

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
March 15, 2018**

1. Matthew Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Matthew Bradley, Sandy Lamorandier, Gina Berry, Tom Belco. Absent: Todd Overhuel, Marsha Keeler, Bunny LaDuke. Also attending: Public Works Superintendent Rick Updike.
3. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Belco moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of February 15, 2018 as presented. Sandy Lamorandier supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.
4. Parks:
Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler
Marsha was not present but commissioners noted that the Blue Star Memorial was damaged during the recent flooding.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel, Sandra Lamorandier
Sandy reported that Noreen Farmer's memorial post and plaque were uprooted by park flooding. DPW will reinstall it.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke
Sandy reported that she has assurance that the City will find the money to pay for the ferns, and Bunny will order them.

Cook Park Maintenance Report
Tom asked to meet Rick at the park to get an idea where the dog park will lie. They will set a time and date.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley
Matthew reported that Kenyon is in good shape. Rick noted that he has been asked to limit spending from the General Fund; therefore the DPW will not be putting up a shed or renovating the bathrooms in this budget year. The DPW removed several dead/dying trees and trimmed others.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier
Sandra reported that half the park went underwater during the flooding but there appears to be no permanent damage.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report
Gina reported that she has been not out to check. Rick noted that the DPW cleaned the Riverwalk where it was flooded; there was no permanent damage.
5. New Business
 - A. Sherwood Park Playground Mulch
Rick reported that the playground mulch that was not washed away by the river flooding is coated with river mud. It sticks to the children who play on it, and will cause the mulch to degrade and blacken. Commissioners' consensus was to have Rick approach Erik to see if it can be replaced this spring.

B. Seasonal Help

Sandy updated commissioners on the efforts being put forth to seek summer employees. She noted that, if possible, we are looking for persons over 18 because of legal restrictions on driving equipment.

6. Open Business

A. Arbor Day Celebration April 27th 12:30 PM honoring Dale Harrington

Sandy stated that she will call Plainwell Auto, and she asked the DPW to provide a 50' extension cord for the keyboard, and to barricade that section of the parking lot the morning of the event to prevent cars parking in the staging area or driving through while the choir is present. Denise is notifying the media and will promote the event online. Sheryl sent an ad to the Shoppers Guide and Union Enterprise, and will request a Council Resolution commemorating the day.

B. Hicks Park Ferns

This item was covered under the Hicks Park Discussion.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Rick reported that he is working on the necessary permitting for the Sherwood Park restroom. The site is in the 100-Year Flood Plain, so he will have to bring in 30 – 35 cubic yards of sand to satisfy requirements. The area was not flooded during the recent flooding. The building will be north of the basketball courts, toward the road. He will ask Denise to attend the next meeting to update everyone.

Rick reported that the contractor will begin installing 900 lineal feet of fencing in April or May for the dog park. He noted that some cities have imposed breed restrictions at their dog parks but he does not foresee Plainwell doing that.

Rick reported that he will not install rubber pads on the trestle, because they are slippery when wet, degrade in weather, and have a heavy edge that creates a tripping hazard. He believes a wood strip is the best choice, and outlined how he anticipates installing it.

Rick reported that he anticipates reroofing the Cook shelter this year, and that the restock of banner arms brackets and building clips for Christmas light are on order.

Commissioners asked that maps of the city parks be emailed to them.

Sheryl asked about the spring Parks & Trees Commission Newsletter. Commissioners' consensus was to trust Sheryl to write it. She will see that it goes out in the April water bills.

Sandy reported that Shirley Wilfinger is ready to send out letters on donations to the flower program. She reported those donations are no longer supporting the flower program in full; the city augments the funding needed.

Asked about the bricks for the dog park, Sandy stated that Bunny has the information but she does not believe that they have been ordered yet. The DPW will install the water lines as soon as weather allows.

Rick updated Commissioners on the bike trail committee's recent meeting. Things are moving forward.

9. Chairman's Report

None

10. Commissioners' Comments

None.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 5 PM.

12. Adjournment

Tom Belco moved to adjourn the meeting. Gina Berry supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Gluchowski
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT