

# LYAC & Mark W. Paradis Park



*Former City Councilor Mark W. Paradis  
Served on Various City Committees  
Was Running for Mayor When He Passed*

## October 15, 2011



As one of LYAC's goals for their 2011-12 year, they wanted to be part of the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee's (DNAC) efforts to revitalize Pierce Street Park (behind the Italian Bakery). **Marissa Zanoni** (project leader) and **Kenzi Masselli** attended a DNAC meeting to learn more, and then on October 15, 2011, four LYAC members visited the park to get a first-hand feel of what could possibly be accomplished there: **Marissa Zanoni, Marcus Talarico, Nadifa Mohamed, and Nairus Abdullahi**. They visited with

some of the children and made a list of ideas that they shared with their fellow LYAC members and the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee.

## October 28, 2011



Lewiston Youth Advisory Council members visited **Pierce Street Park** again on October 28, 2011--**this time to talk with youth who use the park**. LYAC members **Marissa Zanoni, Kenzi Masselli, and Nadifa Mohamed** talked with numerous boys who were playing soccer to ask them what they would like in the park - explaining that LYAC, like the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee, hoped the park could be revitalized in the near future. Things the youth

shared included: **bigger fence so ball doesn't go over it, soccer nets, basketball**

**hoops, mini bleachers, wider field, more trees, swings, monkey bars, slide.** LYAC also felt that the ground needed to be leveled and paved, as well as new soccer balls for the youth.

## **February 29, 2012**



On February 29, 2012, Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) members and Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee (DNAC) reps reviewed Pierce Street Park renderings that Harriman Associates landscape architect John Jacobson had put together from extensive input from the two groups. **At the February 29th meeting, LYAC & DNAC decided upon aspects they liked and made revisions as well.** The final "visual" was scheduled to be presented at a community forum on March 14, 2012, so that community members could weigh in.

## **March 14, 2012**



Pierce Street Park in Lewiston is going to have a new look! That was the overwhelming perspective of those who attended a public meeting on March 14, 2012, at the B Street Community Center. **Attendees viewed a presentation on proposed enhancements that were collaboratively put together by the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee (DNAC) and the Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC).** Both of those groups had been information gathering for several months, to include neighborhood surveys and meetings with

users of the park on site. Harriman Associates landscape architect John Jacobson was also now on board, volunteering his time and expertise to put together a visual of all the data the two groups put forth.

LYAC member Marissa Zanoni announced a youth council **"Name That Park"** contest for Lewiston elementary school children, noting, *"We also think the park should have a more attention-getting name."*

K-6 children were invited to submit a name suggestion and the reason for their suggestion. The winning entry would either be the new name for the park or be announced as the entry that "inspired" something a bit different.

## December 18, 2012

The Lewiston City Council voted unanimously for the recommendation made by the **Lewiston Youth Advisory Council (LYAC)** that the park be renamed in former Councilor Mark W. Paradis' honor. The park renaming was the result of a contest facilitated by LYAC during their work with the Downtown Neighborhood Action Committee (DNAC) to make improvements to Pierce Street Park, to include a more attention-getting name. **Nicole Morin, a student at Lewiston Middle School at the time of the contest, submitted the winning entry, hence the renaming of Pierce Street Park to **Mark W. Paradis Park**, which was also endorsed by DNAC.**



## May 6, 2015 - Park Dedication