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The General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting on a Dog Park was called to order at the **893 Southwood Boulevard (IVGID Admin Building)** at **4:00 p.m.** on Wednesday, March 29, 2023.

## A. Roll call of the committee members

Committee Members: Simi Balter (absent), Myles Riner, Judith Miller, Michelle Lintzner, Janet Pahl, Indra Winquest, IVGID District General Manager, and Shelia Leijon, Director of Parks and Recreation.  
Administrative Support Staff: Susan Herron

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. Discussion of the Board direction provided at their March 22, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting

Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we are not moving forward with the first or second survey and we are stopping movement towards getting the USFS lot. She did ask if the Board wanted a second site and their answer was no and to stick with Village Green as a primary site and the primary reason was the time it would take to secure/acquire the USFS site and not having the USFS accept it/give it to us. Judith Miller said she wanted to bring back the Visitors Center as we had that in our hip pocket and that she thought it would be good for the community to know that fact. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she asked if the Board want to entertain any other sites. Ms. Miller said we had only conditionally ruled out other sites and this was a possible misunderstanding with Trustee Schmitz. Michelle Lintzer asked about the confusion. Dr. Miles Riner said they were asked to review the survey and give feedback and then they decided they were going to choose the site for the dog park but they didn't have any of the information that we provided in the sites, no pros or cons, etc. He was so disturbed by the process that they used to make decision and that it wasn't on the agenda

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to consider that decision such that he wrote them a letter which he read aloud and stated it was from him and him alone and not the committee. District General Manager Winquest said he has heard from Trustees. The Board of Trustees makes decisions and that they have that ability. He does understand your concerns about the process and would have liked it to be more about the big picture. We thought we were going to get some concerns/feedback on the survey. Do I understand their concerns about the USFS site? Yes, I do understand them as we all do. And you are looking at a four-year project and he sees it as three-year minimum project at best. Dr. Riner asked about how long do you think it will take for the Village Green site. District General Manager Winquest said six months. Dr. Riner said there is no guarantee for TRPA approval. District General Manager Winquest said we will be going to TRPA saying we have a dog park there, have had one for 20 years, and he doesn't believe there will be much push back. Dr. Riner said they have no idea about any of that and they didn't give us or you any opportunity to provide the information. You told us that you were going to ask for a quick response. District General Manager Winquest said we will probably have to do a traffic study and an environmental study. Is that site a problem with a traffic study? Possibly. It will take USFS at least a year. Janet Pahl asked Dr. Riner if he was aware that the District General Manager has received letters about keeping Village Green as the dog park – people don't want to change. Dr. Riner said yes and he has the same amount of doing the opposite. We were never given the opportunity to comment on any other sites and this Board decided on their own they didn't want to hear from the community rather they said do it at the Village Green and that's where it is going to be because they don't care. Ms. Lintzer said she is sure the Board has heard from community members one way or another and so it is not fair to say they made this decision without community input. District General Manager Winquest said you are right, they didn't go through the process, they did dictate the outcome, has to be very careful, they are who they are and he has heard different opinions from each of them. Ms. Miller said the thought never entered her mind about being outside the agenda item and that it was related enough. Dr. Riner said that the District's own attorney indicated that they were going outside of the agenda. District General Manager Winquest said she did her job and reeled us back in and collectively you need to decide what you are going to do. It is his job to do what they are directing him to do. He understands the concern raised by Dr. Riner and that this committee has done too much good work and if you all agree you want

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the community to engage, that's fine, and right now we have been given direction; having a backup site is important. There is no perfect site for this and we knew there was going to be some controversy and people can say what they want, they aren't easy, there has been a lot of good work done so let's not get discouraged and let's build a real nice dog park. Let's go out and design the best dog park and make sure it fits in with what goes on there. We need to mitigate the conflicts at Village Green if we are going to build a dog park there. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she agrees. Ms. Miller said she can't visualize the space. District General Manager Winquest said it is half of Village Green being the dog park. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said if we were to design a dog park that used a surface that used less or no water such that we could protect the lake and if we can design it correctly she thinks we can exist in that area. Small dog parks have grass but the research she has done shows that you can do a pretty amazing dog park that is good with drainage and being environmentally friendly. Ms. Miller said she too has looked into surfaces and there was another one and that pea gravel wasn't good and they have some negatives. For grass, the big negative is maintenance and this is Income Village and we can afford it. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we want to go with less water consumption. Dr. Riner said it is just not about protecting the lake, streams, etc. and it is really the right place for a dog park. Assuming we put a fence around it, we still have the issue of what do we do with the area on the other side of the fit trails? Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we addressed that in the Board meeting. Dr. Riner said that area it is marked SEZ and there is a trail right through there. Ms. Lintzer said ignore the fit trail, people use it now. Ms. Miller said we had the person from NDOW here and our own Staff and no one said the dog presence was an environmentally issue. Dr. Riner said they didn't talk about the creek erosion. District General Manager Winquest said a lot of people walk through there who have no sense. Dr. Riner said assuming that is true, do we create a path? District General Manager Winquest said yes, do some way finding and try to do some discouragement along the eastside. Dr. Riner asked about parking. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said there will have to be a traffic study. Ms. Lintzer asked about moving the boat parking to the Recreation Center? District General Manager Winquest said we do that and already tell them to use that lot when the other fills up; not necessarily in favor of that. Think it was in the Master Plan, there is an area along Incline Way for horizontal parking which might be a possibility and there might be some off

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street parking. It depends on where the dog park will be located. We don't like to encourage elderly people to cross Incline Way so parking will be a problem. Ms. Miller asked if it will be more of a problem than it is now. District General Manager Winquest said no but it needs to be looked at. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said because it has been a dog park for 20 years not sure what they will say. Dr. Riner said the other option is to do nothing other than what we have now. District General Manager Winquest said that is what disappointed him about not getting the survey out and that the Board wants a survey about cost and design. Ms. Pahl said for 20 years we have been taking our dogs to Village Green and we have never had a problem with parking. Dr. Riner said he has had a problem and so he had to park on Lakeshore and walk to the dog park. Ms. Pahl said between the Recreation Center and Parasol, you find a place to park. District General Manager Winquest said we will be getting a parking study. They understand the area as they just did work for us. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we are moving in a way of making that a recreation corridor and if we really think it through properly, it will be great. Dr. Riner suggested building a bridge. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said she would like to close the street and it could be pretty cool. District General Manager Winquest said as of right now we know where we are. On the positive side, the fun part is being involved in the conceptual piece of the park. You will have the opportunity to be involved in that. You have got similar concerns about Village Green, USFS site, no dog park, etc. and it is a mixed bag of information. We just don't want to waste anyone's time. Here is where we are, let's work together and this is the location and let's make it the best we can.

### **C. Revisit the possibility of using the Visitors Center site**

Ms. Miller said she does see it being tough to squeeze everything in and she keeps thinking about the site near the Village Green with having 3 areas and giving the grass a chance to rest. She is a supporter of keeping it grass. Dr. Riner said we need to look at our pros and cons. Ms. Lintzer said she felt pressure to narrow sites and she might have been the one to take it off if we are losing one of the other sites. It takes us back to if the Board isn't considering other sites. District General Manager Winquest said his concerns remain the same and he went over them. Ms. Miller said she thinks there is still space. Ms. Lintzer asked if they could have less holes (at the

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disc golf course). Ms. Miller said that Trustee Schmitz had related something about the Legislature dismissal. The Committee discussed this matter. District General Manager Winqest said he can mention to the Trustees about a backup site. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon read through the pros and cons and the Visitors Center and a discussion ensued. District General Manager Winqest said we would have to build additional parking and a restroom which he doesn't think would be acceptable; he will have conversations with the Board members.

**D.** Discuss what, if anything, can be done with the USFS site

District General Manager Winqest said he was surprised about the USFS response to doing a dog park there. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said we will probably have to some additional parking. District General Manager Winqest said he has conversations regarding the Middle School. Ms. Miller said that was District property that we sold to them. District General Manager Winqest said he needs to sit down with Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon to discuss the next work that needs to be done and find out from Washoe County and TRPA and their needs. Also, we lost Mr. Pratt and we have a few individuals who would like to join this committee. Ms. Laura Rohny, who was recommended by Mr. Gately, would like to join and if it is ok, he will have a conversation with her. Ms. Lintzer asked about a Board member. District General Manager Winqest said he can talk to Trustee Schmitz about re-engaging, Trustee Tulloch can't because of work, Trustee Dent can't because of work, Trustee Tonking has a heavy work schedule, and Trustee Noble might want to be do it. Ms. Pahl asked why. District General Manager Winqest said Trustee Tonking might be the best because she is the liaison for Parks and Recreation. Next step is to put everything on the table and then whittle it down.

**E.** Set next meeting date/time –April 13, 2023 (proposed) – 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

**F.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.