

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
February 9, 2010**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Micki Ziskovsky

**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 Carpentier and seconded by Morgan to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Morgan, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

**3. MINUTES**

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Morgan to approve the minutes from the January 12, 2010 regular meeting. Vote for: Morgan, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. Archery Range Update

Baker mentioned that the developers of Harmony Meadows recently informed the City that they may be interested in deeding Outlot H and possibly Outlot G to the City of Lonsdale for use as an archery range. He said that property owner Ted Kowalski likes the archery range idea, but he needs to do further research on the property in terms of value and taxes before moving forward with the idea.

Kodada mentioned that he recently spoke with two local sportsman clubs, and they said that they will be looking for funds to support the project. The Board reviewed an aerial photo map and plat of the Harmony Meadows area.

b. Community Roadside Landscaping Program Update

Baker mentioned that he spoke with Mn/DOT Forester Dan Gullickson earlier in the day regarding the Community Roadside Landscaping Program. He said that Gullickson actually choose to head up the 2010 Lonsdale Project because of its proximity to his home in New Prague. Baker said that Gullickson is looking to schedule a face-to-face meeting with the project committee members in early March. Baker said that Laura Carpentier, Micki Ziskovsky, someone from the Public Works Department, and himself will represent the City on the committee. Baker said he that he would also ask Lucy Kochinka and another member of the Lonsdale Gardening Club if they were interested in participating on the committee. He said that the committee will be responsible for designing the project, helping with the initial planting, and creating community ownership.

Narum arrives to the meeting.

c. Jaycee Park – Skate Park Discussion

Baker stated that he contacted both the New Prague and Montgomery-Lonsdale Schools again, advertising February's Park Board meeting as a chance for students to provide comments regarding the proposed Jaycee Park – Skate Park. The following students showed up in support of the proposed skate park: Logan Burwell, Ben Wagner, Andy Nickel, and Josh DuMoulin (all of Lonsdale). Supporting parent Lori Nickel was also present at the meeting.

Baker provided an update on the Tony Hawk grant opportunity. He also provided the Commission and students with a couple different design concepts and associated costs from American Ramp Company. Kodada provided an update on the status of the project, and he mentioned that the City Council approved a quote for \$16,825.00 in December 2009 to concrete part of the Jacyee Park Ice Rink. He said that the a concrete surface will provide a nice skate park surface for use during the warmer months and provide a smoother ice surface during the winter months. He said that funds for the project will come from the Park Development Fund.

Ziskovsky entered the conversation via conference call.

The Park Board thanked the skaters for attending the meeting and showing support for the proposed skate park. The Park Board encouraged the skaters to take ownership in the project by collaborating together to form a group and start raising money for skate obstacles. The Park Board asked the skaters to provide general comments related to the proposed project and describe obstacles they would most likely use. The skaters were excited about the idea of a skate park at the Jacyee Park Ice Rink. The skaters also suggested some obstacles that would be fun to have in the park including: stair set, kinked straight grind rails, launch ramp and picnic table, and quarter pipes. They also expressed interest in a mini half pipe. A few of the skaters talked about their frustration with getting their

boards taken away by the Police Department and having no place to skate. The skaters asked if they could bring some of their own obstacles to the new skate park pad once the concrete is poured.

The Park & Recreation Commission suggested that once the skaters form together to create a group they may want to attend a local Lions Club meeting and ask for a donation. Ziskovsky suggested that once their group is organized, they should apply for the Green Team program. The Commission and skaters also discussed what other area cities offer in terms of skate park obstacles. The Park Board thanked the students for coming to the meeting and providing comments on the proposed skate park.

Ziskovsky thanked the students for attending the meeting. The conference call was ended.

d. Sticha Park Tree Planting Plan Discussion

The Park Board gathered around the table, and Carpentier led the discussion on what types of trees should be planted in Sticha Park. She provided a couple of tree information books for the Board to review that showed colored pictures of the proposed trees. Carpentier also provided a proposed planting sketch for Sticha Park. The Board provided Carpentier with feedback, and they asked her to come up with a plan from their discussion.

e. SHIP Mini Grant Projects

Baker said that Park Board Member Narum recently alerted the City about a possible grant opportunity through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). Baker said he did contact Rice County Health Educator Natalie Ginter to see what types of projects could be funded through the grant. He said that Ginter recommended a few projects including: 1) trail signage and mile markers, 2) park, open space, and trail planning, and 3) a possible joint Rice County environmental assessment of parks. Baker said that the grant money cannot be used to fund capital improvement projects, programs, or onetime events. He provided the Board with an overview of SHIP, and he asked them if they wanted to apply for the grant.

The Board discussed applying for the park and trail planning idea. They said that if awarded, the funds could be used to plan for future trails, Kalina Park, and the proposed Garfield Avenue Park. The Board directed City staff to apply for the SHIP grant.

f. 2010 Goal Setting & Planning

Baker asked the Board to think about any goals and/or plans that they may have for the upcoming year relating to parks, open space, recreation. He provided the Board with project ideas from 2007 – 2010. Baker also mentioned that due to the State's current economic condition, the City Council may not be able to budget for any park improvements over the next couple of years. He said that past park

projects have been funded solely with development money (payment in lieu-of-parkland dedication). Baker ran through the list of recently completed projects and proposed projects. The Board discussed the projects, and they decided to keep the project list the same. Narum asked if “splash pad” (an outdoor water recreation amenity) could be added to the list but not budgeted for. The Board agreed that it should be added to the list. Narum showed the Board a park equipment catalog and pictures of splash pad ideas. Baker said that Ziskovsky previously mentioned that the Board may want to consider adding a minimal cost youth recreation amenity to Sticha Park.

g. Green Team Discussion

Baker presented a request from Montgomery-Lonsdale Principal Alan Fitterer, who was wondering if the Montgomery-Lonsdale Early Childhood Coalition can qualify as a “youth group” since it serves kids aged 0-5 years old. Baker said that he did contact Darrell Hoekstra of Waste Management, and Darrell mentioned that he is fine with the group applying for the Green Team. Baker asked the Board what they thought of the idea since small children have no way of taking part in the recycling itself. The Board agreed that the M-L Early Childhood Coalition can apply for the Green Team as long as parents and educators help promote the program.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS**

a. Minnesota Shade Tree Short Course

Laura Carpentier stated that she was excited to be attending the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Minnesota Shad Tree Short course on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Baker stated that he would provide Carpentier with the needed documentation to receive half off the registration fee as a Park Board/Tree Board member. Heller mentioned that Russ Vlasak and himself will also be attending the event.

b. Downtown Flower Pots

Jeanette Morgan stated that she was going to be the main contact and chairperson for the downtown flower pots this year. She also mentioned that she plans to partner with Lucy Kuchinka and the local gardening club to plant the flowers and make the downtown area visually appealing.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Moran and seconded by Narum to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Morgan, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Benjamin Baker, City Planner