



Board of Park Commissioners
Cincinnati, Ohio

11 May 2022

Board of Park Commissioners
Interim Director John Neyer
Division Manager Rocky Merz

Re: Proposed "Clifton" Dog Park

To the Board, Director Neyer, Manager Merz:

The Corryville Community Council is aware that the Board of Park Commissioners recently received conceptual drawings for the purpose of fundraising for a dog park in Burnet Woods (3.17.22 Parks meeting packet, page 130). While generally supportive of the idea of a Dog Park in Uptown, and neutral on other suggested locations in the Uptown area (6.7.21 & 7.15.21 Clifton Dog Park Analysis), we remain opposed to a dog park in Burnet Woods.

We understand that a dog park will require \$150,000 in parks funds, with an additional \$100,000 to be raised by dog park supporters. We further understand that Cincinnati Parks is facing a long list of deferred maintenance across the parks system. With this in mind, we believe it is important that any new park development, especially a dog park that will require significant ongoing maintenance, be fully vetted and broadly supported by the community.

It has come to our attention that the Burnet Woods Parks Advisory Council (BPAC) unanimously opposes a dog park in Burnet Woods. BPAC's most recent resolution raises concerns over environmental and residential impacts, lack of parking, incompatibility with the existing character and use of the park, lack of access to water, lack of equitable citing criteria, degradation of an existing greenspace, lack of sustainable funding for ongoing maintenance, etc. (4.6.22 BPAC meeting minutes). We believe these concerns merit further study of the appropriateness of placing a dog park in Burnet Woods. Further, immediate neighbors to the planned site, including Corryville residents, **who were not engaged by Cincinnati Parks prior to site selection**, have since raised concerns, including parking limitations, sanitation, and conservation (3.2.22 Parkside Neighbors Letter).

It is not clear that consensus has been reached across Uptown neighborhoods regarding a dog park in Burnet Woods. We do not feel that Cincinnati Parks has adequately answered the questions and concerns raised by BPAC and other groups, nor has Cincinnati Parks adequately engaged park neighbors, whose day-to-day quality of life will be affected. The planned dog park also **deviates from the Burnet Woods Master Plan**, which was adopted after extensive community input.

We request that Cincinnati Parks and dog park supporters refrain from progressing further on the Burnet Woods location or fundraising for a dog park while Cincinnati Parks works to answer the questions and concerns of neighborhood groups, conducts a community survey including all



neighborhoods identified in Parks' dog park siting criteria, and develops a plan for equitable distribution of dog parks across the city park system.

Thank you for your consideration.

For the Corryville Community Council -

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Crawford Jr". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William Crawford Jr

President