

Meeting Notes: 1.21.15 at Shore Towers

Special thanks to Richard Khuzami, Parks Chair on Community Board 1, for attending our meeting! And as always, thank you to all of the ADOA members who attended. Here is what was discussed:

Old Astoria Neighborhood Association

Richard talked to us about his organization, the Old Astoria Neighborhood Association. The OANA is open to all Astoria residents, although members who live within the Old Astoria Neighborhood area will find the organization most useful. The OANA focuses on tackling issues (transportation, parks, crime, etc) that the community would like to see addressed. They often invite city officials to attend meetings to brief group members about the latest issues / concerns and what is being done to address them. The OANA meets once a month. For more information, head over to the OANA [Facebook](#) page or contact Richard Khuzami at Richard@richardkhuzami.com.

Temporary Dog Run

Richard has been discussing our efforts with the Parks Commissioner, who has put forth the idea of constructing a temporary dog run in Tri-Borough D while we wait for capital funding to construct a permanent dog run in the Tri-Borough C lot. According to Richard, they are hoping that construction on this temporary run could begin in the spring. Richard has encouraged the commissioner to reach out to the ADOA and get us involved in the planning process for the temporary dog run.

Since the temporary run will be a pre-cursor to the official thing in lot C, the Parks Department isn't willing to go all-out on it. However, I have sent them a list of what we consider to be *essential* elements in a dog run. I am hoping that they will be able to at least meet our needs of separate sections for big and small dogs, a double gate, and a trash barrel. Other less-essential (but still requested) items included a water fountain (for dogs and owners), overhead lighting, a doggie bag dispenser, a first aid kit, and a "Rules of the Run" sign. Hopefully I will hear from the commissioner in the coming weeks.

Participatory Budgeting Recap

Erin updated the group on where things stand with Participatory Budgeting. Personally, I want to thank Erin for keeping up with the Participatory Budgeting meetings when I was unable to attend last week. At this point, we have submitted a proposal for the construction of the dog run on Tri-Borough lot C. The Parks Department will review our proposal and eventually send us back three separate estimates for the cost of building a dog park. The three estimates will represent the cost of building a park with everything we want, with most of what we want, and with the bare essentials. We will update everybody as soon as we have heard back from Parks.

If our dog run proposal is included on the Participatory Budgeting ballot, we will then need to meet to brainstorm how we plan to campaign for our project and get as many votes as possible.

Business Cards

We finally have business cards that are ready to be distributed. A big thank you to Alexia Vullis, who paid out of pocket to make this newest version of our cards. Now that the cards have been corrected, we will be giving ADOA members batches of 25 to hand out while you're walking your dog, or anywhere else you see fit. If you run out, let me know and I'll give you more at the next meeting.

Press Packet

We need to continue working on the press packet. Although there isn't a rush to complete it, I would like to have a rough draft completed by the next time we meet. As a reminder, the press

packet will contain various sections that address location, features, support, funding, FAQ, and more about our plans for the new dog run.

3D Design

As I showed everybody at the meeting, I recently downloaded a (free) program called SketchUp, which I used to create a 3D design of what we want the new dog run to look like. The design I presented was a crude preliminary design of what I could do with the program, given more time. I intend to create a full 3D design, containing all of our desired features, and then hopefully putting the design on our website for anyone to see. It could also possibly be used in the Press Packet.