

'Bark park' comes another step closer to reality

SCOTT'S VALLEY - JG
By JONDI GUMZ

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

The dog park proposed by Councilman Cliff Barrett two years ago may become a reality this spring.

SCOTT'S VALLEY "It looks like we're on a roll," said Barrett on Friday after the Planning Commission voted 4-0 to approve a 1.2-acre site in Skypark next to the soccer fields.

The plan is to fence off that area so dogs can run off-leash.

The next step is review by the Parks and Recreation

Commission next month and then by the City Council, which agreed to match up to \$10,000 for a temporary dog park last year.

"I don't foresee any huge stumbling block," said Barrett, who has a poodle and a Portuguese water dog. "We could start putting up fencing after May 10."

The site is a little smaller than Barrett expected, but drainage problems make some of the property unusable. He is looking at the mid-May date to accommodate a circus coming to Skypark on May 8-9.

To pay for the fencing, dog-park supporters

have \$5,000 from the Park and Recreation Advocates and \$1,200 in donations from dog owners. The city's matching money brings the total to \$12,400, which Barrett hopes will cover the cost.

Pooper-scoopers will be available for dog owners to clean up after their pets, Barrett said, and garbage cans at the site will be emptied by city public works employees. He's asking the city to install a faucet to provide drinking water for dogs.

Barrett emphasized that the dog park will be temporary because the same area is earmarked as the future site for a community center. However, there is no timetable for the community

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center because the city doesn't have the money in hand.

As a result, Barrett isn't worried about having to relocate fencing soon, but he wants to make sure the fencing can be moved and reused at another site.

Contributions for amenities at the dog park can be mailed to the Scotts Valley Park and Recreation Advocates, 1 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95066.

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