

**MINUTES  
CITY OF PLAINWELL  
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
September 14, 2017**

1. Justin Burchett called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Sandy Lamorandier, Bunny LaDuke, Justin Burchett, Marsha Keeler, Gina Berry, Matthew Bradley (entered late). Absent: Todd Overhuel. Also attending: Marcus Taylor.
3. Approval of Minutes:  
***Marsha Keeler moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of August 17, 2017, 2017. Sandy Lamorandier supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***
4. Parks:  
Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler  
Marsha reported that everything is in order.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel, Sandra Lamorandier  
Sandy reported that Pell is beautiful with all the flowers.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke

Bunny reported that Hicks is fine. She brought in pictures of the flat block edging of her gardens, suggesting that we use the same idea in the park for the fern beds, noting that the mower can run on them and there is no tufted edge that needs to be trimmed. Sandy asked about the ferns spreading outside the bed; Bunny noted that they can just be mown down. The ferns will need to be mulched after planting. Bunny noted that the perennial bed at the other end of the park is sad.

Bunny has been looking at ferns, and suggests using 'Christmas ferns', a woody fern that should do well. She will call Riverside Nursery to see if she can get a discount there, and will measure the area and calculate the spacing, to arrive at the number of ferns needed. She noted that they will need to be kept moist; Sandy noted that area is irrigated. Sheryl suggested using the street pavers that are stored behind the DPW; Commissioners felt this was a good idea and would save money.

Commissioners noted that we want to keep some grassy areas in the shade, as that is where the people like to congregate and escape the summer heat.

Cook Park Maintenance Report

Justin reported that the park looks good. Sheryl noted that the staff has been working to improve the perennial beds; they will be added to the watering route.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported that the park is still busy and the ball fields look great. He noted that the park sign has still not been installed.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier

Sandra reported that Darrow looks fabulous. People are landing kayaks, fishing in the river. She would like to see a dock installed riverside.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Gina Berry

Gina reported that someone has been partying under the boardwalk near the band shell, evidenced by bags and bottles they left behind. They have an entry under the bushes and grapevines. We will get Public Safety involved.

5. New Business

A. Rotary Tree Donation

Sandy noted that we were expecting a representative for the Rotary to be here tonight to explain just what they have in mind as far as donating twenty trees to the city. It is hard to plan until we know how big they are, what varieties they have or if we are able to choose varieties, whether we could get a mixture of deciduous and evergreen trees and perennial grasses. If we were given something suitable for the berm behind Dance Kraze, it will need irrigation added to the berm.

Bunny noted that she continues to be annoyed by the weeds in the street gutter cracks. In discussion, Commissioners suggested reviving the effort to send out a newsletter and put an appeal to residents to weed along their frontage as a matter of civic pride.

6. Open Business

A. Dog Park update

Sandy announced that they made the match, thanks to the efforts of many people and businesses. Construction should start in the spring. Sheryl suggested that we might be able to use some of the Rotary's donated trees to provide shade at the new dog park.

B. Plainwell Auto Landscape Update

Tabled.

C. Berm Behind Dance Kraze

This item was discussed under 5. A Rotary Tree Donation

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Sandy Lamorandier proposed having Sheryl Gluchowski begin putting out the Parks & Trees Agendas. Shirley Wilfinger stepped in when Noreen Farmer became ill, but there is a disconnect between her job and the Parks & Trees Commission. Commissioners concurred with the change.

9. Chairman's Report

None.

10. Commissioners' Comments

Bunny LaDuke noted that Chula Vista moved a garden in Sherwood Park because a sidewalk was supposed to be installed; that sidewalk has not materialized yet. Now the Veterans Memorial is expanding, and she wonders if more landscaping will need to be moved. Sandy Lamorandier reported that they are expanding to the north and it will not impact the landscaping.

Bunny LaDuke reported that Kalamazoo In Bloom will begin emptying beds on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. If anyone would like to help, they can have any of the grasses, ferns or plants that are removed.

11. Items For Next Meeting's Agenda

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 12, 2017 at 5 PM.

12. Adjournment

**Matthew Bradley 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 6:05 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheryl Gluchowski  
Deputy Clerk