

**MINUTES  
CITY OF PLAINWELL  
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
March 16, 2023**

1. Matthew Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Matthew Bradley, Bunny LaDuke, Cory Redder and Public Works Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis and Council Member Todd Overhuel. Absent: Marsha Keeler and Shirley DeYoung.
3. Approval of Minutes:  
***Bob Nieuwenhuis moved to accept and place on file the minutes of, February 16, 2023. Cory Redder supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***
4. Parks:  
Bob reported that there are no major updates. We had storm damage that we cleaned up recently. Bob had a meeting about the Island City Festival and they wanted the festival spread out in the city but after their discussion they agreed to keep most everything downtown. The city just had a new sound system installed downtown. The dog park is getting muddy again so we put some wood chips at the entrance. Tony Gless wants to put lights up at the pickle ball court. So he will be getting some estimates and this will be paid for with a grant.  
Sherwood Park Maintenance Report – Shirley DeYoung  
Shirley was not able to attend the meeting.  
  
Pell Park Maintenance Report – Marsha Keeler  
Marsha was not able to attend the meeting.  
  
Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley  
Matthew reported that he had nothing to report.  
  
Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory Redder  
Cory reported that the dog park is very busy. There are people playing pickle ball on the nice days.  
  
Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Bob Nieuwenhuis  
Bob/Todd reported that there was nothing new.  
  
Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny LaDuke  
Bunny reported that there was nothing new in this park.  
  
Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory Redder  
Cory reported that it was good. Bob and Cheryl mentioned that the DPW had been there this week fixing some of the boards on the river walk.
5. New Business
  - A. The Kalamazoo Truck Rally was discussed at the meeting. They will be in Fannie Pell Park on Tuesdays from 5:00 – 7:30. The Plainwell dates are June 20<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> & August 15, 2023. They will have a group that will set up, work the event and tear down and clean up. There will also be entertainment and possible yard games.
6. Open Business
  - A. Sandy Lamorandier was told that she will be the person we honor this year. She was very moved and said thank you.

Bunny will check with her people to see if we can buy trees from them to hand out at the event. Cheryl will reach out to the school to see if we can get the choir and or band. The date will be April 28, 2023.

7. Public Comments

We had Brandon Thornton come to the meeting on behalf of the Plainwell Northwood baseball teams to see if we can work something out for some fields for them to use this summer. We also discussed the plan to build a sports complex in Kenyon Park. Brandon will check with Force Soccer and Rocket Football to see who would be interested in using our fields. This was part of our 5 year plan. More information will follow in the near future. Brandon suggested that we look into the complex that was built in Three Rivers and get some ideas for funding and planning.

8. Staff Comments

None.

9. Chairman's Report

None.

10. Commissioners' Comments

None.

11. Items for the Next Agenda: We need to ask Denise about the truck rally. Are they bringing in restrooms, what are they doing with the garbage and what about picnic tables. Also ask Denise about the life span of the upcoming athletic workout area in Sherwood Park.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 5 PM.

13. Adjournment

***Bunny LaDuke 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 5:56 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Cheryl Pickett