

**MINUTES  
CITY OF PLAINWELL  
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
August 17, 2023**

1. Matthew Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:07 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Matthew Bradley, Marsha Keeler, Bunny LaDuke, Shirley DeYoung, Cory Redder and Public Works Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis and Council Member Todd Overhuel.

3. Approval of Minutes:

***Cory Redder moved to accept and place on file the minutes of, July 13, 2023. Shirley DeYoung supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***

4. Parks:

Bob reported that we have been fixing leaks in the sprinklers, mowing and we had the Hicks Park fence put up a while ago and he thinks it looks great.

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report – Shirley DeYoung

Shirley reported that she drove by the park and noticed it was freshly mowed and looked good. There is a ripped basketball net. She said there were many people using the park.

Pell Park Maintenance Report – Marsha Keeler

Marsha reported that they had went through and weeded the roses and they were re-blooming. The guys should trim the trees in the sun lot soon. There were many butterflies.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported that he walked through the park and river walk and said the park looked good but there were many boards that needed repair and paint. He wondered if we could apply for a grant to fix this up. Bob said it was part of the river walk project that was already being set up.

Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder

Cory reported that the park looks good. The walkway looks bad. He wondered if we could re-do the black top. The pickle ball parking seems to still be an issue because of overcrowding. There are a few trees dying along the fence of the big dog park.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis

Todd went there today and said it looked good. Bob said rocket football has started.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke

Bunny reported that she noticed it was for sale and she thought the marker was not in the right place and we should look at it before they sell.

River walk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder

Cory reported that it looks good. The band shell is getting a lot of use.

5. New Business

A. Todd Smits came to the meeting and proposed that we put a kid's water splash pad in Sherwood Park. He said he would donate the labor to pour the concrete and he thinks he can get local neighborhood people to donate. He had an idea to have a sign near the park with the names of people who donated. Plainwell Redi Mix said he would work with us for a good price to buy the concrete. The board seemed positive about this possible new addition to the park. This would need to go to council for next year.

6. Open Business

A. The 5- year plan update was discussed based on an e-mail from Denise on where we are on some of this. Bob explained that the 5-year plan is simply a wish list and is not necessarily done.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Bob would like to bring the parks and trees board back to the basics as far as what subjects and parts of the city we should be overseeing. He asked that each board member write up a list for next month's meeting about what they want to accomplish for the meetings. He also would like to revamp the way we do memorial trees for people by getting one big sign in each park that shows where the current trees are located. This would eliminate the current small signs that are destroyed and take lots of time to be put out. He suggested that we buy one banner and put the names of the donator's each year and put it in Pell Park by City Hall. He would like to set a standard for picnic tables and memorial things people can buy in memory of their loved ones.

Some of the ideas that board members came up to so far: Splash Pad, trees/donations and a pollinator garden. The fitness court is still on the list.

9. Chairman's Report

None.

10. Commissioners' Comments

Todd Overhuel talked extensively about the old jail being put up. He said that the Frisbee golf on the donated Drug and Lab Property was not a good idea because it is too over grown.

11. Items for the Next Agenda: Board members list of ideas.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 14, 2023 at 5 PM.

13. Adjournment

***Shirley DeYoung moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Nieuwenhuis supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Pickett