



Immediate Media Release

Brenda Leipsic Dog Park to form first Board of Directors

Under threat of closure from the City's rapid transit plans, concerned dog park users band together and grow a formal membership

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (February 11, 2015) - On Thursday, February 19th at the Winnipeg Humane Society, members of Brenda Leipsic Dog Park will vote to elect their first Board of Directors.

The off leash park is located in the city's South West, and like many of Winnipeg's dog parks, it faces the threat of radical downsizing or closure.

The City of Winnipeg has just secured funding to send the bus rapid transit corridor (BRT) through the park's current location. The City swapped the woods next to the dog park to a private developer in 2009. Trees and wetlands will become 3500 condos. When the first "no trespassing" signs appeared in November 2014, it was a shock to many dog walkers, and it spurred some to action.

"The need to formalize and to give a voice to those who use and love this park arose out of the City's failure to properly assess the impact of their plans. There are outstanding issues surrounding the high-density housing development, the BRT 'dog leg' route, and the destruction of the wetland habitat. We'd like those issues to be addressed." Says Kevin Kushnier, the board's Provisional Chairman.

Kushnier has been canvassing the park for members and meeting with John Orlikow, City Councillor (River Heights/Fort Garry Ward), to develop a realistic action plan for saving the dog park. Kushnier has also put in a request to meet with Mayor Bowman to bring the group's concerns to his attention.

"Having the support of Mr. Orlikow has been a great help in motivating our group to keep fighting. We know many Winnipeggers don't support the City's plans to close our park and destroy this natural green-space. We want to make sure those voices are heard," stated Kushnier.

A provisional board has been meeting since early 2015. Formalizing their group allows for membership in Windog Inc., a dog park advocacy group that represents approximately 640 dog park users city wide.

The group welcomes anyone concerned for the park's future to attend their meeting. The meeting is open to all providing they buy a membership for Brenda Leipsic Dog Parkers - available at the door for \$10. The meeting begins at 6:45pm, at the Winnipeg Humane Society, 45 Hurst Way, Winnipeg.

For more information or to arrange a media interview contact:

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