

Dear Rolo Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to answer this questionnaire. Given your interest and knowledge in the area of dogs and dog parks, I would be very open to meeting with members of your group to explore ways we can provide further opportunities for pet lovers to have places throughout the city in which to walk, play and be with their critters.

Below are more specific answers to your questions.

1. Would you support the restoration of ON LEASH access to downtown parks where dogs are currently banned, i.e., Kiwanis, Kinsman, Friendship and Rotary parks?

Yes, I support the restoration of ON LEASH access for dogs (and cats – being the proud walker of two) in parks. We need to provide opportunities for residents and visitors in our downtown just as we do in our suburban areas – especially with the goal of creating a livable, dense downtown. I think the important onus is on pet owners to be respectful and responsible and provide all necessary precautions to ensure that their pet(s) acts in an appropriate manner and, in such cases where they are not, that they and their pet would be subject to appropriate ramifications to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all who utilize our parks downtown - just as elsewhere.

2. How would you improve and/or expand off-leash areas within Saskatoon , as other cities have?

We need to look at options within each of our neighbourhoods e.g. from Caswell Hill (where I live) to Briarwood, Hampton Village and the rest of the 50 plus neighbourhoods to provide identified neighbourhood space where owners can have an off-leash area clearly designed for such use. It is common to see such spaces in cities across Canada and Saskatoon should be no different. We can adopt policies to ensure we phase this in throughout our network of neighbourhoods. For instance, in Vancouver, even within small downtown parks, there are fenced in areas where people can take their dogs to have some freedom to run and play with their friends.

3. Would you support the wishes of the park users, that is to keep Chief Whitecap Park undeveloped in its natural state, where people can exercise with their dogs without restriction?

Being an avid hiker, cyclist, and enjoyer of Chief Whitecap Park – I am very supportive of seeing dogs being able to exercise in the area without restriction. I also believe that there are ways to provide for compatibility of creating green linkages from the city to the area that are welcoming to people with mobility and access issues so they too can enjoy the area. Through work with the MVA and other key stakeholders, a process and master plan for the area can accomplish a collaborative outcome. I would welcome the opportunity to be part of such a process.

Thank you again for this opportunity. Please be sure to circulate the above with your membership. And I ask for your support in the upcoming election to become Saskatoon's next Mayor.

Warm autumn regards to you and your critters,

Lenore Swystun, your best candidate for Mayor

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