

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
May 10, 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 5:45 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

2. AGENDA

A motion was made by Utecht 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 Utecht and seconded by Carpentier to approve the minutes from the April 11, 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. Update on the Heath Creek Trail Realignment Around/Through 601 Central Street East

Baker provided the Park Board with a brief update on the status of the two proposed Heath Creek trail routes running through the property at 601 Central Street East. He said that the City Council approved the site plan for the subject property at their meeting on April 28th, and he mentioned that the City and property owner must enter into a development agreement by July 1, 2011 for construction details and timelines related to the proposed trail routes and screening treatments. The Park Board expressed that their preferred route was

still the proposed trail route running along the southern portion of the property and then up along the eastern property line near Heath Creek. Vlasak and Baker described the details of a boardwalk trail that may be used over the wetland areas.

b. Update on Sticha Park Site Plan and Volleyball Courts

Baker mentioned that the City Council approved the site plan for Sticha Park at their meeting on April 28, 2011. The plan showed two sand volleyball courts and 13 off-street parking stalls located on the western side of the existing softball field. He stated that the City's goal is to complete the project by June 23rd for the scheduled Countywide Olympics Day. Vlasak provided further details on the construction of the project.

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

Baker provided the Park Board with aerial oblique photos showing proposed skate park layouts for both Jaycee Park and Trendera Memorial Park. The Board all agreed that the Jaycee Park location was too cramped (in-between the existing basketball court, parking area, play area, and ice hockey rink). Kodada stated that other cities have recently been eliminating their skate parks because of associated issues such as graffiti, equipment damage, foul language, and loitering. The Board asked City staff to check with East Elementary School to see if they would be interested in temporarily hosting a skate park in their parking lot or on their playground/basketball court for the summer to gauge interest/use before making such a huge investment (\$10,000.00 - \$25,000.00) on a concrete skate park pad.

The Board also reviewed three possible locations at Trendera Memorial Park too. Kodada suggested hosting another public hearing on the issue. The other Park Board members agreed, and they decided to hear from neighboring property owners around Trendera Memorial Park before going any further with skate park planning.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Narum to schedule a public hearing for Monday, June 6, 2011 @ 6:00 pm (the June 14th meeting was also rescheduled to June 6th) to gauge interest and receive comments on a proposed skate park at Trendera Memorial Park. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

d. Discuss Jaycee Park Ball Field Improvements

Kodada stated that the Lonsdale Little League and Softball Associations will be contributing funds and labor towards some of the minor improvements at the Jaycee Park ball fields including new bases, a yellow protective crown for the outfield fence, and filling-in low spots. He suggested holding off on the proposed large-scale (\$30,000.00) field project until all the funding comes in. The Park Board agreed to leave \$5,000.00 in their budget for Jaycee Park improvements.

Kodada left the meeting due to a prior obligation. Utecht took over as chairperson.

e. Discuss Trail System Planning

Baker provided the Board with a letter from MnDOT dated March 9, 2011 along with an two associated trail maps. He explained that the letter provided only general comments for trail crossings and trail routes running in the Hwy 19 right-of-way. He stated that further engineering design work and calculations need to be submitted by the City to MnDOT before they will provide detailed comments or permit approvals.

Baker stated that the City Council did approve a speed study resolution for the section of Hwy 19 east of the downtown area. Baker noted that he did talk with MnDOT District 6 Planner Jean Meyer earlier in the day, and she said that it could cost the City \$2,500.00 - \$10,000.00 to research potential impacts of a trail crossing at 8th Avenue NE. She said that the potential impacts may be on area residents, businesses, trail users, connectivity, road, traffic, and hydrology. After further discussing the issue, the Park Board members decided that the 8th Avenue NE connection was very important to the community, and they said that Park Development Fund money could be used for costs associated with any needed research and impact studies.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Narum to approve an impact study for the Heath Creek Trail Crossing at 8th Avenue NE in the not-to-exceed amount of \$5,000.00. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

f. Discuss and Finalize the 2011 Park Project Priority List

Baker provided the Park Board with the latest "Future Parks & Trails Improvement Project & Priorities" (Park Development Fund budget) spreadsheet list to review. Carpentier noted that "Welcome Sign Annual Flowers" should be added to the list. She provided the Board with three different quotes. She suggested that the flower be watered once or twice a week. The Board discussed purchasing a water tank for watering all the plantings and flowers around town. Vlasak said that the Public Works Department does not have enough staff to commit to any watering this year. Ziskovsky suggested that local volunteers, such as senior citizens, may be able to help with the weekly watering.

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Narum to approve the purchase of Welcome Sign flowers (red and white colors) and appropriate soil in the not-to-exceed amount of \$300.00. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried.

Carpentier volunteered to purchase and organize the planting of the flowers for the two Lonsdale Welcome Sign Annual Flower Beds.

g. Consider Approval of a City Snow Plowing Map for Trailways During the 2011-12 Season

Vlasak stated that it costs the City approximately \$20,000.00 to snow plow all of the trails annually during the colder months. He provided a 2011-12 Snow Plowing Trails Map for the Board to review, showing only the Railway Trail and Northeast Trail as trails that the Public Works Department would keep open throughout the entire year. He asked the Park Board to recommend approval of the proposed map due to budget concerns and staffing issues. Utecht suggested that the Board members review the proposed map over the next month and come back to the next meeting with their top 3 or 4 priority trail routes that they think should stay open during the winter months.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

a. M-L Schools Outdoor Education Service Project – Adam Larson – Bird Houses

Ziskovsky stated that she could help determine specific bird house types that the Montgomery-Lonsdale students could build and place in the East Elementary School Nature Center as part of an outdoor education service project.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Narum to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Carpentier, and Narum; Against: None. Vote 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner