

MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
November 9, 2010

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 City Hall 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 September 14, 2010 Regular Meeting and from the October 12, 2010 Special Meeting (Planting Day). 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. Overview of the Lonsdale-MnDOT Welcome Sign Landscaping Project

Baker provided a brief overview of the Welcome Sign Landscaping Project, a joint project between the City of Lonsdale and the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He mentioned that on October 12th, volunteers from the Master Gardening Club and Park Board planted over 180 plants around the City's new welcome signs along Hwy 19 (pictures from the event were provided). He said that since the planting day, the Public Works Department has been watering the new plants and adding rock and wood mulch around the entire landscaping area. Baker stated that Daniel Gullickson and Nathan Gregor walked through the

project on November 8th with Public Works Director Vlasak and himself, and he informed the Park Board members that Mr. Gullickson signed off on the project earlier in the day. Baker said that the City of Lonsdale should expect to receive a reimbursement check from MnDOT in the amount of \$8,000.00 within a month or so. Kodada stated that the entire project turned out great, and he mentioned that the City has already received numerous complements on the new welcome signs and landscaping. Kodada thanked the Park Board members, the Master Gardening Club members, and the Public Works Department for their help with the project.

b. Acknowledgement of a Donation from LeRoy & Arline Sticha for Bench # 13 of the Adopt-a-Bench Program

Kodada thanked LeRoy & Arline Sticha for the generous gift towards the Adopt-a-Bench Program. He announced that the Sticha Family recently adopted Bench # 13, which is located behind the old Westerman Lumber Yard.

The Park Board briefly talked about the failing retaining wall on the hill slope between 4th Ave. SE and above the closed trail behind the lumber yard.

c. Review the Updated Parks & Trails Maps for Trail Kiosks

Baker provided the Park Board with an updated parks and trails map to review. He stated that the new maps could be placed in the five new kiosks located along the City's trail system. He went through the changes which including: added City contact information, an added Adopt-a-Bench advertisement, "You Are Here" arrows shown on the map, distance starting/ending points identified in the legend, trail names labeled in the legend, open space/wetland areas shown in lighter green, Singing Hills Park shown on the map, a new base map/parcel layer, trails identified by colored dots, and distances labeled on the legend and not on the map (less clutter). He mentioned that the Montgomery-Lonsdale East Elementary School has offered to laminate the maps for free.

The Park Board members reviewed the updated map, and they all agreed that the changes/updates looked good. The Board also discussed minor vandalism incidents that have already taken place to the trail kiosks, and they discussed ways to mitigate any future damage to the trail kiosks.

d. Review the Kalina Park Grading Plan

Baker provided the Park Board with a new map of Kalina Park from WSB & Associates showing the recently delineated wetland. He also provided them with comments from City Engineer Kevin Kawlewski. Kawlewski stated that the wetland impacts resulting from the grading plan appear to be much more extensive than previously thought. He suggested that the City may want to rethink the site plan layout to limit grading impact on the delineated wetland area. Kawlewski wrote that WSB will be scheduling a meeting with the Technical Evaluation Panel in early December to review the delineation.

The Park Board reviewed the current site/grading plan, and they suggested a few changes to lessen the affect on the wetland area. They decided to realign the flat play areas on the eastern side of the park to line up with the newly delineated boundary line. They also decided to eliminate the northernmost trail route that was shown winding through a wetland area and was located too close to neighboring homes on Park Ct. SE. Kodada suggested that a future walkway be labeled on the plan in the middle of the park to give park users a unique and close up experience of the wetland. The Park Board members also suggested adding a shallow pond to the grading plans to provide an aesthetic focal point and a nice place to ice skate during the winter months. Carpentier stated that Prairie Restorations may be able to help with the project. The Board also briefly talked about naming the park something different than nature center, such as Kalina Park Reserve or Kalina Park & Natural Area.

e. Review the Proposed Rice County Parks & Recreation Survey

Baker provided the Park Board with an email from Rice County Environmental Services Director Julie Runkel regarding a proposed online survey for Rice County parks and recreation opportunities. He also provided a copy of the proposed survey for the Park Board members to review. Runkel asked the Lonsdale Park Board if they had any specific questions that they would like to add to the survey. The Park Board provided a few ideas for Rice County, including the following proposed County-funded amenities such as a sledding hill, a splash pad, a rails-to-trails project from Lonsdale to Elko New Market, and a dog park.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Ziskovsky reported that someone had been cutting down trees in the East Elementary Nature Center woods. Ziskovsky also asked about the status of the Jaycee Park Skateboard Pad Project. Kodada mentioned that the City Council pushed off the project for this year due to budgetary issues, but he said that they will probably relook at the project again sometime next Spring or Summer.

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 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner