

# City of Plainwell



Rick Brooks, Mayor  
Lori Steele, Mayor Pro-Tem  
Brad Keeler, Council Member  
Roger Keeney, Council Member  
Todd Overhuel, Council Member

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“The Island City”

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**AGENDA**  
**Parks & Trees Commission**  
**Thursday, February 15, 2018**  
**5:00pm**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes and Summary Regular Meeting of 01/11/2018
4. Park Concerns:
  - A. Sherwood ~ Marsha Keeler
  - B. Pell ~ Sandy Lamorandier
  - C. Hicks ~ Bunny LaDuke
  - D. Cook ~ Tom Belco
  - E. Kenyon ~ Matthew Bradley
  - F. Darrow ~ Sandy Lamorandier
  - G. Riverwalk Park (Band Shell) & CBD ~ Gina Berry
5. New Business:
  - A. Review 2017 Annual P&T Report
6. Open Business:
  - A. Hicks Park Fern Bed
  - B. Arbor Day
7. Public Comments
8. Staff Comments
9. Chairman’s Report
10. Commissioners’ Comments
11. Next Meeting / Items for Agenda: Thursday, March 15, 2018
12. Adjournment

**MINUTES  
CITY OF PLAINWELL  
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
January 11, 2018**

1. Bunny LaDuke called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Marsha Keeler, Bunny LaDuke, Sandy Lamorandier and Tom Belco. Absent: Gina Berry, Matthew Bradley and Todd Overhuel. Also attending: Public Works Superintendent Rick Updike.
3. Approval of Minutes:

***Sandra Lamorandier moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of November 16, 2017. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***

4. New Business

A. Veterans Memorial Expansion – John Roggow

John Roggow and Dick Lubeck were present representing the Friends of the Greater Plainwell Veterans Memorial. John noted that they had contracted Troy Stefl of LDW 2.0 to devise concepts for expanding the Veterans Memorial. They chose Preliminary Concept B as the plan they preferred. They are seeking concept approval so that they may begin raising the estimated \$30,000 - \$40,000 needed for the project. Some aspects are an absolute must-have and some are optional.

John distributed copies of the concept to commissioners. He noted that one memorial tree at the site is in poor condition and needs to be replaced. They have contacted the man's parents, who support replacing the tree and want to contribute something. The Friends will continue to work with them going forward.

Their vision is to create a tranquil setting for visitors, with paved walkways for pedestrians, and a paved seating area. There is a large tree at the northeast corner of the Memorial that they would like to remove because it is in the way of the planned sidewalk and because it litters debris down onto the Memorial that creates a mess and stains the concrete. They would replace that with another tree sited out of the way. The center evergreen in the trio near the memorial is not thriving and they would like to remove it, leaving the other two.

They noted that the nearby Harry Stout memorial bench is deteriorating. The Cancer Bed is not in the project area, nor is the nearby shore area that is used as a canoe/kayak landing. The Class of 45 tree is deteriorating; Sandy noted that the City may need to replace it because it was provided by the city and has not done well from the beginning.

John noted that the Friends feel the renovation will help channel foot and bike traffic around, rather than through, the Memorial, as well as providing much-needed room for memorial bricks. The area originally allocated for bricks is full.

***Sandra Lamorandier moved to support the Friends of the Greater Plainwell Veterans Memorial's Preliminary Concept B plans for expansion of the Veterans Memorial, as presented. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.***

John noted that the Rotary has volunteered to help considerably with the fund-raising.

B. Arbor Day 2018

Sheryl asked for a volunteer to work on providing a program for the 2018 Arbor Day celebration. We typically work with a local school or youth group, and they can sing, do a play, read poetry, or

whatever they would like as an Arbor Day program. Sandy noted that Arbor Day falls in or adjacent to Earth Week, so it ties in nicely. So far, the city has not been approached by anyone suggesting an honoree. Rick suggested that we could honor Deborah Harrington's late husband Dale. She donated this year's city Christmas tree. Tom volunteered to work on providing the entertainment for Arbor day.

C. Commissioners' Choosing Parks for 2018

All Commissioners chose to continue with the same parks in 2018. Tom will fill the vacancy at Cook Park.

5. Parks:

There were no park reports.

6. Open Business

A. Review of Flower Order 2018

The Commissioners supported the plans drafted for the 2018 Flower Season. Marsha asked if the city could provide cameras to help protect the flowers from vandals.

B. Sculpture Bed Plantings

Sheryl noted that the sculpture bed continues to have a moisture problem because of poor drainage, and asked if Bunny might have a connection to a Master Gardener with the Rain Garden Certification, and if the Commissioners felt that a rain garden might be a solution. Bunny does know Rain Garden Certified Master Gardeners and would be willing to approach them.

Attendees discussed options for addressing the problem. Rick noted that it is not easy because it sets under the sculpture, which is supported only by three Sonitubes filled with concrete. The city could remove all the plantings and soil, have a contractor core drill several places through the concrete, then fill it with large rocks. It might fix the problem.

7. Public Comments

None.

8. Staff Comments

Sandy and Rick both welcomed Tom to the Parks & Trees Commission.

9. Chairman's Report

None.

10. Commissioners' Comments

Tom stated that he will do his best for the Parks & Trees Commission.

11. Items For Next Agenda/Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 5 PM.

12. Adjournment

***Sandra Lamorandier 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 5:56 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Sheryl Gluchowski  
Deputy Clerk

**SUMMARY  
CITY OF PLAINWELL  
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
January 11, 2018**

**New From This Meeting:**

Recommended approval of Veteran's Memorial Concept  
Began work on Arbor Day 2018 program and seedlings  
Commissioners selected parks to monitor 2018  
Discussed need to address drainage issue in the Pell sculpture bed

**Unresolved Past Items:**

**Underway:**

- Hicks Park fern beds.
- Dog Park
- Plainwell Auto Landscape
- Landscape berm behind Dance Craze

**On The Radar:**

- Surface modifications for the trestle deck.
- City of Plainwell sign for Kenyon Park.
- Will research surfactants to see if they would help with drainage at the ball fields or the sculpture.
- A 'places to eat & drink" map for the canoe/kayak landings.

**Wish List:**

- Darrow Park Dock Suggestion
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**Tabled –until ...**

- Bike Racks – *tabled until Plainwell Auto is settled*
- Park Reservations, Rules, Permit, Signage – *tabled until Erik can attend*

**Work Requests for the DPW:**

- Paint wood fence in Pell Park.
- Power wash and reseal River Walk boards.
- Install kayak landing signage at/near Sherwood Park.
- Photo the completed pickleball courts for city website.
- Remove trees and re-landscape adjacent to Plainwell Auto.



**Annual Report 2017**  
**PARKS & TREES COMMISSION**

**Accomplishments:**

- A commissioner monitored each park for maintenance/small improvement suggestions
- Arbor Day ceremony honoring Joseph Dorgan with a maple tree
- Planted & provided oversight on 2017 flower planting day; 39 donors gave \$2933 toward the flower purchase this year
- Saw addition of a yard hydrant & benches to Darrow Park, rehabilitation of parks buildings in Kenyon & Cook Parks, and replacement of dugout fencing at Kenyon Park; Rotary Club's rehabilitation of Kenyon Park pavilion & installation of playground equipment and two grills there
- Saw construction begin on two pickleball courts in Cook Park, to be finished next spring
- Saw success of funding campaign for Cook Park dog park, with construction in 2018
- Saw approval of grant for a permanent Sherwood Park restroom, with construction in 2018
- Drafted & adopted New Commissioner Welcome Packets

**Current Projects:**

- Dog Park
- Pickleball courts
- Sherwood Park restroom
- Trestle Bridge Re-decking
- Pell Park sculpture bed drainage corrections
- Kenyon Park city sign
- Riverwalk berm landscaping behind Riverwalk Antiques

**Discussions / Future Considerations:**

- Expand irrigation or install hose conduits to Plainwell Auto, along Riverwalk north of M-89, and to the rock bed near the Pell building.
- City sign for Kenyon Park
- Plainwell Auto façade/landscaping improvements
- Extending the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail through Plainwell
- Sherwood Park River Bank Stabilization
- Renovating Cook Park bathrooms to enable them to be heated through the winter
- Area lighting at Cook Park
- Routine replacement of all bridge planters and hanging baskets
- 'Dark Sky' Lighting Ordinance
- Increasing activity at Cook Park, possibilities: a community garden, a splash pad
- Electrical access and small Christmas lighting display in unlit parks
- Memorials & Honorariums List & GIS Layer