

Date: April 28, 2021

To: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager

From: Brent Dennis, Director Parks, Recreation and Marine 

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Update on MOU with Bixby Dog Park**

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At its December 8, 2020 meeting, the City Council requested that the Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) and Public Works (PW) Departments enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Friends of Bixby Dog Park to coordinate a semi-annual delivery of free wood chips at Bixby Park Dog Park.

Bixby Dog Park was opened on November 4, 2017, and serves an active canine community. The dog park has become a gathering spot for pet parents amidst one of the city's most active and diverse parks, Bixby Park. Recently, the dog park was renamed to the Dr. Myrna "Mickey" Donahoe Dog Park to honor the late President and founding member of the Friends of Bixby Dog Park (FOBDP). For the past three years, PRM has worked with FOBDP to coordinate the timing of the delivery of wood chips and assisted with the recruitment and engagement of volunteers to help spread the chips. The wood chips help maintain the cleanliness of the park and reduce the smell, dust, and dirt that is caused by dog play. FOBDP are a model community partner and their stewardship of the dog park is important to PRM because their presence in the community and care for the dog park enables PRM staff to focus attention to other areas of need. Deliveries have been made approximately two times per year since November 2017.

The first delivery of wood chips for 2021 took place on March 7, 2021. FOBDP worked with the Second District Office to coordinate community service workers, in partnership with the City Prosecutor's Office. PRM is in regular communications with FOBDP and a bi-annual schedule has been laid out to occur every May and November. The second delivery of wood chips is anticipated to take place in November 2021 to coincide with the celebration of the anniversary of the dog park.

PRM and PW staff are currently meeting to determine an official procedure to ensure availability, transportation, and delivery of wood chips on a semi-annual basis. The procedure, along with responsibilities of FOBDP, will be encompassed into an MOU between the City and FOBDP. We anticipate we will have an agreement in place in the short term.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (562) 570-3170.

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