

**MEETING NOTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
March 16, 2017**

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

It was noted that there is not a quorum but the consensus was to remain and talk.

3. Approval of Minutes:
Tabled.

4. Parks:
Marcus asked if there were any problems in the parks.

Marsha reported that Sherwood Park was cold and lonely in this weather. She asked who maintains the Veterans Memorial Brick Directory, as she was looking for a brick but the directories were gone. The contact person for the Veterans Memorial is now Dick Lubic. We will call to find out when they will be returned to the park.

Matthew noted that he rode his bike on a circuit through all the parks. Kenyon is the only one that does not have a City of Plainwell sign. Rick recalled that the city intended to put a sign there, he will look into it. Matthew said the parks tour was an easy-riding 8-10 mile circuit and suggested that the City might want to organize a ride.

Rick reported that there is snowplowing debris at the trestle that he needs to have the DPW crew clean up, and there is graffiti on the M-89 River Walk underpass that he will notify MDOT to remove or cover.

Rick noted that the DPW crew has already spring-cleaned the parks, and has removed the debris brought down by the recent storm; the weather has allowed them to get way ahead of the usual schedule.

5. Open Business
Marcus reported that the Dog Park Committee had a station set up for Art Hop for information and comments. They held a Pancake Breakfast which raised \$677. Two bricks are sold and collection cans are in about 15 local businesses. Hardings will be hosting a collection can drive on April 1 – 2. City Hall has dog park information, brick order forms and a collection can at the counter. The dog park magnets were ordered. The Facebook page has close to 150 followers and the dog wall pictures are increasing in number. The committee discussed a Cook Park cook out but the schedule is getting busy. The 5K will be held May 22, and that will be the kickoff for the Patronicity web-based funding drive, by which they hope to obtain matching funds from the state. They have submitted a \$5000 grant request to the Anna R. Pipp Foundation, and have a commitment from the city for \$2500. Marcus reported that the committee is growing in numbers, with two new members. They are planning on construction beginning in the spring of 2018.

Denise gave attendees an overview of the Facebook page set up for the dog park, and a tour of the Patronicity site, showing some of the other campaigns that are running,

Matthew asked about the bricks; they do not need to be “in memory of”; they can have up to three lines of fifteen characters each. He would like elevated pictures of the future dog park area so that he

can do additional drawings. Rick will have the crew take the lift truck to the park and take photos, then email them to Matthew. Rick will update the aerial depiction in ArcMap to be closer to what the committee is now proposing.

Justin sent Sandy an email confirming that he talked with someone from Alternative High School and that they want to put together a program for Arbor Day. Sheryl will follow up to see what date and time they have selected to perform. She noted that no honoree has been proposed for this year but Todd suggested we could honor a longtime volunteer and supporter of the city. The city is lucky to have several individuals that give their time and service for the betterment of the community.

Rick noted that he plans to remove two trees and grind all the stumps along the north side of Plainwell Auto, remove the rocks, bring in soil and reseed the area.

Matthew asked about more ways that he can be of service. Marsha mentioned that flower day is coming on the third Saturday in May, and help is always needed for that, both for planting and supervising. Sheryl noted that Chula Vista has volunteered to plant the bridge planters during the week following planting day.

6. Staff Comments

Rick gave a brief visual presentation on the proposed trail extension, how it could potentially approach and pass through Plainwell, and where a cut off to the downtown might be.

7. Adjournment

Marcus thanked everyone for coming and dismissed the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Gluchowski
Deputy Clerk