

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
July 12, 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, Economic Development Manager Denise Siegel, City Manager Erik Wilson, Plainwell Kayak Owner Lois Heuchert, Deputy Clerk Sheryl Gluchowski.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Belco moved to accept and place on file the minutes of May 17, 2018. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

4. Parks:

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler

Marsha reported that the park looks good. Commissioners noted how good it looked and how busy it was during Festival.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel, Sandra Lamorandier

Lois Heuchert of Plainwell Kayak Company thanked the City for leasing the Pell Park building to her. It is a prime spot for her business. She had over 950 trips in 2017. She is using both Pell (by N. Main) and Darrow riverbanks as landings for her 1-hour trips and is worried about the erosion her paddlers are causing. She does not want floating docks but feels wooden ramps may be a solution, and she has a friend who would build them cheaply. Commissioners noted that she will need to get the DNR involved, will need to consider both high- and low-water conditions, and impact of the river current. Bob suggested using concrete rather than wood. Erik suggested she have the DPW look at the locations and talk to the DNR. Sandy noted that, while it is Lois' clients' use that is impacting the banks and causing the erosion at the launch sites, erosion is a problem throughout the City. Erik noted that there are plants that would help stabilize the shores and that rocks might slow erosion but we eventually will lose the Sherwood Park tree line above the river.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke

Bunny shared a picture of the ferns beginning to come up. That section of the park is irrigated.

Cook Park Maintenance Report

Tom reported that the pickleball courts are busy. The dog park grass is not growing and the Grand Opening is the end of this month. Attendees discussed ways to help the grass seed grow. Bob will work out a way to water it. Erik noted that GHD has donated a large diameter pipe to be cut for dog tunnels. Denise reported that the bills are at about \$30,000, with \$13,700 left, and the work is still going. Marley, the Otsego Dog-Mayor, lives in Plainwell and will attend the August 11 Grand Opening of the dog park. A dog park sign is still needed on M-89.

The Rotary has applied for a grant for the pavilion roof, paint, concrete and grill area.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported that the park is in good shape, including the fences. Now that they are taller, the players are no longer jumping on them. He likes the idea of upgrading the park for traveling teams' tournament play. Erik noted that converting to youth tournaments would mean building a concession area, paved parking, raking and chalking between games, and probably one more playing field. Rocket football and soccer both practice north of the tower. Soccer would need 12 fields for

tournaments. The Rotary refurbished the pavilion, playground and playground fencing at Kenyon last year.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier

Sandra noted that Darrow was discussed with Pell.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report

No report.

5. New Business

None.

6. Open Business

None.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Bob reported on work in the parks:

The Sherwood bathroom project is moving forward. Denise noted that the DNR approved the site plan and bid requests are going out in August, with construction in October. The bid documents will contain an option for a shed to house the gator but it would need to be within the budgeted project total. Bunny noted that it would be nice to see the Site Plan, to help understand the planned layout, as Chula Vista is discussing whether they will move the Blue Star Memorial. Denise will bring it in. Erik noted that the budget is \$60,000, with a grant paying \$45,000 and the city paying \$15,000. Denise noted that the Sherwood volleyball courts seem to be unused.

Bob noted that the Cook Park restrooms now have time locks, like the Pell bathroom. The gravel drive was graded. Vandals removed the dog park sign, but the crew found it and reinstalled it with the posts concreted in place this time.

The DPW crew has been painting and cleaning up in Pell Park. He noted that, when Lois approached the city about the erosion being caused by her business' foot traffic, she offered to pay 50% of the cost of a solution. He has found launches for \$1500 that might work if they were angled to stay in the eddy. Denise noted that, in the City Recreation Plan, Darrow would have a boat/kayak dock. It is good to have increasing numbers of people using the parks and keeping eyes on things.

The grills were painted in Hicks Park, and the lamp poles will be next.

Stumps were removed in Darrow Park, and the area restored. He is working on planning the watering changes.

The band shell fence was painted. Gina had asked for something to be done to the bank between the River Walk and the Koestner lot; Koestner owns that bank.

Bob noted that some vandalism is happening; the bridge baskets were vandalized twice and the concrete at the trestle was spray-painted. Erik added that the bathroom in Sherwood Park will have security cameras.

Erik noted that the City will remove the stone beds from the parking lot behind Joe's Pizza. Those areas will be filled with concrete and trees.

Erik asked if DPW could provide the recipe for the red concrete used in the sidewalks downtown. They will look for it. They suggested using concrete stain on the sidewalks, as the color was a coating and it is fading and wearing off.

Erik asked for input on plantings for the sculpture bed. Bunny asked about the drainage since the holes were added; it is much better.

Erik asked for feedback on putting wildflowers at the overlook. It was noted that, after the first year, some take over and others die out. Marsha Keeler suggested using crown vetch instead.

Sheryl noted that the next agenda will include setting up a flower committee for 2019, and asked commissioners to consider whether they will volunteer.

9. Chairman's Report

Matthew noted that Festival went well. It was well organized; the committee did a great job and it made a good impression for our city. Denise commented that she would like to see it condensed into two days.

10. Commissioners' Comments

Marsha Keeler stated that the flowers look bad this year. Sandy noted that we are on our third watering person for the season; there were probably a combination of factors that hurt the display this year.

11. Items For Next Agenda

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 16, 2018 at 5 PM. Commissioners did not want to schedule a parks & flowers tour this year

13. 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 6:29 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Sheryl Gluchowski
Deputy Clerk