

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MARCH 11, 2014**

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

Chair Kodada called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

2. AGENDA

Utecht suggested that “shooting range discussion” be added to the agenda. Baker said that he would also like to provide a brief update on the Veterans Memorial Project.

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

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Utecht to approve the Minutes from the February 11, 2014 Meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Review a Donation Request from the Adam Larson, Lonsdale Elementary School, in the Amount of \$2,000.00 to Help Fund Construction of a Rain Garden on the School Grounds at Lonsdale Elementary

The Park Board members reviewed information and site plans provided by Tri-City United (TCU) – Lonsdale Elementary 2nd Grade Teacher Adam Larson. He also provided the Park Board with an overview on a 2-3 year plan aimed at

creating and enhancing outdoor education opportunities at Lonsdale Elementary School. Larson stated that Phase I will include a dry bed creek/rain garden and observation/testing dock. He said that he would also like to implement a food waste/recycling program, vegetable garden for consumption, tree plantings, expanded pathway system, butterfly garden, bird feeders/houses, science stations, disc golf course, orienteering course, and tree farm. He noted that he already has funding commitments totally around \$6,000.00 from a few of the local sportsman clubs, Rice County Environmental Services, TCU, Lions Club, and American Legion. He stated that he wanted to make the best use of the property and encourage students and teachers to get outside. He noted that the Nature Center should also undergo a controlled burn under the supervision of the Lonsdale Fire Department. Kodada mentioned that it would be nice to have a deeper pond near the current lookout deck. He also directed Larson to look into the Reinvest-in-Minnesota (RIM) program. Ziskovsky suggested adding a fence around the trees and rain garden to protect the area from snow mobiles. She also suggested adding “geocaching” to the list of items to do in the Nature Center. Carpentier said that it seems like a neat project, and she mentioned that she liked the idea of kids volunteering and helping with outside educational projects. Utecht also liked the proposed project.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend approval to help fund Phase I of the Lonsdale Elementary Outdoor Education Plan (Rain Garden/Dry River Creek and Observation/Testing Dock) in the amount of \$2,000.00. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

- b. Review the 2013 Annual Parks & Recreation Report and Upcoming Projects
Baker provided a thorough review of park and recreation related projects and items from 2013. The Park Board looked at a correlating map showing the 2013 park projects. Baker briefly touched on: the Idaho Street Tree Planting Project, the Sticha Park Playground and Pavilion Project, the Rezac Nature Preserve Land Acquisition, the Linking Lonsdale Trail Connection Project, the Main Street Plaza Project, the ice resurfacer donation for the Jaycee Park Ice Rink, the Lonsdale Welcome Signs flower beds planting, Idaho Street Tree Nursery Plantings and Spruce Up Project, along with other initiatives. He also went through the proposed projects and initiatives list for 2014 which included: finishing the Main Street Plaza Project, repair/replacement work at the 3-R Landmark School, concrete/pavement work at Kalina Park, construction of a new archery range at the Rezac Nature Preserve, tree plantings along with the Lonsdale Business Park Project, the extension of the Southern Trail from Willow Creek Height to the Rezac Nature Preserve, completion of the Linking Lonsdale Trail Connection Project, ball field improvements at Trendera Memorial Park and Stich Park, and planning for a Veterans Memorial Park. Baker also provided a wish list of park and recreation projects that do not currently have funding. The Park Board members also reviewed the 2014 Proposed Park Projects map.

- c. Update on the Rezac Nature Preserve – 2014 Archery Range Project
Baker and Kodada provided a brief update on the 2014 Archery Range Project. They said that their goal is to hold a community construction day at the Public Works Shop sometime in April to work together to build the necessary target stands and target roofs. He said that local archery enthusiast Ken Albrecht was present at their first meeting on February 17th, and he provided the City with archery range design expertise and local archery contacts. Baker stated that it looks like with the donation from the Tri Lakes Sportsman Club and with the help of local volunteers, the project should come in under budget and be completed by summer of 2014. Kodada advised City Staff to pick a date in April and advertise the community construction event to the public. The Park Board members discussed how popular archery has become and how the sport has taken off in schools.
- d. Update on the 2014 Historic 3-R Landmark School Project
Baker noted that City Staff recently applied for a grant to help with needed the repairs to the historic two-story 3-R Landmark Schoolhouse. He said that funds have been budgeted over the last few years for roof replacement, siding painting/replacement, and window repair/replacement. He stated that the project is projected to happen this summer.
- e. Consider Approval of the Lonsdale Golden Agers as the April-May-June 2014 Recycling Green Team
Baker mentioned that the City currently has two Green Team applications on file: 1) Golden Agers (application received 11/5/13) and 2) Boy Scout Troop 327 (application received 1/6/14). He said that the Golden Agers, a local retirement organization, has never had the opportunity to participate as the Green Team yet. He noted that although the Waste Management Green Team Program was originally intended to fund youth organizations, it is up to the Park Board/City Council to use their discretion when choosing non-youth Green Teams. Baker also noted that the local Boy Scout Troop has already had the opportunity to participate as the Green Team three times previously.

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Utecht to approve the Lonsdale Golden Agers as the April-May-June 2014 Green Team. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, and Kodada; Against: Carpentier. Vote 3-1. Motion carried.

Carpentier explained that although the Golden Agers are a good group, she voted no because she felt that the Green Team funds should go toward local youth organizations.

f. Review Kalina Park Site Plan Ideas for the Area Surrounding the Playground Equipment

The Park Board members reviewed five different site plan options showing different play area borders designed by City Staff as a basis for discussion. The Park Board members reviewed and compared the different square footage costs for concrete sidewalks and the footage cost for concrete curb. After discussing each option, they all agreed on the look of Design Option 5, which showed squared off corners and the entire northeast side poured with a concrete pad. Option 5 also showed four bench pads and a concrete curb border around the remainder of the play area. Ziskovsky stated that hop-scotch squares should be incorporated into the cement work. Kodada said that the hop-scotch idea would be simple to incorporate into the concrete.

After reviewing a larger scaled site plan map of Kalina Park, the Park Board members agreed with the idea to pave a pathway from Pond View Drive SE to the mini-boardwalk bridge along with installing a fence on the west side of the gravel parking lot. Kodada asked if the Public Works guys would be able to do some of the paving work. Baker relayed a request from the Public Works Department in that any new improvements should be designed with long-term maintenance concerns in mind.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend approval of Kalina Park Playground Area Site Plan Option 5 and to authorize City Staff to solicit quotes for the project. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

g. Discuss a Request for a Trap (Clay Target) Shooting Range in/around Lonsdale

Utecht stated that she was recently approached by a member of the Tri-Lakes Sportsman Club at the Lonsdale Showcase event, who asked her if there would be any room to add a trap shooting range next to the new archery range. She said that trap shooting has become quite popular with the youth and area schools over the last few years, and she explained that because of the sport's popularity, that shooting space is becoming more limited. Baker noted that because of current in-town shooting regulations, a shotgun shooting range would need to be located outside of City limits. All the Park Board members agreed that it would be great to have a shooting range fairly close to City Limits to give the community another recreational opportunity and possibly help lure more people to move to town.

h. Update on the Veterans Memorial Park Project

Baker told the Park Board that City Staff recently submitted a \$10,000.00 grant application request for the Veteran Memorial Park Project. The Park Board members reviewed a preliminary concept/sketch plan of how a Veterans Memorial Park would fit in at 133 Main Street North next to the Main Street Plaza. All the Park Board members liked the initial sketch plan, and they thanked City staff for applying for the grant.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

None

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Utecht 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 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner