

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
APRIL 14, 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 Utecht and seconded by Carpentier 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 Narum to approve the Minutes from the March 10, 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. Update on the Fishing Pier/Boardwalk Project @ the Reazc Nature Preserve
The Park Board reviewed a site plan map that showed the Rezac Nature Preserve's current and planned amenities, including the proposed fishing pier and boardwalk. Baker stated that a grant application was submitted to the DNR at the end of March, and he noted that awards won't be announced until later June 2015. Baker also mentioned that 16 additional acres of land, consisting of mostly wetland, ponds, and hillside, would be added to the Preserve sometime this year. Carpentier expressed her support for a future paddle-ride-run event at Rezac Nature Preserve. Baker said that the fishing pier may be able to be installed sometime in September 2015.
- b. Update on the Linking Lonsdale Project
The Park Board members reviewed the Linking Lonsdale Project plans. Baker mentioned that the DNR has offered the City even more grant money for the project. He said that new curb/gutter will be added around the DRS gravel parking lot. The Board discussed the Hwy 19 crossing situation. Baker said that construction on the project should commence in early May and be completed in June.
- c. Update on the 2015 Veterans Memorial Project
The Park Board members reviewed the site plan layout while Baker provided an update on the project. He said that project construction should start in early-May and be completed in June. He noted that the monuments were scheduled to be installed in early-June. Baker said that the Veterans Memorial Task Force will be finalizing a date for the Veterans Memorial Dedication at their meeting on April 15th. Baker mentioned that the Task Force will also be determining a final design for the donation stone and lights.
- d. Consider Scheduling Grand Opening Events for the Veterans Memorial, Fishing Pier, and Linking Lonsdale Project
The Board reviewed a proposed 2015 project timeline sheet that showed construction dates and potential grand opening/dedication dates for the Veterans Memorial Project, Linking Lonsdale Project, and Fishing Pier Project. The Park Board agreed that the evening of July 7th would be a great date to host a grand opening for the Linking Lonsdale Project. They also agreed that a September or October grand opening event for the Fishing Pier Project should be scheduled once the DNR grant awarded is announced.
- e. Update on Green Teams
Baker stated that the City Council recently selected the Immaculate Conception Council of Catholic Women and the American Legion Post 586 as the next two Green Teams.

- f. Update on Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) & Select Members to Serve on a Future SRTS Task Force
Baker provided an update on the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project. He went through a list of suggestions provided by Mao Yang of MNDOT to help with Lonsdale's next infrastructure grant application. Baker said that the onus is really on Lonsdale Elementary to establish programs such as a crossing guard program, educational programs, morning exercise programs, and/or a walking school bus program. Utecht and Narum volunteered to be members on a future committee/task force for the SRTS initiative.
- g. Update on Arbor Day 2015
The Board reviewed a letter from Matt Harris, Chief Executive with the Arbor Day Foundation, congratulating Lonsdale on earning recognition as a 2014 Tree City USA, the City's 6 straight year as a Tree City USA. Baker said that the Council recently passed Resolution 2015-22, a resolution proclaiming April 24, 2015 as Arbor Day in the City of Lonsdale. Ziskovsky said that she recruited a few Lions and Council members to help prepare the trees on Friday morning. She invited everyone to attend the event on the 24th.
- h. Discuss the Need for Soccer Goals in Lonsdale
The Park Board reviewed different soccer goal options just to get an idea on sizes, styles, and costs. Baker said that the City will probably order soccer goals/nets in 2016. The Board members said that either Trenda Memorial Park and/or Sticha Park would be the perfect location for a smaller soccer field. Baker noted that it would take parent/volunteer initiative or community programming to start a soccer program in town.
- i. Discuss the Need for Park & Trail Benches in the Rezac Nature Preserve
The Park Board members reviewed the current Adopt-a-Bench maps and sheets. Baker asked the Board to start thinking about potential locations for benches along the new trail the runs through the Business Park and Rezac Nature Preserve. Kodada directed the Board members to walk the trail and provide feedback on possible bench spots.

j. Consider Authoring Volunteer Laura Carpentier to Purchase and Plant the Annual Flowers for both Welcome Sign Planting Beds

Carpentier stated that she would be willing to plant the Welcome Sign flowers again this year. She asked if the City could commit to watering, fertilizing, and weeding the annual flowers. Carpentier also asked if the City could prep the flower beds by cleaning up the old plant remnants and dirt before she plants the new flowers. The rest of the Park Board thanked Carpentier for volunteering her time to pick up and plant the flowers.

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Utecht to authorize community volunteer Laura Carpentier to purchase and plant the annual flowers for both Welcome Sign planning beds. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Ziskovsky mentioned that patrons of the Jaycee Park ball fields need to support the Lonsdale Lions Club by purchasing items at the concession stand instead of bringing snacks and drinks from home. She said that the Club is not making much money off of concession/beer sales due to the lack of a men's softball league in 2014 and 2015.

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 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner