

MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
June 12, 2025

1. Chairperson Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.
2. Roll Call: Present: Chairperson Bradley, Commissioners Keeler, DeYoung, Redder, and LaDuke, Superintendent Nieuwenhuis and Councilmember Steele.
Excused: None.

3. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by LaDuke, seconded by Redder, to accept and place on file the Parks & Trees Meeting Minutes of the 05/15/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

4. Park Reports:
Bob reported that all the City flowers have been planted, and thanked Commissioners Keeler and DeYoung for their hard work. The parks have been mulched, and the tree Memorial Plaque is being made. The kayak launch was installed at Darrow Park.

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report – Shirley DeYoung

Shirley reported that the park looks great.

Pell Park Maintenance Report – Marsha Keeler

Marsha reported that mulching was done today, and that the rose garden looks amazing.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported that the park picnic tables are being used regularly, and stated the new mulch looks good with the ferns. He noted that the boardwalk has some loose boards that may need repair.

Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder

Cory reported that the park looks good and the grass is growing in well.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis

Bob reported that the school was done using the field this week.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke

Bunny reported that the launch looks great. She noted that the approach may need some fill as some areas are uneven.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder

Cory reported that the bandshell looks good.

5. New Business:
 - A. The Commission discussed changing the monthly meeting day and time.
A motion by LaDuke, seconded by Redder, to move the monthly Parks & Trees Commission meeting from the Thursday after the first Council meeting of the month at 5pm to the second Tuesday of the month at 4pm effective immediately. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. The Commission discussed changing the mandatory annual Parks & Trees Commission meeting from January to March.
A motion by DeYoung, seconded by Redder, to move the mandatory annual Parks & Trees Commission meeting from the month of January to the month of March. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

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6. Open Business:

A. Commissioner LaDuke discussed the pollinator garden and provided handouts to the group showing potential flower selections, dimensions of the raised planting bed and sign size and placement. The proposed pollinator garden will be 15' x 6' with a 40" sign identifying the Department of Public Works and Water Renewal buildings located in the center, and situated in front of the DPW and Water Renewal buildings.

A motion by DeYoung, seconded by Redder, to proceed with the grant application for the pollinator garden as proposed. On a voice vote, all in favor. Motion passed.

7. Public Comments: None.

8. Staff Comments: Superintendent Nieuwenhuis introduced Clerk Leonard as the recording secretary for the Commission, and thanked Cheryl Pickett for serving as secretary. He stated that he will provide timelines for projects originating from DPW.

9. Chairman's Report: None.

10. Commissioners' Comments:

Commissioner LaDuke asked for clarification about the placement of palm trees downtown, sharing that she had a discussion with a concerned business owner. She shared grant information she had found with the group. The Commission as a whole thanked Cheryl Pickett for serving as Commission secretary.

11. Items for Next Agenda: None.

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, July 8th at 4pm.**

12. Adjournment:

A motion by DeYoung, seconded by Redder, to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
submitted by,
JoAnn Leonard