

**MINUTES  
CITY OF LONSDALE  
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
FEBRUARY 24, 2025**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Miller called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm in the City Council Chambers, 415 Central Street West.

**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. Vote for: Miller, Ziskovsky, Utecht, 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 minutes. Ziskovsky noted a correction to the past fireworks group in 11. Other Business. A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Peterfeso to approve the Minutes from January 27, 2025 Meeting with the correction. Vote for: Miller, Ziskovsky, Utecht, 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. None

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Consider Approval to Appoint BSA Troop 327 for the 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Recycling Program Team

Hinz-Ibarra said BSA Troop 327 submitted their Recycling Program Team application on January 5, 2025 for the vacant 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Hinz-Ibarra said the applicant met the Selection Priority Policy and has participated in the program in 2017. Hinz-Ibarra recommended the Park Board recommend approval to appoint BSA Troop 327 as the 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Recycling Program Team.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Peterfeso to recommend approval to appoint BSA Troop 327 as the 2025 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Recycling Program Team.

Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Miller, Nickell, and Peterfeso. Against: None.

Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

b. Discuss and Plan April 25, 2025 Tree Planting Event at Kalina Park

Hinz-Ibarra said during the 2025 budget process, Staff along with the Park and Recreation Commission established a tree planting event to celebrate Arbor Day at Kalina Park on Friday, April 25, 2025 from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Dornfeld said funds are available to plant three to five trees in the open space north of the Kalina Park parking lot. Dornfeld confirmed that the trees would be bare root or potted size and will add shade plus screening to the houses to the north. Dornfeld also confirmed that the trees will be purchased from the approved selection from the City Code that will create a diverse canopy. The Park Board discussed adding picnic tables and benches near the new trees, promoting the event earlier in April, and reaching out to Kona Ice or Rolling Cones to potentially attract more people to the event.

c. Hidden Willow Pond, Rezac Nature Preserv Update

Hinz-Ibarra said Commissioner Peterfeso reached out to Staff on January 28, 2025 requesting data regarding pond and fish stocking information at Rezac Nature Preserve. Hinz-Ibarra provided Resolution 2016-10, A Resolution Approving the 9-Acre Open Water Pond Located within the Rezac Nature Preserve to be Named “Hidden Willow Pond” and past fish stocking information. Hinz-Ibarra said Hidden Willow Pond has not been registered with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and at least fifteen voters registered in that Rice County must petition the County Board for a Public Hearing. Hinz-Ibarra said the County Resolution is then sent to the DNR for approval from the Commissioner. The Park Board discussed the benefits of officially registering the name and moving forward with the petition process. A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Peterfeso to officially name Hidden Willow Pond with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Miller, Nickell, and Peterfeso. Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

- d. Splash Pad Update from the February 6, 2025 City Council Work Session  
Hinz-Ibarra said at the February 6, 2025 City Council Work Session, the Council discussed the water amenity topic and directed Staff to reach out to the City of Jordan to collect the construction cost, annual budget, and maintenance cost for the Lagoon Park Splash Pad. Hinz-Ibarra said Staff reached out to the City of Jordan Public Works Director Scott Haas and received information to discuss with the Park Board. Hinz-Ibarra said Haas said the 2018 construction cost was \$181,000.00 with the majority of the work being completed in-house (trenching, plumbing, and forming the feature boxes). The Park Board discussed various aspects of having a splash pad in the City including infrastructure needs, potential locations, public-private partnerships, initial and ongoing costs, and further research with a presenter/vendor. Dornfeld said to minimize the cost, Jaycee Park and Trcka Parks have existing restrooms and parking lots. The Park Board further discussed the potential costs, past water amenity attempts, and an amenity that could be utilized by all ages. The Park Board decided a splash pad and water amenity was not feasible at this time and to focus on the existing park amenities/trails.
  
- e. Bixby Property Development Update  
Hinz-Ibarra said at the February 6, 2025 City Council Work Session, the Council discussed the Bixby Property Development Concept. Hinz-Ibarra said the Council directed Staff to continue the review of the concept and to integrate a pedestrian trail(s) and open space into the preliminary concept. The Park Board discussed several aspects of the development which included: need for green space, connection from the development to existing trail system, lot sizes, higher density housing, and the importance of providing space for children to play safely. The Park Board concluded and recommended including a green space and trail connectivity into the development concept plan.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

- a. Jaycee Park Bathroom Update  
Dornfeld said the City Council approved Staff to obtain quotes not-to-exceed \$30,000 and begin remodeling the Jaycee Park bathrooms at the February 13, 2025 meeting. Dornfeld confirmed the bathrooms will meet ADA compliancy and will be unisex (lockable and one person in / one person out). Dornfeld said the next step is the installation of the new softball field scoreboard and concession stand improvements.
  
- b. Baldwin St NE Trail Signage  
Dornfeld addressed concerns about signage on the Baldwin St NE Trail. Dornfeld explained the history of issues with vehicles using the trail and the various attempts to prevent access. The Park Board agreed to return the “No Motorized Vehicles” sign to the center of the trail, allowing about four -five feet of space on each side for pedestrians and strollers.

c. Chemical Usage in Parks System

Dornfeld addressed concerns about the use of chemicals used in the parks to control obnoxious weeds. Dornfeld provided information on current practices, comparisons with other cities, and costs with associated with alternative products. The Park Board discussed the balance between maintaining park appearance and safety concerns related to chemical use and agreed to proceed with the current practice.

d. Library Collaboration

Councilmember Miller reported on her meeting with the Library Director for future collaborations for park events which included reading events at various parks, foam party at Jaycee Park, and an end of the summer event.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Peterfeso to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 pm. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky Miller, Nickell, and Peterfeso. Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cory Hinz-Ibarra, Community Development Planner