

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
JUNE 15, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanette Utecht, Micki Ziskovsky, Kevin Kodada, Laura Carpentier, and Julie Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. AGENDA

Kodada asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Agenda. Utecht and Ziskovsky both said that they had miscellaneous items to bring up.

A motion was made by Utecht and seconded by Carpentier to approve the agenda with the noted miscellaneous items. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Ryan; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

3. MINUTES

Kodada asked if there were any additions, deletions, or corrections to the Minutes.

A motion was made by Carpentier and seconded by Ziskovsky to approve the Minutes from the April 21, 2020 Regular Meeting and the May 12, 2020 Trcka Park Site Visit. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Ryan; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Review a Skate Park Letter from Eric Borchardt

The Park Board reviewed a letter from Eric Borchardt, a local youth resident, requesting that the City construct a Skate Park. Baker stated that he responded to Borchardt and another resident that came in to City Hall earlier in the day with a similar request, explaining the typical process for adding a new amenity to the park system. The Board agreed that if residents show initiative for a skate park, then temporary skate park obstacles could be purchased and placed at the Trcka Park ice rink, once it is completed.

b. Discuss Parks, Trails, and Recreation Items for the 2021 Budget

As part of initial discussion on the 2021 City Budget, the Park Board reviewed 2 budget spreadsheets, 4 associated maps, and Chapter 7, “Parks, Trails, Open Space, & Recreation” of the Comprehensive Plan. Baker went through the initial proposed 2021 Budget related to Parks, Trails, and Recreation, which included: 1) finishing the walkways, parking lot, landscaping, and restoration work at Trcka Park; 2) maintenance allowance for trail repairs; and 3) continued support of the Summer Recreation program and partnership with TCU/Three Rivers Park District. Kodada stated that finishing the Trcka Park Project needs to be the main priority. The Board members agreed that Trcka Park needs to be completed. Baker stated that it is great to see two of the main project priorities from recent years coming to fruition, with construction underway of a full-size paved ice rink and warming house park shelter building at Trcka Park.

Baker went through a list of future parks, trails, land, and recreation projects/ideas to consider for future budgeting. The Board discussed other amenities at Trcka Park, water amenity options, parking lot pavement, on-going tree/landscaping projects. He said that the City continues to be interested in the Rice County Shop land, and with the City’s recent purchase of 10 acres in Willow Creek Commons for a Police Department, the City now has the option of reserving land for a future City complex and/or community center. The Board reviewed a list of trails and a trail map which identified specific trails needing repair work and new trail connections needed. Baker stated that \$40,000 - \$80,000/year would be needed over the next 5 years to fix the “poor” rated trails. Utecht and Carpentier stated that it was important to keep the existing trails maintained. Baker also went through potential future recreation options. He asked if the Board had any further comments, questions, or concerns on the proposed Budget. The Commissioners had no more questions or comments. Baker said that the proposed budget and wish-list items would be presented at a joint Park Board-City Council Budget meeting on July 16th.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Baker said that the current chain-link fence along the Co Rd 33 Trail, over Heath Creek, will be replaced this summer with a split rail fence.
- Utecht said that the local Cub Scout may be helping pick up trash around town.
- Ziskovsky stated that something needs to happen with the Fire Department landscaping. She also noted that the deck railing posts at the Lonsdale Elementary Nature Center are still broken and need to be replaced.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ziskovsky and seconded by Utecht to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Utecht, Ziskovsky, Kodada, Carpentier, and Ryan; Against: None. Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:51 pm.

c. Walking Audit – Co Rd 4 / Railway Street SW

Following the inside portion of the meeting, the Park Board walked along the Co Rd 4 sidewalk and stopped in front of the Fire Department for 25 minutes as part of Walking Audit initiative. During the walk, the Board provided the following few initial comments, including the following:

- Increase the sidewalk/trail setback buffer from the roadway
- Add trail spur/landing areas at 8th Avenue SW
- Add a trail spur to Jaycee Park
- Add more lighting
- Add boulevard trees
- Realign the sidewalk in front of the Fire Dept. to avoid the steep sloping apron
- Consider extending the urban section portion of Co Rd 4 to 8th Avenue

Baker encouraged the Board members to conduct a more complete Walking Audit on their own and provide further comments for the next meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner