

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
April 14, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanette Morgan, Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, Chris Kraimer, and Laura Carpentier

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker and Parks Maintenance Worker Jeff Heller

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. AGENDA

Kodada asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Baker asked if "Update on the Lonsdale Flowers, Planting, and Trees Meeting" could be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Carpentier to approve the agenda with the noted addition. Vote for: Morgan, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Kraimer, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the minutes from the March 10, 2009 regular meeting. Vote for: Morgan, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Kraimer, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Duban, 800 8th Avenue NW, stated that he is still waiting for some picnic tables.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Arbor Day 2009 Event Planning Update

Baker stated that at their meeting on March 26, 2009, the City Council approved Resolution 2009-10, a resolution proclaiming the last Friday in April as Arbor Day in the City of Lonsdale. He said that the Arbor Day Committee will be meeting again on April 17th to finalize the details for the Arbor Day event. Baker

said that the following people will be invited to the event: approximately 160 3rd and 4th grade Montgomery-Lonsdale elementary students, the Nature Center Committee, the Park Board, the City Council, the City Foresters, the City Administrator, the M-L School Board, the M-L Superintendent, the Jeffers Foundation, the Montgomery Messenger, the Lonsdale Area News Review, and all interested Lonsdale residents and the general public. He said that the event presentation will consist of short speeches and presentations from M-L Schools, the City of Lonsdale, the DNR, and a few elementary students. Baker said that he is currently working with Trcka Tree Moving & Sales to assure that the five larger trees will be planted around the viewing deck in time for the event. He also mentioned that the DNR will be providing tree spades and small trees for the students to plant and bring home. Baker said that Brushworks should be installing the East Elementary Nature Center sign soon.

b. Hwy 19 Sidewalk Project Update

Baker provided the Park Board with an updated project timeline and schedule. He said that the Board will be reviewing the Hwy 19 Project plans and specifications at their meeting on May 12th. Kodada asked if City staff has been in contact with the property owners affected by the project. Baker stated that Administrator Erickson and Engineer Kawlewski have been working with the property owners along the route including the Parishioners from the I.C. Church.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Update on Donated Wood Duck Houses for East Elementary Nature Center

Kodada stated that he and his family recently had the opportunity to put up 4 Wood Duck houses at the East Elementary Nature Center with the help of Greg Busch from the Wheatland Sportsman Club. He mentioned that The Wheatland Twin Lakes Sportsman Club and Scott/Le Sueur County Ducks Unlimited donated the Wood Duck houses. He said that Dave Flicek will also be donating some more Wood Duck houses and three more Bluebird houses. Kodada also mentioned that they talked about building a dike within the Nature Center with the help of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He said the dike would help enlarge and deepen the current wetland area.

b. Review Design Concepts for the Hwy 19 & Main Street Intersection – Kevin Kodada

Kodada provided the Board with a couple of masonry/paver product books to review. He mentioned that Mayor Rud and the EDA were checking into the idea of paver pedestrian ramps and/or crosswalks at the intersection of Main Street and Hwy 19 to go along with the Hwy 19 Mill & Overlay Project. He said that funds are limited but pavers would definitely dress up the intersection nicely.

Kodada updated the Board on the EDA's latest plan to market Lonsdale. He presented a copy of the Lonsdale Branding & Media packet (dated April 2, 2009) created by Perspective Marketing with help from the Marketing Taskforce. Kodada explained the ideas and thinking behind the marketing initiative and

proposed City logos. He said that the marketing packet and logos were presented to the Council at their last meeting, and the Council provided comments and feedback. Kodada mentioned that some of the Council members thought that the logo was too trendy. He said that he liked Lonsdale's current flag logo and the current Lonsdale lettering. He suggested that the City's logo should have historical significance and be more of a permanent emblem. Kraimer said that the current logo looks good, and she mentioned that the older part of town and its heritage needs to connect with the newer parts of town.

The Board continued to discuss intersection designs. Kodada showed the Board the ideas and designs from the EDA's Streetscape Masterplan. He mentioned that he really likes most of the Streetscape Masterplans's design concepts. Kodada stated that a large "L" for "Lonsdale" placed in the middle of the intersection would only work for traffic traveling from one direction. Heller said that it may look nice to install the name "Lonsdale" within each crosswalk using different colored pavers. Carpentier suggested designing the sides of the intersection similar to Apple Valley's pavers and gates. The Board continued their discussion focusing mainly on paver ideas for the crosswalks. Carpentier suggested that a different colored solid course should be installed along the edges. Kodada showed the Board different paver examples and colors. He also mentioned that there may be the opportunity to add a creative look behind the pedestrian ramps. Kodada asked the Board members to look through the different product options and designs and come back to the next meeting with their preferences picked up.

c. Review Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment: Adding "Parks & Open Space District", "Public Facilities & Government District", and "Wetland & Stormwater District"

Baker updated the Board on the proposed rezoning amendments being considered by the Lonsdale Planning Commission. He said that one of the Planning Commission's goals for 2009, was to update and clarify the Official Zoning Map. He said that the Planning Commission is proposing to add three districts to the Zoning Ordinance and Official Map including: 1) Park & Open Space, 2) Public Facilities & Government, and 3) Stormwater & Wetlands. He presented the Board with four maps to review including: 1) the 2025 Land Use Plan, 2) the Official Zoning Map, 3) a Subject Property Map, and 4) a Proposed Zoning Map. Baker explained that the Planning Commission will be coming up with permitted uses, accessory uses, and conditional uses that correlate with current uses on those properties and with the current regulations listed in the City Code. Kodada asked if properties proposed to be rezoned as "wetland" would be eligible for wetland credit. Baker said that he would check with the City Engineer to see if that is possible. Baker asked the Board to review the changes and provide comments by their next meeting.

d. Review Draft "Tree Ordinance" Language

Baker mentioned that 2 out of the 4 requirements to becoming a Tree City USA, include the establishment of a "Tree Board" and a "Tree Care Ordinance". He

provided the Board with a draft ordinance that satisfies both requirements. He also reviewed Lonsdale's current City Code regulations related to trees. Baker said that City Foresters and Laura Carpentier have already provided comments on the proposed ordinance, and he said he plans to have Angela Yuska from the DNR Forestry Division review the draft ordinance too. Baker briefly highlighted and explained some of the sections of the ordinance, and he encouraged the Board to review and comment on the draft ordinance by the next meeting. Kraimer suggested that some non-conforming trees be grandfathered in. The Board stated that some of the permitted trees on the list need to be reviewed in greater detail. Baker said that maybe the ordinance language should be added to encourage native type plantings. Kodada mentioned that some of the approved development agreements may have stipulations regarding the planting of Ash trees.

e. Update on the Lonsdale Flowers, Plantings, and Trees Meeting

Baker said that two meetings were held earlier in the day regarding flowers, plantings, and trees in public places. He said that the first meeting was focused on flowers and plantings along Main Street, at Lions Park, and at the Fire Department. Eight people attended the meeting including; Kristen Glockner, Lucy Kuchinka, Cindy Furrer, Laura Carpentier, Jeff Heller, Russ Vlasak, Joel Erickson, and Ben Baker. He said that the group discussed past planting experiences, issues, and posed possible solutions.

Baker mentioned that the Jaycees (Kristen Glockner) and Common Ground Garden Club (Lucy Kuchinka) volunteered to plant the flowers in the downtown flower pots on May 13th starting at 5:30 pm. He also said the City would send a letter to Downtown business owners asking if they could water the flower pots once a day. He said that the group also agreed that the Lonsdale Lions Club should be responsible for the purchase and upkeep of the flowers at Lions Park.

Micki Ziskovski, who has helped deadhead and weed the Fire Department plantings for the past six years, provided a detailed history of the Fire Department plantings and issues that surround them. She said that the plantings could use water once a week. The Board suggested that each Fire Department Company on-duty that week take care of the watering if needed. Kraimer suggested a rain barrel watering system, since there is not a water hose bib available outside of the Fire Department building. Kodada asked if STS could take out some of the rock that is hindering the plants.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Carpentier asked if the County Road 33 trail would be paved soon. Kodada stated that the soils under the trail need time to settle, and then paving will take place either this fall or next spring.

Kodada suggested adding a few benches along the trail system at points with scenic overlooks or near points of interest. He said that benches would give trail users a nice

place to stop and enjoy the views. Ziskovski asked if local businesses or residents would be interested in donating benches if their name was inscribed on the bench.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Carpentier to adjourn the meeting.

Vote for: Morgan, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Kraimer, and Carpentier; Against: None.

Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner