

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF LONSDALE**  
**PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**April 11, 2011**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jeanette Utecht, Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, Laura Carpentier, and Shelly Narum

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF PRESENT:**

City Planner Benjamin Baker and Public Works Director Russ Vlasak

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Kodada called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

**2. AGENDA**

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky 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 Narum to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2011 regular meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- a. Discuss and Plan for Phase II of the Lonsdale-MnDOT Joint Roadside Landscaping Partnership Program – Dan Gullickson & Nathan Gregor  
MnDOT's Dan Gullickson and Nathan Gregor provided an overview of the proposed project for Phase II of the Roadside Landscaping Program. They described the landscaping plan which showed two planting areas: 1) natural wind/snow block plantings to be located directly behind the northwest welcome sign toward Co Rd 2, and 2) a row of screen plantings to be placed along the north side of Hwy 19 from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW running northwesterly to the last driveway on the east side of the highway before Co Rd 2. The proposed landscape plan

called for 60 Black Hills Spruce, 9 Swamp Oak, 6 Northern Catalpa trees, 56 Fragrant Sumacs, and 66 Gray Dogwoods. Gullickson mentioned that they did take some initial measurements of the proposed planting area to make sure the project is contained within the State right-of-way. He said that he is going to send a survey crew from MnDOT to verify and mark the property boundaries. Gullickson and Gregor explained that the proposed Phase II Project would be included in their July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 fiscal year budget. However, they were not sure if the entire project could be completed this year, since \$8,000.00 is typically the maximum amount given to a project phase per fiscal year. They said that the project is slated for Fall 2011.

The Board and MnDOT representatives discussed the proposed berm idea to be graded behind the northwest welcome sign. Carpentier said that the berm would create better soil for the new trees planted on top. Gullickson mentioned that the berm may also help with any unwanted light coming from the welcome sign ground lights. He also suggested using worked up compost soil for the plantings instead of the existing compacted soils.

Carpentier asked if a different tree could replace the Catalpa trees due to the mess that it leaves on the ground with its pods. Gullickson mentioned that a Sienna Glen Maple, an Autumn Blaze Maple, or a Honey Locust could all be possible replacements. The group also discussed plant durability to road salt and business visibility/screening from the highway.

All the Park Board members liked the plan. No action could be taken on the proposed landscaping plan until a survey is completed by MnDOT.

b. Review and Discuss a Proposed Site Plan Layout and Trail Realignment for 601 Central Street East (Generation Building Center) – Randy Stangler

Baker provided the Board members with a proposed site plan layout for 601 Central Street East, showing new outbuildings on the western portion of the property. Baker noted that the applicant is requesting that the City consider allowing the existing north-south trail to be moved approximately 30 – 40 ft. towards the west (closer to 537 Arizona Street SE) or be rerouted toward Heath Creek and up to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE. The Board reviewed pictures of the existing trail and the two different proposed trail routes.

Applicant and property owner Randy Stangler briefly explained the scope of his proposed project, and he stated that he would like to utilize as much of his property as possible, including the area where the existing trail is located. Stangler explained that he needs to get moving on the project so that he can open up the new home building store by late summer or fall. He said that he is having his engineer, I & S Group, delineate the wetland area for the subject property to see if it is feasible to expand his parking lot area and/or reroute the existing trail along the south and eastern part of the property (to avoid locating a trail too close to the neighboring residential property owner). Stangler mentioned that the

possible rerouted trail would probably require a small retaining wall and fence to separate the public trail users from the private business. After further discussion on the issue, the Park Board all agreed that the Heath Creek trail should be rerouted toward the south and eastern part of the subject property for a more scenic and enjoyable experience (preferred route). They also liked the idea of connecting the trail system loop at the Hwy 19 and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE intersection.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Utecht to recommend approval of the proposed site plan for 601 Central Street East, Generation Building Center, (to allow adequate room for the proposed new outbuildings) with the stipulation that one of the two proposed trail realignment options is implemented within 2 years contingent upon the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall install a retaining wall and/or screen plantings and/or screen/safety fencing and work with the residential property owner at 537 Arizona Street SE to come to an agreement on appropriate screening improvements.
2. The new western trail shall be paved (bituminous asphalt) within two years at the expense of the applicant.
3. The proposed future trail route (the southern and eastern route connecting with the Northeastern Trail) is the preferred trail route of the Park Board. The applicant and City shall work together to ultimately realign the route as stated to provide for a more enjoyable/scenic trail experience.

Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None.  
Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

c. Discuss Ball Field & Grounds Improvements to the DRS Field @ Trendera Memorial Park – Mike Jirik

Mike Jirik, Lonsdale Baseball, provided the Park Board with a “wish list” of potential project for the DRS Field at Trendera Memorial Park. The list included a new equipment shed, a three-phase outfield ground improvement project, a new scoreboard, a new speaker system, and new field lights. Jirik mentioned that the Lonsdale Baseball Club knows that all the projects on the list may not happen for quite awhile, but they wanted to relay their improvement list to the City for planning purposes.

Narum asked Jirik what the ball team’s current budget and revenues looked like. Jirik stated that the majority of their funding comes through outfield advertisements and their annual dinner banquet. He said that the Board could check with Bob Brezina for details on the exact numbers.

Jirik also informed the Board that Lonsdale Baseball would like to build a new 12’ x 24’ equipment shed this spring (replacing the smaller existing shed). He

provided the Board with a site plan to review. He said that the new shed would allow enough room for all the ball teams using the DRS Field to store their equipment in. He asked the Park Board to consider allowing a larger shed in the exact location of the existing shed. Jirik stated that the ball team would construct the shed using volunteer labor and their own funds for materials. He said that the proposed shed would be on skids and without footings. After discussing the issue further, the Park Board members all agreed that they were in favor of the new shed.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve a 12' x 24' storage/equipment shed for Trendera Memorial Park with the following condition:

1. Landscaping rock shall be installed around the shed.

Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None.  
Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Update on Rice County's Statewide Health Opportunity (SHIP) - Olympics Day (Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>) –Jeanette Utecht

Lonsdale's 2011 Olympics Day Coordinator Jeanette Utecht provided the Park Board with an update on the Olympics Day events scheduled for June 23, 2011. Utecht mentioned that she has been attending the Rice County meetings initiated by the Public Health Department and sponsored by SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program). She reported that both Northfield and Faribault will also be participating in the Rice County Olympics Day event. Utecht stated that Lonsdale will host a younger children's obstacle course event at Trendera Memorial Park in the morning and three events (sand volleyball, baseball/softball skills, and a run/walk scavenger hunt) at Sticha Park during the evening. She said that volunteers are still needed for the event. Utecht also mentioned that Rice County Public Health/SHIP will pay for event advertising and planning expenses.

e. Discuss Sticha Park Site Plan Layout for Two Proposed Volleyball Courts

Baker provided the Park Board with an aerial photo and an oblique photo both showing the proposed volleyball courts site plan layout at Sticha Park. He also provided the Board with quotes for concrete sand, washed filter sand, and washed drainage rock from Southern Minnesota Construction (SMC) and Malecha Trucking. The Park Board members all agreed that the proposed site plan layout looked great. Vlasak explained the details relating to excavation, drainage, and parking lot construction. The Board members further discussed court safety issues (such as pole covers, nearby steep slopes, and sand buffer area), along with potential construction issues (protection of existing trees, curb replacement, sod destruction/site restoration). The Board suggested constructing the parking area at the same time as the volleyball courts.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Utecht to recommend approval of:

1. the Kalina Park site plan specifying the location of the two proposed sand volleyball courts, an off-street parking area, and a potential trail.
2. a quote submitted by Malecha Trucking in the amount of \$6,336.00 (\$7.92/Ton) for 800 tons of washed concrete sand (quote includes delivery via back hauls).

Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None.  
Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

f. Discuss Jaycee Park Site Plan Layout for a Proposed Skate Park

Baker provided the Park Board with a new skate park location idea to review. Baker said that he met with Vlasak and Administrator Erickson on March 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Jaycee Park Skate Park Project. After discussing the pros and cons of the previous proposed site locations for the skate park, the staff members all agreed on a location just south of the Jaycee Park Basketball Court, which is the same location of the 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet of ice. It was acknowledged that this option would be less expensive than paving the entire hockey rink, therefore leaving more money in the park fund for other projects. Although Staff wondered how many kids would actually use a new skate park, they agreed that placing the new 48' x 80' concrete pad in this location would definitely help make better ice during the winter months.

Carpentier said she was a little concerned about how cluttered Jaycee Park would feel with another large amenity placed in the limited park area. She also worried that skaters may use inappropriate language so close to children playing around the playground area. Ziskovsky mentioned that the proposed site location would allow the police patrol officers to watch the skate park closely from Co Rd 4 and Arizona Street NW. After further discussion on the issue, the Park Board asked City staff to provide an aerial oblique picture showing the proposed skate park layout for their next meeting. Kodada said that a decision needs to be made, one way or the other, at their next scheduled meeting.

No action was taken on the plan.

g. Discuss Arbor Day 2011 (RSWCD) Community Tree Planting Event - April 15<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm

Baker and Arbor Day Event Planner Ziskovsky announced that the City was going to be recognizing Arbor Day on April 15<sup>th</sup> this year (instead of on April 29<sup>th</sup>) by planting 75 trees/bushes at the Idaho Street Tree Nursery. The Board reviewed the proposed site plan layout for the new trees along with two event announcements posted in the April 12<sup>th</sup> Lonsdale Area News Review. Baker noted that the tree plantings shown on the site plan would not interfere with the construction limits of the new water treatment plant. Tree enthusiasts and community volunteers were invited to take part in the event.

h. Discuss Jaycee Park Ball Field Improvements

[This item was not discussed]

i. Review Sidewalk & Trails Specifications as part of a Public Works Department Initiative to Update Ordinance Language Pertaining to Sidewalks & Trails

[This item was not discussed]

j. Discuss Trail System Planning

[This item was not discussed]

k. Discuss and Finalize the 2011 Park Project Priority List

[This item was not discussed]

**7. MISCELLANEOUS**

None

**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 8:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Benjamin Baker, City Planner