

MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
April 13, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanette Morgan, Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, Laura Carpentier, and Shelly Narum

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

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

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the minutes from the March 30, 2010 meeting. Vote for: Morgan, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Community Garden Discussion – Dale Stepka and Shelly Narum

Shelly Narum stated that she contacted Dale Stepka, Three-Links Maintenance Worker, about the possibility of putting in a community garden on the vacant land located on the east side of the Villages of Lonsdale property. Dale Stepka was present at the meeting. Stepka said that he is excited about the community garden idea, but he will need to first ask Winkelman Building Corporation, property owner, for their permission. He said that liability issues may be a concern for the property owners. Narum handed out an example of a community garden waiver form from Eagle Lake, Minnesota. The Park Board discussed the idea, and they

all agreed that it was a good community initiative to pursue. The Park Board thanked Stepka for attending the meeting.

b. Update on the MnDOT Community Roadside Landscaping Program

Baker said that Mayor Rud recently sent a donation request letter to both Steele-Waseca and Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperatives asking them to consider helping the City with the costs of installing electrical lights for the new welcome signs. He also mentioned that the City would need to fill out a MnDOT Utility Long Form before any electrical work could be done. Baker said that he would check in with MnDOT on the progress of their base maps and soil testing results.

Carpentier handed out five different welcome sign landscaping design concepts for the Board to review. The Board provided Carpentier with comments and input, and they all preferred the concept sketch that showed three evergreen trees, landscaping rocks, and a retaining wall. The Board thanked Carpentier for her excellent design work on the project.

c. Update on SHIP Meeting

Baker stated that he recently attended a county-wide walking/biking initiative meeting in Faribault. He explained that Rice County Public Health should have grant money available, through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), for trail signage and pedestrian/bicyclist education in Lonsdale and throughout the county. He mentioned that the next SHIP meeting will be in Northfield on April 29th. The Park Board agreed with the idea of placing directional and informational signage along Lonsdale's trail ways.

d. Update on Arbor Day 2010 (Wednesday, April 28th @ M-L Elementary School)

Baker stated that he has been in contact with Micki Ziskovsky, East Elementary School Principal Dave Dooley, and the DNR Forestry Office to schedule a date for Arbor Day 2010. He said that this year's Arbor Day event will be celebrated on April 28th at M-L Elementary School from 12:45 – 1:45 pm. He stated that each 3rd Grader will have the opportunity to plant a tree at the school and bring a tree home to plant. Baker mentioned that if the City's Tree City USA sign arrive in time, they may also incorporate a short presentation into the event. Kodada thanked Ziskovsky and Baker for planning the event.

e. Discuss Planning for RSWCD Trees to Arrive on Friday, April 16th

Heller stated that he was planning to pick up the RSWCD trees from Faribault on April 16th and bring them back to Lonsdale by 8:00 am. Heller said that he would like to finish planting all 75 trees on Friday morning. He stated that compost has already been brought to the site and tilling will take place soon. Baker mentioned that the DNR does have tree spades available if needed. Narum stated that she may invite some of the other Mom's Club members to help with the tree planting event.

f. Discuss Adopt-a-Bench Name Plate Color and Bench # 2 Location

Baker provided the Board with pictures of an example nameplate placed on a trail bench. The nameplate had a tan background and black lettering. Kodada said that he liked how the colors of the nameplate matched the bench colors, and the rest of the Board agreed.

The Board also discussed the location of Adopt-a-Bench # 2 because of concerns raised by its distance away from the paved trail. Morgan said that the bench's location is in a perfect spot under the shade of large trees. The Board agreed that its current location seems to be an ideal spot for a bench. Kodada said that the City can monitor its use throughout the summer to see if any further problems arise with its location away from the trail.

g. Consider Approval of a Location for Three Autumn Blaze Maple Trees – Donated by Knecht's Landscape & Nursery

Baker asked the Park Board to discuss and approve a spot to plant three Autumn Blaze Maple Trees donated by Knecht's Landscape & Nursery. Carpentier warned that Silver Maple cultivars can produce limbs that break off easily. She suggested planting the trees near a natural pond or on the City's property at Baldwin & Hwy 19. Ziskovsky said that trees are needed along the long barren stretch of Idaho Street. Heller suggested planting the trees around City Hall, and the Board liked Heller's idea of planting trees at City Hall. After discussing different locations around City Hall, the Board suggested planting 2-3 trees along the southeast property line.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Narum to approve the planting of three Autumn Blaze Maple trees at City Hall. Vote for: Morgan, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

h. Kalina Park (Willow Creek Heights) Discussion

Baker mentioned that at the April 8th City Council meeting, Mayor Rud directed the Park Board to discuss future park plans for Willow Creek Heights at their next meeting. At that meeting, Rud said he received a comment from a concerned resident that there are not any developed parks in that area of town. Baker provided the Board with a Willow Creek Heights Parks and Trails Concept Plan and an aerial photo of the Kalina Park to review. Kodada and Carpentier explained past Park Board ideas and amenities for Kalina Park including a passive park concept, a band shelter, a disc golf area, and a baseball park complex. Kodada mentioned that the City could use a baseball complex in the future but Kalina Park might not be the best location for one. He said that baseball complexes need plenty of room for parking and access off of major roads. Carpentier mentioned that there is still a need for some football and soccer fields in Lonsdale.

Due to limited park development funds and a poor budget outlook, Kodada said there isn't much that the City can do at this point to construct a \$25,000 play area in Willow Creek Heights. Baker suggested that the neighborhood residents in Willow Creek Heights may want to contact Bremer Bank to see if they would be interested in helping fund a play area since Bremer Bank own a majority of the properties in that development. The Park Board agreed with the private park idea at this time, and Kodada said that the development of Kalina Park will have to wait until subdivision development picks up or alternative park funding sources are found.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Morgan, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner