

City of Plainwell



“The Island City”

Rick Brooks, Mayor
Lori Steele, Mayor Pro-Tem
Brad Keeler, Council Member
Roger Keeney, Council Member
Todd Overhuel, Council Member

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AGENDA

Parks & Trees Commission Thursday, November 15, 2018 5:00pm

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes and Summary Regular Meeting of October 11, 2018
4. Park Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis
 - A. Commissioner Follow Up
 - Cook ~ Tom Belco
 - Pickleball Courts
 - Modern Woodmen Tree Donation to Dog Park
 - Darrow ~ Sandy Lamorandier
 - Hicks ~ Bunny LaDuke
 - Kenyon ~ Matthew Bradley
 - Pell ~ Sandy Lamorandier
 - Riverwalk & CBD ~ Gina Berry
 - Sherwood ~ Marsha Keeler
5. New Business:
 - A. Love Your Hometown Grant – Allegan County Community Foundation
6. Open Business:
7. Public Comments
8. Staff Comments
9. Chairman’s Report
10. Commissioners’ Comments
11. Next Meeting / Items for Agenda: Thursday, December 13, 2018
12. Adjournment

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
October 11, 2018**

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

Tom Belco moved to amend the agenda to add Item 5.B: 2019 Arbor Day Honoree. Bunny LaDuke supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Belco moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of August 16, 2018. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

4. Parks:

Hicks Park

Bob reported that his crew has been preparing for Pumpkins in the Park next week in Hicks Park. Bunny commended the DPW crew for protecting the new fern beds with fencing. Bob noted that they have also trimmed bushes and designed the irrigation modifications for Hicks Park, including irrigation to the Allegan bridge baskets, for spring installation.

Kenyon Park

Work on the remaining park signs will continue through the winter. His crew is painting the support posts and will bring the signs one by one into the DPW garage to be repainted during the winter. A new sign was created for Kenyon Park by modifying and repainting a sign stored at the mill. He noted that football teams have begun practicing at Kenyon.

Riverwalk/CBD

The section of the Riverwalk near the band shell was cleaned and painted.

Sherwood Park

The exposed concrete at the Sherwood Park playground was cut out. Bidding for the N Sherwood Street project will be let in January with construction to begin in July; that will ensure that it can be used as a detour for traffic during Festival. Construction of the bathroom will begin next year also.

Kim has begun cleaning out the flowers. The DPW crew has begun painting all fire hydrants blue & white, commissioners have seen them and love them.

Cook Park

The Cook Park sign was hit by a tree; a new sign was ordered. Directional signs to the dog park for installation at N. Sherwood & Oak were also ordered. The dog park has been busy; people have brought in another dog tunnel and various dog toys for the park. A doggy station was installed on Broad Street, which has become a popular place for people to walk their dogs.

Tom asked about city assistance with funding for additional pickleball courts. The city does not have the money to help and the players group is aware of that. The city is partnering with them to allow them to raise funds on their own for future construction. Bob noted that renovation of the trestle, along with addressing the riverbank washouts in Pell, Sherwood, and Hicks, must be the city's priority projects.

Tom Holmes of Modern Woodmen has offered a donation of up to \$300 to plant a tree or trees in the city parks. It was suggested that the north end of the dog park would be a good fit for this, as Tom typically makes this offer on an annual or biannual basis, so the line of trees could extend each year if desired. That end, the large dog area, does not get much shade, so the impact would be significant. The DPW obtained some preliminary quotes to facilitate discussion.

Tom Belco moved to accept the offer from Tom Holmes of Modern Woodmen to plant \$300 worth of trees at the dog park. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. In discussion, Bunny suggested that we seek varieties of trees that are not common in the parks at this time; commissioners suggested perhaps sycamore, London plane, beech, paper bark maple, etc. Bunny and Marsha volunteered to work with Tom to complete buy, plant and bill the trees before the end of the month. **On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.** Commissioners asked that Bob work with Bunny and Marsha on staking the placement of the tree(s).

5. New Business

A. Love Your Hometown Grant - Allegan County Community Foundation

The Allegan County Community Foundation is offering a \$1000 grant within each school district to improve, enhance or beautify the community. Commissioners suggested repairing and reroofing the Cook pavilion (if the Rotary grant was denied), riverbank stabilization in one or more locations, and downtown bike racks, as well as several projects much more expensive than \$1000. It was noted that the grant applications are not due until January, this could be tabled until the next meeting; consensus was to table discussion. Tom asked Sheryl to check on the status of the Rotary grant

B. 2019 Arbor Day Honoree

Sheryl reported that the City suggested honoring Diana Lubic as the 2019 Arbor Day honoree, for her 30 years of service on the Plainwell Planning Commission. No one else has yet asked or been suggested. Commissioners supported the suggestion.

Marsha Keeler moved that the 2019 Arbor Day tree honor Diana Lubic for 30 years of service on the Plainwell Planning Commission. Tom Belco supported the motion. On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.

6. Open Business

None.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Bob noted that he is looking for a city Christmas tree. Bunny suggested the he contact Mary File east of Plainwell, and Bill & Wilma Kooistra.

9. Chairman's Report

Matthew thanked Bob for the Kenyon Park sign, saying he cannot wait to see it.

10. Commissioners' Comments

Tom Belco stated that Bob is doing an excellent job as DPW Superintendent.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 5 PM.

12. Adjournment

Marsha Keeler moved to adjourn the meeting. Bunny LaDuke supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Gluchowski
Deputy Clerk

DRAFT

SUMMARY
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
October 11, 2018

New From This Meeting:

- ***Voted to accept the offer of \$300 worth of trees for the dog park from Tom Holmes of Modern Woodmen.*** Bunny & Marsha will work with Tom Holmes to complete the project; Bob will help plan and mark the planting site(s).
- ***Voted to designate Diana Lubic as the 2019 Arbor Day tree honoree, for 30 years of service on Plainwell Planning Commission.***
- Tabled action on the Love Your Hometown Grant to the November meeting.

Unresolved Past Items:

Underway:

- Rotary Grant Application for Cook Park improvements
- Surface modifications for the trestle deck
- Requested that DPW mulch around small memorial trees and wrap their sign posts this spring to protect them from trimmer damage
- Requested that DPW replace the roof and paint the pavilion in Cook Park (Waiting on Rotary grant application)
- Requested that DPW paint/stain the benches in Darrow
- Remove trees and re-landscape adjacent to Plainwell Auto
- Explore feasibility of providing locking faucet and irrigation at the dog park.
- Install kayak landing signage at/near Sherwood Park

On The Radar:

- Consider perennial plantings for the sculpture bed and the overlook bank
- Explore how to stabilize the river banks from erosion by foot traffic at Pell & Darrow, and banks throughout the City
- Consider how to protect trees adjacent to parking areas (e.g. behind Plainwell Auto) from vehicle damage

Wish List:

- Darrow Park Dock
- "Places To Eat & Drink" map for the canoe/kayak landings

Tabled – until...

- Bike Racks – *tabled until Plainwell Auto is settled*
- Park Reservations, Rules, Permit, Signage – *tabled until Erik can attend*