

# City of Plainwell



**“The Island City”**

Rick Brooks, Mayor  
Lori Steele, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Brad Keeler, Council Member  
Roger Keeney, Council Member  
Todd Overhuel, Council Member

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## **AGENDA**

### **Parks & Trees Commission**

### **Thursday, October 12, 2017**

### **5:00pm**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Approval of Minutes/Summary Regular Meeting 09/14/17.**
- 4. Parks Reports:**
  - A. Sherwood ~ Marsha Keeler**
  - B. Pell ~ Todd Overhuel**
  - C. Hicks ~ Bunny LaDuke**
  - D. Cook ~ Justin Burchett**
  - E. Kenyon ~ Matthew Bradley**
  - F. Darrow ~ Sandy Lamorandier**
  - G. Riverwalk Park (Band Shell) & CBD ~ Gina Berry**
- 5. New Business:**
  - A. Rotary tree donation**
- 6. Open Business:**
  - A. Dog Park update**
  - B. Autumn Newsletter**
- 7. Public Comments**
- 8. Staff Comments**
- 9. Chairman’s Report**
- 10. Commissioners’ Comments**
- 11. Next Meeting / Items for Agenda: Thursday, November 16, 2017.**
- 12. Adjournment**

**MINUTES  
CITY OF PLAINWELL  
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
September 14, 2017**

1. Justin Burchett called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Sandy Lamorandier, Bunny LaDuke, Justin Burchett, Marsha Keeler, Gina Berry, Matthew Bradley (entered late). Absent: Todd Overhuel. Also attending: Marcus Taylor.
3. Approval of Minutes:  
***Marsha Keeler moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of August 17, 2017, 2017. Sandy Lamorandier supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***
4. Parks:  
Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler  
Marsha reported that everything is in order.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel, Sandra Lamorandier  
Sandy reported that Pell is beautiful with all the flowers.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke  
Bunny reported that Hicks is fine. She brought in pictures of the flat block edging of her gardens, suggesting that we use the same idea in the park for the fern beds, noting that the mower can run on them and there is no tufted edge that needs to be trimmed. Sandy asked about the ferns spreading outside the bed; Bunny noted that they can just be mown down. The ferns will need to be mulched after planting. Bunny noted that the perennial bed at the other end of the park is sad.

Bunny has been looking at ferns, and suggests using 'Christmas ferns', a woody fern that should do well. She will call Riverside Nursery to see if she can get a discount there, and will measure the area and calculate the spacing, to arrive at the number of ferns needed. She noted that they will need to be kept moist; Sandy noted that area is irrigated. Sheryl suggested using the street pavers that are stored behind the DPW; Commissioners felt this was a good idea and would save money.

Commissioners noted that we want to keep some grassy areas in the shade, as that is where the people like to congregate and escape the summer heat.

Cook Park Maintenance Report  
Justin reported that the park looks good. Sheryl noted that the staff has been working to improve the perennial beds; they will be added to the watering route.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley  
Matthew reported that the park is still busy and the ball fields look great. He noted that the park sign has still not been installed.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier  
Sandra reported that Darrow looks fabulous. People are landing kayaks, fishing in the river. She would like to see a dock installed riverside.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Gina Berry  
Gina reported that someone has been partying under the boardwalk near the band shell, evidenced by bags and bottles they left behind. They have an entry under the bushes and grapevines. We will get Public Safety involved.

5. New Business

A. Rotary Tree Donation

Sandy noted that we were expecting a representative for the Rotary to be here tonight to explain just what they have in mind as far as donating twenty trees to the city. It is hard to plan until we know how big they are, what varieties they have or if we are able to choose varieties, whether we could get a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees and perennial grasses. If we were given something suitable for the berm behind Dance Kraze, it will need irrigation added to the berm.

Bunny noted that she continues to be annoyed by the weeds in the street gutter cracks. In discussion, Commissioners suggested reviving the effort to send out a newsletter and put an appeal to residents to weed along their frontage as a matter of civic pride.

6. Open Business

A. Dog Park update

Sandy announced that they made the match, thanks to the efforts of many people and businesses. Construction should start in the spring. Sheryl suggested that we might be able to use some of the Rotary's donated trees to provide shade at the new dog park.

B. Plainwell Auto Landscape Update

Tabled.

C. Berm Behind Dance Kraze

This item was discussed under 5. A Rotary Tree Donation

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Sandy Lamorandier proposed having Sheryl Gluchowski begin putting out the Parks & Trees Agendas. Shirley Wilfinger stepped in when Noreen Farmer became ill, but there is a disconnect between her job and the Parks & Trees Commission. Commissioners concurred with the change.

9. Chairman's Report

None.

10. Commissioners' Comments

Bunny LaDuke noted that Chula Vista moved a garden in Sherwood Park because a sidewalk was supposed to be installed; that sidewalk has not materialized yet. Now the Veterans Memorial is expanding, and she wonders if more landscaping will need to be moved. Sandy Lamorandier reported that they are expanding to the north and it will not impact the landscaping.

Bunny LaDuke reported that Kalamazoo In Bloom will begin emptying beds on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. If anyone would like to help, they can have any of the grasses, ferns or plants that are removed.

11. Items For Next Meeting's Agenda

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 5 PM.

12. Adjournment

**Matthew Bradley 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 6:05 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheryl Gluchowski  
Deputy Clerk

**SUMMARY  
CITY OF PLAINWELL  
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
September 14, 2017**

**New From This Meeting:**

- Darrow Park Dock
- Details needed on Rotary Donating Trees

**Unresolved Past Items:**

**Underway:**

- Hicks Park fern beds.
- Dog Park
- Plainwell Auto Landscape
- Berm landscape behind Dance Craze

**On The Radar:**

- Surface modifications for the trestle deck.
- City of Plainwell sign for Kenyon Park.
- Bunny will research surfactants to see if they would help with drainage at the ball fields or the sculpture.
- A 'places to eat & drink" map for the canoe/kayak landings.

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**Tabled –until ...**

- Bike Racks – *tabled until Plainwell Auto is settled*
- Park Reservations, Rules, Permit, Signage – *tabled until Erik can attend*

**Work Requests for the DPW:**

- Paint wood fence in Pell Park.
- Power wash and reseal River Walk boards.
- Install kayak landing signage at/near Sherwood Park.
- Determine what is the purple plant at the Riverwalk steps.
- Photo the completed pickleball courts and submit to city hall.
- Trim trees for sidewalk clearance.
- Remove trees and re-landscape adjacent to Plainwell Auto
- Sherwood Park sidewalk



# City of Plainwell Parks and Trees Commission Newsletter To Residents Fall 2017

## MEET OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Plainwell's Department of Public Works (DPW) is charged with maintaining the city's seven parks, and with planting, weeding, watering and fertilizing our summer flowers in the beds, planters and hanging baskets scattered throughout Plainwell. Annual flowers make up the largest percentage of our display but we are adding perennials yearly. Pell Park had spectacular beds this year and the flowers on our N. Main and E. Bridge Street bridges were remarkable!

### FANNIE PELL PARK

The gazebo in Pell Park received a new cedar shake roof this summer. The iconic gazebo, with the Kalamazoo River as a backdrop, is a favorite spot for weddings and photo shoots.

Plainwell Kayak Company is now operating out of the Pell Park building. They offer kayaks for rent, and will also transport you and your boat to and/or from various launch locations. Call 269-365-2926 for more information or to schedule your trip.

At the river's edge, you will find a fishing dock that sees a lot of activity in the summer.

### SHERWOOD PARK

Sherwood Park is the city's busiest park, especially in summer. The large playground, and the basketball courts are busy every fair weather evening. When freezing weather hits, the DPW will be installing our ice skating rink in the south end of the park. Plainwell's Veteran's Memorial is nestled into the north end of the park. We received a grant for a much needed permanent, year-around bathroom in Sherwood Park ~ expect ground breaking next year.

### HICKS PARK

Hicks Park is the perfect place for a summer picnic. Situated right downtown, it offers a surprisingly quiet setting. It's completely shaded, has a small playground for children and is right on the Riverwalk. You might not know that there is a doggie drinking fountain in the Soule Fountain at the east end of the park. New perennial beds are being installed in the eastern section of the park.

### RIVER WALK PARK

River Walk Park is a lineal walking park connecting Hicks Park, Fannie Pell Park and Sherwood Park. It combines boardwalk, cement sidewalk and the Trestle Bridge across the Kalamazoo River to provide more than a half mile stroll along the Mill Race and the Kalamazoo River.

### THE BAND SHELL

The band shell is located above the Kalamazoo River on the River Walk, at the end of N. Anderson Street. It is home to free concerts during the summer, and is available for weddings and other ceremonies.

### THURL COOK PARK

We have two projects underway in Cook Park. One of the existing tennis courts is currently being converted to Pickle Ball play. The City expects that the two new Pickle Ball courts will be ready for action by late spring of 2018.

The second project is construction of a dog park in lower Cook Park next year. The 2016 Plainwell Recreation Survey revealed a dog park to be one of the residents' most desired park improvements. The entire project will be funded by events and donations, and a grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The current funding project is the sale of personalized bricks that will be used at the dog park. You can donate, buy a brick or just get more information at City Hall.

It may surprise you to know that there is a nice sledding hill in upper Cook Park neat the picnic pavilion, which is lighted until 10 PM on winter evenings.

### KENYON PARK

New fencing was installed in front of the players' benches at the ball fields. The park offers our residents three softball fields, a playground, and a picnic shelter.

### DARROW PARK

Darrow Park is a quiet place for picnics or to just sit, watch the river, and relax. It is popular with kayakers looking for a place to take a break and with local fishermen.

### PARK BATHROOMS

All Plainwell park bathrooms, except the bathroom in Pell Park, are locked. Call City Hall at 269-685-9363 for access. The Pell Park bathroom door automatically unlocks at 7:00 AM and locks at 9:00 PM.

### FALL CLEAN UP

As you clean up your yards this fall, please consider taking a few minutes to pull or cut the weeds that grow in the cracks of the curb in front of your house. It will help the whole town look more inviting to visitors and potential new residents and businesses. Remember that loose leaf rake out ends on November 12<sup>th</sup>!

### AN INVITATION

Slow down, look around and enjoy the beauty of Plainwell. Look for cool autumn fun at the parks! Then plan to spend time enjoying our Christmas decorations in Hicks, Pell, River Walk, and Sherwood Parks – our Downtown Lighting Ceremony is on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 PM.

Your Plainwell Parks & Trees Commission,

- ~ Matthew Bradley, Chairperson
- ~ Bunny LaDuke, Vice-Chairperson
- ~ Gina Berry, Commissioner
- ~ Justin Burchett, Commissioner
- ~ Marsha Keeler, Commissioner
- ~ Sandra Lamorandier, Commissioner