

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
JANUARY 9, 2008**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kodada called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carpentier, Kodada and Kraimer

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Vosejka and Churchill

STAFF PRESENT:

City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Planner Benjamin Baker, Public Works Director Russ Vlasak and City Engineer Kevin Kawlewski

2. AGENDA

Kodada asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Erickson added two additional items to the agenda: (1) Current balance in the park dedication fund and (2) Green Team update. A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Carpentier to approve the agenda with the additional agenda items. Vote for: Carpentier, Kodada and Kraimer; Against: None (Vote 3-0). Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Carpentier to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2007 regular meeting. Vote for: Carpentier, Kodada and Kraimer; Against: None (Vote 3-0). Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

John Duban stated that there should be some picnic tables ordered for the County Road 4 and 10th Avenue NW triangle and the City property near Central Street East and NE 4th Avenue.

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Agreement between ISD # 394, Montgomery-Lonsdale and the City of Lonsdale

Kodada invited Montgomery-Lonsdale Superintendent Corey Lunn to speak to the board regarding a partnership proposal between the City of Lonsdale and Montgomery-Lonsdale School District. Lunn stated that the School District and the City have been pursuing a partnership to preserve parkland and develop park amenities around the new East Elementary School for about five months. Lunn stated that the school site could be utilized better by the entire community if a partnership was formed.

Lunn said that the current ball field, along with a few improvements could help provide the community with another little league field. He explained that sod was just installed on the ball field this past Fall and that irrigation would be needed to make the field playable. He also suggested adding fencing and bleachers to the field.

Lunn also suggested creating a nature area so that everyone has the opportunity to access the existing natural areas around the school site and experience prairieland, woodland, and wetland ecosystems. He said that a woodchip trail could provide the foundation for the nature area, then other amenities such as bird houses, interpretive signs, bridges, and boardwalk could be added later.

Lunn stated that according to the proposed agreement there will be lots of park/open space adjacent to the school once the Tollefson property (directly west of Montgomery-Lonsdale East Elementary School) develops. He mentioned that the additional future parkland will provide necessary green space if the current building is ever expanded.

Lunn stated that he hopes to keep moving forward with the proposed agreement and start developing the two priority projects (ball field and nature trail) for spring construction. Lunn suggested taking a trip to the Five Hawks Elementary School Nature Center in Prior Lake for design ideas.

Erickson asked what the Board's thoughts were regarding the draft development agreement between Montgomery-Lonsdale East Elementary School and the City of Lonsdale. John Duban stated that Rice County was considering locating a future highway corridor through the Tollefson property. Erickson stated that the City will ultimately end up with about 4.5 acres of parkland adjacent to the school property. Kraimer asked where the money for the improvements was going to come from. Erickson stated that improvements to the school site would come directly from the park dedication fund, and he emphasized that assessment money collected from the School District for the Idaho Street / 80th Street Project would go directly to repay the bond. Lunn stated that the School District will be paying off its assessment once the agreement is approved. He views the assessment payment and parkland development as two separate issues. Kodada stated that the money from the assessment should stay separate and go to the repayment on the bond. Kriamer stated that the nature area will provide an invaluable hands-on learning experience that doesn't currently exist. Erickson stated that staff will work with the School District to finalize the agreement and then return to the next Board meeting with the final copy.

b. County Road 33 Trail

City Engineer Kevin Kawlewski presented a preliminary alignment of the CSAH 33 trail connection. He explained that the proposed trail extension will complete the existing trail system loop around the city. The plans showed total length of the trail connection is 925 feet. Kawlewski explained that the trail was set off of the roadway based on the design speed for the roadway in accordance with the distances required by Mn/DOT for clear zone from the roadway. Because this distance is required for safe travel of both automobiles and persons using the trail, the trail could not be moved closer to the roadway without a guardrail being constructed. Because of this distance, almost the entire length of the trail cuts through the existing DNR wetland. The total anticipated wetland disturbance equals approximately ½ acre. Kawlewski stated that official wetland

delineation will be completed this Spring. The total cost estimate for the project was estimated at \$64,000 not including wetland mitigation costs. Kawlewski stated that the DNR currently offers two grant programs for trail projects. Kawlewski recommend the grant for local trails, matching funding for 50% of the project costs, up to \$100,000.

Kawlewski asked for direction from the Board regarding possibly moving the trail closer to the roadway along with the installation of a guardrail. The Board directed Kawlewski to look into the most cost effective method to construct the trail. Kodada asked what would happen if the speed limit was reduced to 45mph around the CASH 33 curve. Erickson stated that Rice County would need to approve the change. Kawlewski stated that he needs to set up a meeting with the County and the DNR to discuss permitting and agency issues. He's hoping that trail construction can start in April or May. Kodada and Kraimer both said that the project should start as-soon-as-possible. Kawlewski stated that he would update the Council at their next meeting.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Lonsdale Lions Request to Operate the Jaycee Park Concession Stand

Dale Furrer, representative from the Lonsdale Lions, explained that the Lions operated the Jaycee Park Concession Stand last year, and he asked the Board for approval to operate the concessions again for the 2008 season. Furrer asked if there have been any issues with the service provided by the Lions Club. The Board said there have not been any concerns.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Kraimer to recommend approval of the request from the Lonsdale Lions to operate the Jaycee Park Concession Stand for the 2008 season. Vote for: Carpentier, Kodada and Kraimer; Against: None (Vote 3-0). Motion carried.

b. Ice Rink Discussion

Erickson stated that keeping good ice is a battle every year, and staff is looking for guidance from the Park Board regarding the Jaycee Park Ice Rink. Erickson said there have been a few complaints in regards to the ice surface, having no warming house, and lighting. Erickson mentioned that the Jaycees were in their third year at working on raising money for a warming house. Russ Vlasak, Public Works Director, mentioned that the ice was great before the recent warm weather but not very good after that. He stated that the ice sheet was approximately a half size rink. Kodada mentioned pouring a concrete floating slab with reinforcement bar for approximately \$20,000 - \$25,000 plus a \$5,000 base. The Board also discussed adding new boards around the rink, and asked if the Hockey Association would be interested in helping with the boards. Kraimer said that local hockey parents would be grateful with an upgraded rink, and it would save them the drive to New Prague or further locations for ice time. Vlasak stated that a used Zamboni costs about \$10,000. The Board asked staff to get approximate numbers so that money can be budgeted for next year.

c. Development Fund Balance

Erickson stated that the current balance in the Park Development Fund is approximately \$260,000.

d. Green Team Update

Erickson reported that users of the Green Team Recycling Box have been dumping recyclable items next to the dumpster because the box was full. Erickson said it is the responsibility of the Green Team to manage and maintain the site around the dumpster. Kraimer said that Waste Management will pick up the full dumpsters once the Green Team calls them. Furrer, Maintenance Worker, suggested locating another dumpster next to the current dumpster. Erickson stated that the last quarter's Green Team earned \$486.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

a. Ordinance 2007-216

Erickson stated that Ordinance 2007-216 was approved by the City Council and a copy was inserted into each Board Member's packet for review.

b. Park Signs

Erickson stated that the new park signs have been installed at all the parks around the city. Carpentier said that the signs look good. Kraimer stated that the Lonsdale Garden Club (master gardeners in training) may be interested in planting plantings around the base of the welcome signs or flagpole site. Erickson told Kraimer to have them contact the City for possible projects. Carpentier stated that permanent plantings should be placed around the new welcome signs.

Vlasak stated that there are some rotten Cottonwood trees in Trendera Park needing to be cut down.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Kraimer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Carpentier, Kodada, and Kraimer; Against: None (Vote 3-0). Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner