

The
Takoma Brightwood Dog Park
Organization

A 501c3 non-profit dedicated to
the establishment and
maintenance of a dog park at
DC's Takoma Recreation Center

December 11, 2019

To DC Department of Parks and Recreation (Attn: Mr. Brent Sisco):

We are writing to you as the Board Members of the Takoma-Brightwood Dog Park Organization (TBDPO). Our Board consists of accomplished Ward 4 community members that live in Takoma, Brightwood, and Manor Park. Our Board includes Business Owners, Non-Profit professionals, Architects, Real Estate professionals, Military Leaders, and dog owners. Our organization formed in large part because of the potential contributions we can make to the planning, design and construction of a *sustainable Urban Dog Park* here in Takoma, D.C. TBDPO is a D.C. Corporation, a 501c3 non-profit organization, an affiliate of DC Green Spaces/Park Rx, and a DPR Park Partner organization (e.g. we have the same standing as a DPR "Friends of" entity).

As you are aware, our organization has spent a significant amount of time, money, and effort to get the Takoma Recreation Center dog park project approved. We started the process by collecting the most petition signatures of any dog park initiative ever in Washington D.C., and then received the support of our ANC (ANC4B) and approval by DPR's Dog Park Application Review Committee (DPARC). We continue to pursue meaningful ways to contribute to the establishment of a successful dog park from a developmental, technical, operational and financial standpoint. We would like to continue to be involved in the process and are hoping that you could share the current schematic plans and construction strategy with the Board during this phase of the project's development. We were under the impression, per DPR's communications throughout 2019, that the dog park would begin construction in August 2019 (with completion by October 31, 2019). As we head into 2020, we're hoping to get a more realistic timeframe from DPR.

Since our organization will be responsible for the Dog Park's general operations and long-term success, we're interested in pursuing fundraising efforts that would afford us the opportunity to include some sustainable and environmentally-friendly aspects into the design of the park. Our Board would appreciate having the ability to contribute to the design, construction, and operation of the park, along with its financial cost. At this point, our greatest concern is the delivery of an ordinary project to Takoma, a community that is so special and unique to Washington, D.C. We are respectfully requesting that DPR communicate with the TBDPO regularly and include the TBDPO in the planning, design and construction of the dog park moving forward, if and whenever possible.

Furthermore, our Board recently learned that DPR has considered excluding lighting and pathways within the greater area in which the dog park would be located. We'd like to encourage DPR to reconsider this decision since this lighting and pathways would have a positive impact on community safety. We'd also like to reinforce support for ANC 4B's **Resolution #4B-19-1101** that *"strongly recommends additional funding to complete the footpath and lighting, both of which are community serving amenities and a part of the original scope of work that DPR and a private landscaping firm have already considered, and are community serving amenities."*

In addition to our group members, we are including Councilman Brandon Todd and ANC 4B on this letter and seek their support as well. We understand that not everyone in the community is in favor of this project. However, our Board feels that we have an incredible opportunity to come together around this initiative and create what will be a net positive for the community.

Sincerely,

The Takoma Brightwood Dog Park Organization Board:

Michael Cohen
Marci Wasserman
Shelly Wilsey
Matthew Haskins
Thomas Marable

CC:

Brandon Todd, Ward 4 Councilman
Delano Hunter, DC DPR Director
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (ANC 4b)
The Takoma Brightwood Dog Park Organization Listserve