

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
May 15th, 2025**

1. Matthew Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Matthew Bradley, Marsha Keeler, Bunny LaDuke, Shirley DeYoung, Cory Redder and Public Works Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis and Council Member Brad Keeler. Lori Steele attended part of the meeting also.
3. Approval of Minutes:

Shirley DeYoung moved to accept and place on file the minutes of, May 15, 2025. Cory Redder supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

4. Parks:

Bob reported that:

1. The DPW has been cutting the grass on our properties in the city.
2. Meeting with US Earth Works will be this coming Friday to talk about the issues with the project.
3. The gutters will be going on the Pell Park bathroom soon.
4. We will be picking up the flowers on May 21, 2025.

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report – Shirley DeYoung

Shirley reported that she drove by today and it wasn't very busy. She saw 3 young kids playing the exercise equipment. No one was playing basketball and the park looks beautiful.

Pell Park Maintenance Report – Marsha Keeler

Marsha reported that the park looks good and is ready for flower planting.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported that he walked through tonight and the new tables look good. There were kids playing in the park and the plants have started coming up.

Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder

Cory reported that Upper Cook still looks disheveled. Lower Cook looks nice. There were dogs in the dog park and the pickle ball courts are getting busy.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis

Brad drove through the park on Sunday and didn't notice any problems. Bob said Plainwell Schools will be using the ball fields for a couple of weeks the end of May and beginning of June.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke

Bunny reported that she had nothing new to report. She asked about the status of the new dock. Bob said we would be trying to get it in the end of this month.

River walk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder

Cory reported that there was nothing new. Just wondered if we were going to be updating/fixing the board walk. Bob said he and Justin had walked through there because the fence near the band shell needs to be repaired. They are hoping the city can fix up that area a little at time. They are hoping to get a new fence and new deck composite. A question was also asked about the trestle. Bob's response was the company that was going to work with us on cost has sold to another company that is not interested in the plan that would make this more affordable for the city. We are now back at the beginning of trying to figure it out. Bunny suggested we apply for grants but Justin said we already tried to get them. Most grants are a fifty percent match. The city does not have the money for the match.

5. New Business

- A. Choose trees for the NAPA/PNC south side of parking lot. Bob suggested that we get palm trees that can grow in cold weather to go with our "Island City" theme. He has contacted a place out of Atlanta Georgia. It's called a windmill palm and will adapt to our climate and we would store them in the winter. We would have them in pots so they could easily be moved. We could put lights on them for the holidays. Matthew Bradley made a motion to approve this idea and Cory Redder supported it. On a voice vote the board unanimously passed this motion.
6. Open Business
- A. Choose Memorial sign/plaques for the memorial trees in our city: It was decided a while ago to get rid of the memorial tree individual signs. Bob brought some pictures for the board to choose from. The DPW will contact Dr. Hooks to get prices and ideas from them for getting the plaques and name plates that will hold up in the weather. Shirley DeYoung made a motion to approve the idea the board liked for the look of the sign. Matthew Bradley supported this on a voice vote the board passed this motion.
- B. Changing the meetings to quarterly meetings from the last meeting discussion: (Bunny had to leave early for another meeting) There was a lengthy discussion and some compromise on changing the meeting schedule. Some board members would also like to change the day and time of the meetings. They also want to check into changing the yearly meeting that is mandatory to March instead of January. They also don't want to have the meetings in the winter months. Matthew Bradley made a motion to not have quarterly meetings to meet more during the spring/summer months when we have items for the agenda. Also, to possible change the day of the week to Tuesday instead of Thursday. Brad Keeler supported the motion. On a voice vote the motion was unanimously passed. Brad Keeler also let the board know that Lori Steele would be the council person on the board instead of him. Justin LaKamper will look into the process on how to change the mandatory meeting to March instead of January. Lori Steele left the meeting early.
7. Public Comments
Terry Pickett spoke and said he was very impressed by the board members and how much they care about the city. He also said that we need more of people like our board members that care about Plainwell.
8. Staff Comments
Bob Nieuwenhuis had a light comment about having a more productive agenda for the meetings with deadlines for topics.
9. Chairman's Report
None.
10. Commissioners' Comments
Cory Redder said he was concerned that things might have fallen off and not got done if we would have stayed with quarterly meetings.
11. Items For Next Agenda
Vote to possible move meetings to 7:00pm.
12. Next Meeting
The next meeting will be Thursday, June 12th, 2025 at 5 PM.
13. Adjournment

Shirley DeYoung moved to adjourn the meeting. Brad Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Pickett