

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 13, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the City Council Chambers, 103 15th Ave SE.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jeanette Utecht, Micki Ziskovsky Kari Miller, Dana Nickell, and Charlie Peterfeso

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, Public Works Director Joe Dornfeld, and Community Development Planner Cory Hinz-Ibarra

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the agenda. A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Peterfeso to approve the agenda addition and order. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Miller, Nickell, and Peterfeso. Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the August 11, 2025 and September 8, 2025 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Peterfeso and seconded by Utecht to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2025 and September 8, 2025 meetings. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Miller, Nickell, and Peterfeso. Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

7. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

None

8. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

None

9. OLD BUSINESS

a. Review and Discuss Chapter 7 – Parks, Trails, Open Space & Recreation of the City of Lonsdale Comprehensive Plan

Dornfeld led the ongoing review of Chapter 7 of the City of Lonsdale Comprehensive Plan, continuing with page 19, 10. Rezac Nature Center (SE corner of the City). Dornfeld described the 42.4-acre Rezac Nature Preserve which includes a 25.9-acre area from the 2013 Business Park Plat and an additional 16.5 acres acquired in 2015. Dornfeld said the current amenities include a park identification sign, archery range with gravel parking lot, bituminous trail, 9-acre pond, woodlands, wetlands, Compost Site, fishing pier, dock/boardwalk trail, and annual fish stocking by the DNR. Dornfeld noted that several future improvements listed in the original plan have already been completed, including the disc golf course and dog park. Dornfeld indicated that the road access to the pond for canoes and emergency access has been established with a gravel base that works well and did not recommend paving it at this time. Utecht asked about signage for the fishing pier which Dornfeld confirmed is coming this year. Dornfeld also confirmed the stocking of fish occurs every other year rather than annually. The Board discussed that the park has many completed amenities and agreed that future priorities should include a picnic shelter and continued maintenance.

Dornfeld continued the Chapter 7 review with page 21, 11. Singing Hills Park (405 Singing Hills Dr SE). Dornfeld presented information about the 1.4-acre park which includes a park identification sign, play equipment from 1997, picnic table, sandbox, and baseball/softball backstop with infield. Dornfeld noted the baseball field is rarely used and challenging to maintain with weeds growing despite daily dragging. The Board discussed potential repurposing options for the baseball field area including removing the field and replacing with grass, creating a pollinator garden, possibly establishing a community garden though water access is a challenge. Ziskovsky noted that there is little use of the park other than a neighboring daycare, maintaining it as-is makes sense. The Board reached consensus to recommend to City Council that the baseball field be removed and potentially converted to a pollinator garden area. Dornfeld estimated this would cost approximately \$400-500 for soil and grass seed which would be offset by reduced maintenance costs. Dornfeld transitioned the review to page 22, 12. Sticha Park (515 Industrial Dr SE).

Dornfeld presented information on the 14.67-acre Sticha Park which features a softball field, two sand volleyball courts, two gravel parking lots, play equipment, park shelter, Heath Creek Trail, Heath Creek Waterway, wetlands, skate park, and the recently added basketball hoop. The Board members expressed satisfaction with the park's current amenities. Utecht noted that while volleyball court usage fluctuates, there has been recent activity. The Board agreed that future priorities should include paving the parking lots (estimated at \$27,000) and potentially adding horseshoe courts and bean bag courts.

Dornfeld continued the Chapter 7 review with page 23, 13. Trena Memorial Park – DRS Park (250 Main St N). Dornfeld described the 10-acre park which features play equipment, a little league ball field with bleachers and dugouts, a tennis court with a basketball hoop, and the DRS Baseball Field with various amenities including irrigation, grandstand, concession stand, and field lights. The Board discussed several items related to this park which included the addition of a hitting board on one of the fences of the tennis court for solo practice and dual-striping of the tennis court to incorporate a pickleball court, The Board had concerns about the DRS Baseball Field lights that are aging and replacement at an estimated cost of \$350,000. The Board recommended maintaining a continued partnership with the Lonsdale Aces who maintain the baseball field. The Board also agreed there was a need for a picnic shelter at this park.

Dornfeld concluded the Chapter 7 review on page 25, 3R Landmark School (405 3rd Ave S). Dornfeld said the site includes a two-story public schoolhouse built in 1908 that has been on the National Registry of Historic Places since 1978. The Board discussed the need to maintain the historic building with repainting it an estimated cost between \$15,000-\$50,000. Ziskovsky recommended keeping landscaping minimal to maintain its historic appearance. No formal action was taken and the Park Board will continue the review of Chapter 7 – Parks, Trails, Open Space & Recreation of the City of Lonsdale Comprehensive Plan starting on page 26 with the TCU Lonsdale Elementary School and Nature Center (1000 Idaho St SW) at a future meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review and Discuss Changing Monthly Meeting

Hinz-Ibarra requested the Board for a formal motion to officially change the monthly meeting time from 6:30 PM to 6:00 PM as previously discussed. A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Peterfeso to approve changing the monthly meeting start time to 6:00 pm. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Miller, Nickell, and Peterfeso. Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Discuss Community Garden and Pollinator Spaces

Miller summarized previous discussions about focusing on pollinator gardens rather than community gardens as they require less infrastructure and maintenance. Dornfeld shared that he had previously applied for pollinator garden grants twice for a 10-acre area by the school and between the walking trail and Heath Creek and applications were not approved. Dornfeld explained that the area is already about 30% pollinators and would be relatively easy to enhance. The Board discussed potential locations and costs. Dornfeld noted that pollinator garden seeds would cost approximately \$6,000 compared to \$150 for traditional grass seed. The Board agreed to prioritize the area by the school off Idaho Avenue as a starting point for a pollinator garden with the possibility of partnership with the school.

b. 2026 Park Budget Update

Dornfeld reported that the Parks Department 2026 Capital Outlay had been cut from the budget which included the proposed \$30,000 for the Veterans Memorial Park Paver Project. Dornfeld clarified that while this project is on hold, the City can continue to explore grants and partnerships with veteran organizations for future funding.

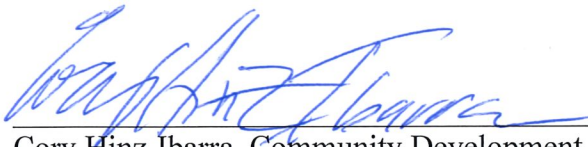
c. Grant Project Priorities

The Board discussed prioritizing projects for potential future grant applications. Dornfeld noted that grants typically favor projects promoting connectivity, ADA accessibility, and health/exercise opportunities rather than projects like the Veterans Memorial Paver Project. The Board established the following priorities for 2026 grant applications which included Jaycee Park concrete improvements, Veterans Memorial Park Paver Project (pending appropriate grant opportunities), shuffleboard amenity which could be incorporated into Jaycee Park improvements, health and exercise components, and sensory/ADA components.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Peterfeso to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Miller, Nickell, and Peterfeso. Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cory Hinz-Ibarra, Community Development Planner