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Posted May 17, 2006

Complaints don't end dogs on East River Trail

Allouez board hears of unleashed animals, droppings in park

By Lee Reinsch lreinsch@greenbaypressgazette.com

ALLOUEZ — Dogs and their bad owners got a treat thrown their way at Tuesday's village board meeting.

The board did not vote to rescind leashed-dog privileges on the East River Trail.

Village Administrator Sue Foxworthy put the topic of unleashed dogs and dog droppings on the board agenda after receiving 11 phone calls and two letters from residents complaining of dogs running unfettered in Green Isle Park

Last fall, the Village Board voted to allow dogs on 5-foot leashes on the East River Trail for a probation — pending good behavior.

Foxworthy said an unleashed dog ran up to her while she was attending an outdoor wedding in the p

Dogs are not allowed in village parks.

"It did its business right there next to the wedding (at the park), and the owner didn't bother to pick up," she told the board.

But fans of all things furry spoke out in defense of their tail-wagging friends.

"If you ban dogs from the trail, then you may as well ban runners from running three-abreast down E Street resident Joe Murphy said. "The runners are as rude as anyone; I've seen them making comm

The same goes for inline skaters, fast bikers and skateboarders, too, he said.

"Why have a trail if you can't use it? There are always those few who are going to abuse it," Briar La

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Weinhauer said.

Allouez resident Ann Laes said she almost gets "run over by bicyclists on a daily basis" on the trail a incident of dog droppings on the trail in the nearly six months she's been using it.

"From what I've seen, everyone has everything under control," Laes said.

The board discussed issuing verbal warnings to dog owners who are found not complying with the lc enforcing the ordinances is "overwhelming" for local police because by the time a complaint is acted dog owner has left the park or trail, Allouez police officer John Flannery said.

Dog owners face a possible \$500 fine for having dogs in the park or for not picking up after their dog

Trustee Randy Gast suggested that after a few people get fined, word would spread among the dog-owners would be forced to obey.

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