

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair 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 Utecht to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the Minutes from the September 10, 2013 Meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpenetier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Update on the Main Street Plaza Project

The Park Board reviewed pictures of excavation work that started earlier in the day at the Main Street Plaza site. Baker stated that the City Council approved the Main Street Plaza Project as recommended by the Park Board, except that the Council approved the original fountain design based on a \$5,000.00 donation from the Rud Family. Baker noted that the Council also decided to go with inside fountain lights to discourage any potential vandalism. He said that Common Grounds Landscaping plans to start the week of October 13, 2013.

- b. Update on the Kalina Park Tree Planting Project and Mini-Boardwalk Bridge
The Park Board reviewed a map and pictures showing the recently planted trees by Andy Jirik along with the location of the mini-boardwalk bridge. The Park Board members agreed that the new large-sized trees make an instant impact to the park. Baker said that the Public Works Department will be installing a mini-boardwalk bridge this fall over the swale located just south of the new playground area. Carpentier stated that she had relayed her concern to Andy Jirik about planting any Ash trees in the park due to the imminent Emerald Ash Borer problem.

- c. Update on the Sticha Park Project
The Park Board members looked at pictures of the newly established grass and relocated park sign at Sticha Park. They also reviewed pictures of the City's above-ground irrigation system used to help water the new grass seed.

- d. Update on the Compost Site, Soccer Fields, Archery Range Site Plan
Baker noted that on September 26, 2013, the City Council reviewed a site plan for Outlot E and Outlot F, Lonsdale Business Park, showing an archery range, compost site, and a potential area for soccer fields. Kodada stated that he is planning to attend a local sportsmans club meeting in Millersburg on October 29th to request funding for the proposed archery range. He said that targets are the main item needed for the range to function, but arrow holders and an elevated stand should also be considered. Baker said that the City Administrator recently met on-site with the grading contactor and project engineer to get the proposed site plan amenities incorporated into the grading work. Baker stated that the compost site will still be available for use at Sticha Park throughout the 2013 fall season, and then the new designated compost area will be moved out to the Garfield Avenue site.

- e. Update on the Linking Lonsdale DNR Trails Grant and the Heath Creek Boardwalk Trail
The Park Board reviewed a memo from Kelsey Johnson, of WSB & Associates, which provided a status update on the required administrative documents in association with the DNR Local Trail Connection Grant Program for the Linking Lonsdale trail projects. Baker noted that WSB has completed: 1) the Natural Heritage Info/Endangered Species Form, 2) Certification Form, 3) Water/Wetland Application Form, 4) Minnesota Environmental Quality Board Compliance Documents, and 5) State Historic Preservation Office Pre-Approval. He said that the MnDNR could take up to a month to review the Environmental Assessment Statement, and that a final grant agreement should be executed by late-November. In regard to the planned Heath Creek Trail extension route, Kodada suggested that the City may want to add screening around the lift station panel along Hwy 19.

f. Update on the Naming Process for the 9-Acre Pond Located Near Garfield Avenue

Baker provided the Park Board members with new information received from the Area Hydrologist concerning the naming of lakes/ponds in Minnesota. The Board reviewed all the requirements needed for naming a water body, including review by the County Board and DNR. Baker noted that duplicate names are discouraged by the State of Minnesota. The Board reviewed a list of over 50 potential names for the pond, but they decided to hold off on providing an official name recommendation at this point. The Board suggested that the City help erect a historical marker to commemorate the three families whom once owned portions of the pond (Rezac/Havlicek Family, Richard Kalina Family, and Roman Kalina Family).

g. Initiate a Veterans Memorial Committee

Baker stated that Mayor Rud and American Legion Commander Daryl Rieck are proposing that a few members of the American Legion and Park Board work together to form a Veterans Memorial Committee and ultimately create a beautiful place in town to show respect and gratitude to our service members. The Board members looked at example pictures of the Shieldsville Veterans Memorial and Memorial Park in Prophetstown, Illinois. Baker asked if any Board members would be available to help on such a committee. All the Board members showed interest depending on the date/time of the meetings.

h. Consider an On-Street Bike Lane Along the South-Side of Birch Street NE, Between 8th Avenue NE and 12th Avenue NE

Baker asked the Board to consider adding an interim pedestrian/bike lane along the south side of Birch Street NE, between 8th Avenue NE and 12th Avenue NE. He explained that elderly residents at the Villages of Lonsdale periodically use the roadway to/from the main entrance. He said that the Villages of Lonsdale and City Administrator are in favor of the proposed pedestrian/bike lane. The entire Board agreed that a trail/sidewalk would be the best and safest option for pedestrians, wheelchairs, and bikes. Baker stated that there are currently no funds available for a trail along Birch Street NE. He said that once the neighboring commercial parcel is developed, the City will require a trail/sidewalk. Carpentier questioned if people would really use a designated pedestrian lane. Carpentier said that if the City approves this on-street pedestrian lane that other lanes will be requested throughout the City. She also expressed concern with the elimination of on-street parking. Utecht and Narum agreed with Carpentier. Ziskovsky and Kodada stated that they didn't mind if an interim pedestrian/bike lane was striped along Birch Street NE. The Board suggested that if the Villages of Lonsdale is requesting a walkway, then Winkelman Building Corporation should help participate in funding the project. Baker stated that he would pass on their comments to the City Administrator.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Kodada stated that the Public Works Department should fix and winterize the DRS Field irrigation system sometime soon.
- Kodada noted that City Planner Baker will be back in Lonsdale full-time again starting January 1, 2014.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:56 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner