

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
October 25, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanette Utecht, Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, and Shelly Narum

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Narum to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2011 regular meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Update on MnDOT Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program

Baker stated that on October 7th the City's Public Works Department moved the encroaching landscape edging, mulch, and plantings (placed around the eastern City welcome sign) back into the Hwy 19 right-of-way. The Commissioners were pleased that the encroaching items were moved so that the City and MnDOT could proceed with Phase II of the joint partnership project.

Baker stated that Nathan Gregor, MnDOT District 6, recently notified the City that District 6 is in favor of moving forward with Phase II of the Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program, which is estimated at about \$14,000.00. He

provided the Board with maps of the proposed plan and an aerial layout of the project to review. Baker mentioned that he recently talked with the property owner at 710 Central Street West, Don Smisek Jr., about the proposed project. Baker said that Smisek suggested using low-lying bushes, shrubs, or open-type fencing in lieu of the five Black Hills Spruce planned directly in front of his centrally located building. Smisek's proposed change to the landscaping plan would allow for continued visibility of his building and signage for travelers along Hwy 19. The Park Board Members discussed the different options. Kodada stated that a future free-standing sign could be placed directly behind the low-lying plantings. He also commented that split-rail fencing may work near the driveway entrances to that property. Ziskovsky stated that short evergreen plantings might help keep a consistent look along Hwy 19, matching the other planned Black Hills Spruce evergreens. After further reviewing the landscaping plan and sight-lines to the adjacent business buildings, the Park Board decided that they would research short evergreen plants and look to approve the landscaping plan at their December or January meeting.

b. Update on Fall Tree Plantings

Baker noted that during the first week of October, Knecht's Nursery planted 32 trees in Lonsdale. 29 trees were planted in the western boulevard of 8th Avenue NE, between the trail and the road, and 3 were planted around the trail bench near the intersection of Main Street South and Idaho Street SW. He said that a # 3 container red/silver maple hybrid, donated by the Mom's Club, was also planted at Trena Memorial Park around the play area. Baker mentioned that the trees were installed with a time-release fertilizer that should help the trees throughout the oncoming growing season. He also said that the trees were wrapped and some were staked. Ziskovsky noted some concern with two of the trees planted along Idaho Street SW. Baker said that the City has already received numerous compliments about how nice the new trees look.

c. Update on Kalina Park

The Park Board reviewed the proposed site plan for Kalina Park. Baker said that the Kalina Park grading project is still slated to be completed in 2012. He mentioned that the City will be meeting with the grading contractor soon to finalize the project details.

d. Discuss Transportable Irrigation Options for Watering of Park and Boulevard Trees by the Public Works Department

Baker explained that the City's Public Works Department has been using the Fire Department's grass rig to water the recently installed landscaping plantings and trees. He mentioned that it may be a good idea for the Public Works Department to order a transportable irrigation device so the City crew does not have to rely on Fire Department equipment. The Board discussed different irrigations options including trailer water tanks, truck box water tanks, and associated water pump systems. Baker noted that the Public Works Director recommended getting prices on a truck box water tank that can be taken out with lift forks. Baker mentioned

that a gravity forced irrigation hose may be the best and cheapest option considering the large amount of spray force that water pumps can produce.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- The Park Board reviewed a note concerning the Forest Lake, MN - Parks Department's recent decision to close one of their skate parks due to increased vandalism.
- The Park Board also discussed the possibility of a Rice County dog park.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner