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November 2020

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Gathering remotely

DOGPAW public meeting comes to Zoom Nov. 12

DOGPAW's new president and her immediate predecessor will take their places at the computer terminal to lead the organization's first-ever Zoom public meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12.

With its recent tradition of frequent, in-person meetings disrupted by the spreading coronavirus pandemic, the DOGPAW opted to hold its first and only 2020 public meeting on-line.

"We want to play it safe," said Sally Jenkins, who was elected board president last month to succeed the retiring Eileen Cervantes. "But we also want to hear from the

people we and the parks are here to serve. We're hoping for a good cyber turnout to share experiences, ideas, and concerns."

Jenkins and Cervantes will also report out on DOGPAW's efforts and accomplishments from the year that's about to end, the new president added.

"It's hardly news that 2020 has been a strange and challenging year," Jenkins said. "But we're proud of the fact that our off-leash parks remained open and available for safe, careful visits by our members throughout the pandemic. We've heard from some of you that you and your dogs came to rely on the parks to get through this difficult time. And we were happy to help."

Members and park users are welcome to join the Zoom session by e-mailing PublicMeeting@dogpawoffleashparks.org. We'll send you the information you need to log in. We'd also like to hear your questions, concerns, and ideas about our parks' operations.

Please join us on-line on Nov. 12.

DOGPAW's own presidential transition

While the nation staggers toward the end of a rough presidential campaign, DOGPAW made its own transition at the top far more smoothly.

Sally Jenkins, who joined the organization's board as vice president last summer, stepped up at its October meeting to succeed Eileen Cervantes, who had served as president for the past two years.

A retired business owner and 30-year resident of Vancouver, Jenkins shares her home with two rescue dogs: a Pomeranian mix named Kaiju and Chauncey, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel. She also has a dedicated "bird room" filled with rescued parrots, canaries, and finches.



“In the past,” Jenkins says, “I have worked with profoundly mentally and physically handicapped children and have coached for Special Olympics. So it’s no surprise that special-needs animals are my love. From dogs with diabetes, cataracts, seizures, deafness, and old age to birds missing toes and beaks and feathers who can’t fly and must be hand fed, they all have great value to me.”

She has the same feeling for the four-legged friends she meets at DOGPAW’s dog parks.

“Each dog is special in some way, and I love to get to know each one,” Jenkins said. “I hope that we together can continue to grow off-leash opportunities for dedicated pet owners and the deserving dogs--Good boy! Good girl!--who own them.”

She added that Cervantes, her predecessor in the president’s post, brought a needed period of stability and progress to DOGPAW.

“Eileen has done an amazing job over the past two years,” Jenkins said. “She joined the board as president at a time when DOGPAW’s future was deeply uncertain, and just got down to work. She put in long hours on everything from delivering poop bags to reorganizing the board, and the organization owes her a great deal for her many contributions.”

Cervantes isn’t the only departing board member. Lenice Shaw, who joined as treasurer in June 2018, retires this month; Donna Clark, who joined the board this

year, succeeds her as treasurer. Alicia Stevens and John Vanvig, board members since January 2019, will retire at the end of this year. Stevens is the board's volunteer coordinator, and Vanvig handles communications.

"These are important positions, and we're asking all DOGPAW members to consider volunteering for a role in keeping our parks running smoothly," Jenkins said. "We appreciate the contributions these four outgoing members have made to the organization, and we'll miss them on the board. But now it's someone else's turn, and I encourage all of our park users to think about stepping up. It's rewarding work, and all in a good cause."

A fencing fix for Ike

The 3,250 feet of aging, bent, and rusty wire fence at Ike Dog Park requires constant, costly repairs, usually adding up to about \$10,000 a year. And this year, we discovered that many of the large wooden posts that anchor key sections of the fence have rotted below ground; they must be replaced, too.

DOGPAW urgently needs your help to replace that failing barrier with a sturdier, stronger version that will last for years, saving the organization as much as \$200,000 over the life of the fence!

That's money that can go toward needed repairs and enhancements at DOGPAW's other off-leash dog parks--Dakota, Kane, and Lucky. And it will mean a stronger, better, and more attractive fence for Ike.

DOGPAW has asked around, and we found a willing contractor right next-door to Ike. Husky Fencing will erect a four-foot, cyclone-type fence around the entire park for the very reasonable price of \$43,000. The local company's proposal was far better than any other option available.

And as we said, it's a local company, employing local people.

The Parks Foundation of Clark County has generously granted DOGPAW \$3,000 toward the project, and may be able to help a little more in the year ahead. But that still leaves us well short of what we need.

Can you help? We need \$40,000 to build a better fence around Ike Dog Park, and we're counting on you and other Clark County dog lovers to get us off to a strong start!

We've started a separate, dedicated fund for the project. You can donate electronically at our website, dogpawoffleashparks.org. Checks can be made payable to DOGPAW, with "Ike fence fund" noted in the memo field.

DOGPAW, and our furry friends that scamper around Ike, are counting on you. Please help!

DOGPAW OFF-LEASH DOG PARK LOCATIONS:

Dakota: 1515 N.E. 164th Ave. Vancouver, WA

Ike (Ross): 5167 N.E. 15th Ave. Vancouver, WA

Kane: 10910 N.E. 172nd Ave. Vancouver, WA

Lucky: 10100 N.E. 149th St. Brush Prairie, WA

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