

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
JULY 12, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Shelly Narum

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker and City Administrator Joel Erickson

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 Ziskovsky to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Utecht, and Kodada; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the Minutes from the April 12, 2016 Regular Meeting. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Utecht, and Kodada; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Recap of the July 24th Hidden Willow Pond Fishing Pier Grand Opening Event
The Park Board members reviewed multiple pictures and a newspaper article written about the Hidden Willow Pond Fishing Pier Grand Opening event held on July, 24, 2016. Baker stated that approximately 50-75 people showed up to the event, and that it was an overall successful event. Since canoeing was so popular during the event, Utecht suggested that the City look into purchasing canoes that can be rented or used at the pond. Baker noted that the City is still going to have to figure out good access, parking, and signage for the new fishing pier area.

- b. Review & Discuss Trenda Mem. Park Event Parking Issues along 2nd Avenue NE
Baker explained that residents along 2nd Avenue NE attended a Council Meeting on May 12th expressing their concerns with on-street vehicle parking and safety issues due to the new soccer program being held at Trenda Memorial Park this spring-summer. Baker provided the Park Board with maps showing the current on-street parking configuration and potential parking solution options, including off-street parking and no parking zones. He noted that the proposed off-street parking idea would more than compensate for any current on-street parking. Baker said that residents along that stretch were invited to the Park Board meeting to relay their concerns. Kodada invited the residents to provide insight into the matter.

Tina Stadtherr, 332 2nd Avenue NE, Lori Westerhouse, 326 2nd Avenue NE, and Nicole Demuth, 338 2nd Avenue NE, came up to the podium to relay their concerns. Stadtherr stated that they were in favor of the City painting/signing a no parking zone along the east-side of the road in front of their homes. The residents explained that soccer parents and spectators have been parking on both sides of 2nd Avenue NE instead of in the large DRS Field parking lot on the west side of the park, and therefore causing a bottleneck of one lane traffic and unsafe conditions for pedestrians. They also explained that some people parked in front of their mailboxes and driveways. The residents stated that a no parking area, in front of residential homes, near parks is common in other cities.

The Park Board members thanked the residents for expressing their concerns, and they discussed different options to alleviate the current parking and safety issues and to come up with a solution. Kodada suggested checking with the City Engineer to see the exact width of the street and to review the transportation plan for guidance. Utecht suggested communicating with the Soccer Board. The 2nd Avenue NE residents stated that people have still continued to park along 2nd Avenue NE, even after Soccer President Ryan Phelps sent out an email asking parents to park in the DRS Field parking lot. The Park Board members assured the concerned residents that their concerns were being heard. However, the Park Board members explained the dilemma that arises if a “no parking zone” was allowed in front of the 2nd Avenue NE homes, because residents that live near other parks in town would probably demand the same thing.

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Utecht to recommend the following:

1. Measuring the exact width of the road, checking with the City Engineer, and reviewing the Transportation Plan for further solutions;
2. Proceeding with the off-street parking option

Vote for: Ziskovsky, Utecht, and Kodada; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

- c. Update on Dog Park Planning & Fundraising – Laura Domek
Laura Domek, Dr. Rich Lorang, Robin Pikal, and Bryan Pikal provided: 1) an update on the Dog Park Project, and 2) insight and details related to dog park amenities and design. Domek said that thanks to the July 9th Next Chapter Winery fundraising event, the Go-Fund-Me fundraiser, and personal donations, that they have now raised \$5,193.94. The Park Board commended them for their hard work and excellent fundraising results. Kodada suggested that the group come to an upcoming Council meeting to present the check. The Park Board and Dog Park Group discussed amenities needed at the dog park and associated cost estimates. They agreed that the basic need was fencing and parking; and that trees, water, lights, and fun obstacles could be added at a future date. They also discussed potential rules, dog licensing, and upkeep of the dog park. Kodada said that it would be great to utilize the Public Works Department staff to help with the fencing and parking lot. Erickson suggested having a Dog Park Community Build-Day, similar to the Archery Range Build-Day held a few years ago. Domek said that the owner of Pet Perfect Grooming is interested in donating a pet waste station once the park is constructed. Dr. Lorang suggested adding a paved entryway due to the mud and traffic that funnels through the main entry point.

The Park Board thanked the Dog Park Group again for their fundraising efforts. Ziskovsky said that she has been waiting for a dog park to be built since she was appointed to the Park Board. Kodada and Utecht agreed that it will be a great addition to the City and help provide one more amenity to draw people to town. The Board all agreed that the City should try to get the park constructed as-soon-as-possible. The Board directed City Staff to keep the project moving forward.

- d. Update on the Lonsdale Community Center Project
Baker and Erickson provided an update on the Community Center Project. The Park Board reviewed a summary of past Task Force Meeting notes, pictures, maps, and cost estimates. Baker explained that the Task Force recently made two big decisions: 1) they decided to eliminate the \$7-\$9 million indoor ice rink option, and 2) they decided to locate the Community Center at the corner of Main Street South & Idaho Street SW. The Board members provided: 1) suggestions on amenities that should be included in the facility, and 2) advise on what needs to be done to get a positive vote. Erickson said that he is working to finalize the financing plan for the community center while the architect is finalizing the facility planning. Utecht said that the Task Force should try to get more information out to the public. Erickson said that more information is coming soon.

e. Update on Soccer Programming, Fields, and Equipment Needs

The Board members reviewed soccer field layout maps of Trena Memorial Park and Sticha Park. Baker stated that he recently talked with Ryan Phelps, President of TCU Soccer, about the past soccer season in Lonsdale and to see what type of field equipment needs they may have. Baker noted that Phelps recommended adding one more set of 9 ft. goals and one more set of 12 ft. goals. Utecht stated that the City should wait before ordering any new goals until TCU Community Education commits to having Lonsdale's soccer fields again in 2017 and into the future. Baker said that he will check with the Soccer Club to see what their plans are for the next couple of years. Baker noted that the City budgeted \$9,000.00 for soccer related expenses in 2016. Erickson stated that some of the unused soccer money could potentially be used for dog park expenses. Baker mentioned that the City might need to start thinking about solutions for additional soccer fields, such as the vacant land at Main Street South or at the Lonsdale Business Park.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve ordering: 1) a set of 9 ft. goals and 2) a set of 12 ft. goals in the not-to-exceed amount of \$2,500.00. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Utecht, and Kodada; Against: None. Vote 3-0. Motion carried.

f. Review Upcoming Outdoor Programming Events to be Held in Lonsdale

The Park Board reviewed a list of upcoming Three Rivers Park District Outdoor Programming events scheduled to be held in Lonsdale through February 2017, including canoeing, archery, survival skills, geocaching, and snowshoeing. The Board also reviewed the description briefs and pictures of the programming events. Baker also noted that a small fee will be charged to participants starting in November.

g. Discuss & Recommend a Trail Option for Birch Street NE, Between 8th Ave NE and 12th Avenue NE

The Park Board members reviewed a map of the 8th Avenue NE and Birch Street NE area, near the Villages of Lonsdale/Public Library. They also reviewed two letters from the Library Director and Manager of the Villages of Lonsdale requesting that a trail be installed/delineated along Birch Street NE. Baker explained that the City could either paint a pedestrian/bike lane on the roadway or construct a new sidewalk/trail on the south-side of Birch Street NE. Kodada suggested that the City start by painting a designated pedestrian/bike lane first. Utecht wondered if a precedence would be set, if "no parking" signs were erected along that stretch. Overall, the Board members stated that the ultimate and safest plan would be to construct an off-street pathway, but they directed Staff to delineate a pedestrian/bike land for now.

Carpentier arrives at the meeting at 8:08 pm.

h. Discuss & Prioritize Parks & Trail Improvements & Recreation Programming for the 2017 City Budget

Baker said that the Council will be starting their 2017 City Budget Meetings soon. The Board reviewed a spreadsheet list of potential park and trail improvements and recreation staffing ideas to review. Baker asked the Board members to prioritize the items into high, medium, and low categories before the next Park Board meeting. He also asked them to come up with 2-3 big ticket items that they would like to see completed in the next few years, such as an enclosed park pavilion, splash pad, or hockey rink. Carpentier showed the Board members pictures of a nice outdoor fitness equipment area she recently visited in Alaska. She also stated that it would be great if the Public Works Department would do a better job with trimming, weeding, mulching, and watering the flower, trees, and other plantings around the City. Ziskovsky stated that the City may want to invest in trail sweeper. Kodada suggested that the rough Willow Creek Heights trails may need to be constructed out of concrete.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Ziskovsky stated that there are nettle/weeds along and through the boardwalk trail located behind the lumber yard that needs to be cut or sprayed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Carpentier to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Ziskovsky, Utecht, Kodada, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting/tour ended at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner