

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

**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 Ziskovsky to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Utecht, 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 January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Utecht, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

a. Update on the Linking Lonsdale Project – Bids Opened on January 29, 2015

The Park Board members reviewed a memo from City Engineer Kevin Kawlewski concerning the Linking Lonsdale Project. Baker said that nine bids were received on the project ranging from \$142,883.16 - \$232,427.25. Baker noted that the Council awarded Timm's Trucking the project with the low alternate bid of \$142,883.16. He said that the Council and the City Engineer saved the City \$10,000 by working with MnDOT and requesting an alternate bid option. Baker also mentioned that the Council saved the City over \$60,000 by having the project rebid during prime bidding season. He reminded the Board

that only one bid was received for the work back in August 2014, which came in over \$200,000. Kodada stated that the City should investigate ways to utilize all of the \$89,000.00 DNR Grant funds awarded to the Linking Lonsdale project, since it is a matching grant. He wondered if curb/gutter or a wider sidewalk could be added around the DRS Field parking lot.

b. Update on the 2015 Veterans Memorial Project

Baker provided the Board with an update on the fundraising progress for the Veterans Memorial project. He said that \$97,977.00 has been raised so far with \$12,500.00 in outstanding pledges. He noted that to-date, 104 pavers are sold and 7 plaza benches and the field cross memorial have been sponsored. The Board reviewed the bid advertisement and bid documents. Baker noted that the flags, donation stone, benches, and granite pieces all need to be ordered and installed by the City or Owatonna Granite. Baker said that bids will be opened on February 24<sup>th</sup> and awarded on February 26<sup>th</sup>. He noted that the project needs to be completed two-weeks before community days. Baker and Carpentier set up a life-sized plywood model of the enter monument's base to give the Board an idea of how bid the actual monument will be. The Board thanked Baker for the update.

c. Update on the Lonsdale Adopt-a-Bench Program

Baker provided the Board with an up-to-date map and listing of the in-ground park/trail benches located throughout Lonsdale. The Board reviewed the various bench sponsors. He said that the fee for a trail bench is \$250.00, and to sponsor a bench park bench with a backrest is \$350.00. Baker said that the Board may want to add more benches at the Rezac Nature Preserve and along the new trail around the 9-acre pond in 2016.

d. Consider Partnering with the TCU – Lonsdale Elementary Green Team for Improvements to the School Grounds & Nature Center

Baker provided the Board with information pertaining to the accomplishments and future goals of the Lonsdale Elementary Green Team that was provided by Adam Larson. Baker said that Larson's goal is to put Lonsdale/Lonsdale Elementary on the map. He said that \$4,000.00 was budgeted for in 2014 for improvements to the school grounds, and more specifically for a school sign. Baker explained that when the school expanded, TCU agreed to take down their old sign and work towards erecting a nice sign along Co. Rd. 4. The Board liked the idea of helping the school fund projects that improve the school grounds and provide more amenities for the community. The also liked the Green Team's WeatherBug idea, which would literally put Lonsdale on the weather map and provide the community with more accurate weather readings. The Board agreed to give the Lonsdale Elementary Green Team \$2,000.00 this year and possibly \$2,000.00 next year, which should be used for improvements to the school grounds, nature center, or for implementation of the WeatherBug system.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend partnering along with the Lonsdale Elementary Green Team by contributing \$2,000.00 for improvements to the Lonsdale Elementary School grounds, the nature center, and/or WeatherBug. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Utecht, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

- e. Review Rice Soil & Water Conservation District – 2015 Tree Order Form  
The Board reviewed the 2015 Tree Order Form. Baker stated that the Board discussed this item at their previous meeting but they were hesitant on spending any more money on a tree nursery that wasn't being taken care of. Carpentier stated that the City should hold off on ordering any new trees until a dedicated Public Works staff member can make the nursery and other trees around town a priority. The other members agreed, and Kodada said that he will relay this concern to the Public Works Director when advertisement goes out for a new full-time Public Works worker. Ziskovsky and Carpentier discussed adding heavy screening evergreen trees around the south side of the Waste Water Treatment plant sometime in the near future. The Board agreed to hold off on the seedling tree order until next year.
  
- f. Review and Discuss Constructing a Fishing Pier/Boardwalk at the Rezac Nature Preserve  
The Board looked at a couple of different fishing pier options, including an aluminum roll-in dock option and a floating wooden dock option. Baker asked for preliminary feedback on the proposed fishing pier at Rezac Nature Preserve. The Board agreed that they liked the look of a wooden dock along with an enclosed handrail system for public safety. Kodada said that sturdy wooden DNR docks would be cheaper to maintain over the long run. Carpentier suggested that the 9-acre pond and the smaller pond, located just east of the Kalina Park parking lot, be linked together so that Lonsdale could host a walk, run, paddle event. Baker said that he would try to have another quote for the wooden dock/boardwalk available for the March Park Board meeting.
  
- g. Consider Creating a Community Parks & Recreation Survey  
The Park Board reviewed the Parks & Recreation Survey that was conducted a decade ago. The Board agreed that Lonsdale should conduct a similar survey this year because of all the changes that have taken place over the last 10 years. Baker asked the Board to review the survey in detail and provide comments and any new/revised questions at the March Park Board meeting.

Kodada leaves the Park Board meeting to attend another scheduled meeting. Utecht took over as Chairperson.

h. LiveWire Films Videos of Lonsdale

Baker showed the Park Board the two latest LiveWire Fims videos promoting Lonsdale: 1) Quality of Life video and 2) Business Park video. After seeing the videos, the Park Board members said that they were very impressed.

**7. MISCELLANEOUS**

- Baker said that Mayor Rud would probably be attending their next meeting to touch base and provide an update on City projects.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Narum to adjourn the meeting.

Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0.

Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Benjamin Baker, City Planner