

To DOGPAW members, donors, business sponsors and the Clark County community:

Here is an update on the efforts DOGPAW is making to resolve a number of issues at our four off-leash dog parks.

As you know, improved safety at the parks has been our most pressing concern. In June, DOGPAW sent letters to both Clark County and the City of Vancouver outlining the safety situation and requesting additional supervision by Animal Control personnel. Both the City and the County are in active resourcing discussions to make this happen on the fastest possible timeline. On September 5 the DOGPAW board met with County representatives to begin an ongoing discussion toward resolving these issues. While we do not yet have a concrete plan in place, we were pleased to hear of the County's progress in staffing the Animal Control department, despite recent turnover. In addition, we believe that the County is willing to work cooperatively with DOGPAW and will consider committing resources necessary to increase safety and security in the parks. As a result, we have decided to continue working with the County on a path toward a resolution that will allow the parks to remain open without interruption.

Another issue facing DOGPAW is the immediate need for Mark Watson, DOGPAW's Board President, to step down from that role due to health reasons. For the past few years, Mark has volunteered 40+ hours per week for DOGPAW, working tirelessly to maintain operations, volunteer at events, fix fencing, address safety concerns, advocate for DOGPAW with governmental agencies, develop fundraisers and steer the organization toward a sustainable future. Every dog park and park goer has directly benefitted from Mark's gift of time and energy, and we thank him and wish him well. Mark will stay on the board as a resource to DOGPAW and will transition his day to day responsibilities to others. For some time, the board has been unable to identify volunteer board members who have the ability to commit time and energy to organizational functions. As a result, Mark, and a few outside contractors, have been relied on to fill this role. We need volunteers willing and able to commit approximately 5- 10 hours per week to manage specific functions including fundraising, volunteer coordination and information technology (IT) as well as someone willing to commit approximately 15 hours per week to the role of President of the Board.

If you have been a DOGPAW member over the past few years, you know that DOGPAW receives no funding from governmental agencies and is entirely dependent on the generosity of its members, donors and business sponsors. Last year's "Save DOGPAW" campaign resulted in more awareness, new members and business sponsors but did not result in sufficient sustainable funding or ongoing volunteer support. The lack of an experienced fundraising director for the Board and an effective volunteer coordination effort has left us with little progress, and our long-term financial situation is a major concern.

As part of our ongoing conversations with the City and County, we are exploring alternate ways to cover the costs of routine park maintenance and operations. We believe this is an important step toward long-term financial sustainability for DOGPAW and will help to ensure that the parks remain open.

To address these needs, DOGPAW is looking for experienced and capable people to fill four crucial **volunteer** positions on the DOGPAW board of directors. Because of the workload and strategic nature of these jobs, applicants should have 5-15 hours per week to dedicate to this role. If you or someone you know has the relevant experience, commitment and a passion for DOGPAW's mission, please see the full job descriptions and application posted on the DOGPAW website to use to begin the application process.

- President
- Parks Operations Director
- Fundraising Director
- Volunteer Director

You can make a difference in so many ways:

- Spread the word about the benefit of off-leash dog parks and let people know about DOGPAW. Share this update to others so they know how they can help or send them to our website or Facebook: <https://dogpawoffleashparks.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/DOGPAWoffleashparks/>
- Donate! No matter how big or small, your donations matter and during GiveMore24, your donations can be matched! <https://www.givemore24.org/organizations/dogpaw-off-leash-parks>

- Report safety issues via email at [safety@dogpawoffleashparks.org](mailto:safety@dogpawoffleashparks.org)
- Volunteer at <https://dogpawoffleashparks.org/volunteer/>
- Become a valued Business Sponsor at <https://dogpawoffleashparks.org/sponsorship/>

With your continued help, DOGPAW is doing everything possible to keep our off-leash dog parks open and safe for the future.