

Regent Par # Redevelopment – Option #1 with modifications

My name is Connie Buchan. I live in Regent Park. I am also the Chairperson of OLDPUG. OLDPUG stands for Off Leash Dog Park User Group. We post on the Cathy Lauritsen Memorial and Ross Industrial Dog Park – Regina Facebook page where we have over 900 members. There are at least that many again who aren't in the Facebook group but do use the off-leash parks in Regina. Our Facebook page grows daily. We would like an off-leash dog park incorporated into the new plan for the Regent Par 3 recreational area.

- No housing. Regina is already over-built with new housing developments and houses for sale in established residential areas are not selling. This area of the City was originally designed as full green space for good reasons. Those reasons are still there and have increased. There are less and less green and recreational areas in the mid-north area of the city all the time. With the train tracks in this area you have to realize that it is not prime living space for humans anyway. People don't choose to live by train tracks. They live there because of money, or lack thereof, should I say. Families with low income need better places to live than by train tracks. The opening of a senior's complex poses concerns also, again because of costs. I can't see this being an expensive place to retire again because of the tracks and also the storm channel. That means it would be developed as low-income senior living and unless you are going to make it the new Pioneer Village building, I don't see people buying those apartments.
- In 2016 the City approved 5 new dog parks. None have been developed. While we do appreciate having any dog parks, the 2 we do have are both in bad locations. The Cathy Lauritsen Memorial on 13th is on a flood plain and contains Wascana Creek which is a stinking mess with dead fish and animals, muck, extremely slow-moving water and algae. It is also not fully fenced. That park is over used and the wear and tear from that number of dogs and people is really beginning to show. That, along with a couple of dry summers has left the park with a lot of dead grass areas that will take a long time to come back, if they ever do. The dog park in the Ross Industrial area on Solomon Cres. is in a water retention pond with stinky, mucky water there too.
- The 2010 – 2020 Recreation Facility Plan, page 35, item 26 recommends the development of a dog park strategy. This is already 2019 and nothing has happened, not that I am aware of anyway and you'd think the existing dog

park users would be involved in that process. The development of a new dog park in this space would be a show of good faith towards that actually happening.

- The Par 3 is a very large space. A dog park wouldn't have to take up much room. A dog park doesn't have to be as big as the current 2. There is an existing, although poorly maintained parking lot on the property that could be fixed and used for extra parking. A dog park could be placed directly north of that lot. The children's play area could be moved to the open space just northwest of the existing swimming pool. There aren't nearly as many trees in that space as the drawings showed. The multi-use field could move a bit to the west as shown in Option #2. The dog park would be away from any neighbouring houses and there could be walk paths and the parking lot connecting the playground to the picnic and other areas. I'm sure kids would love to watch the dogs playing.
- Another possible space for a dog park is on the south edge along McKinley. Again, it doesn't have to be a huge space. If a dog park is there, any balls from the multi-use field would not be going out onto McKinley Ave. and into traffic. This would be much safer than the 4 current Concept drawings show for the area.
- I would like to see the parking lot stay and be repaired and expanded if possible because street parking is extremely limited in the area. With a multi-use field, basketball courts, playground, splash pad, swimming pool, general use areas, walking paths and a dog park, vehicle traffic and parking is going to be huge. That multi-use field alone can house at least 8 little kid's soccer games. Just as an example: that's 12 kids on a team, 2 parents in a car each, Grandma and Grandpa x 2, and that doesn't take into account what else is going on in the part at the time. Angle parking would give more parking spots than parallel parking. It is a wide street so that could be accommodated on at least one side of the street. Traffic on McKinley moves fast. It is used as a quick and straight short cut from Elphinstone to the Lewvan. Speed bumps would slow the traffic down. Even if the Par 3 isn't developed, speed bumps would help with safety in the area and slow drivers down. With this being a play area, the speed limit should be 30 – 40 kph. Entrance to a dog park coming right off a parking lot would be the best. A direct line to the gate with an excited dog would be so much appreciated. If kids, balls, frisbees or other distractions are crossing their paths even if they are leashed (which they have to be) could amp up the excitement level. The

calmer, the better. Dogs also tend to relieve themselves when they get excited so getting them into the park as quickly as possible would help with that sticky situation too.

- The old utility building or whatever it is, that is on the property must have water running to it. It could be rebuilt to be a public washroom, have drinking water for the families and run a pipe to the dog park for safe, drinking water for the dogs as well, something that is sorely lacking at the other dog parks.
- When I went to the public meeting at the Gathering Place in, I was speaking with 3 of the City employees who were staffing the Concept Stations. When we talked about a dog park the general idea was that it could be worked into the plan. The borders shown on the drawings were not necessarily accurate so the east side for example, could be extended and angled to utilize some of the open space north of the swimming pool. They also mentioned that the existing fencing around the Par 3 could be repurposed to go around a dog park. This would save on costs. They pointed out that in relationship to the total cost of the redesign a dog park is quite low in costs anyway. Grass and trees are already in place, add a couple of benches and a gate, which wouldn't have to be as elaborate as the ones at the 2 current parks (the roll away function isn't even utilized at those parks) and you've got a whole lot of happy citizens with their dogs.
- Dog parks aren't just for dogs. Dogs are accompanied by humans. Humans get exercise, build community and enhance their quality of life by walking with their dogs. Other people watching dogs also reap benefits. They smile, enjoy fresh air, learn and share nature with other creatures thereby appreciating their value in our lives.
- The Par 3 space could be a great home for a very much needed dog park. Even though toy and small dog owners need and desire a separate park for small dogs, I would want dogs of all sizes to benefit from this particular area because it is so good for so many. There is a great location that I can think of though, for toy and small dogs to have a park of their own. West of the Lawn Bowling greens is an area that appears not to be used. It is a sort of triangular shape, not too big but big enough for a good number of small dogs, already partially fenced, has a nice row of hedges to muffle sound, has on street parking and a small parking lot, doesn't butt up to houses, has trees and grass, and a utility building or something like that so perhaps there could be safe, drinking water. I would like you to keep this in mind for a toy and

small dog park in the very near future. We can talk more about that, perhaps when we talk about a strategic plan for all dog parks as stated in the Recreational Facility Plan.

- The City really has to start showing more regard for dog owners in this city. When you compare Regina to other cities of all sizes it is falling short in number and quality. There is no reason we can't work together to correct this.

Please find 2 rough draws of possible concepts for the Regent Par 3 recreational area. Thank you for your consideration.

Connie Buchan



