

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF LONSDALE**  
**PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**August 10, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, and Laura Carpentier

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Jeanette Morgan and Shelly Narum

**STAFF PRESENT:**

City Planner Benjamin Baker, City Administrator Joel Erickson, and Jeff Heller – Public Works-Parks

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kodada called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the upstairs meeting room at 415 Central Street West.

**2. AGENDA**

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

**3. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2010 meeting. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

a. Discuss Kalina Park Landscape and Park Amenities Planning

Chair Kodada opened the public hearing and announced the agenda item. Baker mentioned that he mailed a notice out to Willow Creek Heights residents boarding Kalina Park, inviting them to attend the meeting. Approximately 12 neighboring property owners were present at the meeting.

Baker provided an overview and history of Kalina Park and the proposed project. He said that a local excavation company has offered to grade Kalina Park at no cost to the City. Baker mentioned that this might be the only opportunity for the City of Lonsdale to get an estimated \$50,000 worth of grading work completed for free. Baker explained the parkland dedication process, how park development funds can be used, and how/why public parks are zoned.

Baker asked the Park Board and neighboring residents to provide input on which amenities they thought should be included in the grading plan. He provided a list of past ideas and plans for Kalina Park, and he provided different concept plans for them to review. The Park Board and neighboring residents focused their comments on the proposed park site plan dated 8/10/2010. The site plan showed a trail running up and over the northwestern hill, a trail loop around the perimeter of the park area, mowed open spaces (for pick-up soccer or baseball), a play area, and undisturbed natural areas and wetlands.

Douglas Fink, 1203 Willow Creek Drive SE, asked who would be doing the grading work. Kodada mentioned that Rud Construction has provided the City with the generous offer, and he stated that Rud Construction previously helped the City with grading work at Sticha Park as well. The neighboring property owners at 1120 Woodridge Court SE, 608 Park View Court SE, 1203 Willow Creek Drive SE, 609 Parkview Court SE, 1214 Singing Hills Drive SE, 1116 Singing Hills Drive SE, 1208 Singing Hills Drive SE, and 657 Pond View Drive SE voiced their concerns with the project in proximity to their rear yards. The neighborhood group was mostly in agreement in that they would like to preserve the existing trees and keep Kalina Park as natural as possible. Some of the neighboring property owners stated that they didn't want the play area located amongst the trees on top of the hill for safety reasons. A few neighboring property owners suggested eliminating the Singing Hills Drive portion of the perimeter trail and moving the hill top play area towards the center of the park. The neighborhood group did not object to the proposed mowed open space areas. Baker read comments submitted by Selena Hager of 609 Parkview Ct. SE.

Ziskovsky reminded the neighboring residents that the Park Board represents all of Lonsdale's citizens and neighborhoods. Ziskovsky and Kodada explained that other Willow Creek Heights residents have been asking the City for a usable park within their development including a play equipment area. Heller mentioned that he could tag all the significant trees before any grading work takes place. Carpentier explained that at past Park Board meetings they discussed developing Kalina Park as a more natural/passive park. Kodada assured the neighboring residents that trail paving and park amenities would probably not be added for the foreseeable future due to current budget constraints. Baker read comments submitted by Park Board Member Morgan.

Kodada stated that the Park Board will review this issue again at their September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, and he encouraged the neighboring residents to attend that meeting. Baker mentioned that the City Engineer will be creating a proposed grading plan based on the held discussion. He said the proposed grading plan should be available for review by the next Park Board meeting.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to close the Public Hearing. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried. The Public Hearing closed at 7:15 pm.

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **a. Update on Recent City Council Action and Projects**

Baker provided the Park Board with an update on recent City Council decisions and City projects. He talked about the Community Days overnight camping request, the Singing Hills project, the Hwy 19 projects, the Co Rd 33 trail project, and the MnDOT Landscaping Partnership project. He provided the Board with a picture of the recently completed Central Street Sidewalk and Co Rd 33 trail.

### **b. Discuss MnDOT-Lonsdale Community Roadside Partnership Landscaping Project**

Baker mentioned that the City Council approved the MnDOT Preliminary Landscape Plan on July 29, 2010. He said that MnDOT is currently creating a cooperative agreement for the project. Baker asked that Board for suggestions on what type of decorative landscaping rock, mulch, wall material, and outcropping boulders should be used in the project. Kodada said he liked the look of Chilton rock, and Carpentier stated that regular limestone would complement the existing welcome signs better. The Board decided to go with limestone. Heller said that he would check with the Vetter Stone Company to see what types of limestone rocks and boulders they may have available.

The Board agreed that the trees, retaining wall, and outcropping boulders should be placed before the community-wide planting day. The Board also recommended specific landscaping companies that should be contacted to bid on the project. Kodada mentioned that volunteers and/or the Public Works Department can help with constructing the landscaping walls and placing the boulders.

## **7. MISCELLANEOUS**

None.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Benjamin Baker, City Planner