

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanette Utecht, Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, and Shelly Narum

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Laura Carpentier

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 Ziskovsky to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Utecht to approve the Minutes from the July 9, 2013 Regular Meeting and August 13, 2013 Sticha Park Ribbon Cutting Event and Meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

Kodada read the notice and opened the public hearing for the naming of: 1) the downtown plaza, 2) the new parkland/preserve area included in Outlot F of the Lonsdale Business Park plat, and 3) the 9-acre pond located within the parkland/preserve area.

a. Review Public Comments/Input Concerning the Naming of the Downtown Plaza / "Mayor's Sandbox" Lot Located at 127 Main Street North

Baker provided a brief history on the property. He said that Tim & Debbie Rud donated the property at 127 Main Street North to the City of Lonsdale in December of 2011. He mentioned that the lot has been used to host the "Mayor's Sandbox" during past community events.

b. Review Public Comments/Input Concerning the Naming of the New Parkland Area Located at 7200 Lonsdale Boulevard West

Bennie and Pat Rezac, 6213 Union Lake Trail, provided a letter to the Park Board. The letter gave historical insight and listed a few requests from the Rezac family, including: 1) adding a park/memorial dedicated to military servicemen/women somewhere in Lonsdale (request of Major Tim and wife Katie Rezac) and 2) naming suggestions for the area. Baker provided further historical information. He said that the land was previously owned by Bennie and Pat Rezac and is currently owned by All Terra LLC, but the City of Lonsdale has a purchase agreement in place. Baker noted that shortly following the official land purchase, the City Council will approve the Lonsdale Business Park Final Plat, including Outlot F, which is planned to be owned by the City and contain mostly public parkland. He noted that Outlot F will contain approximately 20 acres of preserved woodlands, wetlands, and a 9-acre pond.

Pat Rezac said that they were agreeable with the proposed name of “Rezac Nature Preserve”.

c. Review Public Comments/Input Concerning the Naming of the 9 Acre Pond Located at 7200 Lonsdale Boulevard West

Baker stated that the pond was owned previously by three parties: 1) Bennie Rezac, (majority of the pond), 2) Roman Kalina (southern portion of the pond) and 3) Richard Kalina (western portion of the pond). Baker noted that the southwestern portions of the pond, previously owned by the Kalina brothers, are now owned by Bremmer Bank (obtained from Bakken Development). Baker relayed the following historical information based on insight from Richard Kalina and Bennie Rezac:

Historical notes based on the memory of Richard Kalina:

- The pond outlet water may have originally flowed/draind toward the southeast, but beaver dams redirected the flow towards the southwest.
- Over the years, many snapping turtles have made their home in/around the pond area.
- Ice was harvested from the pond using a portable 36” sawblade mounted on a wheelbarrow style apparatus. Ice was stored in an old chicken coop building using thick layers of sawdust as insulation. The ice was stored all year round.
- Boys from the area played hockey/ice skated on the pond during the winter months.
- The Kalina property was filled with thick willow trees. Willow trees were knocked down by grazing cattle and eventually farm equipment.
- The ladies of Lonsdale would come out to the farm to help pick corn by hand.

Richard Kalina suggested “Turtle Pond” or “Beaver Pond” as possible names for the pond. He talked about the many turtles that would pass through the yard and hide their eggs at different locations around the farm. Kalina said that turtles were always present and they are still around the pond area today. Delores Kalina said given the fact that so many turtles have been seen around the pond over the years, the pond should be named “Turtle Pond”. Richard Kalina said that ice blocks were only taken from the pond once every three years or so because of the poor quality of ice some years (inconsistent from year-to-year).

Historical Notes from Bennie Rezac:

- Grandpa and Grandma Havlicek (original property owners) provided blocks of ice for Lonsdale residents/businesses.
- The Havlicek-Rezac pond, woodlands, and wetland area has been in the family for over 100 years, and approximately 90% of the pond was owned and taxed to the Havlicek-Rezac family.
- Approximately 250,000 frogs were harvested from the pond area for use by schools (biology dissection) and medical facilities (cataract/eye disorders). The Rezac Family was one of only a few Minnesotan properties to be granted a frogging license.
- Yellow bellied bullheads, crappies, rock bass, and sunfish could be found in the approximate 16’ deep pond. Northern pike were also stocked in the pond at one time.
- The pond fish and frogs were kept alive during the winter months for many years because the Rezac Family used aeration in the pond which was powered by three windmills.
- Around 40 years ago, the Rezac Family planted over 3,000 trees (Scotch Pine, White Pine, Black Walnut, Ash, Silver Maple, and Oak) around the pond area. Some of the tree rows can still be seen today along the hillside. During the years when Fritz Turek and Fritz Stepka ran the local bank, 100 trees were donated to the City of Lonsdale by the Rezac Family.

Bennie Rezac suggested “Ice Pond” or “Frog Pond” as possible names for the pond. Pat Rezac said that they were open to many of the suggested pond names, and she suggested that maybe a combination name, including some of the listed historical and wildlife facts, be considered.

Baker presented the Park Board with a list of over 50 potential names for the pond based on the provided historical information, the surrounding neighborhood/location, the various trees in the area, ice harvesting/ice skating, and the wildlife frequently found in the area.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Consider a Name for the Downtown Plaza at 127 Main Street North

Utecht stated that she was in favor of the name “plaza” instead of “park”. Narum suggested keeping the “Mayor’s Sandbox” name alive within the plaza. Ziskovsky liked the name “Rud’s Plaza” or “Rud’s Main Street Plaza”. After future discussion, the Park Board agreed that the name should be “Rud’s Main Street Plaza” and a separate sign located near the sandbox, should acknowledge the Mayor’s Sandbox.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend approval of the name “Rud’s Main Street Plaza.” Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

b. Consider a Name for the New Parkland Area at 7200 Lonsdale Boulevard West

The Board liked the idea of a “preserve” or “reserve” instead of “center”, considering that there is already an “Elementary School Nature Center” located in town. The Rezac Family liked the proposed name “Rezac Nature Preserve”.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend approval of the name “Rezac Nature Preserve”. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

c. Consider a Name for the 9 Acre Pond at 72000 Lonsdale Boulevard West

Regardless of the pond/nature preserve name, Kodada suggested that a historical marker/plaque denote the history of the area to preserve the historical stories provided by the Kalina and Rezac families. Baker stated that the historical marker might best be located near the planned future fishing pier.

Kodada recommended that the Park Board members take some time to look over the list of potential pond names, and bring back their top three pond names to one of the upcoming meetings for further discussion.

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Utecht to table the pond naming topic until a future Park Board meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

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

Baker provided an update on the Adopt-a-Bench Program. He noted that currently only four benches remain available for adoption. He stated that Richard and Delores Kalina, former owners of the Kalina Park land and Willow Creek Heights property, recently adopted two benches within Kalina Park. The Park Board members reviewed the list of adopted benches and the correlating map.

e. Consider Approval to Order More Benches for Kalina Park

Baker asked the Park Board if they would consider adding more benches around the very popular Kalina Park play equipment. The Board agreed that 2-5 more benches should be added around the play area. Baker stated that the City Treasurer has recommending waiting to purchase any new park play equipment or benches until 2014, to save the City money on sales tax charges.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Narum to table the issue until 2014 in an effort to realize sales tax savings. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

f. Consider Approval of the TCU Titans Youth Wrestling Program as the Oct-Nov-Dec Green Team

Baker recommended approval of the TCU Titans Youth Wrestling Program as the October-November-December Green Team. He mentioned that they submitted their application on May 20, 2013. The Board reviewed the past list of Green Teams and the TCU application.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Narum to approve the TCU Titans Youth Wrestling Program as the Oct-Nov-Dec Green Team. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

g. Review Bids for the Downtown Plaza Project

Baker stated that on August 8, 2013, the City Council approved the project plans/bid sheet for the Downtown (Main Street) Plaza Project, and they authorized City staff to advertise the project for bids. He said that the project was advertised in the Lonsdale Area News Review and sent out to the following local companies: 1) Common Grounds Lawn and Landscape Inc. – Lonsdale, MN, 2) Premiere One Custom Landscape, Design, and Install – Veseli, MN, 3) A-1 Landscapes – Elko New Market, MN, and 4) K.L.B Investments – New Prague, MN. Baker stated that on August 30, 2013 at 2:00 pm, City staff opened the lone submitted bid by Common Grounds in the amount of \$71,208.00 (base bid):

- Base Bid: \$71,208.00

- Alt-1 Bid: + \$1,500.00 (add screening hedge in lieu of split rail fence)
- Alt-2 Bid: + \$1,675.00 (add split rail fence in lieu of screening hedge)
- Alt-3 Bid: - (\$980.00) (block landscape wall in lieu of concrete fountain wall)
- Alt-4 Bid: + \$550.00 (lights inside of the 4 landscape wall columns)
- Alt-5 Bid: + \$752.00 (8 lights inside of the landscape wall)
- Alt-6 Bid: + \$725.00 (4 bollard lights around sandbox)
- Alt-7 Bid: + \$1,000.00 (drainage system for sandbox and fountain area)

- Other 1: + \$1,650.00 (screened dirt for under new sod/remove existing clay)
- Other 2: + \$450.00 (removal of existing concrete rubble in work area)

Based on discussion with City officials on September 6, 2013, Kevin Malecha of Common Grounds Lawn & Landscape provided the Park Board with three new water feature options to consider:

New Water Feature Options (based on discussion with City officials on September 5, 2013)

- Opt. A: (original spray ring design)
- Opt. B: - (\$4,883.00) (360 degree water feature bowl in lieu of original spray ring design)
- Opt. C: - (\$8,033.00) (original design but with one pump and one nozzle – no spray ring)
- Opt. D: - (\$7,233.00) (4”-18” boulders placed inside rubber liner – no standing water)

- Other 3: + \$750.00 (LED water feature lights)

He explained the differences between each of the new water feature options and the potential savings to the City: Option B) a pre-designed copper or stainless steel bowl that spills water 360 degrees into a basin below; Option C) a one pump/one interchangeable nozzle/spray fountain; and Option D) a no standing water option with boulders placed inside the rubber liner. Malecha suggested that the City use LED lighting to highlight the water feature. Baker stated that the project would be funded using a combination of Park Development Funds, Liquor Store revenue funds, and EDA funds.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to recommend approval of the quote submitted by Common Grounds Lawn & Landscaping Inc. as follows:

- Base Bid: \$71,208.00

- Alt-1 Bid: + \$1,500.00 (add screening hedge in lieu of split rail fence)
- Alt-3 Bid: - (\$980.00) (block landscape wall in lieu of concrete fountain wall)
- Alt-4 Bid: + \$550.00 (lights inside of the 4 landscape wall columns)
- Alt-5 Bid: + \$752.00 (8 lights inside of the landscape wall)
- Alt-6 Bid: + \$725.00 (4 bollard lights around sandbox)
- Alt-7 Bid: + \$1,000.00 (drainage system for sandbox and fountain area)

- Other 1: + \$1,650.00 (screened dirt for under new sod/remove existing clay)
- Other 2: + \$450.00 (removal of existing concrete rubble in work area)
- Other 3: + \$750.00 (LED water feature lights)

- Opt. B: - (\$4,883.00) (360 degree stainless steel bowl in lieu of original spray ring design)

- TOTAL: \$72,722.00**

Quote not-to-exceed \$73,000.00. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

The Park Board also discussed the quotes from Upbeat Site Furnishings as follows:

- \$12,311.10 for six benches (6 ft.), two 40-gallon receptacles, and two 5-swivel seat/table sets
- \$14,459.60 for six benches (8 ft.), two 40-gallon receptacles, and two 5-swivel seat/table sets

Baker noted that the Park Board may want to consider eliminating 1-2 benches from the project to save \$1,000.00 - \$2,000.00. He said that the City could also save money on sales tax if the benches were ordered in 2014. The Park Board members agreed to hold off on ordering any site furnishings until the site is built, which should help define if there is adequate space for all the furnishings.

No official action was taken by the Board concerning the Upbeat Site Furnishing quotes.

- h. Review a Tree Planting Quote Submitted by Andy Jirik for Trees in Kalina Park
Baker stated that in February 2013, the Park Board gave the go-ahead to Andy Jirik to plant up to 32 trees in Kalina Park once Jirik submits an official quote. The Park Board reviewed a quote submitted by Andy Jirik to deliver and install up to 26 trees. Baker noted that Jirik plans to donate the large trees as long as the City covers the cost of fuel/installation at \$150.00/tree. The Park Board reviewed the Kalina Park tree planting map.

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Narum to recommend approval of the quote submitted by Andy Jirik for 26-32 trees at Kalina Park. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

- i. Update on the DNR Local Trail Connections Grant and 2013-2014 Trails Project
The Park Board reviewed the official approval letter from the DNR for \$81,000 towards the Linking Lonsdale project. They also reviewed the required documentation checklist and documents, along with a timeline from WSB & Associates showing November 15th as the approximate date for a signed contract with the MnDNR. Baker stated that the wooden boardwalk sections will be installed this Fall, but the remainder of the project needs to wait for final approval by the DNR. He said that the Linking Lonsdale project will be bid in February for construction in the spring of 2014.
- j. Discuss Options for Soccer Field Locations and Review Site Plan Options for the Garfield Avenue Compost Site & Archery Range
The Park Board reviewed pictures of U-19, U-12, and U-8 soccer field sizes shown on top of the following maps: 1) the vacant South Main Street property, 2) the vacant Bremmer Bank commercial property (near the clinic), 3) the vacant Rolling Ridge Market Place property, 4) Sticha Park, and 5) Outlot E of the Lonsdale Business Park property. They also reviewed a proposed site plan for a new compost site and archery range in Outlot F of the Lonsdale Business Park property. The majority of the Park Board members liked the soccer fields temporarily located in Outlot E until the Pond View Drive SE extension to Garfield is fully constructed. They also like the idea of an archery range next to the bermed-up area of Outlot F. The Board noticed that the site plan showed that the new compost site sized at 2-3 times larger than the current compost site at Sticha Park.

Bennie Rezac, of the Wheatland Twin Lakes Sportsman Club, suggested that Chair Kodada attend an upcoming meeting to request funding for the new archery range. He said that the sportsman club typically meets in Millersburg at 8:00 pm on the last Tuesday of the month.

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Utecht to recommend approval of the site plan for soccer fields, and archery range, and a new compost site within Outlots E and F of the Lonsdale Business Park. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Kodada stated that he was very disappointed with the recent slurry seal work done on some of the trails by a contractor.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner