

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker and City Administrator Joel Erickson

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 Ziskovsky 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 Utecht to approve the Minutes from the October 13, 2015 Regular Meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Dog Park Presentation – Dr. Rich Lorang and Laura Domek (Countryside Animal Hospital & Kennels)

Dr. Rich Lorang, Veterinarian at Countryside Animal Hospital, and Laura Domek, Vet Tech and Lonsdale resident, provided the Park Board with a presentation on Canines-At-Play (CAP), a non-profit organization created to help organize and fundraise for area off-leash dog parks, such as the dog parks in Northfield and Dundas. They showed a slide show presentation that was projected up on the wall, and it highlighted the following information on dog parks, including: the benefits, different types of parks, ideas from other communities, examples of park features (signage, gate, fencing, water), park rules, site criteria to consider, concerns, potential costs, reasons to have a park, and where to locate parks. They suggested having a 2-4 acre site. Lorang stated that parks under an acre in size are hard to establish/keep grass in and can potentially create more conflicts between dogs due to the lack of space. Lorang said that the City would really only need to provide the land and a garbage can.

Kodada asked about “problem” dogs. Lorang said that dog owners tend to police themselves, and he said that the cops are seldom if ever called. He said that there is no fee charged to use the park. He stated that dog parks should actually relieve some of the current dog related issues, such as dog poop along walkways and aggressive dogs. He said that burning off energy makes well behaved dogs. Domek said that some Lonsdale residents are already using fenced-in ball fields to let their dogs run off-leash.

Utecht shared fund raising ideas and examples from the Faribault and Owatonna dog parks. Lorang stated that higher-end fencing could raise the cost of a park up to \$10,000.00-\$12,000.00. Naurm suggested having dog bone shaped nameplates for fundraising. Domek said that a dog walk event could be another potential fundraising idea. The Park Board reviewed and discussed four potential sites for a dog park. The Board narrowed their favorite sites down to the Rezac Nature Preserve site (1-2 acres) and the Industrial Park Drive site (2-3 acres). Domek said that she would try to start the fundraising effort in Spring-Summer 2016. The Board thanked Lorang and Domek for attending their meeting.

b. 2016 Comprehensive Plan Overview & Review of 2005 and 2007 Parks & Recreation Plans

The Board reviewed “Chapter 7, Parks, Trails, and Open Space”, of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan and the 2007 “Parks & Open Space Plan”. Baker explained that the City was going to be updating its comprehensive plan over the next year. The Board members reviewed the timeline for the upcoming Comp Plan meetings scheduled from November 2015-October 2016. Baker stated that everyone interested is invited to attend, but he asked the Board to specifically select 1-or-2 representatives from the Park Board to serve on the Comprehensive Planning Committee. Utecht and Carpentier volunteered to be on the Committee.

c. Splash Pad Planning

The Park Board members reviewed information provided by WSB & Associates regarding splash pad installation costs and considerations. Baker asked the Board to look at two potential splash pad locations and determine which site was the most desirable spot. The Board members weighed the pros and cons of a splash pad located at either Trendera Memorial Park (RayAnn Park) or Sticha Park. Carpentier stated that she would rather see the splash pad be incorporated with a larger community center project. Utecht said she wasn't really in favor of the splash pad being located at either Trendera or Sticha Park. The other three Board members stated that they thought that the Sticha Park site was the best location for a splash pad. All the Board members eventually agreed that Sticha was a better overall location. The Board commented that Trendera Memorial park seemed too cramped and could be too busy and noisy for the residents living along 2nd Avenue NE and Cottonwood Street NE. The Board noted that Sticha Park is the best current option, and they agreed that they didn't foresee a pool, water park, and/or community center being built anytime soon. However, they did suggest that the City incorporate a future splash pad or shallow water sprayers/dumpers into any construction plans of a larger future pool or water park complex. The Board liked that Sticha Park already has a shelter, off-street parking, play equipment, and room to grow.

d. Consider Approval to Order Soccer Nets

Baker explained that according to Mary Simon, TCU Community Ed, Lonsdale had 37 kids participate in the inaugural Tri-City United soccer program, including 2 teams of U-6, 1 team of U-9, and 1 team of U-13. He said that TCU Community Education purchased four adjustable height/portable soccer nets for the program. The Board members reviewed different prices of standard aluminum post soccer nets along with net size requirements, which are based on age ranges. Baker noted that nice aluminum nets cost around \$2,000.00/set. The Park Board agreed to wait to order any new nets until they had a better idea of which ages were signing up for the soccer program. Utecht noted that it may be a good idea to check with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association to see what their regulations are. Overall, the Board members thought it would be a good idea to order two sets of nets for at least two age groups, once more information is available on projected age group participation.

e. Update on the Rezac Nature Preserve Boardwalk/Fishing Pier

Baker reminded the Park Board that the Rezac Nature Preserve fishing pier and boardwalk sections were still being constructed, and that the fishing pier was scheduled to be installed next spring. He said that the City did explore the site and provide the DNR Fisheries Office with different access options to the pond in preparation for spring stocking of fish.

f. Rezac Nature Preserve/9-Acre Pond Name Discussion

The Park Board looked at an aerial photo of the Rezac Nature Preserve pond and reviewed the idea list of potential pond names, Baker asked the Board to state their top three pond names:

Utecht

- Willow Pond
- Ice Pond
- Hidden Pond

Ziskovsky

- Garfield Pond
- Red Dock Pond
- Hawkeye Pond

Kodada

- Legacy Pond
- Heritage Pond
- Bohemia Pond

Carpentier

- Wood Duck Pond
- Heritage Pond
- Hidden Hollow/Timer Pond

Narum

- Log Bottom Pond
- Willow Pond
- Hidden Pond

City Planner Baker and City Administrator Erickson also provided a few pond name ideas:

Erickson

- White Pine Pond
- Hillside Pond
- Sportsmen(s) Pond

Baker

- Hidden (Pier) Pond
- Hillside Pond
- Sportsmen(s) Pond

After reviewing all the name ideas, the Park Board decided to place the following pond names on a community survey for vote by Lonsdale residents:

- Willow Pond
- Hidden (Willow) Pond
- Legacy Pond

Baker stated that the Park Board can then take the results of the upcoming community survey to help them come up with a name for the pond.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- a. Baker stated that he recently completed and sent in Lonsdale's 2015 Tree City USA Application.
- b. Baker said that the Public Works Director was going to be doing an inventory of park picnic tables and trash bins and bringing back a recommendation for ordering anything new.
- c. Baker mentioned that later in the week, Knechts will be replacing eight trees around Lonsdale.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carpentier 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 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner