

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

1. Marcus Taylor called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Marcus Taylor, Matthew Bradley, Sandy Lamorandier, Bunny LaDuke, Justin Burchett. Absent: Marsha Keeler, Todd Overhuel. Also attending: Public Works Superintendent Rick Updike.
3. Approval of Minutes:

***Justin Burchett moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of the regular monthly meeting of October 13, 2016 as corrected. Sandy Lamorandier supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***

4. Parks:  
Sherwood  
A: Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler  
Marsha reported that the park looks good.

Pell  
A: Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke  
Bunny reported no problems.

Hicks  
A: Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel  
Sandy suggested that the base of Soule Fountain be cleaned.

Cook  
A: Park Maintenance Report - Justin Burchett  
Justin reported that there are leaf piles left after winter, and brush along the power lines.

Kenyon  
A: Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley  
Matthew reported that the park is coming out of winter. The loader left tire tracks when turning the compost piles. Rick noted that Renewed Earth has proposed a contract to manage the city's compost piles under their composting license. They would mix in rice husks so the pH is right at the end of the cycles, then bag and sell the finished compost. The city would pay them \$15,000 per year, which would include grinding and removing the city's brush. Leaves are stored at three sites in town because it is too far to haul them to the Otsego composting site. The DPW crew hauls them from the streets to the nearest site.

Darrow  
A: Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier  
Sandy reported that Darrow looks good.

Riverwalk Park \ Band Shell \ CBD  
A: Park Maintenance Report - Marcus Taylor  
Marcus reported there are no problems downtown.

5. New Business

A. Arbor Day

Sheryl noted that Arbor Day is coming fast. We have had one nomination so far for our honoree, a resident with a long history of service to the city. She asked if any commissioner would be willing to volunteer to act as liaison to the Alternative Education staff, to enlist their students to do a program at the Arbor Day tree planting. Justin volunteered, noting one of their teachers is his neighbor. The city will flex on which day we celebrate, to accommodate the schools' schedule. Bunny noted that Chula Vista purchases trees for Plainwell and Otsego third grade students every year; she will look into whether they could add us onto their order for serviceberries at a better price.

6. Open Business

A. Dog Park update

Marcus reported that Denise has begun a Facebook page for the dog park and has almost a hundred followers already. Facebook links to a sponsorship for donors or for ordering bricks. There are collection canisters at various merchants. They have adopted a logo. The goal is \$50,000 and if we raise half, a group called Patronicity will donate matching funds. The committee is planning a 5K in early May. Commissioners suggested edits to the paperwork. There will be a display during Art Hop at Rhino's. Sandy noted that there has been just one person upset about the dog park, feeling they were not given enough opportunity to be informed and to comment. Bunny noted that Denise is promoting it on the city emails, the Facebook page, the city web page. They need to add an aerial shot to show where it will be located.

B. New Commissioner Information Packets

Marcus distributed copies of the new commissioner information packets, noting that this is a living document and will need to be regularly updated.

***Sandy Lamorandier moved to approve the commissioner information packets with the suggested edits, to be used going forward with regular updates. Justin Burchett supported the motion. On voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.***

Sandy asked that Sheryl work on the annual Park & Trees Report for inclusion in the packet.

C. Park Reservations, Rules, Permit, Signage

Justin and Sandy are meeting and working on this project, progress is being made.

D. Plainwell Auto Landscape Update

Rick reported that the business does not own the building; it belongs to Bruce Barrows, although they may try to buy it. He has no commitment at this time to improve the façade. They are interested in the bike rack promoting their business. Rick recommends that we remove the trees, put down top soil and seed it with a shade-loving grass. Commissioners asked that he go to the owner about improving the façade, and look into getting the UPS box moved.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

None.

9. Chairman's Report

None.

10. Commissioners' Comments

None.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 5 PM.

12. Adjournment

***Justing Burchett 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 5:43 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheryl Gluchowski  
Deputy Clerk