

MEETING MINUTES
The City of Polk City
Parks Commission
6:00 p.m., Monday, March 7, 2022
City Hall

The Polk City Parks Commission held a meeting at 6:00 pm, on March 7, 2022. The agenda was posted at the City Hall offices as required by law. **These tentative minutes reflect all action taken at the meeting.**

1. **Call to Order** / *The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.*
2. **Roll Call** | Savage, Reed, Otis, Converse, Haaland | In attendance
Bentley, Delaney | Absent.
3. **MOTION:** A motion was made by Reed and seconded by Converse to approve the February 7, 2022 meeting minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
4. **Audience Items** | None
5. Jessica Faue, Polk City Friends of the Parks presented to the Commission. She said the main focus of the group is to fundraise for things that are above and beyond the city's budget. The big upcoming event is the Earth Day 5K on April 23, starting at 10am at The Square. The race will run through the south part of town and through a couple of city parks, and there will be activities in The Square and Fenders afterwards. Funds from the event will go towards a shade structure at Leonard Park, with an estimated cost of approximately \$10,000. Currently there are three corporate sponsors and about 20 groups registered. Promotion has only been on social media so far, but fliers will be posted around town and an announcement will be made at a future upcoming city council meeting. The event will need volunteers, so she asked that if any of the Commission members were interested to let them know. Some questions came up from the committee about the city's approval process for installing the shelter. Thraen said he would check into this to see if the approval needs to go before the Parks Commission or Council prior to installation.
6. Parks & Recreation Director Thraen discussed Crossroads parkland located near the proposed Hy-Vee site. This site was given to the city, but there are challenges associated with developing into a traditional park. Some of the site challenges include existing woodlands, stormwater detention pond, steep topography/minimal flat area, and no vehicular access (only trail access). Thraen asked the Commission for ideas for future use of this space. Some of the opportunities mentioned included trail connections, disc golf, natural areas/prairie/soft surface walking trails, amphitheater, dog park, etc. Several of these options may not be viable due to lack of nearby parking or vehicular access. Overall, the Commission agreed that keeping this park in more of a natural setting would be desirable, would require less maintenance on city staff, and calling it something other than a park would be advantageous. Will plan to review again at a future Commission meeting, possibly on site.
7. Thraen discussed 2022 special events Commission participation. The Commission is welcome to have any involvement in future events to help promote themselves within the community, as well as garner excitement for the future regional park. Mini-Fest (scheduled for July 16) and Fall Fest (scheduled for October 1) might be good opportunities.
8. **Reports & Particulars** | Council Liaison, City Manager, Staff, and Commission
 - Council Liaison Vogel stated that the Council and P&Z had a recent work session to revisit the future land use map to identify more areas for commercial development. She also said a big focus of the city's budget this upcoming year will be to fund future city facilities that are needed to accommodate the growth of the community.
 - Parks and Recreation Director Thraen said as a follow up to last month's presentation with Tyler Stubbs from the DNR that the city is working with an urban forester to plant appropriate tree species near Marina Cove and

Twelve Oaks Parks that should help with some of the stormwater runoff issues. He also said he's currently working on updating the summer brochure with registration opening soon. The city is also in the process of cleaning up their code of ordinances, which will include clarification on the Sports Complex policy and emergency action plan. The change will go to council for future approval of the resolution, but a draft of it will be presented at a future Commission meeting for review.

- Commission Member Reed asked if track marks at Leonard Park would be filled in this spring, and Thraen confirmed that they will.

9. **MOTION:** A motion was made by Reed and seconded by Haaland to adjourn at 6:44 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Next Meeting Date –April 4, 2022

Submitted by Parks Commission Secretary:



Monica Converse

Attest:

Jason Thraen, Parks & Recreation Director