

CITY OF DANA POINT
AGENDA REPORT

Reviewed By:	
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DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2007

TO: CITY MANAGER/CITY COUNCIL

FROM: BRAD FOWLER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS &
ENGINEERING SERVICES
BRIAN MCCLURE, PARKS MANAGER

SUBJECT: CRYSTAL COVE DOG FUN ZONE

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That City Council review concerns with the dog fun zone at Crystal Cove Park and provide staff with direction.

ISSUE:

Should the dog fun zone at Crystal Cove remain, be altered or be removed?

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, the City of Dana Point installed dog fun zones in five different parks as a pilot program to address issues the City was experiencing with off leash dogs. The dog fun zones were placed at Creekside Park, Crystal Cove Park, Heritage Park, Sea Canyon Park, and Sea Terrace Park.

On November 20, 2006, City Council held a public hearing to receive public input on the dog fun zones pilot program. At the hearing, a number of people spoke favorably regarding the program although there were some concerns voiced with the dog fun zone at Crystal Cove Park.

Since the installation of the dog fun zone, staff has received one complaint of dogs running off leash at Crystal Cove. Staff has also received notice there have been occasions when there have been more than three dogs in the dog fun zone.

Staff has received a couple complaints from two home owners about noise, dog poop, and flies. Repeated investigations of the site by staff has never been able to verify these complaints although it's obvious from the proximity of the homes with the fun zone that there will be occasion for residents to hear dogs at the park.

Following the meeting, staff met with the City Manager to discuss possible changes to the Crystal Cove dog fun zone to address some of the concerns from the local residents. These changes included moving the dog fun zone further away from the nearby homes and reducing the hours of the dog fun zone from 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM to 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM. These changes have been in place for the last month.

DISCUSSION:

Initially, staff did not plan on installing a dog fun zone at Crystal Cove Park. However, the park has had a history of problems with people letting their dogs run off leash. The natural configuration of the park acts almost as a large dog park and thus was often treated that way. After a conversation with the president of the homeowners association, it was agreed that a dog fun zone should be installed in hopes that it would resolve the matter.

Since the changes have been made over the last month, staff has received no complaints with the dog fun zone, however, residents have been notified of the Council meeting so we would anticipate verbal comments at the meeting.

The neighborhood’s desire for an open area where residents could let their dogs run off leash existed long before the installation of the dog fun zone. It is very likely that if the dog fun zone was removed there would still be dogs running off leash around the park as they did before. Unfortunately, limited enforcement pressure by CASA cannot completely control off leash dog problems at our 22 parks citywide.

Attached as Supporting Document A are supporting pictures of the park and dog fun zone.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Dependent upon Council’s direction.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS:

As deemed appropriate by the City Council.

ACTION DOCUMENTS:

None.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

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Supporting Document A – Crystal Cove Park pictures





