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CSD dog park off and running

By **Julie Samrick**

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Construction on a new El Dorado Hills dog park could begin in days, said El Dorado Hills Community District General Manager Brent Dennis at Thursday's monthly board of directors meeting.

El Dorado Dog Owners Guild celebrated the first of two planned dog parks on the western slope in Cameron Park in 2013, but the second, which was supposed to be built at the same time EDHCSD's Community Park field was redone last summer, stalled.

"There have been inherent challenges with the dog park project," Dennis said, explaining that neighbors who live near Community Park are concerned about off-leash dogs and there are also dog park amenities that need a Master Plan Amendment.

A visit to Hacienda Dog Park with EDDOG president Holly Morrison, "turned our design sense too," he continued.

EDDOG and EDHCSD also reached a "polite impasse" when it came to the park's memorandum of understanding, including how EDDOG would honor its commitment to recognize private donors on public property.

At Thursday's meeting, Dennis proposed a "bare bones infrastructure" for the park instead of the original design, which will include six-foot fencing and little else. "No special permits would be required," he said. "If approved, we could start in a few days." Dennis said there are already three competitive bids out for the project.

"We came to the board ten years ago to ask if there's a possibility for a dog park," Morrison said before the board. "There have been challenges with the MOU. The sticking point was that EDDOG would bring \$15,000 to the table. We aren't a business; we're a non-profit. We can only agree to continue raising funds."

"We don't want to turn our back, but work with (EDDOG) as they continue to raise funds and awareness," Dennis said.

"This (a place for dogs) is an amenity that we should include in other parks as well," Director Noelle Mattock said before making the motion to begin building the dog park. Director Terry Crumpley seconded the motion.

The El Dorado Hills Dog Park will be located on two acres at the north end of Community Park adjacent to the soccer field at El Dorado Hills Boulevard and St Andrews Drive. The location is shaded beneath an oak canopy and will include both large and small dog areas.

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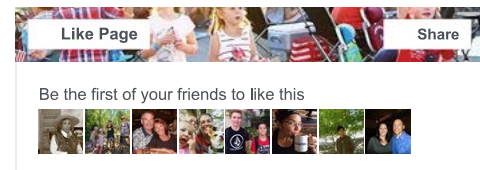
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EDDOG is a 501(c)3 institution and is raising funds for amenities such as benches and water fountains. Residents and businesses are encouraged to purchase memorial bricks to place at the entrance. For more information visit eddog.org.

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