

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
December 13, 2011**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shelly Narum

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

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2011 regular meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Consider Approval of the Lonsdale Friends of the Public Library / Teen Advisory Board as the January-February-March 2012 Green Team

Baker stated that the City currently has two Green Team applications on file: 1) Friends of the Lonsdale Library (application received 9/16/11) and 2) Lonsdale Boy Scout Troop # 327 (application received 9/21/11). He recommended approving the "Friends" group as the next Green Team because they have not had the opportunity to serve yet as the Green Team.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the Lonsdale Friends of the Public Library / Teen Advisory Board as the January-

February-March 2012 Green Team. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

b. Update on Kalina Park Project

Baker said that during the week of November 25th, Rud Construction of Webster, MN generously graded/excavated the parkland area within Kalina Park according to the approved grading plan. He stated that Rud Construction did the grading work as a donation to the City. He said that construction was completed within a few days, and once grass is established next Spring-Summer, the silt fence will be taken down. Baker said that Kalina Park now has new trails, a shallow wildlife pond, and a few level areas for park patrons to enjoy. He mentioned that the park will have more of a passive feel, but amenities such as playground equipment and/or a park pavilion may be added in the future.

The Park Board looked at recent pictures of the newly graded parkland along with a photo reference map. They liked the new improvements to the park, and they directed City staff to send a thank you to Rud Construction. They also talked about park signage and the pros/cons of future winter uses for the new trails, such as cross-country skiing or snowmobile trails.

c. Update on MnDOT Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program

Baker provided the Park Board with a couple of visualization sketches to review which showed different tree/planting location options to consider. The sketches showed the Board a more realistic look at what the drive along Hwy 19 might look like after the trees/shrubs are planted. Baker stated that he met with the adjacent property owner Don Smisek, Jr. along with Dan Gullickson and Nathan Gregor, of MnDOT, earlier in the day to review the different landscape plan options. He said that the group discussed visibility to the adjacent businesses, parking lot encroachment, and future signage. He mentioned that MnDOT has committed to pay for the plantings but not for the proposed boundary line fencing or for extra excavation work. He said that the group compromised on a plan that would allow for shorter shrubs to be located directly in front of the main business buildings and allowing the other planting areas to have taller trees to screen the unsightly/visually cluttered portions of the property. After reviewing the plans, the Park Board agreed with the concept plan that was decided upon by the group earlier in the day.

d. Discuss Adding More “Adopt-a-Bench” Benches Along the City Trails – Request by Al Sevcik; Thank You to Ron & Teresa Jirik Family for Adopting Trail Bench # 7 (In Memory of Amber Ann Jirik)

Baker said that since 2009, the City has been asked by various people to consider adding a few more “Adopt-a-Bench” benches along the trail system. He said that Al Sevcik recently asked the City to consider adding another bench along the Heath Creek Trail (near Bench # 13 & # 14). Sevcik said that his mother would like to sponsor a trail bench in that location. The Park Board reviewed the Adopt-a-Bench Map and discussed the requests for more benches. They also reviewed

quotes for 5 benches (\$1,330.00) and 10 benches (\$2,600.00) from Summit Supply. The Board members agreed that more benches could be added in the future as long as they had the final determination on where the benches would be located. Ziskovsky suggested that benches near WELCO could be added around the new Sticha Park volleyball courts.

e. Discuss Proposed Donation of Privately Owned Downtown Lot to City of Lonsdale

Baker and Ziskovsky explained that Timothy and Debra Rud are considering donating their lot at 127 Main Street to the City of Lonsdale. They said that the City could use their lot for either a small downtown park or to sell off to a new business, in which any proceeds would go to the Parks & Recreation Fund. All the Park Board members agreed that the City could find a use for the downtown lot. Carpentier said that the space could be used as a park for the arts created by area youth. Utecht agreed, stating that it would be good to get the local children and youth involved in the community. They talked about a small park with benches, little trails, trees, shrubs/hedges, a mural, screen fencing, and a fountain. Baker stated that the EDA created a Streetscape Master Plan in 2007 with the help of Yaggy Colby Associates to spruce up Downtown Lonsdale. He said that he would bring the plan to the next meeting for the Board to view.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Utecht to recommend that the City acceptance a donation of land at 127 Main Street N (Parcel 19.26.1.52.012) from Timothy and Debra Rud. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Baker provided the Park Board with the 2012 Tree Order Form to review.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner