

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
DECEMBER 9, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, and Chris Kraimer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tony Churchill and Laura Carpentier

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker

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. Kodada stated that "Dog Park Discussion" should be listed under Public Hearing and not Old Business.

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the agenda with the noted change. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Kraimer; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2008 meeting. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Kraimer; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Sticha Park (Willow Creek Drive) Dog Park

Kodada read through the notice and opened the public hearing. Baker read through the staff report. He mentioned that direction had been given from the City Council to the Park Board to explore the possibility of a dog park near Sticha Park. He said that the Park Board reviewed a ½ acre dog park concept at their last meeting. Baker stated that the Board agreed that a notice should be placed in the newspaper advertising the possibility of a Lonsdale dog park and the chance to comment at the December 9th meeting. He said that a notice was included in the December 2, 2008 News Review. He mentioned that the Park Board wanted to

use the notice and meeting to gauge how much interest there really was in the construction of a dog park. He said that at the previous meeting, the Board directed staff to research a one acre park with temporary type fencing instead of chain-link. Baker provided a new one acre concept to the Board totaling approximately \$1,503 which included temporary/snow fence and t-posts. Baker mentioned that the cost of a dog park would largely depend on the type of fence and amenities chosen. Baker provided the Board and audience with a copy of the concept plans, information on how to start a dog park, and examples of play equipment.

Pam Cilibrasi, 919 Tom Jirik Court, stated that she was just looking for a place to exercise her dog in a contained area. She said that dog parks are a nice place to interact with other dog owners. She said that she paid \$30 for an annual pass to Cleary Lake Regional Park off-leash dog area near Prior Lake. She said she also goes to the Dundas Dog Park.

Penny Matchinski, 216 Ash Street NW, said she also brings her dog to Dundas. She said that the fencing at Dundas looks nice and there are plenty of grassy areas for the dogs. She said that Lonsdale just needs a simple park like Dundas. Kodada asked what type of rules there were at other dog parks. Matchinski said that typically owners may not bring more than two dogs at a time, and a sign listing the rules is placed near the gate. She said that most dog parks have a double gate system. She also mentioned that it may be nice to have different times for big and small dogs.

Paul Terena, 968 Lonsdale Ct. NW, said that Lonsdale does not need to construct anything fancy. Terena said that dogs just love dog parks. He did recommend that owners need to clean up after their dogs.

Al George, 10th Avenue NW, said that he would like to see a dog park come to Lonsdale, but he suggested installing a nice looking fence like chain link.

Barb Niemeyer, 224 10th Avenue NW, suggested having a simple dog park without any benches.

The dog park supporters all agreed that they liked the Dundas dog park better than the Northfield park. They said the bigger the park the better. They also recommended adding some kind of shade feature and picnic tables. They said dog parks are a nice place for owners to socialize while their dogs play. The group also mentioned that usually only good natured dogs come to the parks because owners of questionable dogs don't want to take the risk of something bad happening by bringing their dog.

Kraimer reminded everyone that Park and Recreation funds are very limited. She suggested that the dog park supporters should find more local residents with similar interests and start a dog park fundraiser. The dog park supporters in

attendance said that they would settle for anything, even if it is just a fenced in area to start with. Kraimer mentioned that fundraising efforts help project supporters take ownership in their cause.

Ziskovsky asked if proof of vaccinations were needed to enter a dog park. The dog park supporters mentioned that places like Clearly Lake do require vaccination records and park rangers do periodically patrol the dog park area. The Board discussed the possibility of a Lonsdale Dog Park collar tag, but the dog supporters said that tags are hard to spot amongst all the fur. The Board also suggested car stickers, rear view mirror tags, or coat tags (similar to ski passes). Cilibrasi provided the Board with an example of a Three Rivers Park District rear view mirror tag. Ziskovsky asked what the typical hours of a dog park were. The dog park supports said that parks are open from dawn to dusk. Kraimer suggested following the same hours for all of Lonsdale's parks (6:00am – 11:00pm). Kodada mentioned that every 1 in 3 homes in Lonsdale probably has a dog. Ziskovsky asked how dog waste would be managed. Baker stated that pet waste stations could be purchased from \$300 - \$500 and a case of 800 bags runs around \$40. Kodada thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their comments. He said that the Park Board will continue to do research on dog parks and obtain cost estimates for fencing.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Project Update: Jaycee Park Warming House

Kodada and Baker provided the Board with an updated status report on the Jaycee Park Warming House project. Kodada said that the electric and roof work should be completed by next week. Baker said that South Metro would be installing the heating after the roof is installed.

b. Project Update: CSAH 33 Trail Project

Kodada and Baker provided the Board with an updated status report on the CSAH 33 Trail project. Kodada said that the trail base and gravel surface have been completed. Baker said that Rice County will be installing the guard rail next year. Kodada mentioned that the trail may not be paved until late 2009 or early 2010 due to settling issues. Kraimer asked about the City's recent trapping efforts. Kodada said that the trappers did catch a few beavers and muskrats.

c. Discuss Steps to Becoming a "Tree City USA"

Baker said that he contacted the Arbor Day Foundation to discuss the Tree City USA program. He said that the Arbor Day Foundation stated that the Park Board could also act as Lonsdale's "Tree Board". The Foundation also provided a list of expenses that could be used to qualify for the \$2/capita requirement including a percentage of Public Works employee's salary. Baker said that if Lonsdale wants to become a Tree City USA member, then four requirements must be met over the course of 2009. He said that Lonsdale can apply for Tree City status next November or December, once all of the requirements have been met. Baker provided the Board with reasons to become a Tree City, a description of the four

standards, an application form, an expenditure worksheet example, and a tree ordinance example and checklist to review. Baker said that if Lonsdale was approved as a Tree City, the City would receive two Tree City USA highway entrance signs.

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Ziskovsky to pursue becoming a "Tree City USA". Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Kraimer; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

- d. Approval of a Double Sided Nature Center Sign in the Amount of \$3,200
Baker provided the Board with an elevation sketch of the proposed East Elementary Nature Center sign and cost estimates for the sign. Kodada said that the school district was considering saving a small amount of money by only erecting a one-sided park identification sign. Kodada asked the Board to support a double-sided sign for easier viewing along Co. Rd. 4. Kodada reminded everyone that the school district currently has a double-sided school identification sign along Co. Rd. 4. Baker stated that the City has already given the school district approximately \$35,000 for projects in 2008.

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend approval of a double-sided East Elementary Nature Center Sign. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Kraimer; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Proposed Location of Compost Site and Parkland – Hwy 19 & Garfield Avenue Business Park

Baker provided the Board with the latest concept sketch (Option 6) of the future Lonsdale Business Park from Stonebrooke Engineering. He colored and labeled the concept plan to highlight existing tree stands, proposed parkland area, proposed tree replacement areas, existing and proposed trail locations, and pond and wetland areas. Baker also provided an aerial photo of the area, City Code requirements for parkland and open space, and a proposed parkland dedication spreadsheet. He asked the Board to comment on the plan and parkland/open space areas.

The Board said that the north-south trail should be located on the residential side of the 75' wide easement. They also suggested winding the trail around trees and landscaping. The Board recommended acquiring two acres of land near the southern parkland area for a new compost site. They said that existing trees and replacement trees would help hide the site and place it away from the center of the business park. They also commented that the parking lot at the end of Pond View Drive SE should be reduced in size and be graded to save existing trees around the proposed lot. Kodada said that the Park Board will continue to review the concept plan and requirements over the next month and make a more official decision at their next meeting.

No action was taken.

b. Approval of Montgomery-Lonsdale Hockey Association as the “January-February-March” Green Team

Baker provided a copy of the only Green Team application on-file to the Park Board, Montgomery-Lonsdale Hockey Association. He said that the Board will need to re-advertise in March for more applications.

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend approval of the Montgomery-Lonsdale Hockey Association as the “January-February-March” Green Team. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Kraimer; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

c. Discuss Jaycee Park Ice Rink Reservation Policy

Baker informed the Board that City Hall received its first request for reserving the Jaycee Park ice rink. Baker mentioned that the Montgomery-Lonsdale Hockey Association recently inquired about reserving the rink for “learn-to-skate” lessons. Baker asked the Board how they wanted to handle scheduling and reserving the ice rink. He mentioned that reservation requests may go up now that there is a new warming house. The Board suggested posting a schedule on a new bulletin board at the warming house and on the City’s web site. The Board said that ice time should be rotated so that kids from both school districts have equal opportunities to use the rink during ideal skating times.

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend that ice time be reserved the same way as the ball fields are currently scheduled. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Kraimer; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Ziskovsky to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Kraimer; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner