

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
November 18, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tony Churchill, Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, Chris Kraimer, and Laura Carpentier

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF PRESENT:**

City Planner Benjamin Baker, Public Works Director Russ Vlasak, 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.

Kodada introduced Micki Ziskovsky as the newest member to the Park Board. The Park Board and City staff welcomed her. Ziskovsky said that she has lived in Lonsdale since 1972. She stated that she is interested in beautifying the City. She asked who typically plants the flowers and plantings around town. The Board said that usually volunteers step forward to help out with planting.

Baker provided the Board with an updated Park and Recreation Advisory Board name and term list. He stated that Ziskovsky took over Chad Vosejka's term, which ends December 31, 2010. Baker also provided an updated City Parks Map to the Board.

**2. AGENDA**

Kodada asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Baker asked if "Budget Update and Capital Improvement Plan Discussion" could be added to the agenda. Kodada suggested adding "Compost Site Update" to the agenda.

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Carpentier to approve the agenda with the noted additions. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, Kraimer, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

**3. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Carpentier to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2008 regular meeting. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, Kraimer, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

Churchill arrives.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

#### 5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

#### 6. OLD BUSINESS

##### a. CSAH 33 Trail Connection Project Update

Vlasak stated that the majority of grading and piping is complete. He said that the contractor will be adding Class 5 gravel to the top portion of the trail over the next week. Baker reminded everyone that the trail will not be officially opened until Rice County installs a short segment of guardrail along Co. Rd. 33. He said to expect a fair amount of settling to take place before the trail is hard surfaced next year. Baker mentioned that the contractor will be responsible for slope restoration and erosion control. Churchill asked if any wetland area was filled. Baker said that the City did purchase about \$12,000 worth of wetland credits for the project. Carpentier asked if fence was installed along the sides of the trail to prevent rodents from burrowing under the trail. Vlasak said that fence was not installed but the City has hired a couple of animal trappers to help reduce the problems.

##### b. Update on East Elementary Nature Center & Ball Field Project

Baker reminded the Board that back in March, the City of Lonsdale and the Montgomery-Lonsdale School District entered into a joint agreement to provide improvements to the M-L East Elementary School site. He said that the City agreed to pay up to \$20,000 for ball field upgrades and up to \$15,000 for the creation of a nature area. He provided a status update for the Board. He said that ball field fencing and bleachers were installed, that nature center trails were constructed, that a nature center sign was ordered, and the nature center viewing deck was currently under construction. Baker also provided a sketch of the sign elevation and copy of the joint powers and development agreement for the Board to review. Kraimer said that some of the elementary kids have already used the nature center trails, and they love it. The Board suggested contacting the newspaper to write an article about the finished amenities at East Elementary School and the joint cooperation that took place between the Park Board and School District to complete the project.

##### c. Compost Site Update

Kodada stated that although he was in favor of relocating the compost site to a location directly west of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the balance of the Council did not want it to be positioned so close to large new businesses. Kodada stated that the Council was thinking the compost site could be moved out along Garfield Avenue south of Trondhjem Lutheran Church. Kodada said the proposed site would be approximately two acres in size and be hidden behind a stand of trees. Baker said that he would provide an aerial photo print out of the proposed site for the next meeting. He also said that as the Garfield Avenue

Business-Industrial Park moves forward, he will try to keep the Park Board in the loop as far as discussing parkland dedication and the compost site.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Update on Jaycee Park Warming House Project**

Baker provided an article from the News Review regarding the advancement of the Jaycee Park Warming House Project to the Board. Kodada stated that Mayor Tim Rud, Tim El-Wailli of the Montgomery-Lonsdale Hockey Association, and Jeanette Morgan, president of the Lonsdale Jaycees met a couple of times to see what it would take to build a warming house. He said the Hockey Association was willing to donate volunteer labor and the Jaycees would be able to donate \$2,000. Kodada said that a few local contractors will also be donating their labor costs for free. He said the project has been a great community effort that came together quickly. He said that the footings have been dug and poured. He mentioned that block walls should be installed by next week. Kodada said that the warming house will be an extension of the pump house building and a new hip roof will encompass the two rooms. He said that two doors will be placed on the new warming house. One will be used to access the ice, and the other door will be used by the Public Works Department to store generators during the warm months. Kodada said that the M-L Hockey Association was the driving force behind the project and that the issue would have been brought up to the Park Board if the timing would have worked out. Ziskovsky asked if the tornado siren was going to be relocated. Vlasak said that according to coverage maps the civil defense siren should be moved closer toward the school. Baker mentioned that a security system may be installed at various spots throughout Jaycee Park to help prevent vandalism to public structures. He said that a second sheet of ice will also be poured directly east of the hockey rink for the figure skaters. Kodada said that the building could be completed in a couple of weeks.

### **b. Discuss Sticha Park / Willow Creek Drive Dog Park**

Baker said that the Park Board was directed to explore the possibility of a dog park near Sticha Park along Heath Creek. He said that the area between Heath Creek and Willow Creek Drive has always been mentioned as a possible site for a dog park. Baker provided a concept plan and cost estimates to the Board to review. He also provided information on how to start a dog park and examples of dog park play obstacles. Baker said that a ½ acre park with 4' tall chain-link fence, 16 – 2.5" trees, 4 benches, and play equipment would total approximately \$15,000. Carpentier said that residents that want a dog park should raise their own money. Kodada questioned how many people would use the dog park. He said that if enough interest comes forward the Board may consider matching funds raised for a dog park. The Board suggested looking into the cost of temporary fencing for an acre sized park. They also suggested running an advertisement in the newspaper to find out how many people would show interest in a dog park.

### **c. Discuss 2009 Tree, Plantings, and Landscape Plan**

Baker said that earlier in the year the Park Board recognized landscaping and tree planting as a high priority for 2009. Baker provided aerial photo maps of Jaycee Park, Trender Memorial Park, Sticha Park, and Singing Hills Park to help identify possible locations for trees. He also provided information on the Tree City USA program. He said in order for Lonsdale to qualify as a Tree City USA, four standards must be met: 1) a tree board must be formed, 2) a tree care ordinance must be adopted, 3) a community forestry program with an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita must be established, and 4) an annual Arbor Day observance must take place. The Board liked the idea of becoming a Tree City USA.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Kraimer to guide City staff to pursue becoming a Tree City USA. Vote for: Churchill, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Kraimer, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

Carpentier suggested that the City wait until next Fall to purchase trees because of the great end-of-season deals. Churchill recommend planting 1" – 1.5" caliper sized trees because they grow just as fast and are less expensive compared to 2.5" caliper size trees.

- d. Update on Park & Recreation Budget and Capital Improvement Plan for Parks  
Baker provided an updated budget and capital improvement plan for park improvement projects. He stated that park funds generated from subdivision development will be completely exhausted after 2009. He mentioned that the State of Minnesota has forced levy limits on the City Council and the park budget will probably be very limited over the next few years. Baker listed the projects that were completed in 2008 including: the Jaycee Park – Field # 2 Shelter, the nature center, and ball field fencing at East Elementary, Trender Memorial Park, and Sticha Park. He also talked about the projects that can be completed with the remaining balance of development money including: the Jaycee Park warming house, Hwy 19 sidewalk project, Sticha Park volleyball courts, landscaping and tree planting, tennis court surface repair, CSAH # 33 trail project, and City welcome signs. Kodada said that seal coat materials should be used for the base layer on the sand volleyball courts to save on material costs. He also said that picnic tables would be more conducive than aluminum bleachers and easier to move between the baseball field and volleyball courts. The Board agreed that the existing tennis court should be repaired, and then new courts could be built at another location in the future when more funds are available. Carpentier suggested working with the school to construct new tennis courts. Kodada stated that the welcome signs were currently being cut in Kasota, MN, and that the signs would probably not be erected until next Spring.

## **8. MISCELLANEOUS**

Kodada mentioned that the City Council and EDA will be meeting at 6:00 pm on November 24, 2008 to discuss attracting and retaining business to Lonsdale and more specifically the downtown area.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Benjamin Baker, City Planner