



Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Centennial Center Lobby  
722 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Grafton, ND 58237  
5:15 p.m.

**Minutes:**

- I. Call to Order by Ryer Stark at 5:15 PM
- II. Board Members Present:
  - A. Board Members Present: Ryer Stark, Scott Hills, Cory Burns, Jessica Tanke, Jon Jelinek
  - B. Staff Present: Bill Dahl, Matt Oppegard, Keith Blattenbauer
  - C. Public Present: Todd Morgan
- III. Ryer asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. No changes were made.
- IV. Ryer asked for an approval of the minutes from the July 8<sup>th</sup> Park Board Meeting, August 5<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee Meeting, and August 6<sup>th</sup> Park Board Meeting. Cory made a motion to approve all of the minutes from the July 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, August 5<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee Meeting, and the August 6<sup>th</sup> Park Board Meeting. Scott seconded, motion passed all approved. Ryer asked for a motion for the authorization of expenditures as listed. Scott made a motion to approve the expenditures. Seconded by Jon, motion passed all approved to pay bills as listed. Matt explained that the July bank statement report was not able to be completed in time for the meeting. He will present the July and August bank statement reports at the next board meeting in September.
- V. Reports:
  - A. Recreation Manager
    - i. Keith reported that Fall Soccer started yesterday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. Registrations are down by 13 kids, which is pretty good with pop-warner football and covid-19 concerns causing some to not register for soccer.
    - ii. Last Chance is waiting for approval from the city to sell alcohol at the corn hole tournament at the Corn Maze on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
    - iii. Scott Robideaux has agreed to run the Fall Hockey Camp again this year.
    - iv. Gymnastics will run for 12 weeks this year and will break while school is out for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Keith has been in talks with the city and the gymnastics coach, Jess Monette. A plan is in place that includes how lessons will run and how equipment will be disinfected between uses. The city will allow Grafton Parks to rent the Armory for gymnastics as long as sanitation is kept up.
  - B. Director
    1. Parks
      - i. Bill reported that the Angel of Hope statue was installed pm August 6<sup>th</sup>. Landscaping is next on the Angel of Hope foundation's list, which will require fundraising to continue.
      - ii. The North Dakota Game & Fish has assessed the site where the dock and boat ramp will be installed. They found that more fill will be needed and

additional permitting will be needed to get the grant approved at the federal level. Bill will complete the extra permitting and submit to the game and fish department. Project is now scheduled for 2021.

- iii. Corn Maze is scheduled to open Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The maze has a veterans theme and \$1 of every admission will be donated to the Walsh County Veterans Memorial Foundation. Food vendors are lined up until the last weekend of the corn maze. The Grafton Police Department will be taking aerial shots of the corn maze next week that will be used in advertising and the Grafton Parks & Rec website.

2. Campground:

- i. We are still receiving 20 or more calls a day asking for sites from now to freeze. Currently the campground is booked up and there is a waiting list of 15 campers.
- ii. In February, Express Employment booked 30 sites and 4 cabins for this year's sugar beet harvest. The first harvest worker has arrived this week.
- iii. Bill presented a copy of the year-to-date profit/loss for the campground. Currently the campground revenue is down \$18,700 from last year. Bill attributed the difference from not having seasonal campers this year who would have paid at the beginning of the season. Bill expects that difference to keep shrinking as construction workers roll in and there is no availability from next week to October.

3. Pool:

- i. The last day of the pool will be Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. Bill explained that the impeller for the pool pump is weak and needs to be replaced. A replacement impeller along with all of the needed seals and gaskets are on order. Parts should arrive next week.
- iii. Jess asked Todd Morgan who put the question about if residents of Grafton want a splash park. Todd explained that it gets difficult coming up with different questions, but he added that it got a great response. Bill explained that we have been looking at adding a splash park since 2016 and have finally got Associated Pool Builders from Bismarck to look at the pool and equipment room to come up with an estimate. They estimated the project to cost around \$610,000, which does not include the pool liner that needs to be replaced in the next 5 years. The last quote for the pool liner that was received in 2019 was \$70,000. Bill is hopeful that the Grafton Parks & Rec Foundation can get set up soon so they can start fundraising and take in tax deductible donations for a large scale project at the pool.

4. Athletic Fields: (nothing to report)

5. Arenas

- i. Grafton Volunteer Fire Department has postponed the smoker to Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

6. Elmwood: (nothing to report)

C. Business Manager

- i. Matt explained that he had a meeting with the North Dakota Public Health Insurance Trust to discuss the benefit package available to the 4 full time salaried staff members. The trust will require 2 months of premiums paid up front to build the trust. They also require a 2 year agreement, but will guarantee today's rate for next year. They hope to have a large enough group to mitigate the annual insurance rate increase to 6% or less annually after the 1<sup>st</sup> year. Matt asked the board for their input. The board agreed that locking in this year's rate for an additional year is worth looking into since we are already expecting a 6% or higher increase in rates. Matt will move the process forward to have Grafton Parks and Recreation join the North Dakota Public Health Insurance Trust.

- ii. Matt presented the year-to-date profit/loss for all accounts. Matt pointed out that the total income was down by \$16,000 compared to this time last year, but total expenses were also down by \$35,000. Total net income is up \$18,900 compared to this time last year. Matt explained that it will be interesting to see how the year-to-date profit/loss looks next month as the campground continues to pick up and registrations start for the fall/winter programs.

VI. Old Business:

VII. New Business:

- A. Jon asked the board if there is any interest in purchasing synthetic ice for the Centennial Center. He was approached by a group that is looking to sell their used tiles well below cost. The board showed interest and asked Jon to get more information about the synthetic ice.

VIII. Public Comments:

- IX. Adjournment: Jess made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jon seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.