

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
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AGENDA

Parks & Trees Commission
Tuesday, July 08, 2025 at 4:00pm
City Hall Conference Room

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes – 06/12/2025**
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 Grant**
Commission will discuss funding for the pollinator garden in front of the DPW building.
 - B. **Walking trail in Kenyon Park**
Commission will discuss the addition of a walking trail in Kenyon Park.
 - C. **Ordinance 401 – Amending Ordinance 199 to change the month of the required Parks & Tree annual meeting from January to March**
8. **Staff Comments**
9. **Commissioner Comments**
10. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 12, 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
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.

MINUTES
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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

**CITY OF PLAINWELL
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 401**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 199, ESTABLISHING THE PLAINWELL PARKS AND TREE COMMISSION.

CITY OF PLAINWELL, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Sec. 15-6. Operation is amended to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 15-6. Operation.

The Commission shall choose its own officers, promulgate its own rules and policies necessary to implement the objectives of this ordinance and shall keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. At a minimum, the Commission shall meet one time each year during the month of **March**.

Section 3. Severability and Captions. This Ordinance and the various parts, sections, subsections, sentences, phrases and clauses thereof are hereby declared severable. If any part, section, subsection, sentence, phrase, or clause is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected thereby. The captions included at the beginning of each Section are for convenience only and shall not be considered a part of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Repeal. Any existing ordinance or resolution that is inconsistent or conflicts with this Ordinance is hereby repealed to the extent of any such conflict or inconsistency.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Ordinance is ordered to take effect eight (8) days following publication of adoption in *The Union Enterprise*, a newspaper having general circulation in the City, under the provisions of 2006 Public Act 110, except as may be extended under the provisions of such Act.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

YES:

NO:

ABSENT:

Declared adopted on: July 14, 2025

Published on:

Effective on:

Brad Keeler, Mayor

JoAnn Leonard, City Clerk