

MINUTES  
CITY OF PLAINWELL  
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION  
June 14, 2018

1. Matthew Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.
2. Roll Call: Present: Marsha Keeler, Bunny LaDuke, Sandy Lamorandier, Tom Belco, Matthew Bradley, Gina Berry. Absent: Todd Overhuel. Also attending: Public Works Superintendent Bob Nieuwenhuis, Kim Brown, and Shirley DeYoung.

3. Approval of Minutes:

Tom Belco moved to accept and place on file the minutes and summary of May 17, 2018. Marsha Keeler supported the motion. On voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

4. Parks:

Sherwood Park Maintenance Report - Marsha Keeler

Marsha stated that the big black pots are now in clusters and look good. The park looks good.

Pell Park Maintenance Report - Sandra Lamorandier

Sandy reported that the park looks good. She noticed some sprinklers weren't working and reported it to Bob.

Hicks Park Maintenance Report - Bunny LaDuke

Bunny reported that 500 Christmas ferns were planted in the park by volunteers and the rest Kim planted along the Riverwalk. Bunny expressed concern over the upcoming foot traffic from the Festival. Kim informed her that all the flower/planting beds will be fenced off during festival as is done every year.

Cook Park Maintenance Report – Tom Belco

Tom reports that the dog park was looking great until we received 3 ½ inches of rain which wrecked the hydro-seeding that had recently been done. Bob informed the committee that DeYoung Landscaping Service will be coming out Friday to make an assessment. Tom recommends we reseed and push the opening out another month. Pickleball Courts are very busy and attended daily. Matthew asked if the other courts could be done. It would need funding, this was all done through private funds.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Matthew Bradley

Matthew reported no change.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report - Sandy Lamorandier

Sandra suggested that a pvc line could be run underground to the flower beds so they wouldn't have to have a giant amount of house chained and locked to the post. Bob will look into solutions.

Riverwalk, Band Shell & CBD Maintenance Report – Gina Berry

Gina has not had time to check the Riverwalk and Band Shell but she did express a concern of hers about the section of bank between the Band Shell and the N Main Street underpass; it's ugly. She wondered if rocks could go there. Bob stated that it would involve a permit. Kim said that she has the Debt Crew weed whip it down when it gets high. This is actually Koestner's property and anything that is done to it would involve them.

5. New Business:  
None

6. Open Business:

A. Dog Park Budget was reviewed but not well received. Sandy explained that this was Denise's budget and that she was not familiar with it. The Commissioners were not able to decipher the information and Bunny asked that someone be present at the next meeting to explain it and give an update. Sandy will talk to Denise tomorrow at work.

7. Staff Comments:

Bob gave an update on each one of the parks:

Cook Park - Possible reseeding and installing two old fire hydrants with concrete in the Dog Park. The hydrants will be sandblasted and painted by one of the Industrial Park businesses. He suggested that we could let people volunteer to paint the hydrants. If funds can be found, then reroofing the shelter will get done. Timer locks for the bathrooms are on order.

Pell Park - There is a washout at the base of Pell Park where the kayakers launch and Plainwell Kayak is concerned about it, but they are the ones causing the washout. Bob is going to work with her on a solution, possibly some sand.

Hicks Park - there will be 15 - 20 church volunteers working in the park this Saturday to give it a makeover, maybe some top dirt and hedge trimming.

Darrow Park - pulling stumps and fixing the washout.

Sherwood Park – the bathroom build will begin this summer.

Kenyon Park - the stone dust on the ball diamonds looks great.

He also reports that some of the memorial trees are being wrapped at the bases.

8. Chairman's Report:

Matthew went to a meeting yesterday of the River 2 River Project and suggested that the project should be a part of the City's Recreation Plan. He would like each of the Commissioners to become familiar with the plan and suggested that they support it. Sandy said the River 2 River Trail Planning Study could probably be viewed on their web site. Bunny suggested that they need more publicity. Allegan County needs an Authority to proceed.

9. Commissioner Comments:

Bunny shared that Chula Vista does all the weeding and plantings in the three gardens at the corner of M-89 and Acorn Street.

Gina asked about making the trestle bridge dog friendly. She believes that if the planks were wider, the dogs would walk on it.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 5 PM.

11. Adjournment

Tom Belco 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 5:43 PM.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,  
Shirley DeYoung