

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
June 15, 2017**

1. Justin Burchett called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Matthew Bradley, Marsha Keeler, Sandy Lamorandier, Justin Burchett. Absent: Bunny LaDuke, Marcus Taylor, Todd Overhuel. Also attending: Public Works Superintendent Rick Updike (entered late) and Economic Development Manager Denise Siegel. Marcus and Bunny both called in and are excused absences.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Marsha Keeler moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of May 11, 2017. Sandy Lamorandier supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

With Commissioners' consent, the Agenda was revised to allow Denise to speak first regarding Item 6: A Dog Park Update. Items 6: B & C were removed from the Agenda.

6. Open Business

A. Dog Park update

Denise reported that funding stands at \$4807.71. The Patronicity funding campaign will go live on June 19th with the goal of raising \$20,000 by August 18th. It will be advertised in the Shoppers Guide and on the city's social media sites. She asked that Commissioners share the posts on their social media in order to spread the information to as many people as possible. Checks should be made out to "City of Plainwell"

Commissioners suggested that she contact the surrounding townships, dog grooming or boarding places, veterinarian offices, and merchants such as Hardings Market to have them post the information and/or place it on their websites and social media. Denise will do so.

4. Parks:

Sherwood

A: Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler
Marsha reported that Sherwood Park looks good.

Pell

A: Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke
Bunny was not present. Rick noted that Pell was hit with graffiti. Some the DPW bleached away, some the state provided paint and supplies to paint over it.

Commissioners noted that the wood fence needs to be painted.

Hicks

A: Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel
Todd was not present. Rick noted that the DPW received a call that a 90th birthday party was being held in Hicks Park this Friday. The caller asked for water, electric and extra tables to be provided. He explained that the water and electric are available but the city does not provide extra tables, nor do we reserve the park so the tables are first-come. Commissioners noted that the park and available adjacent parking are too small for large gatherings.

Cook

A: Park Maintenance Report - Justin Burchett

Justin reported that Cook is all good. Rick noted that the pickle ball fences will be installed by the end of July.

Kenyon

A: Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported that the new fences look great. The park is busy with ball players. Rick noted that he bought and spread \$1000 of diamond dust in the infields, and the irrigation is fixed and working properly.

Darrow

A: Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier

Sandy reported that Darrow is quiet, with residents and kayakers sharing the park.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD

A: Park Maintenance Report - Marcus Taylor

Marcus was not present. Rick noted that the logs were removed from under the trestle, and that the River Walk has repeatedly been hit with graffiti.

5. New Business

A. Election of Officers

Sandy questioned electing officers until more members are present. She reminded Commissioners that Marcus resigned, and that the City Clerk is contacting an applicant from last September to see if she is still interested in serving.

Justin noted that his term expires in September but, due to family dynamics, he will not seek to renew his appointment.

Sandy noted that Matthew's term expires in September also, and that he will receive a letter from the City Clerk asking whether or not he wants to renew his appointment. He plans to continue serving. Matthew noted that his wife Rachel plans to fill out an application for the Parks & Trees Commission.

Sandy Lamorandier moved to table Election of Officers. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

6. Open Business

B. Plainwell Auto Landscape Update

Rick reported no activity on the landscape. Commissioners noted that if the area were seeded to grass, we would need irrigation there. Consensus was to concrete the area. We can always set a planter there if we need to soften the aspect

Sandy noted that the bank between the river walk and Dance Craze, where DPW removed the aged spruces, looks terrible. She suggested we look into adding some type of greenery there. Rick has some small spruces in the nursery that would serve well for many years.

Sandy noted that the perennial garden abutting the M-89 bridge on the north side needs water. The DPW used to water it with hoses and a sprinkler, but there was a complaint that they were a hazard to pedestrians. Rick stated that it might be possible to run underground conduit for the hoses, from the Pell building to a spigot, and just pull the hoses at the end of summer each year. It would also be possible to do the same at the rock.

Marsha noted how nice the new paint looks on the old city hall building.

7. Public Comments

Laura Corneail asked about having a bike rack close to the downtown, perhaps on the plaza by the pharmacy. Commissioners noted that there is a bike rack at city hall and in front of Hart's Jewelry, and one is being designed for Plainwell Auto. Laura was not aware of those.

Laura Corneail submitted a letter reporting a large dead tree at 313 S Sunset on the Gayhart frontage (copy attached).

8. Staff Comments

Sandy noted that the flowers look great. She feels the larger plastic liners in the hanging street baskets, and the diapers in the hanging bridge baskets, are helping this year.

Sandy noted that the city is moving to paperless agenda packets. We will print only the Agenda, all other information will be projected on a screen. The full packet will be available on laptop computers at the meeting. Commissioners asked about bringing their own computer; they may do that.

9. Chairman's Report

None.

10. Commissioners' Comments

Matthew noted that he met a number of great people who turned out to volunteer for flower planting day.

11. Items For Next Agenda

None.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 5 PM.

13. Adjournment

Sandy Lamorandier moved to adjourn the meeting. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Gluchowski
Deputy Clerk

June 15, 2017

Laura Corneail (269) 501-5789
313 S. Sunset St
Plainwell MI 49080

Parks + Trees
Rick Updike
Public Works Supt.
Plainwell MI 49080

Dear Mr. Updike:

I have a large dead tree on my property that really needs to be removed. The dead branches are falling in the street as well as on my property. The tree is also close to my homes electric line.

This tree is located on my corner lot on the Gayhart Street side. Can you please have a look and remove this tree before someone possibly gets injured. The school children walk this street as well as the track team runners.

Thank you very much

Respectfully submitted

Laura Corneail