

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
November 16, 2017**

1. Matthew Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Matthew Bradley, Sandy Lamorandier, Bunny LaDuke, Gina Berry. Absent: Marsha Keeler, Todd Overhuel, Justin Burchett. Also attending: Public Works Superintendent Rick Updike, Economic Development Manager Denise Siegel.

Matthew amended the agenda to allow Denise to update Commissioners on the dog park and Sherwood Park bathroom projects.

Denise reported that she is working with Bunny, Tracy and Rick on the project. They toured area dog parks to pick up ideas of what they did and did not want for the Plainwell dog park. As a result, they have made the dimensions of the runs larger, but with separate entrances rather than a common entry space for large and small dogs, the total amount of fencing should remain about the same. She needs to obtain three quotes for the fence. Bunny noted that parking is an important issue.

Denise reported that she is waiting for a meeting with Fleis & Vandenbrink, the engineers on the project. She believes that they will break ground in April or May depending on weather. Rick noted that he is working on the MDEQ permits that are needed to allow construction in a flood plain.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Gina Berry moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of October 14, 2017. Sandy Lamorandier supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

4. Parks:

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler

Marsha called to let us know she is not able to be present. One of the basketball nets needs to be replaced.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel, Sandra Lamorandier

Bunny noted that the area around the sculpture looks good.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke

Bunny reported that Hicks looks fine. Sandy noted that her daughter suggested turning the large rock so the memorial plaque is facing the inside of the park, not the sidewalk, now that the bushes are so tall.

Cook Park Maintenance Report

Justin let us know that he would be unable to attend this meeting. His term expires in December, so he will not be back.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported that Kenyon is in good shape; the fence at the ballfields held up well.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier

Sandra reported that Darrow is quiet.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Gina Berry

Gina reported that she has not been out because of all the rain lately. She asked when the River Walk would be power-washed and sealed. Rick noted that he walks his dog through every day and that it all looks good.

5. New Business

A. Parks & Trees Commission Meeting Time

The Commission used to meet at 4:30, but changed the time to 5 PM to accommodate Justin, who is now leaving the Commission at the end of his term. Sheryl noted that, because of pressure to get the city calendar to the printers, she called Matthew regarding the potential to meet earlier. Matthew would have difficulty meeting at an earlier time, so the question was dropped. The later meeting time does not work for Gina either.

6. Open Business

A. Hicks Park Ferns

Bunny reported that she applied for the grant to cover the cost of the ferns. She will hear in January whether we won the grant or not. She found bare root Christmas ferns for \$1.00 each, potted ferns for \$5 - \$7 each. Sandy reported that Napps can provide potted ferns for \$3 each in smaller pots. The consensus was to take no action until spring. Bunny noted that the Christmas fern is evergreen, which is what makes it special and more expensive.

B. 2018 Flower Planning Schedule & Participation

Sandy noted that if a quorum of Commissioners participate in flower planting, it is no problem but we will need to post it as a Parks & Trees Workshop. She gave the Commissioners color-coded list of the flowers we ordered for 2017, to give them a feel for the packaging and costs of various plants. At the workshop, she will bring maps of the beds, pots, planters, baskets, etc, for both sun and shade locations. She noted that Commissioners need to make their choices by mid-December, the she will work with Napps to ensure that the choices will be available and will thrive in the locations for which they were chosen. She explained that Commissioners are encouraged to bring in new idea for plants, noting that one year, someone dropped nasturtium seeds into the pots, which ended up working well because they were coming into full size and bloom just at the other plants were tired and fading.

Marsha suggested a purple and yellow color scheme this year. After discussion, it was decided to hold the first work session on Monday December 4th at 8 AM. Matthew is not able to participate but his wife Rachel would love to and would be a valuable addition. The work sessions are not limited to Commissioners and staff, interested persons are welcome.

Commissioners asked about funding for the flowers. Sandy reported that donations no longer cover the purchase, and the city is picking up the balance of the expense. The flowers run about \$4000 with an additional \$1540 for the hanging baskets.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Rick reported that he has purchased a new liner for the ice rink and plans to set it up in mid-December. Gina asked how much use it sees; Rick noted that it is weather dependent. If is it a cold winter, it gets a lot of use, especially for kids playing hockey.

Bunny left the meeting a 5:43 PM

9. Chairman's Report

None.

10. Commissioners' Comments

None.

11. Next Meeting

Sheryl noted that there will be several Workshops in December and suggested cancelling the December meeting unless something urgent arises. Commissioners concurred.

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 11 at 5 PM unless there is urgent need for a December meeting.

12. Adjournment

Sandy Lamorandier 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 5:46 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Gluchowski
Deputy Clerk