

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 10, 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 Ziskovsky 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 October 13, 2025 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Peterfeso to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2025 meeting. 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 continued reviewing Chapter 7 of the City of Lonsdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan focusing on the TCU Lonsdale Elementary School and Nature Center and Old Trondhjem Church. Dornfeld reported that TCU Elementary School and Nature Center was purchased in 2003 by Montgomery Lonsdale School District 394 with the school building and grounds constructed in 2006 and three classrooms added in 2013 to the northwest side of the building. Dornfeld said the current site amenities include a park identification sign (nature center sign), mowed maintained lawn, playground equipment, basketball court, little league ball field with bleachers and dugouts, paved trails, indoor gym, nature center with wetlands, prairie grasses, woods, butterfly garden, rain garden, viewing deck with picnic tables, weather station/weather bug, and the new school sign. Dornfeld said the proposed future improvements include acquisition of additional land to the north and west sides for future expansion of the school's play area and nature center, installing a freestanding school identification sign, and installing additional trees and landscaping as needed. Utecht asked about maintenance of the deck and if there were any issues with broken poles. Dornfeld confirmed the deck is power-washed as needed and the area has been vandal-free for several years. Utecht also inquired about any partnership with the school for maintenance. Dornfeld explained that Public Works handles all maintenance including the deck, mowing, and tree trimming, while partnership with the school has focused on maintaining signs and snow-related issues. Ziskovsky inquired about checking for wasp nests under the deck. Dornfeld confirmed they check more than once a year during park grounds inspections and mentioned that the public is good about reporting bee issues. Nickell asked about the butterfly and rain gardens mentioned in the amenities. Utecht clarified that these were initially present but have been removed as the person who maintained them is no longer with the school district. The Board agreed that maintaining the existing amenities was appropriate with no additional recommendations.

Dornfeld then presented information about the Old Trondhjem Church at 8501 Garfield Avenue, a 1.4-acre area. Dornfeld said the Old Trondhjem Norwegian Lutheran Church and Cemetery is a historic site abutting City limits on the southeast side of town. Dornfeld confirmed the Trondhjem Community Preservation Society manages restoration and operations of the church that was built in 1878 and redesigned/reconstructed in 1899. Dornfeld said in 2002, the church was placed on the National Register of Historical Places. Dornfeld noted that the site has been used for community events, concerts, family reunions, and weddings. Dornfeld then presented the proposed future improvements which included connecting a trail to the City's trail and park system and working with the Trondhjem Community Preservation Society to promote the historic site along with other City owned historical buildings and places. Ziskovsky commented she had not been inside the church but thought adding a sidewalk would be beneficial. Councilmember Miller asked where the trail connection would occur and Dornfeld explained it would likely be along the south side of Pond View or along

Garfield Avenue. Hinz-Ibarra reviewed the parks inventory updates from previous discussions, including:

- Removing portable symbols from Main Street Plaza and Vets Memorial
- Adding portable symbols to Idaho and Main Street parks
- Adding on-leash dog symbols to Idaho and Main Street park
- Considering removing the on-leash dog column from the inventory and inserting an off-leash column
- Removing snow sledding symbol from parks
- Adding the Dog Park, Trcka Park, wetlands near Lonsdale Elementary School, and Jirik Park to the inventory

Dornfeld emphasized the importance of maintaining on-leash dog requirements throughout the City except at the Dog Park, noting increasing challenges with people not picking up after their dogs, particularly at athletic fields.

Councilmember Miller asked if the inventory should be updated to include disc golf, the basketball hoop at Sticha, and the pickleball court/skating rink. Dornfeld noted that the disc golf course at Kalina Park has been well-used, primarily by men in their twenties and thirties. Hinz-Ibarra confirmed he would compile all updates, reformat, and bring the complete document to either the December or January meeting for final review.

10. NEW BUSINESS

None

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Fall Park Updates

Dornfeld reported that all parks have been winterized and aerated. Dornfeld noted that Public Works is busy with fall leaf cleanup, fountain has been taken down, and preparation for winter ice skating has been completed. Dornfeld said Public Works is ready to create ice when temperatures consistently fall below freezing. Dornfeld confirmed they will make ice at Jaycee Park as well.

b. Request to add Community Discussion Regarding Mosquito Spray and Park Chemicals to the Monday, December 8, 2025 Park Board Agenda

Nickell requested this item be included on the December agenda, explaining that community members would like to discuss whether the City should continue mosquito spraying and what chemicals are used in parks, with consideration for children's safety and environmental impacts. Ziskovsky expressed concerns about discontinuing spraying, noting her historical experience with severe mosquito problems before spraying began and raising concerns about mosquito-borne diseases. Nickell acknowledged her perspective but emphasized the importance of hearing from other community members. Nickell noted that times have changed, weather is different, and alternatives like bats and dragonflies could be considered. Nickell stressed that as a community board, they should give residents time to present their opinions. Councilmember Miller agreed that allowing community input was important and did not mean a decision would be made immediately. Miller suggested hearing presentations in December, allowing time for the Board to conduct additional research, and potentially making a recommendation in January. Erickson asked about the decision timeline and noted that organic spraying alternatives would cost approximately \$90,000 which is double the current cost and not accounted for in the proposed 2026 budget. Dornfeld mentioned that Safety Data Sheets for chemicals used for broadleaf and noxious weeds in the City have been made available at Mayor Berg's request. Dornfeld also compared the mosquito conditions at baseball games in Lonsdale versus Montgomery which sprays every other week, noting the significant difference in comfort. Hinz-Ibarra confirmed he would add the discussion to the December agenda.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Peterfeso to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Miller, Nickell, and Peterfeso. Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:


Cory Hinz-Ibarra, Community Development Planner