

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO**

Staff Report  
May 14, 2010

For the meeting of May 18, 2010

TO: Parks & Recreation Commission

FROM: David P. Donery, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Recommended Park Rule Changes – Robson-Harrington Park

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**BACKGROUND**

The Town Council, by resolution, sets the rules and regulations necessary to regulate the use and occupancy of public parks, playgrounds, tennis courts, and public open space. All Town parks are regulated by a set of standard rules and regulations augmented by a set of rules related to use of each specific park by dogs and their owners. These rules and regulations are periodically reviewed and updated in order to best address current usage patterns. The Parks and Recreation Commission is charged with the duty of making recommendations to the Town Council on all matters related to the use of public recreation facilities.

**ANALYSIS**

During the April meeting, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed the current rules at Robson-Harrington Park related to use by dogs and their owners. The Commission took public comment at this meeting, hearing from users advocating for more restrictions on dog use, and from others not wanting change. At the conclusion of discussion, the Commission asked that staff come back with recommendations for rule changes addressing issues related to use of the park by dogs and their owners.

Staff reviewed the comments made by the public along with the subsequent discussion by the Commission. Recommended changes to the regulations related to use of the park by dogs and their owners have been developed.

As outlined in the recommendations, the changes are related to specific areas within the park, and provide specific times when off-leash use is allowed on the lower lawn area only. Based on public comment, the primary times desired by dog users are before regular work hours, along with afternoon and evening times. The time restrictions have been developed to allow for off-leash use during these times and provide daytime hours for park use free from off-leash dog use. Staff recommends that the community garden

and upper lawn areas become on-leash only areas as these areas are primarily used by gardeners, children and families.

## RECOMMENDATION

The current dog-oriented regulations related to Robson-Harrington Parks are as follows:

- Dogs must be leashed at all times in the area being used during organized children's programs
- Dogs are to be controlled by owners/keepers at all times so as to allow the safe use and enjoyment of others in the park
- Dogs may not interfere with informal recreation activities
- A dog owner, keeper or guardian must clean up their dog's waste

The recommended changes are as follows (in **BOLD**):

- **Dogs must be leashed at all times, with the exception that dogs can be off leash in the lower lawn area during the following times:**

**From 7:00A.M. to 9:00A.M.**

**From 4:00P.M. to Park Closing (30 minutes after sundown)**

- Dogs must be leashed at all times in any area being used during organized children's programs
- Dogs are to be controlled by owners/keepers at all times so as to allow the safe use and enjoyment of others in the park
- Dogs may not interfere with informal recreation activities
- A dog owner, keeper or guardian must clean up their dog's waste

Staff recommends approval of amendments to the Robson-Harrington Park Rules and Regulations.

## ACTION REQUIRED

Commission Options:

- Recommend the rule changes as written
- Amend the changes and recommend amended rule changes
- Do not recommend rule changes

Respectfully submitted,

David P. Donery  
Community Services Director