

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
June 6, 2011**

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

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, 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 May 10, 2011 regular meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Review Skate Park Options @ Trena Memorial Park

Chair Kodada read through the notice and opened the public hearing. Baker gave a brief overview on the history of the Park Board's skate park site planning process. He provided the Board with notes taken at the May 12th Elko New Market City Council meeting concerning issues with their skate park located at Wagner Park. He described potential problems associated with skate parks (such as noise, loitering, and juvenile misconduct) and possible mitigation solutions (such as explore new methods of sound proofing ramps/obstacles, move the skate park to a more remote location away from residential homes, and increase police patrol). Baker provided the Board with different site maps of potential skate park locations along with comments received from neighboring property owners for the public hearing. He also provided an email from Principal Dave Dooley

concerning a skate park location at M/L East Elementary School. Baker stated that the Park Board members want to create recreational opportunities for everyone, especially for kids who may not be involved in baseball or other summer sports. Chair Kodada asked if anyone from the audience wanted to speak on the issue.

Chris Picht, 326 2nd Avenue NE, stated that she is opposed to the skate park at Trenda Memorial Park. She said that she does not have any kids herself, but she was concerned about the kids in the neighborhood being potentially being exposed to an increase of offensive language that typically comes with skate park users.

Nicole Demuth, 338 2nd Avenue NE, stated that she was concerned about the potential for more foul language, especially next to kids playing on the existing play equipment. She mentioned that skaters should have a place in town to go, but locating a skate park at Trenda Memorial Park could be a problem.

Cheri Dirks, 320 2nd Avenue NE, stated that she is opposed to the skate park at Trenda Memorial Park. She said that she has an 11-year old that uses the playground and would be concerned about a skate park being located so close. She said that noise may also be an issue for ball players and spectators at the DRS Field too. She mentioned that she is in favor of a different location for skaters to skate, but not next to their residential homes, which may deprecate in value because of a skate park. She said that she recently told some skaters to stop making so much noise with their skateboards in the street near her home.

Carpentier asked if the skate park option shown on the southwest side of the park would be a better location. The neighboring property owners near RayAnn Acres preferred that location compared to a spot near the northeast side of the park, but they brought up potential conflicts with the existing ball park.

Shane Picht, 326 2nd Avenue NE, stated that the southwest option would be a better spot, but he was concerned about potential impacts with the nice ball field. He said that Lonsdale was a town founded around baseball, and a skate park in that park could be a huge mistake.

Melody Iszler, 201 Birch Street NE, said that she was concerned with the potential increase in traffic, both motorized and non-motorized. Iszler mentioned that she wasn't in favor of any new sidewalks in front of her home. She also said that parking would need to be addressed. She said that the foul language coming from the kids at the park is terrible.

Joel Hagglund, 109 Cottonwood Street NE, stated that he was opposed to any skate park options located in Trenda Memorial Park because of the noise. He agreed that a skate park was needed in Lonsdale but at a different location than the proposed options.

Daniel Jankowski, 332 2nd Avenue NE, stated that he would not have bought his recently purchase home if he knew that a skate park would be constructed so close. He mentioned that the conflicts between the younger kids using the play equipment and the older kids using the skate park would be a headache for the neighborhood and the City. He suggested moving the skate park to a more isolated area. He said that there are a lot of young families in town with young children. He said that the potential skate park location options would not fit in with the ball fields and young children.

Lori Nickel, 927 Tom Jirik Court NW, stated that she has three teens, and some of them are skateboarders. She posed the question to the audience and Park Board: what are all the young children and teens going to do to keep busy and stay active if there aren't recreational opportunities available such as a skate park for kids and teens to utilize. She said with all the young families in town the need is great, and it is going to get greater over the next few years. She stated that more recreational opportunities are needed in Lonsdale.

Kodada asked if there were anymore comments off the floor. No else responded.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to close the public hearing. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The hearing closed at 6:32 pm.

After hearing public comments, the Park Board discussed the skate park issue in further detail. Based on the comments received, Kodada mentioned that the City would be crazy to place a skate park on the northeast side of the park, and he was leery about the southwest location too. Kodada explained that the Board has been working on locating a skate park for the last couple of years. The Board discussed other potential locations for a skate park such as: 1) the Rice County property near Jaycee Park, 2) the rarely used cul-de-sacs in Legacy Meadows (Harvest Drive SW, Harvest Court SW), and 3) Sticha Park. Ziskovsky and Carpentier stated that the park should be designed for bike use too. The Board directed City staff to explore the Rice County and Legacy Meadows locations for a potential skate park that would be less offensive to neighboring property owners. Kodada also suggested looking on the League of Minnesota Cities website for any used skate park equipment.

No action was taken on the issue.

Narum leaves the meeting due to anther obligation.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Consider Approval of the M-L Hockey Association as the July-Aug-Sept 2011 Green Team

Baker provided the Board with an application submitted the M/L Hockey Association. He said that they indicated “July-August-September” as their first choice. He also mentioned that there was another application on file, but that application indicated “Oct-Nov-Dec” as their first choice. Baker mentioned that the Hockey Association last served as the Green Team back in early 2009.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the M/L Hockey Association as the July-Aug-Sept 2011 Green Team. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

- b. Update on Welcome Sign Flowers (White & Red Petunias) – Laura Carpentier
The Board was provided with pictures of the recently planted Red and White Petunias in the annual flower beds located in front of both City welcome signs. Carpentier purchased and planted the flowers. Carpentier stated that the Public Works Director did not show any interest in maintaining/irrigating the flowers, so she contacted the Fire Department and Fire Chief Mike Yetzer agreed to water the flowers with the Fire Department’s grass rig.

The Board discussed possible volunteers who may want to help with the weekly watering of the welcome sign landscaping and flower bed areas. They also discussed different methods and options of getting water to each site (such as trailer mounted water tanks, wells, and on-site water storage tanks). Kodada suggested using plastic flowers. He also mentioned that volunteers could utilize the L.A. Kodada & Sons Masonry water trailer for irrigating the welcome sign flowers until a more permanent solution is found.

The Park Board decided to discuss the issue further at their next meeting, and they thanked Carpentier for her help with the annual plantings.

- c. Update on Olympics Day 2011 – Thursday, June 23rd – Jeanette Utecht
The Board was presented with an official flyer for Olympics Day 2011. Utecht provided an overview of the Rice County Olympics Day event scheduled for June 23rd. She provided details the four different activities specifically located in Lonsdale, including 1) a kids obstacle course, 2) a family fun/run scavenger hunt, 3) sand volleyball, and 4) a baseball/softball clinic. She mentioned that she is still trying to round up a few volunteers from local organizations such as the Lions and Jaycees. Utecht said that the Mom’s Club has already committed to helping with the morning obstacle course. Kodada stated that he would be helping out with the baseball/softball clinic.
- d. Discuss Winter Trail Priorities and Consider Approval of a City Snow Plowing Map for Trailways During the 2011-12 Snow Season
The Board briefly discussed the proposed 2011-12 Snow Plowing Map. Although they prioritized both the Railway Trail and the Northeast Trail as high priority trails, they decided to wait on taking any action on the issue until more information is provided from the Public Works Director.

e. Update on the Heath Creek Trail Realignment Around/Through 601 Central Street East

Baker provided the Park Board with a scenic picture of a wooden nature boardwalk and a detailed trail map, showing existing and planned trails for the area surrounding the Generation Home Building Center lumber yard. Baker explained the different trail routes that MnDOT was in favor of along with cost estimates for each segment. He noted that further study and evidence would be needed to prove to MnDOT officials that a trail crossing is needed/feasible at the 8th Avenue & Hwy 19 intersection. Baker mentioned that the City Administrator, City Planner, and Randy Stangler, owner of Generation Home Building Center, met earlier in the day and worked out preliminary details on a development agreement for the construction of a 700 – 900 ft. extension of the Heath Creek Trail as a 8 ft wide boardwalk leading to the 8th Avenue NE & Hwy 19 intersection. He said that Stangler agreed to pay for half of the costs associated with the proposed boardwalk trail. The Park Board was excited about the possibility of a new nature/wetland trail boardwalk and a connection to the north-side of town.

f. Update on Sticha Park Volleyball Court Construction

Up-to-date construction pictures were provided to the Park Board of the sand volleyball courts at Sticha Park. The pictures showed the progress that has been made on the new volleyball courts. Kodada stated that the Public Works Department recently moved the sod cut from the volleyball court area over to the east-side of Jaycee Park to cover a recently installed drain tile line. He thanked the Public Works Department for filling-in and improving the old drainage swale, where many people walk from their vehicles to the ball fields.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Utecht to schedule the next Park Board meeting for Monday, July 18, 2011 @ 6:00 pm. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Utecht to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner