

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
May 17, 2018**

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

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

4. Parks:

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler

Marsha noted that she has driven by the park but not stopped. Bob reported that the river is high but has not crossed the sidewalk. The park was mowed and weed-whipped today. Matthew asked if funds were approved to replace the playground mulch; Bob will check into replacing it.

Bob noted that Sherwood Street is being opened up and rebuilt this fall. He believes that one lane will remain open for traffic during construction. He spoke with the owner of Dean's Ice Cream today, to let him know the plans.

The City has not received the plans for the Veteran's Memorial Expansion and there is not yet a timeline on the project; Bunny has been asked to input on their landscaping.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel, Sandra Lamorandier

Sandy reported that lower Pell is again underwater. The fence has been repaired in preparation for painting. The new fish sculpture in Pell Park, as well as a City Hall bench, were dedicated last night in memory of former City Clerk Noreen Farmer. She was an active member and supporter of the Plainwell Arts Council and requested that in place of flowers, donations be made to the Arts Council. Bob noted that Aaron Bird, one of the DPW employees, will fabricate a metal sign holder that will blend with the fence railing as soon as time allows. Bob asked if he should proceed with installing signs stating "Do Not Climb On Or Over Fence" and "Smile, You Are On Camera". Consensus was that he should proceed.

The Renaissance Race sculpture basin was excavated and drilled with numerous drainage holes, then rebuilt and the sculpture washed. Sandy stated that we will plant annuals in it and watch to see how it drains over the summer; it seemed to drain well when it was washed. If the drainage fails, Bunny has a list of plants that would thrive in a rain garden.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke

Bunny reported that she has ordered 600 Christmas ferns at the same cost that 300 would have cost us under the original seller. We will not need to skimp, and should have a few extra that can be planted in other moist, shady areas. They are scheduled to be delivered the Tuesday after Memorial Day. She asked that Kim loosen the soil in that bed; Kim noted that she has already begun.

Cook Park Maintenance Report

Tom reported that the dog park is coming along. The boulders have been moved and the drive relocated. The Pickleball courts look good but the gate is locked. There was discussion on whether "open" hours should be posted, or whether Tony Gless' phone number should be posted, to give

residents access to the courts. It was decided to contact Tony for his input before doing anything. Tom reported that the dog park fence is on the ground; Bob noted that the installer went home sick.

Tom noted that the pavilion roof needs to have missing shingles replaced and it needs to be painted. The work has not been done yet because of a lack of funds.

Tom asked if the dog park will be seeded when construction is complete. Bob noted that it takes time to let grass seed sprout. The process could be speeded up with emulsion-style seeding but it would be more expensive. Tom asked that Bob measure the size of the dog park and calculate the cost of using that method.

Commissioners asked for a spreadsheet detailing budget and expenditures for the dog park, noting that they have been given no information on what was budgeted or what is being spent.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported a pile of stone dust has been dumped at the park for the ball diamonds. When he was at the park, two elite teams, from Battle Creek and Grand Rapids, were competing at the park. This seems to validate the discussion held some time ago on upgrading the facilities and promoting their rental to traveling team leagues.

Matthew noted that the parks have all been busy, he loves seeing people there. He noted that Kenyon is the only park that does not have a City of Plainwell/Kenyon Park sign with a logo; it still has the old style sign with just its name. He wants to be sure this request stays on the radar.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier

Sandra reported that Darrow is muddy.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report

Gina was not present. Tom noted that he would like to see something done to protect the trees along the River Walk. The only idea he can come up with is to place a boulder at least 22" high in front of each tree to keep vehicles from hitting them when they park. Bob will look into ways to protect them.

Bob left the meeting at 5:30 PM

5. New Business

None.

6. Open Business

A. Planting Day May 19th

Matthew and three family members, Marsha, Sandy, and Bob and three family members will be there. [Rick, a Master Gardener, will come.](#) Sandy noted that there are two beds in Pell with very specific planting patterns to emphasize height and color – the bench and the hydrant beds. Marsha volunteered to plant one. She is thinking of planting the sculpture in alyssum for the summer; Bunny concurred. Kim will find a new home for the sedum.

It was decided to meet at 630 AM at Pell Park to distribute the plants.

Bunny noted that the Chula Vista Garden Club will plant the bridge planters on Wednesday, May 23 from 9 AM – 11 AM. She invited other Commissioners to participate if they are available.

B. Blue Star Memorial Location Suggestions

Tabled.

C. Hicks Park Fern Bed Planting

Discussed earlier.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

None

9. Chairman's Report

Matthew thanked Commissioners for making his first year great, noting that he is looking forward to a very fun summer. He invited attendees to participate in his city bike tours.

10. Commissioners' Comments

Tom asked to have a discussion on the scheduling of loose leaf collection placed on the agenda. He stated that last year the leaves were not all down when collection ended. He blew his leaves into his cul-de-sac in Walnut Woods after collection ended and left them there. It was noted that loose leaf collection is not under the province of Parks & Trees; he should address his concerns to City Council. Sandy checked the City calendar and noted that November 11 is the last day for rake out; Sheryl noted that this leaves the crew just five days to pick up each city street one last time before beginning on the city Christmas tree and decorations, which have to be completely ready by the first Friday in December. Council discussed the schedule conflict last year and voted to proceed with installing the Christmas decorations. It was noted that last year was an extraordinarily late season, and that oak leaves, which are the biggest issue in Walnut Woods, may not fall until mid-winter or spring.

11. Next Meeting

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

12. Adjournment

Tom Belco 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 5:51 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Gluchowski

Deputy Clerk