

## **Meeting Notes: 3.4.15 at Shore Towers**

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this meeting. Here is what was discussed:

### **Astoria Park Alliance Meeting**

-On Tuesday [3/3] Bill attended the Astoria Park Alliance (APA) meeting and briefed the attendees on our dog run efforts.

-The APA reiterated their continued support of our cause and offered to help in any way they could.

-Co-Chair Martha Gilpin told me that the APA will be installing new doggie bag dispensers in Astoria Park this spring / summer!

### **Participatory Budgeting [PB]**

-It is official: the Triborough Playground Lot C dog run will be on the ballot! A dog run for Jackson Heights will also be on the ballot, so we will need to distinguish ours dog run from theirs.

-Voting will take place sometime around April 13-18<sup>th</sup> (a full week). Polling locations are still TBD.

-Anybody over the age of 16 can vote, as long as they can prove they live in District 22. Volunteers at polling sites will NOT be asking for a government-issued ID, political affiliation, or citizenship status. Something as simple as a Con-Ed bill addressed to you (or similar mail) will suffice.

-If you're available to volunteer to sit at one of the polling stations and oversee voting, please email Shachar Sharon at [SSharon@council.nyc.gov](mailto:SSharon@council.nyc.gov). The more people that volunteer, the more polling sites and the easier it is for people to support the dog run!

### **PB Campaign**

-Although April 13<sup>th</sup> seems far away right now, it will be here before we know it! Therefore, we've already started planning our campaign for the dog run.

-As voting week approaches, I will email the 600 or so people who signed our initial petition for a dog run in Astoria.

-We are planning to hold an online raffle to raise funds for campaigning materials (flyers, posters, etc). Any money left over after the campaign finishes will be used either for additional features in the dog run or to improve the dog-friendliness of the neighborhood.

-For the next week, we will be asking friends, family, colleagues, etc if they would be interested in donating prizes for the raffle. If you'd like to contribute, please contact Bill Peloquin at [billpeloquin@outlook.com](mailto:billpeloquin@outlook.com)

-We plan to plaster Astoria with flyers about the dog run vote once we get closer to voting week. You'll see them pop up on telephone poles, around the park, near the train, in stores – everywhere!

-We plan to stand outside polling locations (so far no rules against this have been released) with posters to encourage voters to support the dog run. A person in a dog costume might even make an appearance...

-Alexia has very kindly offered to tell all of her dog-walking clients about PB and encourage them to vote for the dog run.

-Due to the weather and limited planning time, hosting a physical fundraising event probably isn't feasible. However, we discussed the ideas of having an Easter egg hunt (for dogs, even) in Astoria Park, a free dog-training session in the park, or having a doggie play date in Chappetto Square.

-The PB ballot will be printed this Friday [3/6]. Soon after it is printed we should be able to find out what number we are on the ballot. We plan to utilize our number while campaigning [i.e. flyers and posters that read: "VOTE FOR #11" or "#21 FOR DOG RUN").

### **Dog Run in Rainey Park**

-Just a few days ago we were made aware of the fact that a Rainey Park dog run was approved for the PB ballot of District 26. This definitely caught us by surprise as nobody in our group or otherwise new that people were pushing for a dog run there.

-The people behind it are planning to ask Community Board 1 for approval and to be put on the capital funding list. Therefore, Richard Khuzami (Parks Chair of CB1) reached out to me to see what our position was.

-After we discussed this issue at the meeting, I relayed our following concerns to Richard: (1) that building a dog run in Rainey Park would eliminate off-leash hours there, (2) that this project could take funding away from our dog run (or the temporary run that's being discussed), and (3) that there seems to be a real lack of communication between the people pushing for the dog run and those people living in that area. I encouraged him and CB1 to ask them to address these issues before the Community Board approves the project.

### **Future ADOA Meetings**

We discussed whether we needed to begin meeting weekly or bi-weekly between now and the PB vote. At our next meeting (Tuesday 3/10) we will reassess this question based on the progress we've made on our campaign preparations.