

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF PLAINWELL PARKS &**  
**TREES COMMISSION**  
February 15, 2018

1. Matthew Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:04 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Present: Matthew Bradley, Sandy Lamorandier, Bunny LaDuke, Gina Berry, Marsha Keeler and Tom Belco. Absent: Todd Overhuel. Also attending: Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent Rick Updike and DPW staff, Kim Brown.

Rick introduced Kim to the Commissioners. She will be the DPW representative in his absence.

3. Approval of Minutes:

***Sandy Lamorandier moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of January 11, 2018. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***

4. Parks:

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler

Marsha reports that the park looks fine. Rick said that the ice rink is about ready to come down.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Todd Overhuel, Sandra Lamorandier

Sandy reports no change.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke

Bunny states nothing to report.

Cook Park Maintenance Report - Tom Belco

Tom reports lots of melting snow.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report - Matthew Bradley

Matthew reports that today the park is foggy and looks good.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier

Sandy reports no change.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report - Gina Berry

Gina had no report. Rick commented that the Riverwalk is completely open now; that there was some flooding under M-89, but it is now clear.

5. New Business

A. 2017 Annual Parks & Trees Report

The Commissioners reviewed the report and discussed it. Sandy informed the Committee that a report should be submitted to the City Council every year.

***Tom Belco moved to submit the report as written to the City Council for their next meeting. Matthew Bradley supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***

6. Open Business

A. Hicks Park Fern Bed

Bunny talked about planting Christmas Ferns in the low lying areas of the park, they are a heartier fern and stay green longer. She found two sources for the ferns and the best deal is for \$1.00 each for bare root plants; she would like to order 300 and the total cost would be \$356.00. She also informed the board that we did not get the grant to cover the cost of the ferns. Kim suggested that they only do one of the low lying areas as the one under the tree would not be healthy for the tree because the roots would be damaged by the digging.

**Sandy Lamorandier made a motion to submit the request for approval to order the ferns. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

There was more discussion about when to plant the ferns; because they are bare root, they would need to go in the ground quickly. There will need to be some coordination and scheduling done before the ferns are ordered.

Bunny will ask Chula Vista if they would plant the bridge planters again this year. Kim commented that that was a big help last year.

**B. Arbor Day**

Tom stated that he spoke with Denise Beauchamp, Choir Director at Plainwell High School, about doing a small program during the Arbor Day Celebration this year. There are 54 members of the choir and they would like to present the program around 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. They requested electricity if possible so they could bring a keyboard. Tom suggested that the committee consider the berm behind old City Hall for the new tree's location. The committee discussed the location and who the honoree will be; Dale Harrington was suggested. The committee decided on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> as the day of the Ceremony. Sandy will contact Mrs. Harrington.

7. Public Comments  
None.

8. Staff Comments  
Matthew welcomed Kim. Rick commented that Kim will be a good liaison between the City and the Committee.

9. Chairman's Report  
None.

10. Commissioners' Comments  
Tom asked about the Dog Park. Rick reported that the City did acquire a grant for \$25,000. He mentioned that a couple of them visited other Dog Parks, made some observations and got ideas for our Park. He reports that there will be about 900 feet of fencing and two separate areas, one for small dogs and one for large dogs. There will be a brick area and some exercise equipment. There is more work to do before the building of the park, e.g. installing water and electricity to the site.

Bunny shared a picture of Loosestrife. It is a purple flowering weed plant that can be found along the water and it has to be eliminated. It has been spotted along the bank near the dam and also behind the Band shell. Kim took the picture and said she will get rid of it. Gina suggested introducing beetles that like to eat the weed, but the general consensus was to pull it up.

11. Next Meeting  
The next meeting will be Thursday, March 15 at 5 PM.

12. Adjournment

**Sandy Lamorandier moved to adjourn the meeting. Gina Berry supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:37 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Shirley A. Wilfinger  
Senior Administration Clerk



Loose Strife

Band Shell  
front of CH along RIVER



pull out completely!