



Friends Interested  
**FIDOS**  
Dogs and Open Space

### Quick Review of the April Council Meeting Results

The Council meeting discussing the OSMP's Green Tag Proposals went on until past 11pm. We have to recognize all the Council Members dedication to the process to listen to everyone, and read the letters and emails then discuss the many perspectives with the OSMP staff.

The Council Chambers, upstairs and downstairs, for much of the evening were full of supporters for our position.

Based on Council input from that meeting OSMP has released the updated draft of the proposals which we summarize and comment on below.

**We are glad to report that the harshest and most unfair of the original proposals have been removed. In particular, there will be no automatic one-strike or two-strike suspensions of Green Tag privileges for the various offenses, including something as benign as chasing a squirrel into a tree. The penalties for Green Tag offenses, outside of the minimum or maximum fines, will be left to the discretion of the municipal judge.**

1. The first proposal included a number of outreach, education suggestions and was passed with little discussion and minor changes such as moving garbage receptacles to more strategic places.

***FIDOS position - OK. This is one proposal that responsible users can participate in by monitoring trails and supporting***

### **educational events.**

2. Proof of Rabies Vaccination: Require current rabies vaccination for a dog's participation in the tag program. Additionally City of Boulder residents to provide a valid Boulder dog license as proof of vaccination and compliance with the city's license requirement.

***FIDOS position - FIDOS is neutral on this proposal . we can't argue with keeping the pups healthy.***

3. The program registration and annual renewal fees will include a graduated fee structure for residents of the City of Boulder, residents of Boulder County living outside the City of Boulder, and for none county residents.

Program registration fees:

- \* City of Boulder Residents (\$13),
- \* Boulder County residents outside the City of Boulder (\$33),
- \* Non-Boulder County residents (\$75), and
- \* The registration fee includes one guardian and one dog; the fee for each additional guardian in a household is (\$5) and the fee for each additional dog in a household is (\$10).

Annual household renewal fee:

- \* City of Boulder Residents (\$5),
- \* Boulder County residents outside the City of Boulder (\$20), and
- \* Non-Boulder County residents (\$30).

The additional guardian and dog registration fees will be waived for City of Boulder households who meet income criteria consistent with the City of Boulder Food Tax Rebate Program or the Parks and Recreation Reduced Rate Program.

***FIDOS Position - FIDOS initially opposed increased as well as annual fees for dog guardians, as the only user group being required to pay any additional fees. We had been told, however, that fees were likely on the horizon for other user groups, and that fighting the fee battle would be difficult at best. We thus conceded the fees. In addition, the annual fees for city and county residents become equal when considering***

***that city residents must pay a \$15 annual dog license fee. When added to the \$5 tag renewal fee, it is the same as the \$20 annual tag fee for county residents.***

4. Require all program participants attend an information session. Program participants must attend a session before they can register in the program. The information session will include as part of the content a revised and updated voice and sight video.

Program participants must complete an online refresher education course at least every five years. The refresher will include an on-line test to establish that participants understand the Voice and Sight Tag Program requirements.

***FIDOS Position - It's hard to visualize how OSMP Staff will implement the in-person information session for the 17,000 expected participants within a one-year time frame - MONITORING***

5. Increase fines for Voice and Sight Evidence Tag Required (B.R.C. 6-13-2) and Dog at Large violations (B.R.C. 6-1-16) to \$100 (maximum), \$200 (maximum), and \$300 (minimum) for first, second and third or more convictions respectively. **Provide mechanism for dismissal of tickets for lawful participants who inadvertently failed to display tag.**

The bond amount for dog-related City Manager's Rule violations (B.R.C. 8-3-3) will be increased to \$100.

***FIDOS position - We can't really defend scofflaws but we will set up a monitoring program to track overreach by staff. The mechanism to dismiss tickets if you have a green tag but fail to display it (eg lose it) is important.***

6. Encourage courts to order such additions ( eg attendance at classes related to the voice and sight control regulations of the city, evaluation or training of the dog to ensure that it is capable of complying with voice and sight control requirements, or the temporary suspension or permanent revocation of voice and sight control privileges) to fines for violations of the following

ordinances:

- Voice and Sight Evidence Tag Required (B.R.C. 6-13-2)
- Dog at Large violations (B.R.C. 6-1-16)
- Aggressive Animal Prohibited (B.R.C. 6-1-20), and
- Failure to Protect Wildlife (or livestock) (B.R.C. 8-3-5)

***FIDOS Position - FIDOS objected to automatic revocation of Green Tag privileges based on the ranger's issuance of a ticket combined with the formal court conviction. We feel that it is fair that Council unanimously agreed that any penalties that are in addition to fines will be left to the discretion of the municipal judge.***

***Council member Macon Cowles, with agreement from most Council members, insisted that language be added to the ordinances to present a possible range of additional penalties from which the municipal judge can choose for dog-related offenses. So the current proposed language for each of the ordinances above now includes the following list of suggested additional penalties from which the municipal judge can choose - attendance at classes related to the voice and sight control regulations of the city, evaluation or training of the dog to ensure that it is capable of complying with voice and sight control requirements, or the temporary suspension or permanent revocation of voice and sight control privileges. Since the municipal judge already has this authority to impose additional penalties relative to the severity of the offense, this additional language was not necessary.***

PROPOSALS 7,8,9 AND 10 RELATED TO AUTOMATIC REVOCATION OF VOICE AND SIGHT ACCESS HAVE BEEN REMOVED

***FIDOS Position - These were the key proposals FIDOS objected to!***

**[The continuation of the 2nd reading for V&S is on the Public](#)**

**[Hearing agenda is at this link.](#)**

***This will occur on Wednesday 16th April. FIDOS will have representatives at the meeting to monitor progress and let you know immediately if anything unexpected occurs.***

Month Year

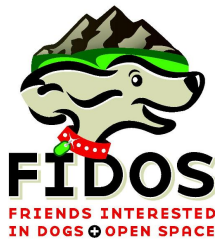
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## Helping FIDOS

Its surprising how much V&S activity is going on the Boulder and the County which FIDOS members try to cover.

If you'd like to help out, but cant make long term commitments, we are pulling together a list of volunteer activities which simply involve turning up. For example, organizing a social event or attending an OSBT or Council Meeting and reporting back. (These meetings may seem dry, but when you have some skin in the game, such as preserving V&S access, they can be fascinating).

Let FIDOS know if you are interested in these ad-hoc activities and we'll put you on the mailing list.



### **FIDOS Meetings, Membership and Feedback**

Members of FIDOS include a wide cross section of the Boulder Community, the common factor being an interest in enjoying and protecting the the Open Space, accompanied by our dogs. Many supporters are in fact "between dogs", but value meeting others with their dogs on the trail.

In order to retain and expand this access we each need to be "good stewards" of the lands around us and keep an eye on whats going on on the trails as well as in the meeting rooms.

Let us know if you have any ideas or observations on the direction of FIDOS. New perspectives on V&S are always valuable in developing our arguments.

FIDOS meets on the first Monday of each month, 7pm at the Outlook Hotel, Boulder. The agenda is always published in advance to make sure we hit all the issues. If anyone would like to address the group let us know in advance (mail here) and we'll make time in the schedule.

Sincerely,

[Newsletter Team](#)

Friends Interested in Dogs and Open Space

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