

MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
August 12, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tony Churchill, Kevin Kodada, Chris Kraimer, and Laura Carpentier

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chad Vosejka

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker and Parks Maintenance Worker Jeff Heller

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Kodada called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

2. AGENDA

Kodada asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Kodada suggested adding "History of Trena Memorial Park" and "Update on Preliminary 2009 Budget Discussion" to the agenda.

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

3. MINUTES

A motion was made by Kraimer and seconded by Churchill to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2008 regular meeting. Vote for: Churchill, Kodada, Kraimer, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Update on CSAH 33 Trail Connection Project

Baker stated that the Park Board had directed City Engineer Kawlewski to provide cost estimates for a wooden trail connection at their July meeting. Baker said that due to the engineering costs already accumulated for the project, the potential cost of a wooden trail structure, and the lack of development parkland dedication funds, Kawlewski was directed to proceed with the trail connection as

presented. Kraimer asked about a culvert running under the trail. Baker said that the trail will be constructed according to the plans that were submitted by WSB Engineers using wetland credits.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discuss Changing the Current Park Name: “Trenda Memorial Park” to “Memorial Park” – Mike Tikalsky

Mike Tikalsky (1314 1st Ave. SE, New Prague, MN) provided a historical summary of the donations and work that went into updating the Dakota-Rice-Scott (DRS) Ballpark in the early 1980s. Tikalsky stated that he was a local business owner in Lonsdale, and he said that he invested \$27,000 in the stock market to generate funds for the ballpark. He said that he also volunteered his time towards fundraising for the cause. He said that he donated \$80,000 toward the ballpark improvements, the State Bank donated \$10,000, and the American Legion donated \$5,000. He said a plaque showing all the contributors is currently hanging in the DRS Concession Stand. Tikalsky said that improvements to the park included a new chain-link fence, field lights, a lighted scoreboard, a concession stand including a walk-in cooler, and restrooms. He said that companies like Vosejka Electric and Smisek’s Plumbing and Heating donated labor for free and that Westerman Lumber donated lumber towards the project. Tikalsky stated that he moved to Lonsdale in 1976 and there were not any fireworks, therefore he donated money for fireworks in 1982, 83, and 84 which was \$2,500 per year. Tikalsky stated that he wanted the current name of the park changed from “Trenda Memorial Park” to “Memorial Park” to honor everyone who donated time and money to the park. Tikalsky showed the Board his plaque that he received for his efforts in 1982.

Kodada stated that he remembered the original park and the upgrades that took place in the early 80s. The Park Board thanked Tikalsky and everyone associated with the improvements to the DRS ballpark.

No action was taken.

b. History of Trenda Memorial Park – Lawrence Rezac, Camilla Docken, Don Docken

Lawrence Rezac (3998 W 40th St., Webster, MN) and Don and Camilla Docken (6330 Chester Ave., Northfield, MN) were all present at the meeting. Camilla Doken provided a newspaper clipping quoting the July 8, 1982 issue of the New Prague Times and providing information about Agnes Rezac. Doken stated that she was the daughter of Agnes Rezac and the granddaughter of John J. Trenda. She said that in 1921 John J. Trenda donated the land where the DRS ballpark now sits in honor of his son, John Jr. Trenda, who died in World War 1 in 1918. She said that John Jr. gave his life for his country. Don Docken, Camilla’s husband, compared the renaming of the park to the defacing of a veteran’s memorial. Lawrence Rezac, brother of Camilla Doken, provided a picture of John Junior’s grave located in France.

Kodada stated that he has no problem recognizing the people who donated to their time and money to the ballpark, but the name "Trenda Memorial" should remain on the park sign. Kraimer mentioned that the City has a park renaming policy. Kodada said that the City recently renamed "Heath Creek Park" to "Sticha Park" following the park renaming policy. He said the original land owner's last name plays a significant role in the naming of a park. Kraimer said that there is ample space on the back of the current sign to honor everyone involved with the 1982 improvements. Carpentier suggested erecting a "history of the park" sign somewhere in the park. Tikalsky said he wasn't interested in another sign or a plaque. He claimed no disrespect to John Trenda and family, but he wanted the name changed to "Memorial Park". The Park Board thanked the Trenda/Rezac/Docken Family for sharing the history of Trenda Park with the Board.

No action was taken (the name remained "Trenda Memorial Park").

c. Update on Preliminary 2009 Budget Discussion

Kodada provided a brief update on the 2009 Budget. He said that the proposed budget is basically frozen. Baker reminded the Board of their approved park improvement plan based on \$50,000/year and \$25,000/year. Baker said that park funding for 2009 will come from the remaining balance of the development payment in-lieu-of parkland dedication fund. He said that for the 2010 Budget, the City Council will need to decide how money to allocate to parks, which could range from \$0 to \$50,000. Kodada suggested that the Board discuss its highest priorities for the next few years at their September meeting so he can report back to the City Council. The Board briefly discussed the future of tennis in Lonsdale. They discussed whether to wait a few years to build new courts in another park or repair the current east-west court at Trenda Memorial Park.

8. MISCELLANEOUS

Kodada stated that construction on Jaycee Park Field # 2 Shelter is complete.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Churchill to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Churchill, Kodada, Kraimer, and Carpentier; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner