



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Parks and Recreation



Office of the Director

October 14, 2016

Mr. Michael Cohen
The Northern Ward 4 Dog Park Group
6323 Georgia Ave., #55186
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: Application for Takoma Recreation Center Dog Park

Dear Mr. Cohen:

In accordance with Title 19, Chapter 7 of the DC Municipal Regulations, your application for a Dog Park at Takoma Recreation Center Park, located specifically southeast of the recreation center adjacent to the intersection of 3rd Street, NW and Underwood Street, NW, has been given full consideration by the D.C. Department of Parks Recreation (DPR). Your application submitted on December 10, 2015 and noticed in the D.C. Register on February 26, 2016 was reviewed by the Dog Park Application Review Committee (DPARC) and provided to me for consideration.

I regret to inform you that your application is denied after considering the full record, which included:

1. The application submitted December 10, 2015.
2. Community meetings held:
 - a. July 27, 2015;
 - b. October 14, 2015;
 - c. March 15, 2016; and
 - d. April 20, 2001.
3. The public comment period (February 26, 2016 through May 1, 2016).
4. Additional information, including:
 - a. 555 signatures in support submitted with the application;
 - b. A letter and email dated March 30, 2016 with 75 signatures in opposition;
 - c. A letter dated April 21, 2016 with 153 signatures in opposition;
 - d. An email dated April 25, 2016 with 141 electronic signatures in opposition;
 - e. An additional 18 emails and letters sent on various dates in opposition; and
 - f. An additional 69 emails and letters sent on various dates in support.
5. The DPARC voting-member recommendations received September 12, 2016.¹

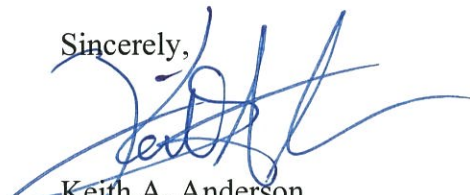
Although there are no defects in the application, and the proposed site meets the regulatory requirements, after weighing all arguments, both in favor and in opposition, it is my

¹ Please note that while there was majority support for a dog park by the DPARC (5-3) in the proposed location adjacent to the intersections of 3rd Street, NW and Underwood Street, NW, DPR on the whole, sees this location as less than ideal because of the space's existing usage as determined by the agency.

determination that a dog park is not best suited within the proposed location because of (i) its too-close proximity to nearby residences' front porches; (ii) its failure to streamline with the existing use of the open space where adults and children play, walk, and rest; and (iii) its location between two heavily used athletic fields. Please note, however, this does not foreclose the possibility of a dog park being located in an alternative site within the community. DPR is committed to collaborating with the community to ensure the needs of dog enthusiasts are met.

Finally, I would like to express my deepest admiration for the Ward 4 Takoma Community for its input of personal time and interest in this public process. I look forward to continuing to work with you. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mr. Brent Sisco, Landscape Architect, at 202-615-9824 or brent.sisco@dc.gov.

Sincerely,



Keith A. Anderson
Director, DPR