



Friends of Lighthouse Field



Candidate Endorsements for the 2010 Santa Cruz City Council Election and Candidate Questionnaire Responses

In order to restore traditional recreation opportunities for people with off-leash dogs at Lighthouse Field and Its Beach, it is critical to have the support of the Santa Cruz City Council. Therefore Friends of Lighthouse Field endorses the candidates we feel will be most effective to help us achieve our goals. We urge you to vote for these three candidates:

Hilary Bryant
Lynn Robinson
David Terrazas

We were pleased that *all* of the eight candidates gave us positive support. In making our endorsements, we reviewed detailed questionnaire responses provided by the candidates and we met individually in person or by phone with most of the candidates. We also considered other factors, such as 1) depth and thoughtfulness of their support, 2) understanding our community of people and our focus on safety, recreation and giving back, 3) experience, ability and willingness to change things, 4) efforts they've made to reach out to us and engage in productive dialog, and 5) their relationship to other organizations we've partnered with and/or supported, such as Take Back Santa Cruz or Save Our Shores.

The candidate questionnaire responses are attached. Based on questionnaire responses and discussions, we're confident we can work with whoever is elected, and so our endorsements should not convey negative sentiments about the other candidates.

We strongly urge you to vote for our three endorsed candidates. We believe they will be the most effective in supporting our cause.

- Board of Directors, Friends of Lighthouse Field
September 16, 2010

Friends of Lighthouse Field
Santa Cruz City Council Election 2010 / Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Candidate name: **Hilary Bryant**

2. **Please choose which statement reflects your position:**

I support the FOLF stand to restore the traditional off-leash recreation policies at LFSB. I commit to working with the city, county and state to help achieve this goal.

Comments:

It is important to communicate to city, county and state officials that dog owners want to act within the law, but also feel it is important that their dogs enjoy exercise and socialization off leash.

Given the direct correlation between the declining economy and the rise of public safety concerns, there is a pressing need for innovative, collaborative and integrated solutions, that deliver to our local government the tools they need to ensure the safety of their citizens. I feel that through continued conversation with the City and by making FOLF part of the solution to the public safety concern we can move toward the restoration of off-leash recreation in Lighthouse Field.

3. **Please specify any of your specific experiences that would make you most qualified candidate to help support and achieve the goals of FOLF (e.g., city, county and state government, parks and land use issues, community action, government zoning, legal, budget planning, etc.):**

Comments:

I am running for City Council to ensure that Santa Cruz is a safe and vibrant place to live and visit, a great place to do business, and a model of environmental stewardship. Part of this vision for our community includes all of our very passionate and committed dog owners, many of whom are members of FOLF.

On the Parks and Recreation Commission I have been an advocate for off-leash areas in our parks and have helped find innovative solutions for creating additional areas even with current budgetary constraints. My husband and I have owned a small animal hospital in this community for over 10 years. I understand the incredible opportunities as well as the serious challenges of meeting a weekly payroll while providing services to our community's citizens. It is vital that Santa Cruz maintains an economic base that supports the local businesses which provide our citizens with good jobs and benefits.

From organizing volunteers and raising funds to save the Beach Flats Community Center, to building a new track and field for Santa Cruz High School students, to raising money and hope for Children's Hospice, my commitment to Santa Cruz is evident by my passion for helping my community. Santa Cruz is abundant with volunteers, friends, families, businesses, leaders and organizations that come together everyday to create positive change and make a difference in other's lives. I serve because making Santa Cruz a thriving community is important to all of us. We must all work together to create sustainable long-term plans that will move Santa Cruz forward by bringing its people together to serve the common good.

I will bring my results-oriented experience and collaborative energy to city government. Santa Cruz deserves a bright future and I will work tirelessly until we get there.

4. **If elected, will you work to complete the City's proposed acquisition of Its Beach from the State of California in order to restore off-leash recreation at Its Beach?**

Yes

Comments:

As a dog owner, and co-owner of Westside Animal hospital, I believe that a dog's emotional health is connected to their ability to interact with their environment. Dogs who are accustomed to playing with animals and people other than their owners are more likely to be well-socialized and react well toward strangers. Well-exercised dogs are better neighbors who are less likely to create a nuisance, bark excessively and destroy property. Their presence in Lighthouse Field, along with their owners, also helps to deter crime and make our neighborhoods a safer place.

5. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

Moving toward a city purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach may need to be approached as a long-term goal. Santa Cruz is facing an unprecedented budget deficit. I do not believe it will be financially possible, in the short-term, for the city to acquire additional land while we have such significant safety issues to address, continuing furloughs, and are cutting jobs and services of our residents.

However, I do believe that by becoming an integral a part of the multifaceted approach to public safety, FOLF will be able to move toward a purchase or operating agreement when the next growth cycle comes around. This approach allows FOLF to set its own course for the future.

If elected for City Council I would take a leadership role to understand budgetary constraints and work with FOLF to help position the organization to participate with innovative solutions to the City's current challenges.

6. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach if the State is willing to negotiate providing any required EIR or negative declaration, legal defense, long-term financing, and/or participation in maintenance expenses?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

If the State were willing to negotiate with us, I would take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward an agreement on Lighthouse Field and Its Beach. It is my belief that community partnerships offer the best way to move projects like this forward. To succeed, this effort must foster a working partnership with the City and the community. Creating a consensus will ultimately speed up action and attract more partners, funders, and the help of countless individuals who want to be part of the solution.

I feel that one of my primary strengths is the ability to listen without prejudice and then to build consensus through a thoughtful approach to all sides of the issue.

7. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to negotiate with the State for either an exemption from the State Parks blanket leash policy given the unique urban nature of this park, or the creation of a special study to measure the benefits of park usage with voice-controlled dogs, or the establishment of a dog exercise concession, or other modification of the State Parks policy?**

Yes

Please explain any other ideas, specific plans, or commitments:

Other communities have worked successfully with their State Park's Agency to agree on leash exemptions within State Parks and through perseverance we could do the same.

Very recently (7/2010) in Denver and Littleton (significantly larger metropolitan cities) the Colorado State Park staff vote unanimously to create off-leash recreation for dogs. That measure was successfully passed after studies were done on the parks in question and it was determined to preserve "the dog off-leash area as an irreplaceable recreational amenity."

These Colorado communities did make concessions, including a usage fee, a pledge to both educate park visitors and to increase volunteer involvement to restore habitats and clean the parks. However, I feel that the Colorado State Park unanimous decision shows that there can be avenues explored or uncovered in Santa Cruz and that we can work together to modify specific park policy within our community.

8. **For the off-leash recreation needs of Santa Cruz citizens, which statement best represents your position? The City of Santa Cruz provides space for off-leash recreation that is:**

Not enough.

Comments:

There have been efforts to increase the space for off-leash recreation, even given the current economic challenge. However, I do believe that this is an area that we can work.

9. **If you are committed to off-leash recreational parks, which do you consider to be the most appropriate form of park? Please feel free to designate order of preference 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

1__ Open space shared use areas (such as Carmel Beach or Lighthouse Field prior to Nov. 2007)

2__ Open dedicated dog areas (large grass fields or beach areas)

3__ Large contained dedicated dog areas (grass fields or beach areas within fences)

4__ Contained dog runs with man-made surface within fences (such as in Scotts Valley or Aptos)

Comments:

As mentioned above, our community is under tremendous budget constraints and the costs for any new facilities require wide-spread community support. In some cases we should look to dedicate a mix of both off-leash recreational parks and non off-leash recreational parks to provide alternatives for community members.

10. How do you believe Santa Cruz would benefit from becoming a more dog-friendly city? How would you work toward making Santa Cruz more dog-friendly?

The love people share for their dogs reaches beyond economic and social barriers and helps to foster a sense of community. Community is what makes a city thrive. I believe that the human and creative capital of our community will be the catalysts of economic growth. Quality of Life has become a key economic driver – factors ranging from local character to vibrant public spaces to recreational opportunities and community involvement are crucial to attracting a skilled workforce and desirable employers. I feel strongly that to prosper Santa Cruz needs to make the most of our assets and I believe this is only achieved through an open collaborative process with the citizens.

I fought to save Beach Flats Community Center through building consensus and engaging our community. I believe that those same skills will be an asset in uncovering solutions for FOLF's goal of restoring off-leash recreation for our pets.

11. Additional comments:

My family and I are, and have always been, proud and devoted dog owners. I hope that through my responses you have seen a measure of my character and passion for our community and that Friends of Lighthouse Field will consider endorsing me in the race for Santa Cruz City Council.

Friends of Lighthouse Field
Santa Cruz City Council Election 2010 / Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Candidate name: **Gus Ceballos**

2. **Please choose which statement reflects your position:**

I support the FOLF stand to restore the traditional off-leash recreation policies at LFSB. I commit to working with the city, county and state to help achieve this goal.

Comments:

I am not a dog owner, but I am a cat owner. My cat recently had an accident in which he almost lost his life. The moment I saw Spike, my cat, bleeding and in pain, I realized that a pet is more than a 'pet'. Spike is a member of the family. Because I understand that pets are family, I can sympathize how a loving dog owner would want to fight to give his/her dog an opportunity for happiness. Your cause is a simple one to support. I don't see why dog owners and their pets can't have expanded access to the field.

3. **Please specify any of your specific experiences that would make you most qualified candidate to help support and achieve the goals of FOLF (e.g., city, county and state government, parks and land use issues, community action, government zoning, legal, budget planning, etc.):**

Comments:

This is my first foray into politics. My only experience comes from being a lifelong resident of Santa Cruz and the desire to have a new generation create wonderful memories of Lighthouse Field like the ones I created with my friends when we were younger.

4. **If elected, will you work to complete the City's proposed acquisition of Its Beach from the State of California in order to restore off-leash recreation at Its Beach?**

Yes

Comments:

My first priority to my city is public safety. If the acquisition of 'Its Beach' leads to the removal of drug dealers and degenerates in the area, my answer is a resounding YES.

5. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

I would take a leadership role because that is what the community requires of me, your City Councilperson. In an issue like this, I would have to consult you, the community leaders, for guidance. It is my belief that the Council should be the voice of the community not an entity who ignores the desires of its constituents.

6. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach if the State is willing to negotiate providing any required EIR or negative declaration, legal defense, long-term financing, and/or participation in maintenance expenses?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

My answer to Question #5 still applies. I would have to add that due to the additional studies, possible maintenance and their related costs, community funds may need to be procured to fund several items due to the current budget issues that our city is experiencing. Unlike other members of the council, I have no reservations over community members assisting their local government through volunteering or suggestions. As a fellow member of the community, I encourage it.

7. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to negotiate with the State for either an exemption from the State Parks blanket leash policy given the unique urban nature of this park, or the creation of a special study to measure the benefits of park usage with voice-controlled dogs, or the establishment of a dog exercise concession, or other modification of the State Parks policy?**

Yes

Please explain any other ideas, specific plans, or commitments:

I will take a leadership role by suggesting and nominating the best possible people to head the negotiations. To find those people I, once again, would turn to you for guidance.

8. **For the off-leash recreation needs of Santa Cruz citizens, which statement best represents your position? The City of Santa Cruz provides space for off-leash recreation that is:**

Not enough.

Comments:

Pogonip is a perfect example of how we, as a city, are not doing our best to provide for our dog owners. Hopefully the new multi-trail proposal for Pogonip will contain an area for off-leash recreation as I have requested in a letter to the Parks and Rec Department detailing my suggestions.

Large spacious park/open areas should be open to ALL types of people whether they are dog owners or not.

9. **If you are committed to off-leash recreational parks, which do you consider to be the most appropriate form of park? Please feel free to designate order of preference 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

1__ Open space shared use areas (such as Carmel Beach or Lighthouse Field prior to Nov. 2007)

2__ Open dedicated dog areas (large grass fields or beach areas)

3__ Large contained dedicated dog areas (grass fields or beach areas within fences)

4__ Contained dog runs with man-made surface within fences (such as in Scotts Valley or Aptos)

Comments:

Our city contains some beautiful, green open areas. I do not see a need to build surfaces or fences if owners are responsible and the dogs trained. In fact, two years after the city approved 4 off-leash sites, park officials have pointed to the strong ethic of self-policing among regular users for making these areas a success.

10. How do you believe Santa Cruz would benefit from becoming a more dog-friendly city? How would you work toward making Santa Cruz more dog-friendly?

As I have stated earlier, I don't believe our city is using our parks/open spaces to their greatest potential. Although downtown shopping and eating areas should still be subject to 'No Dogs' rules, if we open these parks/open spaces for use, people will come, the word will get out and the populace of these long neglected areas will soar.

I believe that it can open up our city to a new type of tourist, a dog-friendly family who's more than happy to spend money on a city that welcomes their furry family members with open arms.

11. Additional comments:

No additional comment.

Friends of Lighthouse Field
Santa Cruz City Council Election 2010 / Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Candidate name: **David Foster**

2. **Please choose which statement reflects your position:**

I support the FOLF stand to restore the traditional off-leash recreation policies at LFSB. I commit to working with the city, county and state to help achieve this goal.

Comments:

No additional comment.

3. **Please specify any of your specific experiences that would make you most qualified candidate to help support and achieve the goals of FOLF (e.g., city, county and state government, parks and land use issues, community action, government zoning, legal, budget planning, etc.):**

Comments:

I have served for 6 years on the city's Planning Commission and understand the planning and permitting process. I have also served three years on the City's General Plan Advisory Committee and have a clear understanding of the City's long-range development plans.

4. **If elected, will you work to complete the City's proposed acquisition of Its Beach from the State of California in order to restore off-leash recreation at Its Beach?**

Yes

Comments:

No additional comment.

5. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach?**

[Note: Yes/No response was blank, however comments indicate a positive response:]

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

I have many issues that I would like to take a leadership role in. Housing, youth employment and sustainable transportation are key. I think that parks for dogs are important too!

6. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach if the State is willing to negotiate providing any required EIR or negative declaration, legal defense, long-term financing, and/or participation in maintenance expenses?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

No additional comment.

7. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to negotiate with the State for either an exemption from the State Parks blanket leash policy given the unique urban nature of this park, or the creation of a special study to measure the benefits of park usage with voice-controlled dogs, or the establishment of a dog exercise concession, or other modification of the State Parks policy?**

Yes

Please explain any other ideas, specific plans, or commitments:

I like the idea of negotiating with the state. A blanket leash policy is a burden not just for Santa Cruz. An exemption policy should be developed.

8. **For the off-leash recreation needs of Santa Cruz citizens, which statement best represents your position? The City of Santa Cruz provides space for off-leash recreation that is:**

Not enough.

Comments:

I have two dogs. They both used to love Its Beach. We now travel up the coast and take our chances with getting a ticket.

9. **If you are committed to off-leash recreational parks, which do you consider to be the most appropriate form of park? Please feel free to designate order of preference 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

1__ *Open space shared use areas (such as Carmel Beach or Lighthouse Field prior to Nov. 2007)*

2__ *Open dedicated dog areas (large grass fields or beach areas)*

3__ *Large contained dedicated dog areas (grass fields or beach areas within fences)*

4__ *Contained dog runs with man-made surface within fences (such as in Scotts Valley or Aptos)*

Comments:

No additional comment.

10. **How do you believe Santa Cruz would benefit from becoming a more dog-friendly city? How would you work toward making Santa Cruz more dog-friendly?**

I believe that humans and dogs have evolved together over the centuries. Dogs are an important part of mental health and comfort and recreation for many people. How we support and encourage that relationship is important.

11. **Additional comments:**

I like dogs and I vote.

Friends of Lighthouse Field
Santa Cruz City Council Election 2010 / Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Candidate name: **Kevin Moon**

2. **Please choose which statement reflects your position:**

I support the FOLF stand to restore the traditional off-leash recreation policies at LFSB. I commit to working with the city, county and state to help achieve this goal.

Comments:

[Note: Candidate Kevin Moon said he was swamped and doesn't have time to fill in the questionnaire. He did however have a brief conversation with a FOLF board member. This is our summary of the conversation. Please be aware that this is based on our notes and these are not direct quotations. Based on the conversation we infer he would answer the position statement question as we have shown. Summary: He knew little about FOLF's history and asked what FOLF was all about. He said he is totally in favor of our cause. He hates the idea of having to put dogs on leash, especially at the beach, assuming owners are responsible and dogs are under control. He wants to work with us, and we should call him in January assuming he is settled in on the Council to talk about what could be done. He had ideas such as private funding, connecting with Rotary or such organizations, getting legislation through Monning and Simitian to allow off-leash use, etc.]

Friends of Lighthouse Field
Santa Cruz City Council Election 2010 / Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Candidate name: **Steve Pleich**

2. **Please choose which statement reflects your position:**

I support the FOLF stand to restore the traditional off-leash recreation policies at LFSB. I commit to working with the city, county and state to help achieve this goal.

Comments:

No additional comment.

3. **Please specify any of your specific experiences that would make you most qualified candidate to help support and achieve the goals of FOLF (e.g., city, county and state government, parks and land use issues, community action, government zoning, legal, budget planning, etc.):**

Comments:

I have had the opportunity to work with many of those who regularly enjoy LF and Its Beach through my work with Save Our Shores. I have led field cleanups on a number of occasions and particularly on Earth Day with 250 students from Gateway School.

4. **If elected, will you work to complete the City's proposed acquisition of Its Beach from the State of California in order to restore off-leash recreation at Its Beach?**

Yes

Comments:

LF is a unique resource which should be owned and regulated by the city. I remain committed to the restoration of off-leash use of LF.

5. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

As someone new to the council and city management, I am just beginning a long "learning curve" with respect to the specifics of a proposed purchase and/or operating agreement. However, I strongly support such proposals.

6. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach if the State is willing to negotiate providing any required EIR or negative declaration, legal defense, long-term financing, and/or participation in maintenance expenses?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

No additional comment.

7. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to negotiate with the State for either an exemption from the State Parks blanket leash policy given the unique urban nature of this park, or the creation of a special study to measure the benefits of park usage with voice-controlled dogs, or the establishment of a dog exercise concession, or other modification of the State Parks policy?**

Yes

Please explain any other ideas, specific plans, or commitments:

I strongly support the commission of studies to determine the benefits of such park usage.

8. **For the off-leash recreation needs of Santa Cruz citizens, which statement best represents your position? The City of Santa Cruz provides space for off-leash recreation that is:**

Not enough.

Comments:

No additional comment.

9. **If you are committed to off-leash recreational parks, which do you consider to be the most appropriate form of park? Please feel free to designate order of preference 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

1__ Open space shared use areas (such as Carmel Beach or Lighthouse Field prior to Nov. 2007)

2__ Open dedicated dog areas (large grass fields or beach areas)

3__ Large contained dedicated dog areas (grass fields or beach areas within fences)

4__ Contained dog runs with man-made surface within fences (such as in Scotts Valley or Aptos)

Comments:

No additional comment.

10. **How do you believe Santa Cruz would benefit from becoming a more dog-friendly city? How would you work toward making Santa Cruz more dog-friendly?**

Santa Cruz has always been a "dog friendly" city. It is only in recent times that the freedom to enjoy a walk with your dog has been unnecessarily restricted. This is one instance in which revisiting the past would serve to move our city toward better future.

11. **Additional comments:**

As a sitting Council Member, I can be a strong and committed voice for LF. Your endorsement is an investment that will pay dividends for the future of a free and dog friendly LF.

Friends of Lighthouse Field
Santa Cruz City Council Election 2010 / Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Candidate name: **Ron Pomerantz**

2. **Please choose which statement reflects your position:**

I support the FOLF stand to restore the traditional off-leash recreation policies at LFSB. I commit to working with the city, county and state to help achieve this goal.

Comments:

My dog, Zap, and I are beneficiaries of FOLF's goal of access for off-leash recreation for dogs and owners/guardians. Everyone has benefited from FOLF's activities to maintain a safe and clean environment at Lighthouse field and It's Beach. I have participated in 2 clean-ups and believe that the fact that FOLF has continued to care for LFSB, despite being denied shared use, speaks volumes. Years ago I supported the effort to save Lighthouse Field from the Hilton Hotel plan and, more recently I supported the City's plan to purchase Lighthouse Field when former Assembly member John Laird attempted to negotiate an extremely favorable and affordable purchase agreement that would have cost the City very little over 30 years.

3. **Please specify any of your specific experiences that would make you most qualified candidate to help support and achieve the goals of FOLF (e.g., city, county and state government, parks and land use issues, community action, government zoning, legal, budget planning, etc.):**

Comments:

I have been an engaged and involved community activist in Santa Cruz on a number of issues over the past 40 years and appreciate and understand the importance and need for citizen involvement. In addition to broad and deep connections within our community, I also have developed a good relationship with Assembly member Bill Monning and with future Assembly member Luis Alejo. I have worked with State Senator Joe Simitian in support of the Rail-Trail and legislation to keep radioactive smoke detectors out of the landfill. As a member of the Transportation and Public Works Commission and former Water Commission member I have insight into citizen bodies. My wife, Jane Weed-Pomerantz, served on the City Council some 25 years ago where I first learned about our City's governance. I have been a public servant my adult life, especially as a firefighter in San Jose for nearly 30 years. (Please see my website at <http://www.ronforcouncil.com> for a complete listing of endorsers of my Council Campaign.)

4. **If elected, will you work to complete the City's proposed acquisition of Its Beach from the State of California in order to restore off-leash recreation at Its Beach?**

Yes

Comments:

I support the acquisition goal and also recognize that the possibility of delivering will be a huge challenge to all of us during these difficult political and financial times. Strategically a possible way to proceed is to investigate the purchase of Its Beach alone at extremely favorable terms, making the purchase more politically feasible. If elected, I pledge to work on restoring access for off leash dogs at Its Beach.

5. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

I can take a leadership role in pursuing an operating agreement for off-leash dogs, but as FOLF members know, it needs to be a community effort. I will need FOLF's assistance in keeping a positive and visible presence as community activists, and by organizing and lobbying other decision makers.

6. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach if the State is willing to negotiate providing any required EIR or negative declaration, legal defense, long-term financing, and/or participation in maintenance expenses?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

If the State is willing and able to back up the City in the manner described, under extremely favorable financial terms, I will provide a leadership role towards a purchase and/or operating agreement.

7. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to negotiate with the State for either an exemption from the State Parks blanket leash policy given the unique urban nature of this park, or the creation of a special study to measure the benefits of park usage with voice-controlled dogs, or the establishment of a dog exercise concession, or other modification of the State Parks policy?**

Yes

Please explain any other ideas, specific plans, or commitments:

I am interested in investigating these ideas and others. I look forward to learning more about FOLFs ideas and concerns. I am open, accessible, and as a dog owner, supportive of your concerns.

8. **For the off-leash recreation needs of Santa Cruz citizens, which statement best represents your position? The City of Santa Cruz provides space for off-leash recreation that is:**

Not enough.

Comments:

Statistics indicate there are some 20,000 dogs residing in the city limits. More neighborhood accessible dog areas are a worthy goal. Dogs and humans will better be able to get their needed recreation and with more neighborhood facilities, we will reduce the need to drive our dogs to parks where they can exercise, thereby cutting unnecessary traffic and greenhouse gas emissions.

9. **If you are committed to off-leash recreational parks, which do you consider to be the most appropriate form of park? Please feel free to designate order of preference 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

1__ Open space shared use areas (such as Carmel Beach or Lighthouse Field prior to Nov. 2007)

2__ Open dedicated dog areas (large grass fields or beach areas)

3__ Large contained dedicated dog areas (grass fields or beach areas within fences)

4__ Contained dog runs with man-made surface within fences (such as in Scotts Valley or Aptos)

Comments:

(Sorry I'm not familiar with Carmel Beach.)

All are useful, but what would be best for dogs is indicated in my listing.

10. **How do you believe Santa Cruz would benefit from becoming a more dog-friendly city? How would you work toward making Santa Cruz more dog-friendly?**

There is the potential to boosting dog oriented-tourism. We know of positive mental and physical health benefits that companion dogs provide for us humans. My above answers speak of how I will work with FOLF and other electeds to make Santa Cruz more dog friendly.

11. Additional comments:

I would like to investigate setting up a city committee that will openly discuss where and how dogs can be integrated into the community, and also look at how we can develop additional facilities for dog recreation. FOLF's voice at the table, representing thousands of dog guardians, is important. I appreciate FOLF for organizing beach and field cleanups and your consistent community presence.

Friends of Lighthouse Field
Santa Cruz City Council Election 2010 / Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Candidate name: **Lynn Robinson**

2. **Please choose which statement reflects your position:**

I support the FOLF stand to restore the traditional off-leash recreation policies at LFSB. I commit to working with the city, county and state to help achieve this goal.

Comments:

The FOLF community has been extremely patient and understanding of the budget constraints the city has been facing. It has kept us from moving forward on many of the important issues facing the hardest hit department, which is Parks and Rec. It will take all of the agencies working together with the community to create a new stewardship model for off leash recreation. The stewardship that FOLF have dedicated over the years is clearly evident, and the last few years clearly showed what happens in the field when recreational activities change. Criminal activity and illegal camping begin to claim the space left void, and it does take the entire community to help reclaim the space. Thank you for your leadership and connecting with Take Back Santa Cruz for the big clean up you recently accomplished.

[Note: Because Lynn Robinson answered Question 9 to give relatively low priority to shared open off-leash space -- as had been the case in LFSB prior to Nov. 2007 -- we followed up with her to clarify her position on restoration of off-leash at LFSB. Although she would generally prefer to create more dedicated areas for new off-leash areas (i.e. separation of dog and non-dog areas), with respect to LFSB she supports "... the same off leash limited hours of before 10am and after 4pm." i.e. the traditional pre-2007 sharing model that we support.]

3. **Please specify any of your specific experiences that would make you most qualified candidate to help support and achieve the goals of FOLF (e.g., city, county and state government, parks and land use issues, community action, government zoning, legal, budget planning, etc.):**

Comments:

I have worked with FOLF directly in my role on the City Council. I have been in the negotiations that have taken place over the last four years. My relationship with all the agencies involved is a very strong working relationship and I have a working knowledge of the issues. I recognize this is moving slowly mostly due to our budget constraints. Parks and Rec has been severely cut back in the last few years in order to help the City balance the budget, and any rebound is going to be slow. I don't get discouraged though, and that is one of the reasons I am running for City Council again. You need someone with the experience and deep knowledge of the issues. I already have the working relationships required to help move forward on the issues FOLF is focused on.

4. **If elected, will you work to complete the City's proposed acquisition of Its Beach from the State of California in order to restore off-leash recreation at Its Beach?**

Yes

Comments:

I can tell you from my current experience on the council, the budget cuts have been extremely difficult for everyone. It is important for me to be very upfront with FOLF as I have been at the table for all the work we have been able to accomplish on the proposed acquisition. The most extreme cycle of the economic downturn happened at the same time we were trying to work out the details for the Lighthouse Field and beach. The dire state of the Parks and Rec cut backs have kept the EIR from being completed. The department prioritized the heroin issues in Pogonip with the resources they currently have, so I am being realistic in my answers to you. I will keep it moving forward, and I am keenly aware it is not happening at the pace FOLF had hoped.

5. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

The more realistic approach would be to look at an operating agreement that can be worked out with the City and the State. With the drastic cuts that have happened in the last few years to the Parks department, even an operating agreement would be a challenge, given the resources needed to manage the park. Again, I want to thank you for understanding we need to look at realistic options on how we can get the agencies and community together and move forward on this issue. Purchasing can still be an option, but in these economic times, I think being open to an operating agreement makes sense.

6. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach if the State is willing to negotiate providing any required EIR or negative declaration, legal defense, long-term financing, and/or participation in maintenance expenses?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

I am not going sugarcoat this and tell you it would be easy. As you know, in my role on the council I have been at the table for these discussions and it is not black and white when it comes to discussing the pros and cons of both financing and maintenance with the State. At this point in time, the City is in no position to make a purchase offer, so I appreciate that FOLF is open to other ways of having the State provide the resources that the City currently cannot take on.

7. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to negotiate with the State for either an exemption from the State Parks blanket leash policy given the unique urban nature of this park, or the creation of a special study to measure the benefits of park usage with voice-controlled dogs, or the establishment of a dog exercise concession, or other modification of the State Parks policy?**

Yes

Please explain any other ideas, specific plans, or commitments:

I have a very good working relationship with staff at the State Parks. I would be happy to work with the State to move these ideas forward. They know the issues that face us in Lighthouse Field. I was out of town for the recent cleanup that FOLF and Take Back Santa Cruz organized, but I have stepped up and worked with both groups doing trash cleanups of public spaces that have criminal activity taking place. The lack of resources for the State Parks has been an issue for them being able to keep the field free of camping and illegal activity. Groups like FOLF and TBSC make a positive difference in public spaces we all want improved, especially around public safety concerns.

8. **For the off-leash recreation needs of Santa Cruz citizens, which statement best represents your position? The City of Santa Cruz provides space for off-leash recreation that is:**

Not enough.

Comments:

Santa Cruz has a very active and engaged population of dog owners, as diverse as the dogs themselves. If we had more resources in the form of usable spaces and dedicated money, I would like to be creating specific dog parks. I would have a park space that was intended for large dog owners to let their dogs run without the concern for small dogs, children and seniors. Another location would be for smaller breeds that sometimes get over run by the large breeds. Elsewhere there would still be an off leash dog park for all dogs. The City of Danville created two different parks to fit the needs of large breeds and small breeds. We don't have that luxury with our current budget, and we have been creative under our current constraints to provide off leash park spaces, but there is an unmet need.

9. **If you are committed to off-leash recreational parks, which do you consider to be the most appropriate form of park? Please feel free to designate order of preference 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

1__ Open dedicated dog areas (large grass fields or beach areas)

2__ Large contained dedicated dog areas (grass fields or beach areas within fences)

3__ Open space shared use areas (such as Carmel Beach or Lighthouse Field prior to Nov. 2007)

4__ Contained dog runs with man-made surface within fences (such as in Scotts Valley or Aptos)

Comments:

I have always been supportive of areas that are for the purpose of giving dogs and their families a dedicated space to get their exercise and a chance to socialize with other dogs and people. For many cities, the most successful dogs parks are dedicated to this growing need. The City of Santa Cruz is very limited on locations, but we have been making progress on creating new spaces for dogs and their human companions to enjoy dedicated spaces to recreate around the city.

The challenge is to create spaces that remove the conflicts that do arise between various park user groups. That is why I numbered the choices as I did. I feel we do need to acknowledge that many parents with children as well as seniors are more vulnerable to being unexpectedly surprised by dogs that are in serious exercise mode. Creating more spaces that remove that conflict increases full enjoyment of those designated spaces.

10. How do you believe Santa Cruz would benefit from becoming a more dog-friendly city? How would you work toward making Santa Cruz more dog-friendly?

We would benefit by the network of dog friendly communities spreading the word about places and spaces that people can take their dogs in Santa Cruz. We keep growing that list all the time. Many private businesses are finding ways to be more dog friendly and it is helping us at the city level as we go in the direction of allowing more access to dog owners in the public spaces.

I currently work with many of the businesses that would be affected by the change in policy regarding new locations for leashed dogs in commercial spaces. I know that we will be able to accomplish this goal together with leadership from responsible dog owners, local business owners interested in creating that change, and several of us on the Council. Together we can address the concerns of having dogs in commercial areas, being realistic about the outcomes, and making a policy that brings responsible dog owners new dog-friendly opportunities in the City of Santa Cruz. I think the City of Berkeley, with their 4th Avenue business district and the City of Walnut Creek, as well as Los Gatos are good examples of what our new dog friendly atmosphere could be like.

11. Additional comments:

I was honored to have the endorsement of FOLF when I ran for City Council four years ago. I have been a dog owner all my adult life and deeply understand how much pleasure and companionship we all have with our dogs. My dog Bailey is a 13 year-old yellow lab that still enjoys getting out and about, but has clearly slowed down in her senior years. I have also been realistic about creating off leash recreation that gives dogs and their owners open space that lets dogs exercise, yet still provides public spaces for people that do not want to interact with the dogs. I think FOLF have been very open to helping make that happen in order to have access to the field and beach, and I am happy to help make that happen. I would be very honored to again have the endorsement of FOLF, and look forward to sharing even more ideas and suggestions with you.

Friends of Lighthouse Field
Santa Cruz City Council Election 2010 / Candidate Questionnaire Responses

1. Candidate name: **David Terrazas**

2. **Please choose which statement reflects your position:**

I support the FOLF stand to restore the traditional off-leash recreation policies at LFSB. I commit to working with the city, county and state to help achieve this goal.

Comments:

My family and I appreciate the opportunity to spend time outdoors together with Cole our seven year old German Shorthair Pointer. The off-leash recreational opportunities for families, friends and the community are severely limited by the current restrictions. I support and will work for change that will permit off-leash recreational policies at Its beach and Lighthouse field as well as working with city, county and state elected officials to achieve this goal.

3. **Please specify any of your specific experiences that would make you most qualified candidate to help support and achieve the goals of FOLF (e.g., city, county and state government, parks and land use issues, community action, government zoning, legal, budget planning, etc.):**

Comments:

As a starting point and as mentioned previously, my family has enjoyed the recreational opportunities for Cole at Its beach and Lighthouse Field for years. The area is a wonderful point of contact for a cross section of the community who ardently support the safety and well-being of the area for all visitors. I know first-hand, about the goals of FOLF and will articulate them as a member of the City Council. Additionally, professionally I am experienced in reaching concurrence and finding points of common ground with diverse groups and viewpoints. I have been endorsed by six of the current members of the Santa Cruz City Council (Mayor Mike Rotkin; Vice-Mayor Ryan Coonerty; Cynthia Mathews; Lynn Robinson; Don Lane; and Tony Madrigal) as well as County Supervisors Neal Coonerty; Tony Campos and John Leopold. Likewise, I have positive relations with members of our State Senate and State Assembly (Endorsed by State Senator Joe Simitian and State Assemblyman Alberto Torrico) and am able to establish the types of relationships required to advocate on behalf of our community. I have a strong background in land-use as former chair of both the City Transportation Commission and City Public Works Commission and understand how to navigate complex provisions of local ordinances and state law. As a Santa Cruz City Councilmember, I would work to find creative solutions to restore the opportunities for off-leash recreation at Lighthouse Field and other locations throughout our town.

4. **If elected, will you work to complete the City's proposed acquisition of Its Beach from the State of California in order to restore off-leash recreation at Its Beach?**

Yes

Comments:

As a City Councilmember I will work to complete the City's proposed acquisition of It's Beach as well as pursue other potential alternatives to restore off-leash recreational opportunities My family has been taking Cole to both Lighthouse Field and It's Beach for over seven years and believe this space represents a critical visitor serving public space that has been under utilized as a result of the current status of its use.

5. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

I am committed to working with the community to find funding mechanisms to support our City's recreational programs. Supporting our City Parks and open spaces is an essential role of City Government and I will wholeheartedly promote them as a member of council. As you know, our City's budget has been devastated by declining revenue and take-aways by the State. As a member of the Santa Cruz City Council I will look for creative ways to partner with local residents, community groups and others to find agreement and identify a stable funding mechanism to purchase and/or operate these spaces.

As an example, I recently leveraged a local grant to reclaim a blighted area and obtained a wide mix of residents and local businesses to support a public art mural. Working together we can accomplish this goal.

6. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to move toward a City purchase and/or operating agreement for Lighthouse Field and Its Beach if the State is willing to negotiate providing any required EIR or negative declaration, legal defense, long-term financing, and/or participation in maintenance expenses?**

Yes

Please explain any specific plans or commitments:

I will meet on a regular basis of Friends of Lighthouse Field (FOLF) to ensure that their voice is represented on Council and that discussions with the State are carried out with a complete understanding of the goals of FOLF. I believe we need to strengthen the funding and operational maintenance of our local parks. We can look to vehicle registration fees to support state parks as a model to identify consistent funding source for our parks. I've met with Vice-Mayor Ryan Coonerty and had numerous discussions about the possibility of acquiring these public spaces and look forward to working with FOLF to achieve this goal.

7. **Will you take a leadership role on the City Council to negotiate with the State for either an exemption from the State Parks blanket leash policy given the unique urban nature of this park, or the creation of a special study to measure the benefits of park usage with voice-controlled dogs, or the establishment of a dog exercise concession, or other modification of the State Parks policy?**

Yes

Please explain any other ideas, specific plans, or commitments:

We need to look at State Parks Best practices to identify model solutions to reach agreement on off-leash recreational opportunities at Lighthouse Field. Other parks have implemented solutions to address off-leash recreational use, as well as other shared uses, and we should be open to developing the types of actions here. At a time when our local parks have been inundated with inappropriate use we need to bring our community together to improve the state of parks and increase their use. I recently participated in a Lighthouse Field Clean-up organized by FOLF and Take Back Santa Cruz (TBSC) and highlighted the impact of declining use of Lighthouse Field by residents. The more we can bring diverse groups together to demonstrate park use, such as improved safety and maintenance, the more likely our community will establish modification to the current policy.

8. **For the off-leash recreation needs of Santa Cruz citizens, which statement best represents your position? The City of Santa Cruz provides space for off-leash recreation that is:**

Not enough.

Comments:

We, as a City, can do a much better job to increase multi-use visitor opportunities at our local parks. Residents greatly value of parks and open spaces and by encouraging new uses we can address some of the pressing safety and maintenance issues of these spaces in a creative, cost-efficient manner.

9. **If you are committed to off-leash recreational parks, which do you consider to be the most appropriate form of park? Please feel free to designate order of preference 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

1__ Open space shared use areas (such as Carmel Beach or Lighthouse Field prior to Nov. 2007)

2__ Open dedicated dog areas (large grass fields or beach areas)

3__ Large contained dedicated dog areas (grass fields or beach areas within fences)

4__ Contained dog runs with man-made surface within fences (such as in Scotts Valley or Aptos)

Comments:

As mentioned above, our community is under tremendous budget constraints and the costs for any new facilities require wide-spread community support. In some cases we should look to dedicate a mix of both off-leash recreational parks and non off-leash recreational parks to provide alternatives for community members.

10. **How do you believe Santa Cruz would benefit from becoming a more dog-friendly city? How would you work toward making Santa Cruz more dog-friendly?**

Santa Cruz would benefit from being a more dog-friendly city for several reasons. Firstly, Santa Cruz has been experiencing one of the most profound economic challenges it has ever faced. This situation has brought people together to volunteer their time and contribute to support valuable programs and services. Those interested in creating a more dog-friendly community have mobilized to support their goals and by doing so helped to maintain a more vibrant town. Secondly, as a community we have all read about current public safety issues and the need to engage residents to identify solutions to address criminal activity and other inappropriate activities. A more dog-friendly community brings people out to spaces that are currently isolated and remote and helps public safety personnel keep an eye on our community without the added strain on our City budget. Last, a dog-friendly town encourages economic activity by attracting people from throughout the region to visit our town. We have unique places for people to visit and by increasing dog friendly spaces we create new points of interest for people who visit Santa Cruz.

11. **Additional comments:**

I would be honored with FOLF's endorsement in my campaign for Santa Cruz City Council. My family and I are long-time residents and believe that FOLF is a true community asset. We've known many friends through regular visits to Lighthouse Field and Its Beach with our dog Cole. I look forward to serving as a City Council Member and as an advocate for FOLF and off-leash recreational opportunities within our community.