



Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Grafton Parks & Recreation Board Room  
715 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grafton, ND 58237  
5:15 p.m.

**Minutes:**

- I. Call to Order by Scott Hills at 5:16 PM
- II. Board Members Present:
  - A. Board Members Present: Scott Hills, Cory Burns, Jon Jelinek
  - B. Board Members Absent: Ryer Stark, Kristi Olson
  - C. Staff Present: William Dahl, Matt Oppegard, Gabbi Holand
  - D. Media Present: Todd Morgan
  - E. Public Present: Chris Lipsh, Nick Ziegelmann, Jason Johnston, Sheriff Ron Jurgens
- III. Scott asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. No changes to the agenda were made.
- IV. Scott introduced Chris Lipsh from the Ball Diamond Boosters Annual Presentation. Chris reported that 2023 saw some challenges. Registrations were down by 20 participants. There were 11 teams with 16 coaches. Only head coaches were paid and salaries totaled \$11,200. Ump fees totaled \$6,900. Total income netted \$43,000, which allowed the club to invest \$11,000 into equipment and \$4,500 in concession upgrades. The Boosters is working on their succession plans and Chris plans on resigning in March. They will have the next Memorandum of Understanding ready prior to the end of 2024. Chris reported that their fundraiser and hosted tournaments went well. They will continue to work with St. Thomas and Drayton. Challenges for next year include finding the right fit for softball, due to the wide range of ages that play in the local league and starting their dibs program to increase parent involvement. Chris and Nick Ziegelmann thanked the Park Board for their time.
- V. Scott introduced Jason Johnston from the Walsh County Highway Department. Jason presented their need for a new jail and explained that if the jail is built in the area that is proposed there would be no parking left for the county buildings. Jason asked if the Park Board would be interested in selling the Chase property back to the county. Bill explained that he looked back at old minutes and found that the Park Board approved the purchase of the property from the county for \$1 at the meeting held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2000. The skate park was installed with the help from a grant, but the equipment is now dated and is beyond repair. Bill explained that the basketball poles and hoops are the only thing with value at Chase Skate Park. Estimated replacement costs of the basketball hoops and poles would be around \$4,000. Scott asked if the property would be used for the building of the jail or just parking. Sheriff Ron Jurgens explained that they are still in the planning stages of the project. They still need to find out how many beds are needed in the new jail and depending on how large of a building it needs to be, it might have to be built on Chase Park property. Cory asked about the school pick up location at Chase Park. Ron explained that the new jail would be an all-enclosed jail with an indoor fitness area. Inmates would be contained inside the building and would have a secured hallway connected to the courthouse for trials. Bill explained that there are 2 board members absent from this meeting and this would need to be discussed further at a Facility Committee meeting. Jason and Ron thanked the Park Board for their time.

- VI. Scott asked for an approval of the minutes from the September Park Board Meeting held on 09/13/23 and the minutes from the Facility Committee Meeting held on 09/22/2023. Cory made a motion to approve the minutes from the September Park Board meeting and the Facility Committee Meeting held on 09/22/23. Seconded by Jon, motion passed all approved. Scott asked for a motion for the authorization of expenditures as listed. Jon made a motion to approve the expenditures as listed. Seconded by Cory, motion passed all approved to pay bills.
- VII. Matt presented the September bank statement report for the board's review.
- VIII. Reports:
  - A. Recreation Report
    - i. Gabbi reported gymnastics started October 1<sup>st</sup>. She is working on a fundraiser that will be starting shortly.
    - ii. Learn-to-Skate Figure Skating starts Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Registrations are ahead of last year. This year's fundraiser will be the Candlelight Hike at Leistikow Park. Parents are tired of selling raffle tickets. Instead of selling raffle tickets they will help set up, serve hot chocolate, ect. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Grafton Figure Skating competition will be held on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Centennial Center. The competition will also be used as a fundraiser for Figure Skating by charging participants to compete in the competition.
    - iii. Learn-to-Skate Hockey only has 5 registered and starts Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Gabbi is looking for coaches for LTS Hockey and does not want to give up on the program for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.
    - iv. The 5k for \$5k fun run went well and raised \$2,595 to go towards a new pool project.
    - v. The corn maze field trips started out slow but ended up from last year by \$880.
  - B. Director
    1. Parks
      - i. Bill reported the contract for the Recreation Trails Program Grant was signed and received approval to make purchases. Scott has the new ToolCat and MatTracks on order. Scott cannot set up the 3-year lease until the ToolCat is delivered. The new ToolCat should be here by the end of the month.
      - ii. Bill reported that park staff will start winterizing the water lines tomorrow.
      - iii. Bill reported that Rick Miller is working well and was a huge help when installing the playground equipment at Pumpkin Park. Rain, Corn Maze Set-up, and Centennial Center ice plant start-up has delayed the project, but Bill hopes to be able to put in a couple more pieces by winter. The playground will more than likely be completed in spring 2024.
      - iv. Bill has been working with Jenny Dusek on coordinating locations for Lights In the Park displays. Jenny has 34 businesses committed to installing displays throughout Leistikow Park. She has arranged snow removal with the City Street Department. The Lights In the Park is her project.
    2. Campground:
      - i. All Express Personnel campers have arrived for a total of 40 sites and 5 cabins.
      - ii. Scott asked for an update on the Leistikow Park Bathroom arson case involving a kid of an Express Personnel camper. Bill explained that all costs of the damages and security video have been sent to the State's Attorney. They will decide if there are criminal charges filed or not.
      - iii. Bill ordered Cabin 7 from Northland Shed and sent payment for the down payment. The new cabin should arrive early November.

3. Pool:
  - i. The Grafton City Council met last night to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of the ballot language for the quarter percent sales tax increase.
  - ii. Bill reported that park staff will winterize the pool later this week.
4. Arenas:
  - i. The ice plant start-up went well, but with higher-than-normal heat and humidity the dehumidifier had trouble keeping up. Condensation formed on the ceiling and created large nubs on the ice. Each day the nubs had to be scraped down and ice repaired before more layers of ice could be applied.
  - ii. Bill asked for a motion to approve the Facility Committee Recommendation to not take out a loan in the Grafton Park Board's name for the new arena project, but to form a joint powers agreement with the Grafton Blue Line Club if the new facility is built. The board discussed the recommendation and the project along with the amount needed annually to pay for a loan of that size. Cory made a motion to approve the Facility Committee's Recommendation. Jon seconded the motion, motion passed all approved.
  - iii. Scott asked for a motion to reopen the north door at the Centennial Center. Scott explained what he is hearing from users of the facility and Bill explained the reasons why the door is not open to the public. No motion was made.
5. Athletic Fields:
  - i. Bill reported that the ballfields, bathrooms, and concessions will be winterized next week.
6. Elmwood:
  - i. Spencer's Spaghetti Dinner will be Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Elmwood will be open for take-out and for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 3 years sit-down meals will be served.
- C. Business Manager
  - i. Matt explained that 2 of the 3 CDs at Choice Bank were up for renewal last week. Matt has been working with Denny Schneider at Choice Bank to combine the CDs together under one 1-year term. Denny will also close the 3<sup>rd</sup> CD without penalty to combine with the other 2. Matt did not have the rate details yet, but will update the Park Board when he has that available.
  - ii. Matt presented a year-to-date profit/loss for all accounts for the board's review.
- X. Old Business:
  - i. Bill asked the Board if anyone had heard a reason for the low Fall Hockey Camp numbers. Bill is confused since for years we heard the complaint that Scott Robideuax was the reason that people did not sign up, but after 2 years of Joey Demers running the camp, numbers have only gone down without Scott. Registrations used to be around 130 participants years ago, but now only total 85. Matt Oppedgard shared what he was told by Matt Olson that we have most if not all the High School at 15, only missing 5 or less PeeWees at 21, and are light in numbers for Mites at 13, Squirts at 12 and Bantams at 15. Scott was surprised with 9 registered goalies. The Board discussed the issue and speculated it might be groups getting ice in Grand Forks, people choosing the Robby Glance Camp instead, not a coach they prefer, or poor communication about our camp within youth hockey.
- XI. New Business:
  - i. Matt will reach out to all the board members to find a Facility Committee Meeting time and date that will work with everyone's schedule.
- XII. Public Comments:
- XIII. Adjournment: Jon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cory seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.