

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
May 11, 2017**

1. Marcus Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Marcus Taylor, Matthew Bradley, Sandy Lamorandier, Justin Burchett Marsha Keeler, Bunny LaDuke (entered late). Absent: Todd Overhuel.
3. Approval of Minutes:

Marcus Taylor moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of April 13, 2017. Sandy Lamorandier supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

4. Parks:
Sherwood
A: Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler
Marsha reported that everything is okay at Sherwood. Marcus asked about the trees lodged against the trestle downriver. Sheryl noted that the city is aware of them but the current is too strong for any methods at our disposal; the DPW will remove them when the water level drops.

Cook

A: Park Maintenance Report - Justin Burchett
Justin reported that Cook has no problems.

Kenyon

A: Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley
Matthew reported that things are normal in Kenyon and asked when the fences would be installed. Sheryl noted that quotes were obtained, and a purchase order issued, we are just waiting for the fence company.

Darrow

A: Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier
Sandy reported that the river subsided without flooding the park.

Pell

A: Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel
Todd was not present.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD

A: Park Maintenance Report - Marcus Taylor
Marcus reported that the Riverwalk is no longer flooded and is open again.

Hicks

A: Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke
Bunny suggested using Ostrich ferns instead of pachysandra or vinca in the barren area where we want to establish perennials. They will plume out and fill the area nicely, and are not aggressive spreaders. Consensus was to support Bunny's suggestion.

5. New Business

A. Flower Planting Day

Sandy noted that the flowers will arrive at 7 AM on Thursday morning, will be sorted by location and loaded onto the delivery trailer on Friday, then brought to Hicks Park at 6:30 AM Saturday. Everyone who is able can meet there at that time.

When the flowers are out, Sandy will get the coffee, juice and water stations set up and pick up donuts. She will need a water jug from DPW storage. Everyone else can start planting. Volunteers can start at the time convenient to them and stay as long as they like.

Sheryl noted that we contacted the school for volunteers, placed ads in the Shoppers Guide, have posters up downtown, signs at DPW & City Hall, and asked Denise to advertise the event on the City Facebook & web pages. Sandy will check with Denise to ensure that was done.

6. Open Business

A. Dog Park update

Marcus reported that more people are becoming involved. They held a pancake breakfast, an Aubree's fundraiser and a 4-Roses fundraiser. The 5K-9 Event will be Sunday, May 21 in Cook Park, with vendors there Noon - 4 PM. That is the day they will kick off the Patronicity fundraiser. They have about \$2500 set aside for the matching funds already. The brick sales will be a continuing project. Bunny recommended that they turn the brick orders in as they go, to ensure good results. A dog park meeting will be held tonight at 5:30 in the Council Chamber.

B. New Commissioner Information Packets

This project is complete except for periodic updates. Commissioners asked that they each be issued a packet.

C. Park Reservations, Rules, Permit, Signage

Sandy recommended that this be tabled until Erik Wilson can attend. She noted that P&T action on this project has generated a lot of discussion, both with city staff and with others. Erik has been meeting with Joe Ablan on the use of the Kenyon ball fields. Commissioners asked Sandy to invite Erik to attend and speak at the June 15 Parks & Trees Meeting.

D. Plainwell Auto Landscape Update
Tabled.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Sheryl noted that Plainwell Kayaking has moved into the Pell building and will be operating from there. Commissioners noted how nice it will be to have an active kayaking business there again.

9. Chairman's Report

10. Commissioners' Comments

Matthew talked with a couple who enjoy using the river. They said there is a low tree and storm debris in the water and asked who is responsible for problems. All waterways in Michigan are under the province of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; our local office is just north of town on N. 10th Street. It was noted that most avid kayakers will do it themselves. Sandy noted that the river bank clean-up day in Plainwell is usually held in the fall. Bunny noted that there is a MDEQ River Clean Up meeting at the library today, and suggested that they might have leads on getting work like that done. Sandy noted that we could look at scheduling our river banks clean-up day in the spring instead of the fall.

Marcus reported that his family has purchased a home at Pine Lake, which is outside the Plainwell city limits, so he will be leaving the Parks & Trees Commission but will stay involved in the community. He noted that June is the month to elect a new Chairperson, so he will make that his final meeting. Commissioners noted how much he will be missed.

11. Items for Next Agenda
Add Election of Officers.

12. Next Meeting
The next meeting will be Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 5 PM.

13. Adjournment

Marcus Taylor 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 5:32 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Gluchowski
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT