

**MINUTES
CITY OF PLAINWELL
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
August 15, 2024**

1. Matthew Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Matthew Bradley, Marsha Keeler, Shirley DeYoung, Cory Redder, Public Works Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis and Council Member Todd Overhuel. Absent: Bunny LaDuke.
3. Approval of Minutes:

Bob Nieuwenhuis moved to accept and place on file the minutes of July 11, 2024. Shirley DeYoung supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

4. Parks:

Bob reported that:

- Sherwood Basketball courts have had the lines painted, we switched the courts around and added a little kid's part along with the workout equipment that was donated.
- A bunch of sign poles were pulled and the signs put on the fence to make it easier to mow
- Mayor Brook's bench area was cleaned off, the weeds were pulled and we put stone in.
- He wants to start making a list of the memorial signs and put them on one big sign in all the parks.
- Not much in Pell.
- Old Orchard Thurl Cook Park has been ruined by the contractors. We will work with them to clean it up and put it back the way it was at the start of the project.
- Kenyon Park is being used by the Rocket Football. They had a pod for storage put out there and brought in portable restrooms without the City's permission.
- Darrow no change.
- The Band Shell has been used a lot lately.
- There has been discussion about building gates to shut off areas where it floods on the river walk because the caution police tape doesn't seem to stop people.
- Another tree has fell in Hicks Park into the river.

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report – Shirley DeYoung

Shirley reported that she drove by yesterday and there were kids playing on the little kid's part of the basketball courts. She said the park looks good.

Pell Park Maintenance Report – Marsha Keeler

Marsha reported that the park looks good. The roses are blooming and it looked colorful yesterday when she was there.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported that he walked through the park tonight and it looked wonderful. Everything was blooming, green, healthy and clean.

Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder

Cory reported that the lower portion of the park looks good. The upper park has been destroyed by the construction company. The residents are very concerned that the construction company will not put it back the way it was as they agreed to at the beginning of the project. The residents up there want better equipment. Cory let them know that we will be putting the playground equipment that we got from Cooper Schools in there to add to what is there now. There is a lot of tree damage also. Bob said we have meetings with them all the time and will tell them that we want the park fixed. The residents also don't want the merry-go-round taken out.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Todd Overhuel

Todd reported that he was at the park last week and it looked good. He noticed that football had started their practices out there.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke

Bunny was absent from the meeting but she sent an email with lots of information about the park. The Commissioners will remember that we approved and recommended to the City Council at our October 2023 meeting that the city pay \$2875 for a survey to identify the property proposed by the landowners to be donated to the city to add to Darrow Park. Justin said the survey was done and the line is just north of the fire hydrant and will even the south line of the Darrow House (that burned down)

driveway. Justin said the ideal location of the boat launch will be in that area so we will need to wait for the sale of the property before we put anything in. So the Kayak launch is on hold. If for some reason the property does not sell we will put the launch up on another part of the park.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder
Cory reported that

5. New Business: None.
6. Open Business:
River Erosion issues: The board read over Bunny's e-mail and we will discuss this further at another meeting. Cory Redder has been in contact with Lois Cutcher and she is interested in working with the DNR's Matt Diana and start applying for grants. Further information is needed and Cory will be checking into this.
7. Public Comments: None.
8. Staff Comments: None.
9. Chairman's Report: None.
10. Commissioners' Comments:
Cory Redder has been looking over the city 5 year plan and he noticed we have not accomplished much as the city has no extra funds for this. He would like to revisit the dog park improvements in regards to replacement play equipment and lighting soon if we can find grants. In January 2025 we need to review the 5 year plan.
11. Items for the next agenda: Erosion Issues.
12. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 5 PM.
13. Adjournment:

Marsha Keeler moved to adjourn the meeting. Bob Nieuwenhuis supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Pickett