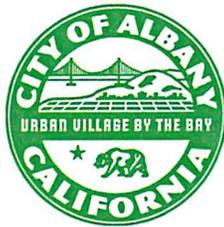


EMAILS RECEIVED REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

CITY OF ALBANY, CALIFORNIA



ALBANY CITY HALL
1000 SAN PABLO AVENUE
ALBANY, CALIFORNIA 94706

*Item 12-1:
Designation of
Memorial Park Section B
as a Dog Park*

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019

Eileen Harrington

From: Janice Bettiga <jbettiga@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 8:14 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Fwd: To Peggy Thomsen in regards to Section B of Memorial Park

To All City Council Members,

It is with such heartbreak that I have to write to you to state that I do not in any form support Section B in Memorial Park to be designated an official dog park. I have observed firsthand as a city resident and neighbor across the street the continued negative behavior by dogs and people, the increasing noise level at all times of the day including "off hours" of Section B, and a negative impact by the interaction of the dogs and people in Section B. I will state again that after living in our neighborhood for 25 years that Memorial Park used to be a positive all inclusive family park. The city has allowed the park to be divided into pieces used solely by special interest groups. What saddens me is the negative impact that it has had with an increase yearly by noise, traffic, parking issues, trash, and negative behavior of people and dogs. I can't tell emphasize how daily that we hear screaming, cussing, threats, and scary behavior in Section B. Please do not approve this type of change to Memorial Park. Memorial Park should be a park for everyone. Please consider that you are continuing a negative impact on the park and neighborhood and decreasing what once was an open space. We have so little open spaces, I ask why we don't consider the importance of preserving them for families to enjoy.

We have repeatedly attended meetings and tried always to be good Albany citizens who contribute positively to our city. Sending this letter saddens me because despite trying to be involved in this important decision, we do not feel that the city or city commissioners hear our voices or opinions. I can't attend the meeting tomorrow night because the notice I received came too late for me to cancel my class. My husband will be attending, but I want to voice my opinion also. I have also included three other pieces of correspondence that explain our experience with the dog park and this process.

Do not approve the change to make Section B, Memorial Park, a dog park. It will have a serious negative impact on our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Janice Bettiga
601 Carmel Avenue
Albany, CA 94706
Sincerely,

Janice Bettiga <jbettiga@gmail.com>

to Albany, Chelle, Brian



Dear Julia, Chelle and Albany Dog Subcommittee,

I have been somewhat dismayed by the process that has been taken with all of the changes at the park because it always seems that the direct neighbors are not informed, respected by asking what our experiences are, and always treated with the assumption that, of course, we won't be reasonable. I thought that this was changing. I applauded you because you seemed to be attentive to this situation, but now I question what the motive or point of all of this was. I have done my best to see all sides of this situation, and when I was asked to be interviewed, I was so hopeful to be heard. I do not have any idea what will happen, but I thought I had been heard. I trusted the process. I am so sad because I did not fill out the online survey because I had been interviewed. When I read the report, I see the neighbors unrepresented. There is a long list of comments by all sides and a very short list by of those opposing the dog park. How is that fair? The very serious things that my husband and I very thoughtfully and carefully stated that were negatives are not noted, and these negatives are very serious to the atmosphere of our neighborhood. Please believe me that I am more than able to see what others might think are positives, and everything we stated was not negative. That is not who we are as neighbors and long time Albany citizens.

I am writing back because what is worse than reading a report that doesn't represent all sides to this situation is not getting any response from all of you.

Sincerely,



Janice Bettiga

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

From: **Janice Bettiga** <jbettiga@gmail.com>

Date: Thu, Nov 29, 2012 at 9:51 PM

Subject: To Peggy Thomsen in regards to Section B of Memorial Park

To: <peggy.thomsen@gmail.com>

Dear Peggy Thomsen,

I reluctantly and with great sadness write this letter in regards to changes that you will be considering for Section B section of Memorial Park.

I have lived in my house for 18 and one half years, and I have done my best to be a good neighbor and citizen of Albany. I have volunteered in various ways to give back to the community in which I raised my children. I have been proud to be a resident of Albany and part of what I thought it represented: family and community.

I live across from what used to be a great open park field, which was used by all! I can say that we have seen lots of changes at the park and high school being directly across from both. Most have had very positive and some negative aspects, but the current change that has allowed a special interest group of dog owners to use the Section B area has been a negative change. I have watched children play, the high school practice sports and marching band, Little League games, birthday parties, Sunday football games, after school care children running, and even gatherings of dogs playing. However, the city has allowed the once wide-open park be divided into two sections used only by two special interest groups. I still do not understand why either of these decisions was made when we had such a positive use of a park space. Isn't this all-inclusive use of a park what Albany represents?

I ask you to read my letter below written months ago because it states the atmosphere that surrounds this use of the park. It has not changed. I still observe and see fighting that not only disrupts our neighborhood but also is highly offensive and sometimes frightening by people and dogs during all hours of the day. It is not a positive atmosphere, and it is certainly not a multi-use park. It certainly used to be a park used by all. This latter change to Section B of the park has

resulted in more negative changes than positive to the space, the use of the space, the exclusive nature of the use, and the negative atmosphere that surrounds it.

I request that you please read my past letter and consider Section B (and Section A) to be reclaimed for all people. Please do not allow Section B to be designated as a dog park. I understand the Park Commission has recommended limited dog hours for Section B despite stating in the past that it should be a multi-use park space.

Sincerely,

Janice Bettiga
601 Carmel Avenue
Albany, CA

PREVIOUS LETTER WRITTEN TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION:

July 8, 2012

To the Park and Recreation Committee,

I was unable to attend the meeting on June 16. However, I would like to express my observations of the Section B fenced area of the ball field in Memorial Park.

We moved to our house in 1994, and I have seen many changes in the park, some which are positive and some which are negative to the overall use of the park. I used to be content to live next to park with all of its positives and negatives. However in the last few years, it seems as if the Parks and Recreation Commission has allowed the park to change from a place for all people to a place for special interest groups. I now see the negatives outweigh the positives.

It has been great to live next to a park with open space for our children to use and for the many activities that we had the opportunity to participate in the park. It was a park for everyone in our community. It was a place that seemed to celebrate the ideals of Albany – a sense of community and families. Our children ran, skipped, and jumped in the field, rode their bike with a sense of freedom around the park, participated in relay races across the field, held Girl Scout and Boy Scout activities in the field, had birthday party games in the field, played in field after learning to swim in the pool, played baseball games and other sports games with friends in the field, watched the high school games in the field, played and watched Little League games, etc. It was a pleasure to be able to use the park with such joy and happiness. There was a respect by everyone who used the park for the neighborhood. It seemed as if everyone wanted the same type of atmosphere. Even with differences of opinions about usage of the field, there seemed to be resolutions. The park was kept clean, and the grounds kept neat and trimmed.

Memorial Park especially the field has now begun to deteriorate not only in the atmosphere and lost sense of space for everyone but in the appearance of the grounds. I am appalled by the attitude of the people currently using the field with such a sense of entitlement. It has become a field for special interest groups, specifically a community of dog owners who seem to primarily come from out of the community and Little League. My children are grown now, but I would not let them play there if they were younger out of concern for the behavior that I observe. Although Little League is certainly a positive organization, which my children participated in, I don't understand why they seem to be in control of a field that used to be for everyone. My observations of the dog community are that it is a very negative group of people who seem to also acquiring control of the field. Please understand that we own a dog, but I would not step foot in the park with my dog under the new atmosphere of the park.

I think that the Parks and Recreations committee should reconsider the fencing and use of the field. Why are two groups allowed to dictate the use of a field, which I assume was originally built for all? I hope that they will not consider placing benches in this area to avoid more people to come and not watch their dogs. I think that it should not be considered a dog park, and the fence should be removed. There should be a strict leash law for the park – no dogs off leash – and I say this as a dog owner. It is unreasonable to have dogs off leash when children are playing and Little League games are held. There should be limited times that dogs should be allowed to use the field so that the fence may be removed. Dog owners should be respectful of the baseball games being played. We should as a community preserve any open space that we can as we have very little. The field should not be sectioned off for only certain groups of people or organizations.

Please reconsider the use of the field. Please reconsider reverting back to previous use of the field and removing the fence– a place for ALL to use a wide-open field, which we have very little, in our city. Please instead make rules such as leash laws and time use restrictions so that Little League and the Albany high school teams can play their baseball games and people can use and enjoy the

field for recreation without interruptions or obscene and inappropriate behavior from dog owners. Please consider that these recent changes are not positive for the whole community including dogs. Please consider that this is not a positive environment for any dog or animal and sometimes seems to be somewhat abusive. Please remember that the reason most of us moved to Albany was for a sense of community, and this does not embody this spirit.

Sincerely,

Janice Bettiga

My Observations:

- The noise level from the dog park is unbearable. Dog owners are not watching their dogs or curtailing the barking, howling, or whining.
- There are dogfights daily which always includes owners fighting. The language that we hear is unacceptable. It appalls me that these people don't seem to understand that there are children playing in the park or young children playing a baseball game. I cringe every time I hear it. I want to do something, but I don't know who to call or what to do.
- It is too small of an area for anyone to use this space let alone the amount of dogs and dog owners who use it.
- Dog owners refuse to let certain people with dogs into the gate and then fight, again with cursing and language that is unacceptable around children. There is a sense of entitlement among the dog owners.
- I witnessed dog owners calling other dog owners' young children obscenities that children should not hear.
- I witnessed a dog owner chasing another dog owner with a ball stick while screaming obscenities as their dogs ran and fought in the street.
- Although parking has been difficult during baseball games and park events, it has been bearable. Now with the dog community descending on the park, parking is unbearable and constant. They also continually park in our driveway.
- We now have to pick up constant dog poop in our yard as owners allow their dogs to poop as they get out of the cars.
- Dog owners bring chairs to sit and talk instead of watching their dogs.
- The amount of aggressive dogs brought to the park is increasing. It is frightening to see dogs fighting. I will assume that at some point there will be a deadly dogfight.
- What I observe is not healthy for dogs. This is not socialization or exercising of dogs. I can only imagine the torment that some of these dogs must be experiencing.
- I no longer feel welcome to use the field for any kind of event or to send any children to the park field. I would be concerned for any child to overhear what occurs in the field daily by the dog community.
- The weeds and grass are no longer trimmed on a regular basis around the field. It is such a huge change from the past when they were trimmed once a week. Although Little League carefully maintains the field, the rest of the fenced area and surrounding areas are not being trimmed.
- The fenced area that is being used by dog owners is now completely worn and is an eyesore.
- The pathway next to the field on Thousands Oaks Avenue is no longer manicured. It also seems to be a dumping ground, for example, the asphalt that has just been left after demolition.
- The fencing is an eyesore and gives the feeling that the community is not allowed to use it.
- I can only imagine the flea problem and disease possibilities of this small area being fenced with such a large number of dogs excreting in this space.

-Little League locks gates almost all the time so that the public may not walk to the field when there isn't a game.

-Most people that I know who have a dog in Albany state that they don't use the field for exercise of their dog anymore because of the observations that I have listed above.

Eileen Harrington

From: SC <susanclayworth@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 2, 2019 7:02 PM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Albany Dog Park

In the far end behind the batting area is room for the Agility Equipment Does the City own the agility equipment we used when Albany Park and Rec held classes at Terrace Park?

1. Could we have an A frame (ramp) a tunnel and some weave polls? anything to make it more fun.
2. We dont need to relocate the gate. maybe a small gate on the inside. but really it's people who should have better control of their dogs.
3. No Chairs! a bench would give some shade for the dog but the idea is to Move around, not Sit around!
4. Can we have the park all year?
5. Could we have Agility Classes again?

Eileen Harrington

From: Elizabeth Watt <ehcolvin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 10:13 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Dog park

To the Albany Council -

We're very supportive of the recommendation to designate Section B an official dog park. We'd also like to express support for minor improvements, particularly water access and trees providing some shade and appeal.

Thank you for your work.

From Elizabeth and James Watt

Eileen Harrington

From: Jill Marts Lodwig <jilllodwig@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 9:33 AM
To: citycouncil
Cc: Richard Lodwig
Subject: To Peggy Thomsen in regards to Section B of Memorial Park

To All Albany City Council Members,

I live at 1341 Thousand Oaks Blvd. I have been advocating for the un-designation of Section B as a dog park for nearly 10 years. I will not be in attendance at the meeting this evening when you vote on officially making Section B a dog park because 1) these Section B meetings, both with Parks and Rec and the City Council through the years, have been so emotionally difficult to attend that I have concluded they are toxic for me, and 2) I believe you will vote yes on it regardless of whether I am or other neighbors are in attendance and speak. This has been my experience for nearly a decade. Albany Parks and Rec members want a dog park, and the City Council members sympathize with this and want one too. What the roughly 16 neighbors who immediately surround the park want is not relevant to you, despite the fact that they are the people most impacted.

The Parks and Rec Commission members characterized the survey they did last year as overwhelmingly in support of an official dog park, stating that some 80 or higher percent (can't remember and it's worthless to spend the time looking it up) support it. I have pointed out on numerous occasions, at meetings, and in email messages, that the small 10-13 percent who are opposed to the park is a statistically significant number because it represents **THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE DIRECTLY ACROSS THE PARK AND DEAL WITH THE NOISE AND PROBLEMS FROM 11AM TO 8PM EVERY DAY.** My words in this regard, as well as in all others relevant to Section B, have consistently been ignored. I have found both the Parks and Rec Committee and Chelle Putzer to be increasingly dishonest and disingenuous regarding Section B.

See below for a sampling of messages I have sent to Chelle Putzer and Parks and Rec in the last few years. There are many others.

Have your vote. I will be paying close attention to legal challenges to dog parks around the country moving forward, and will not hesitate to take action if I believe there's a precedent.

Jill Lodwig
1341 Thousand Oaks Blvd.

6/27/2019

Hello Nicole,

I am forwarding you a message that was sent to Chelle Puzer on June 10--we received no acknowledgement of the email message or a response.

5/3/2019
Hello Chelle,

There are 4 large plastic bags stuffed with plastic bags tied to the fence in section B--quite unsightly for a park--as well as several gallon water bottles and pans littered along the sidelines. Could you please ask the maintenance crews to ROUTINELY maintain section B--we've requested this many times in the past, but the City doesn't seem to hear us. Several weeks ago the trash can outside the gate was AGAIN overflowing with bags of feces.

I had also planned to write to you and let you know that my husband and I took the time out of our schedule the week of May 27 to attend the Dog Park Input Meeting at City Hall, because we were under the impression that part of the discussion would be about moving the dog park out of section B.

Instead we encountered a "Pro Section B As Dog Park" presentation by Parks and Recreation committee members that proclaimed that the recent survey shows that over 80 percent of people like having a dog park in section B, and that the Albany police have stated that since the timed gate was installed, calls from neighbors complaining about the dogs or problems in Section B have largely been resolved.

These two statements come despite the fact that neighbors who live immediately adjacent to the park (the "other 20%" in the survey) have routinely attended city meetings about section B for close to a decade protesting the barking, fights, poor maintenance on the part of the City, congested parking, and lack of ability to use the space as a multi-use space.

These proclamations continue despite the fact that neighbors have routinely pointed out that the people living in the 8 houses that surround the park collectively spend 3 or 4 times as many hours listening to the barking dogs as all of the dog park users combined.

And the proclamations continue, despite the fact that the Albany Police have historically been VERY reluctant to enforce the ordinances in Section B, despite the fact that the neighbors bordering section B continue to use Albany Police as a resource when the Section B ordinances are not being followed.

There was not one comment made in the presentation that indicated that Section B is a problem for nearly 100% of the neighbors whose houses border it. This under-representation is pathetic, and clearly ignored neighbor input that we've taken the time to provide for years.

Finally--and this is within the first 20 minutes of the meeting--when a participant asked point blank whether Section B would continue as a dog park, another member of the Parks and Recreation committee answered "yes" and indicated that there are no plans to move it. In essence, the meeting appeared to be largely about adding MORE dog parks in Albany, not remedying the one in Section B. We left the meeting after that statement and will continue to explore other means for getting the City to hear our voices.

Please let us know when the maintenance issues I mention at the beginning of this letter will be addressed.

Thank you,

Jill Lodwig
1341 Thousand Oaks Blvd.

3/25/2019

Hello Chelle,

Happy 2019 to you--I hope the year has been good for you so far.

The dog park is open for the season, and we've noticed a difference this year: The dogs are very noisy in Section B. This in itself is not unusual, but what IS different is that people appear to be oblivious to the idea that they need to control the excessiveness of their dog's barking.

We've been over to the park several times in the last week to ask people to quiet their dogs.

Finally over the weekend, I wondered what is different--why is there so much nonstop barking--and went over to Section B to take a look. I was surprised to find that the large fabric sign that listed the Dos & Don'ts for Section B, including the very important Do of reminding dog owners this is a residential area and they should minimize their dog's barking, is gone.

Could you provide an update? What are the plans? When will the signage be replaced? The sign does make a difference. In other words, we will take whatever we can get to make our houses next to Section B livable.

Thanks much,

Jill Lodwig

1341 Thousand Oaks

10/8/2018

Hello Chelle,

I wondered the other day why it might be that the barking and fighting (both humans and dogs) inside Section B has been getting worse in the last few months and walked over and into Section B to take a look at the signage the City put up a year or so ago.

If you recall, it's made of some type of nylon fabric. It's looking very old and tired--dirty and faded, with one corner unattached and flapping in the wind--so although it's still readable, it looks like it's a policy/mandate that may no longer be in effect or is not important.

Could you advise the City that the signage needs to be replaced and re-anchored in place so that dog owners of all stripes--not just the weekday noontime group--are well aware that all the ordinances related to Section B, in addition, to the agreement with neighboring residents, is still very much in effect?

Thanks very much for your assistance.

5/7/2018

Hello Chelle,

I just placed a call into the Albany Police regarding nonstop barking during the evening hours in Section B.

It appears to be a pattern lately--every evening from approximately 5pm to 7:30pm, there is excessive barking, with no attempt on the part of the dog owners to control it. Last evening it ruined our Sunday evening dinner. Tonight it was nonstop as well.

I went outside to the curb and asked the dog owners to quiet their dogs--that my family is trying to enjoy their evening. They looked at me like I was from Mars, and the barking continued. So I called the nonemergency number from the sidewalk, so that they could see me on the phone--this seemed to change things dramatically--within 5 minutes the owners with barking dogs left the park.

The problem is, I don't want to live this way--calling the police about barking dogs. The police think it's a joke, and so do I when it comes to enforcing the ordinance.

Again, I advocate for moving the dog park out of Section B.

--

Jill Marts Lodwig
jilllodwig@gmail.com
510-528-8376
alt: 510-290-3571

Eileen Harrington

From: Fred Etheridge <fred-eth@pacbell.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 11:55 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Supporting Park Commission's Recommendation to Make Memorial Park Section B an Official Dog Park

I am writing to support the Park Commission's recommendation to designate Memorial Park Section B as an official dog park. The existing temporary park there provides a place for people to let their dogs play off leash in a protected area. It is as much a place for people as it is for their dogs, because we can stop and talk with neighbors as our dogs play. This type of neighborhood resource is vital to maintaining and strengthening our sense of community. It is the type of resource that enhances our lives in Albany and makes the community special.

For these reasons I urge you to designate Section B as an official dog park, as well as to develop a detailed plan for minor improvements (benches and trees would be great!) and to explore other locations for an additional dog park in Albany.

Thank you so much for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,

Fred S. Etheridge

Eileen Harrington

From: Janice Bettiga <jbettiga@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 12:34 PM
To: Albany Dog Subcommittee; citycouncil; Chelle Putzer; julia4th@yahoo.com; bdmarten@gmail.com
Cc: Brian Young
Subject: Re: FW: Re: Upcoming City Council Meeting (Sept 3): Memorial Park Section B

Dear City Council Members, Albany Parks, Rec and Open Space Commission Dog Park Sub Committee, Julia Chang Frank, Tod Abbott, and Bryan Martin,

After reading your last email, I want our voices to be clear.

- 1. This is an unfair decision that does not take into consideration the neighbors who are directly affected by the dog in Section B! You state that it is a compromise. It is not a compromise that takes into affect the DAILY negative impact of those neighbors who are directly affected!**
- 2. We are OPPOSED to Section B becoming an official dog park and want Section B to return to its original use - an open space for all to enjoy.**
- 3. You DID NOT LISTEN to us or report what we stated to you in your report. Our comments were not in the report.**
- 4. You speak of a the neighborhood at large, but I disagree with you. They ARE NOT AFFECTED by the excessive noise by barking dogs and people, the aggressive behavior of people and dogs, the yelling, the fights, and the dog fights. However, we ARE AFFECTED daily by by the excessive noise by barking dogs and people, the aggressive behavior of people and dogs, the yelling, the fights, and the dog fights. You did not represent the neighbors who are in the vicinity of Section B.**
- 5. You speak of excessive traffic. Yes, we agree that the excessive traffic is not just due to Section B because there are many factors. However, it does add to it.**
- 6. You seem to assume that we have not stated our voice clearly. Well, we have been attending meetings for many years trying to give feedback. We have not been listened to carefully.**
- 7. During this whole process over years, you either did not inform us of the meetings or did not tell us until the last minute. We also did not hear back from the Ad Hoc Dog Committee until today after writing a letter. The city website is also not updated regularly with minutes so it is sometimes vague when this topic is on the agenda. The whole process has NOT been fair.**
- 8. We have lived in our house for 25 years, and we can state clearly that these decisions and the possibility of the decision to make Section B a dog park is and has had a negative impact on our immediate street and neighborhood.**

We are saddened and disheartened that the representatives of the city of Albany have little regard for those of us who bear the largest impact of Section B. You DO NOT represent us.

Sincerely,

Brian Young and Janice Bettiga

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

From: **Albany Dog Subcommittee** <albanydogsubcommittee@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 3, 2019 at 11:17 AM
Subject: FW: Re: Upcoming City Council Meeting (Sept 3): Memorial Park Section B
To: Janice Bettiga <jbettiga@gmail.com>, <brian.young@towill.com>
Cc: <CPutzer@albanyca.org>, <bdmarten@gmail.com>, Julia Frank <julia4th@yahoo.com>

Greetings, Janice.

Chelle forwarded your message to the Dog Park Subcommittee, and we wanted to respond.

First off, we'd like to express that we understand your frustration. What we are recommending is our best attempt to balance the needs of the neighbors with the needs of the people using Section B with their dogs. No one is getting everything they want. We heard the complaint that some neighbors' concerns were not expressed in our May 30th presentation, so we've made an effort to express those more clearly in the final report that is being considered by City Council. Bear in mind, the May 30th event was expressly to hear from dog owners what they would look for in a dog park. We received input from park neighbors and the general public through in-person surveys, online surveys, from emailed comments, and public meetings.

The truth is, we found the neighborhood overwhelmingly in support of Section B being used by off-leash dogs and their owners. We heard this not just from the full survey area, but also when we personally interviewed neighbors in the houses that directly front the park. Neighbors told us that the timed gate has made a lot of difference and that Section B no longer bothers them. For several neighbors, the only problem with Section B was the traffic and parking it generates, and while we understand that can be frustrating that isn't something that can be directly tied to the use of Section B as a dog park -- it would happen with any successful use of the area.

In an attempt to lessen the impact on the neighbors, we are suggesting the entry area be moved to the other end of the park, near the batting cage and snack shack. We note that folks tend to congregate near an entrance, and believe this will move most of the noise and activity away from houses and deeper into the park. At the same time we are recommending that trees be planted in Section B, partly to provide much needed shade, but also to improve the aesthetics of the park (and possibly lessen noise) for the neighbors.

In short, we feel that we did hear what you and your neighbors had to say, and the recommendations are our best attempt to provide a compromise between those concerns and the desires of the many people who enjoy the park. If you feel our compromise is not fair, you still have the opportunity to voice your concerns to City Council either at the meeting tonight or via a message before hand. Email sent to CityCouncil@albanyca.org will be shared with all Council people and become part of the official record.

Best Wishes

The Albany Parks, Rec and Open Space Commission Dog Park Sub Committee
Julia Chang Frank
Tod Abbott
Bryan Martin

>> On Aug 30, 2019, at 12:27 PM, Chelle Putzer <CPutzer@albanyca.org> wrote:

>>

>>

>> From: Janice Bettiga <jbettiga@gmail.com>
>> Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 11:59 AM
>> To: Chelle Putzer <CPutzer@albanyca.org>
>> Cc: Brian Young <brian.young@towill.com>
>> Subject: Re: Upcoming City Council Meeting (Sept 3): Memorial Park Section B

>>

>> Chelle,

>>

>> I am trying to be informed about this topic and have our concerns heard. I have always tried to be a good community member, and I am frustrated that elected and appointed city officials do not listen or seem to care. I am frustrated by the history of not being heard by the city or the Parks and Recreation committee about the problems of the Section B at Memorial Park. I don't hate dogs and have a dog myself. However, it is not a good community place for a dog park. It says that the city sends out an announcement to 179 houses. Everyone's opinion should be heard, but I still do not see my voice heard even after graciously having what I thought was a positive conversation with the Parks and Recreation committee representatives. Our comments were not voiced in the presentation results given by that survey. The survey was skewed.

>>

>> How do I voice my opinion? Does it even matter? Does first hand knowledge of the bad behavior matter? On Saturday, there was, once again, a disturbing altercation with dogs and people. I am so frustrated with behavior that would not be accepted by anyone in any other situation. It truly is a nightmare at times when people are fighting over dogs.

>>

>> What happened to all the other options? Please, I ask how do I voice these concerns? Is sending a letter at this point even matter?

>>

>> Janice Bettiga

From: [Rochelle and Bob Donovan](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: In support of section B becoming an official dog park
Date: Tuesday, September 3, 2019 5:16:23 PM

Hi.

I would like to let you know what a valuable asset the section b is for dog owners.

Not only is it a great place for dogs to socialize, but a place to share information about dogs and to discuss Just anything.

Getting to know people that are from different walks of life has been a bonus.

In support of dog park
Rochelle Donovan

Sent from my iPhone