that the only things that could be eliminated might be if we have two water features, we could eliminate one water feature. Ms. Pahl said she wasn't sure that we needed a community survey and suggested inviting Mr. Gately to a meeting to share this idea with him. Dr. Riner said we will need costs before we share this with him. Ms. Balter asked a question about the master plan which Ms. Miller answered. Ms. Balter shared some additional items. Ms. Lintzer said that she remembers taking that survey and that we should have a dog park and yes, we should have a dog park. Dr. Riner said we should have a nice dog park because we have great amenities here. Ms. Pahl asked if there are any dog parks around the lake. Ms. Lintzer said that Tahoe Vista has a very nice one. Dr. Riner said it is very small. Ms. Lintzer said that do have features/play structures. Ms. Miller said it is really big. Dr. Riner said it is half the size of Village Green. Ms. Lintzer said then we have a huge opportunity here and this is very encouraging. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said yes there are rules for the dog park. Dr. Riner said the other thing we have to address is the use of the fit trails because people are going to ask if it is a part of the dog park and can they take their dogs

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there? Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said it should remain and the dogs should be on leash but there is no enforcement. Dr. Riner said he wasn't suggesting changing it but how do we explain there is no change and the rules of use. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we talk about how many options we have for dog friendly options and part of our dog friendly community. Give us an opportunity, as a District, to recognize the walking trails. We have to message that it is friendly to dogs but it is really a people trail. Ms. Balter said we are going to the Board with the options, correct? Ms. Lintzer said did they want a survey for amenities? Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she wants to honor the General Manager's request. Dr. Riner said the survey could be a waste of time and money and explained why and perhaps it is an options survey. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said so we go with three options and do the survey that way. Ms. Pahl said we have great ideas so why do we have to go with three ideas? Ms. Lintzer said she would like to have the Board make the decision. Dr. Riner offered an alternative. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that the Board does want options and we should give them options. **Homework Assignment:** What are the important amenities and then Options A, B and C. She will then bring all the information to the District General Manager and ask what information he is looking for from a survey. Dr. Riner said he doesn't understand what the District General Manager wants from the survey. Ms. Balter asked if anyone knew what the Board was seeking/thinking. Dr. Riner said we should present the best option that we can come up. **Homework Assignment:** Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon will talk to the turf experts within the District.

- E. Set next meeting date/time: May 3 at 4 p.m.
- F. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.