

City of Plainwell

Matthew Bradley, Chair
Shirley DeYoung, Commissioner
Marsha Keeler, Commissioner
Bunny LaDuke, Commissioner
Corey Redder, Commissioner
Bob Nieuwenhuis, DPW Representative
Lori Steele, Council Representative



“The Island City”

Department of Administration Services
211 N. Main Street
Plainwell, Michigan 49080
Phone: 269-685-6821 Fax: 269-685-7282
Web Page Address: www.plainwell.org

AGENDA

Parks & Trees Commission

Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at 4:00pm

City Hall Conference Room

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes – 09/09/2025
4. Public Comments
5. Chairman’s Report
6. Park Reports:
 - General Update – Bob Nieuwenhuis
 - Sherwood Park – Shirley DeYoung
 - Pell Park – Marsha Keeler
 - Hicks Park – Matthew Bradley
 - Cook Park – Cory Redder
 - Kenyon Park – Bob Nieuwenhuis/Lori Steele
 - Darrow Park – Bunny LaDuke
 - River Walk, Band Shell and Central Business District – Cory Redder
7. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Pollinator Garden Update
Commission will discuss the pollinator garden in front of the DPW and WR buildings.
8. Staff Comments
9. Commissioner Comments
10. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 09, 2025 at 4pm

Agenda Subject to Change

Note: All public comment limited to two minutes, when recognized please rise and give your name and address.
Plainwell is an equal opportunity provider and employer

MINUTES
PARKS & TREE COMMISSION
September 09, 2025

1. Vicechair LaDuke called the meeting to order at 4:05pm in the City Hall Conference Room.
2. Roll Call:
Present: Chair Matthew Bradley (arrived at 4:08) Vicechair Bunny LaDuke, Commissioners Marsha Keeler and Shirley DeYoung, Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis, and Councilmember Lori Steele.
Excused: Commissioner Cory Redder
3. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Nieuwenhuis, seconded by Steele, to accept and place on file the Parks & Trees Meeting Minutes of the 07/08/2025 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
4. Public Comment: None.
5. Chairman's Report: None.
6. Park Reports:
Bob stated that flowers are being removed.
Sherwood Park Maintenance Report – Shirley DeYoung
Shirley reported the park looks good, with lots of kids and families using it.
Pell Park Maintenance Report – Marsha Keeler
Marsha reported that the park is under control, and the annuals will be removed soon.
Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley
Matthew reported the park is popular and used often.
Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Shirley reported that that park looks good, and there were dogs at the dog park.
Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis and Lori Steele
Lori reported that the park looks good overall. Bob shared that the water tower painting project was completed.
Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke
Bunny reported the park looks good. She mentioned that rocks, grass or other plants with deep root systems would help fill in bare areas and slow erosion.
Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Bob reported that Home Depot had contacted the City about a possible grant/partnership to update the Riverwalk. It is a large project, and may be best done yearly and in sections to keep costs down.
7. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Vicechair LaDuke discussed planting the pollinator garden. The Commission plans on meeting on Wednesday, 09/24/2025 at 1:30pm to work on planting the garden.
8. Staff Comments: Bob shared the playground equipment for upper Thurl Cook park should be available next spring. He would like the Parks & Tree Commission to meet at the park and evaluate damaged trees, and decide which to keep and which to remove.
9. Commissioners' Comments: Vicechair LaDuke mentioned hearing from City residents that the roads are in bad shape and difficult for bike riders, and is glad the S. Main is being repaved. She shared that she received \$1,600 total in grant funding from Chula Vista for the pollinator garden.
10. Adjournment:
A motion by Keeler, seconded by DeYoung, to adjourn the meeting at 4:49pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by JoAnn Leonard