

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
August 16, 2018**

1. Marsha Keeler called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Tom Belco, Marsha Keeler, Gina Berry, Bunny LaDuke, Sandy Lamorandier. Absent: Todd Overhuel, Matthew Bradley. Also attending: Public Works Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis, Deputy Clerk Sheryl Gluchowski, resident Tony Gless.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Belco moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of July 12, 2018. Sandy Lamorandier supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

4. Park Concerns:

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler

Marsha questioned the tarp at the park; Bob noted that the Veterans had someone clean the monument and the tarp is gone now.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel, Sandra Lamorandier

Sandy suggested that Bob's DPW report be moved to head this section of the agenda, as many questions or concerns are answered within it. Consensus was to begin on the next agenda. Marsha noted that the Pell flowers are becoming quite beautiful.

Bunny entered at 5:07.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke

Bunny passed a photo of the Hicks fern bed; they are growing, but slowly, and she believes they may not be getting enough water. Sheryl will have Wade check the irrigation sweep and duration to ensure they are watered. Bunny noted that she left several leaf & stick piles along the Hicks sidewalks, made from debris she gathered on the sidewalks and beds. The DPW will remove them.

Cook Park Maintenance Report – Tom Belco

Tom reported that the pickleball court is busy; Tony Gless is doing a wonderful job with the players. Tom missed the dog park opening due to a schedule conflict but Sandy reported over 50 dogs attended with their people. Tom asked if anyone had heard the results of the Rotary's grant application for work on the pavilion; no one had.

Bunny noted that the hoops and tunnels were a hit with the dogs and very entertaining for the people. Tom expressed concern for the grass becoming mud and dirtying the dogs. Sandy noted that the dogs are already digging holes in the lawn. Attendees discussed ways to provide water at the dog park, including a lockable faucet for washing down the concrete and irrigation for the grass areas. Bob noted that the challenge is that all the concrete was poured over the water service line. The DPW has a 500-gallon truck-mounted tank with which they have been watering the grass when needed; it takes about 30 minutes to deploy 500 gallons. Sandy noted that irrigation systems are costly.

Tony Gless was present representing the pickleball players. He submitted a written report (copy attached) reviewing the history of the pickleball courts financing and development, and usage levels. There are now players waiting for courts to open up so that they can play. Tony noted that the players would like to develop two additional courts on another of the old tennis courts. They are already, at their own expense and with their own labor, adapting a 'warm-up court' on an old tennis court with the

City's permission. He asked for the support of the Parks & Trees Commission in requesting that the City budget money toward the project in its FY2019-2020 budget, and in beginning to raise additional funds through grants, donations and fund-raisers. The "Pickleball Community" would participate in the efforts. Tony noted that players already donated court signs. So far, the concept of keeping the courts locked and having players purchase keys seems to have prevented vandalism.

Sandy noted that the \$10,000 that Tony is requesting the City to budget is probably much more than the City can provide; projects that are desired, for much less cost, are unfunded. Attendees discussed sources of funding, including grant requests to the Delano Foundation, Allegan County Community Foundation (Betsy Hill Grant), and Pipp Foundation. Tony is willing to write the grant request but would need to do it in the City's or a 501C3 Non-profit that could use the funds to pay for the project. City Council would need to accept or refuse the project before application could be submitted and Tony will approach them about it. Erik Wilson and/or Brian Kelley would know if it is legal and appropriate for the City to be named on the grant application and provide oversight of the project. Suggestions to check for 501C3 oversight included the Festival Committee, the Rotary, and the Friends of the VFW. Fund-raisers could include a pickleball tournament and donations collected court-side. Public Relations could be broadcast via Ryan Lewis and/or Dan Pepper.

Tom Belco moved that the Parks & Trees Commission support seeking funding for construction of two more pickleball courts on the old tennis courts in Cook Park, and support authorizing Tony Gless to apply for grants. On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew was not present.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier

Sandra reported the park is good.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report

Gina asked that the DPW find a way to trim and landscape the bank north of Koestner's lot. Tom noted that he talked to Jim Koestner, who is under the impression that everything past his paving is riverbank. He will confirm that they will have no objection to improvements in that area

5. New Business

None.

6. Open Business

None.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Bob reported that the DPW leveled the mulch in Sherwood Park, and he plans to bring another \$650 worth of mulch in. The concrete pads will be removed this fall, as they serve no purpose. They plan to paint the fence from Dean's Ice Cream to the trestle.

Bob reported that in Pell Park, the fences, park sign, and light posts were painted. In Hicks, the sign, lamp posts and grills were painted; the section of River Walk in Hicks will be painted in the spring.

Bob reported that in Cook Park, the DPW poured a sidewalk to the pickleball courts, coordinating with Tony Gless so that he could inscribe it with "Pickleball 2018". The dog park has an extra dogipot station in the large dog area, and the two existing stations were moved away from the entrance due to odor complaints. Paper tower holders were purchased and installed in the park restrooms, which never had them until now.

Bob reported that the DPW is making a park sign for Kenyon Park, from a sign found in the mill from the old city hall. The crew ground city hall off, they purchased letters for Kenyon Park, and are in the process of assembling and painting it. It will be installed as soon as it is completed.

Bob reported that Darrow Park was cleaned up and trimmed.

Bob reported that on the Riverwalk, the bank shell was painted, the walkway along the river from city hall to the trestle was cleaned and painted, and work on the trestle floor is in the works.

Bob reported that the DEQ and GHD walked the eroding areas of riverbank with him. There is superfund-designated money available to dress up the river in those areas, however it costs \$600 to apply.

Bob noted that he plans to removed large stones from several stone beds in the city and suggested using them on the Koestner riverbank.

As a point of information, Bob noted that the Festival Committee wants to move the entire Festival to Kenyon Park. He has been asked to determine if adequate parking and electrical supply could be provided there.

Sheryl asked if Commissioners considered participating in the 2019 Flower Planning Season. Bunny LaDuke and Marsha Keeler volunteered; Tom Belco stated that he is willing to help if needed.

9. Chairman's Report
None.

10. Commissioners' Comments
Marsha asked the purpose of the large kiosk in Sherwood Park; it is a bulletin board for display of maps, advertising of city events, etc., which no one is currently using.

11. Next Meeting
The next meeting will be Thursday, September 13, 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 6:10 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Gluchowski
Deputy Clerk