

Polk City | Parks Commission May 2024 Meeting Minutes

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The Polk City Parks Commission held a meeting at 6:00pm on Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The agenda was posted at the City Hall office as required by law.

**These tentative minutes reflect all action taken at the meeting**

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*Larry Jablonski | Chair*

*Monica Converse | Vice Chair Darren Ten Napel | Secretary*

*Commission Members: Tim McCann | Kelley Haaland | Gail Turner | Lindsey Page*

1. **Call to Order** | Meeting called to order at 6pm on 6 May 2024
2. **Roll Call** | All Present
3. **Approval of Minutes of April 1, 2024**  
*Motion: Converse                      Second: McCann*  
*Motion carried unanimously*
4. **Public Comments:** Ken Morse – Chairperson of Polk City Arbor League. 35 years supporting Polk City Arbor activities. First project was every tree at the Polk City Sports Complex. Have continue to support tree planting at all city parks. Ongoing project at Woodhaven currently in progress planting trees and moving boulders for aesthetics and recreation. Future of the Arbor League are uncertain as Mr. Morse is nearing the end of his tenure with the organization. Tree City USA Certification has been transferred to Polk City Park and Recreation Director Jason Thraen. Contact info for Ken if interested in continuing Polk City Arbor League into the future 515-984-6735 or message the Polk City Arbor League Facebook page.
5. **Presentation from Polk City Arts & Culture Committee** – Matt White – behalf of Polk City Arts and Culture. New group to the city, here to explain objectives and intentions. Came about through the Iowa Great Places application encompassing several arts arenas. Assisted with mural projects around Polk City in recent years. Provide opportunities for artists to connect and communicate through arts and ideas. In early phases – finalizing corporate bylaws, primary focus is establishing non-profit designation, secondary focus is establishing public awareness. Early-stage fundraising will be used for costs to establish organization. First event is June 22<sup>nd</sup> – Parker Boulevard tunnel to Leonard Park – sell sidewalk squares to the public (groups, families or organizations) for temporary painting. Currently 9 members, seeking 10 to meet established bylaws.
6. **Director's Report** – Mayor's Monarch Pledge – offered through NWF, community can pledge that they are supporting monarch butterflies. List of action items to choose from to qualify, annual deadline is in March. Need to identify 3 action items for next meeting discussion.  
Ongoing Regional Park Feasibility Study – working through final small group meetings and interviews. Thraen invites those who have not participated on May 8<sup>th</sup> or May 17<sup>th</sup> to 1 on 1's with RGI.  
Next Monday night May 13<sup>th</sup> RGI will participate in work session with City Council, target is to have written report completed for Council Review May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Reports & Particulars - Council Liaison, Commission, and Staff**

Sarchet – Thanks Ken Morse and Polk City Arbor League for their efforts and contributions to Polk City.

Sarchet – green space at 3rd & Davis, also space near the library. Designated long term uses – other ideas for short-term usage are needed, asks Park Commission for ideas.

Thraen – 3<sup>rd</sup> & Davis used to have backstop, removed when curb and gutter were added to street.

Sarchet – parking consideration should be part of proposal, no electrical and water at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Davis, closer to yet not sure if available at Library adjacent property.

Sarchet – council activities – budget approved, trail connector discussions continue.

**8. Adjourn until June 3, 2024**

*Motion: Page*

*Second: Converse*

*Motion Carried Unanimously*

**Upcoming Programs & Events**

Start Smart Baseball

Senior Social Hour

Submitted by Park Commission Secretary:



Darren Ten Napel

Attest:

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Jason Thraen, Park and Recreation Director