

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

The Polk City Parks Commission held a meeting at 6:00 pm, on February 7, 2022. The agenda was posted at the City Hall office 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** | Delaney, Converse, Savage, Reed, Otis | In attendance.
Bentley, Haaland | Absent.
3. Commission Chair Delaney introduced new member Jeff Savage, serving through 12-31-2026.
4. ***MOTION:*** A motion was made by Otis and seconded by Converse to approve the November 1, 2021 meeting minutes.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
5. **Audience Items** | None
6. Tyler Stubbs, Iowa DNR Community Fishing Biologist, presented to the commission. Fishing license holders in Polk City the past 4 years have been 803-2018, 719-2019, 1005-2020, and 920-2021. Electro-fishing sampling was done at Marina Cove and Twelve Oaks ponds in 2021. Both showed average fish populations of bluegill, largemouth bass, and channel catfish. Both ponds have good max depth with Marina Cove at 20ft and Twelve Oaks at 11ft. Both ponds appear to be fished regularly with the better opportunity for success at Twelve Oaks. Stubbs also mentioned Marina Cove has more aquatic vegetation than desired. Delaney asked what could be done at a high level to improve the algae problem. Stubbs recommended a rain-barrel program. Less run-off from the neighborhood would lessen the nutrients finding their way to the pond. Stubbs also recommended the use of a phosphorous-free fertilizer to be used in the pond's watershed. Stubbs also recommended the planting of tall grass prairie and trees around the pond. Both would help reduce run-off and help reduce soil erosion. The tall grass would also help deter geese, who also bring their own version of fertilizer to the area. Delaney asked if any other measures could be used to deter geese. Stubbs recommended the tall grass approach as several others require much more red tape. Stubbs also recommended Polk City adopt a low impact ordinance with builders for future ponds in the event Polk City acquires them. Some programs and partners that could help Polk City with these ponds are Iowa Stormwater Education and Department of Ag and Land Stewardship. Grants exist for rain-barrel programs as well. Converse inquired about water quality requirements in Polk City. Council Liaison Vogel stated this is a newer initiative Polk City is developing that started with last year's soil quality restoration program. Stubbs also urged Polk City to take a stance on ice fishing for Marina Cove and Twelve Oaks ponds. Having an actual stance will be advantageous to Polk City. Stubbs also shared his enjoyment of working with Parks and Recreation Director Thraen. Lastly, Delaney asked about other species of fish being stocked in Polk City ponds. Stubbs replied that in smaller ponds, certain species will have trouble establishing and maintaining. Species that tend to do well together in small ponds are bluegill, largemouth bass, and channel catfish. Iowa DNR is testing yellow perch in some DSM Metro ponds with inconclusive results to date.
7. Thraen gave an update on Lost Lake Park Phase II. The timeline as of 2-7-2022 is a late May install of equipment. The color scheme will be "Earth", consisting of spring green, blue, brown, and iced coffee. Thraen shared an updated concept based on 11-1-2021 commission feedback that included a stand-alone climbing structure. A recent \$3,000 private donation to the project brings the total amount of project alternative revenue to \$38,000.
8. Thraen summarized Q4 2021 cost recovery for programs. Several programs were canceled due to COVID-19 related issues. Senior programming is still getting established. This is a trend the entire DSM Metro is seeing. Thraen will continue to find opportunities to market these demographic specific programs. The library does already offer some of

the programs requested such as social groups and cards. Thraen shared analysis of Start Smart BBALL and Youth Flag Football. Flag Football is a shorter program than what is offered by NPCSD and is designed for younger participants. 2021 cost recovery was higher than predicted, so a 2022 fee decrease will be reviewed. Delaney asked about winter break trip performance. Thraen replied none of the trips met minimum registration requirements. Similar trips are being offered during Spring Break and are already seeing better registration numbers. Delaney also mentioned a citizen request for late start Monday programming.

9. **MOTION:** Converse made a motion that Nick Otis serve as Park Commission Chair for 2022. Motion was seconded by Reed. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
10. **MOTION:** Reed made a motion that Josh Reed serve as Park Commission Vice-Chair for 2022. Motion was seconded by Otis. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
11. **MOTION:** Reed made a motion that Monica Converse serve as Park Commission Secretary for 2022. Motion was seconded by Savage. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**
12. **Reports & Particulars** | Council Liaison, City Manager, Staff, and Commission
 - Council Liaison Vogel expressed appreciation to the commission and welcomed Jeff as a new member. Vogel is starting her 5th year on City Council and has been a Polk City resident since 2010. Vogel stated FY'23 budget is the council's focus right now.
 - Parks and Recreation Director Thraen shared his happiness with Light Up Polk City 2021. 3300 people visited the event, spending an average of 90 minutes. Six total trees were spaded in three Polk City parks 11-18-2021. Thraen also shared the Polk City Friends of the Parks 501c3 group met for the first time on 1-25-2022. Their focus is advocating and fundraising for Polk City parks. They intend to offer a spring and fall fundraising event each year.
13. **MOTION:** A motion was made by Reed and seconded by Converse to adjourn at 6:49 p.m.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Next Meeting Date –March 7, 2022

Attest: _____
Jason Thraen, Parks & Recreation Director