

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

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

Baker asked if "Presentation on Octoball" could be added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the agenda with the noted addition. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the Minutes from the July 8, 2014 Regular Meeting, August 26, 2014 Parks Tour, and October 7, 2014 Grand Opening Event. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

Utecht arrives to the meeting.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Octoball Presentation – Boy Scout Tristan Friendshuh

Boy Scout Tristan Friendshuh, 27555, Jonquil Avenue, Elko New Market, along with parents Luke and Carolyn Friendshuh, were in attendance to talk about pursuing a potential Eagle Scout Project in Lonsdale. Tristan Friendshuh provided the Park Board with a presentation and information pertaining to a newer game called Octoball. He said that he has played the game at different camps that he previously attended, and he noted that kids would flock to the court to play. He stated that he would like to construct an Octoball court at Kalina Park in Lonsdale to give the older kids and teenagers something fun to do. The Board members reviewed examples and dimensions of the Octoball court. Friendshuh stated that he would construct the recreational amenity himself at no cost to the City by fundraising for the necessary materials. He also noted that he would like to install a concrete pad for better playability. Carpentier asked for more information about the game. Friendshuh stated that the game is very popular, and he described the rules and details of construction. Baker asked if Friendshuh had an estimated timeline for construction and completion. Friendshuh said that he would like to start on the project in spring 2015 and finish the project over the summer. The Board members thanked Friendshuh for relaying his idea and for doing a nice job on his presentation. Overall, the Park Board members were intrigued by the idea of bringing a new recreational amenity to town, especially if no City resources would be necessary for the construction. Kodada stated that the project is definitely unique, and he stated that Park Board will discuss the request and probably make a decision at their January meeting. The Friendshuh Family left the meeting.

After further review and discussion, the Board asked Baker to relay the following initial feedback/comments to Friendshuh to contemplate/consider:

- The Park Board would really like to see Octoball located at Lonsdale Elementary School in lieu of Kalina Park, for multiple reasons:
 - Kids can learn the game/rules of Octoball at a young age, and if it becomes popular over time, then another Octoball court could be constructed at another City Park.
 - A paraprofessional/playground supervisor would be responsible for distributing and collecting the necessary rubber ball(s) and monitoring/supervising the kids in case of injury or scuffle.
 - There is a much higher guarantee for use of the new recreational amenity if it is located at the Elementary School compared to constructing an Octoball court at a local park and hoping that kids and teenagers will use it. The Park Board does not want to see a potential unused amenity at one of their parks.
 - Concerns about how an Octoball court will look and fit-in with the ultimate vision for Kalina Park.

- Other suggestions/comments:
 - The Octoball court should look professionally done, fit-in with other amenities/neighborhood, and be constructed of mostly maintenance free materials.
 - There are many other recreational items/amenities that the City already has on its “priority list” – would Friendsuh be willing to help out with those first?
 - Has Friendsuh checked with the area schools, including Holy Cross, or the City of Elko New Market?
 - Is there an indoor location that could be pursued, and how portable is the Octoball court?
 - Could the game be played inside the hockey rink during the summer months?
 - Could another location, such as Tenda Memorial Park, be pursued, because Jaycee Park is already full.

- b. Update on TCU-Lonsdale Safe Routes to School Plan – TAP Letter of Intent
 The Park Board reviewed a Letter of Intent that was sent to MNDOT, requesting infrastructure improvement funding for items identified in the Tri-City United Safe Routes to School Plan. Baker stated that a meeting was scheduled for November 24th with MNDOT, Region 9, and TCU to review a final application and alternative funding options. Baker explained that the City is mainly trying to get rectangular rapid flashing beacons/ped signs for two intersections along Co. Rd. 4 near Lonsdale Elementary.

- c. Update on Rezac Nature Preserve – Gravel for Archery Range & Compost Site
 The Park Board reviewed a proposed plan for the Rezac Nature Preserve, Archery Range, and Compost Site. Baker explained where gravel was going to be placed, to delineate/separate the uses and make the driveways/parking areas smoother and easier to maneuver. The Board was okay with the overall design of that area. The Board briefly discussed the proposed fishing/observation dock. They suggested stocking the pond with fish and somehow aerating the pond during the winter months.

- d. Update on the Veterans Memorial Park Project – Timeline & Fundraising
 Baker provided an update on fundraising numbers and efforts. Ziskovsky stated that the American Legion Auxiliary Club will be hosting a Turkey Bingo event on November 21st to raise money for the project. Baker stated that the City hopes to go out for bids on the project in January or February 2015.

- e. Update on Kalina Park Wetland Grant
The Park Board reviewed an application for a sub-grant sponsored by Rice County and the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, that the City is currently pursuing. Baker mentioned that the grant could help fund up to \$5,000.00 for water quality improvements and wetland enhancements for the Kalina Park wetland. The Board also reviewed a map of the potential improvements and a map of future trail connections in the Willow Creek Heights area.
- f. Update on the 2014 Historic 3-R Landmark School Project – SMIF Final Report
The Park Board reviewed the final report submitted to the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation for the Picture-it-Painted grant, worth approximately \$1,280.00. They also reviewed before and after pictures of the historic 3-R Landmark School building. Narum stated that the local elementary students should take a field trip to the historic schoolhouse. Baker stated that the City is working with the Rice County Historical Society to see if they would be willing to help manage, promote, and possibly fund the landmark building in the future.
- g. Update on the Linking Lonsdale Project & DNR Grant Timeline
The Park Board reviewed plans for the Linking Lonsdale Project, and Baker stated that the City will rebid the project in January or February to hopefully receive multiple competitive bids. He noted that the project needs to be completed by the end of June, 2015 to receive the \$89,000.00 in grant funding awarded by the DNR.
- h. Feedback on Projects Completed in 2014 (Kalina Park, Main Street Plaza, Southern Trl.)
Baker asked the Park Board members if they have any comments or have received any comments regarding the park projects that were completed in 2014. The Board members all agreed that the projects turned out great, and that residents and visitors have been impressed with all of the completed projects.
- i. Review the 2015 Parks & Recreation Budget
The Park Board reviewed the proposed 2015 Parks & Recreation Budget spreadsheet. Baker noted that a fishing pier, soccer nets, trees, signage, landscaping, and other archery range improvements were scheduled for the next year. The Board briefly talked about their overall focus and priorities for 2015.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Baker stated that City staff was going to be putting up Christmas lights up on the trees in the Main Street Plaza on November 21st.
- Baker said that he would be completing the City's 2014 Tree City USA application soon, because they are due by the end of the year.
- Carpentier stated that the City needs to have someone from Public Works specifically designated to take care of the flowers, plantings, weeding, and trees around town.

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 7:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner