



Wednesday, July 8th, 2026
Grafton Park Board Room
715 West 5th Street
Grafton, ND 58237
5:15 p.m.

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order by Kristi Olson at 5:15 PM
- II. Board Members Present:
 - A. Board Members Present: Kristi Olson, Scott Hills, Jon Jelinek, Darrin Wollitz
 - B. Board Members Absent: Cory Burns
 - C. Staff Present: William Dahl, Matt Oppegard
 - D. Media Present: Todd Morgan
 - E. Public Present: Kristi Wilfahrt
- III. Election of Officials
 - A. Scott nominated Kristi Olson as Park Board President. Jon seconded the motion, motion passed all approved.
 - B. Jon nominated Scott Hills as Park Board Vice President. Darrin seconded the motion, motion passed all approved.
- IV. Assign Committee Chairs
 - A. Jon made a motion to keep the committee chairs the same (Scott = Budget, Cory = Facilities, Jon = Programs, and Darrin = Personnel). Darrin seconded the motion, motion passed all approved.
- V. Kristi asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Scott added gopher issue under the Parks section of the Directors Report. Kristi added ball field preparations under the Athletic Fields section of the Directors Report.
- VI. Kristi asked for approval of the minutes from the June Park Board Meeting held on 06/10/2026. Darrin made a motion to approve the minutes from the June Park Board Meeting. Seconded by Jon, the motion passed all approved.
- VII. Kristi asked for a motion for the authorization of expenditures as listed. Scott made a motion to approve the expenditures as listed. Seconded by Darrin, the motion passed all approved to pay bills.
- VIII. Matt distributed the May bank statement report for the board's review.
- IX. Reports:
 - A. Recreation Manager
 - i. Matt reported that Pickleball Clinic registrations opened last week and there are still no participants signed up. Matt asked the board to let anyone interested know that Pickleball Clinic registrations are now open. Pickleball Clinic starts August 3rd.
 - ii. Golf and Gymnastics Camp numbers are low. Golf has 16 registered for the July session and Gymnastics Camp has 20 registered.
 - iii. The pool season is going well. The SummerFest Friday Free Swim donated by an anonymous donor saw 99 free swimmers. SummerFest Saturday donated

by Kiwanis of Grafton saw 36 free swimmers. Fourth of July free swim donated by Kristi Olson Reality saw 100 free swimmers.

- iv. There are 3 events happening to help raise funds for the Grafton Pool Project
 - a. Brita Swenson with State Farm has "Quotes for Good" on Facebook. Her agency will donate \$5 per good quote to the Grafton Pool Project.
 - b. Dance Around the World hosted by Gaby Lopez is a walk-up outdoor fitness class next to Cashel Shelter in Leistikow Park. Classes will be every Friday at 10am starting this Friday, July 10th and ending on August 21st. \$5 per person per lesson. All proceeds will go to the Grafton Pool Project.
 - c. Carolyn Karr made fire starters that we are selling at the Grafton Parks Office. Two for \$1 and all proceeds go to the Grafton Pool Project.

B. Director

1. Parks

- i. Scott was wondering if something changed in how the Park Staff was handling the gopher problem in the Leistikow Park bowl property or if it was a time issue? Bill explained that the Park Staff have been spread thin this spring/early summer. Now with the grass slowing down we should be able to get a couple of the high school help to start working on the gopher problem in the Leistikow Park bowl property.
- ii. Bill informed the Park Board that our janitorial staff member, Wallace Sturdivant, passed away from a heart attack Thursday night. Visitation will be at Tollefson Funeral Home on 07/09/26 at 4pm with a Memorial Service to follow at 5pm. Wallace's family will have a Celebration of Life at the Cashel Shelter following the memorial service. Bill ordered a tree to be planted in the park in Memory of Wallace.
- iii. Bill reported that the second cut of the corn maze has been completed. Gabbi is working on adding new activities to bring more excitement back to the Grafton Corn Maze. The opening day of the corn maze will be Saturday, September 12th.
- iv. Bill informed the board that someone donated time and material to paint the tennis court lines at the Leistikow Park tennis courts. Her plan is to paint colored lines next summer. Bill explained that she did a great job painting the lines.

2. Campground:

- i. Bill reported that he delayed shipping of Cabin 10 so Todd and him can have time to prep the site. They are adding footings for this cabin since it will be the largest one to date and cabins 6-9 are having settling issues. Concrete for the footings will be poured in the next 2 days. Then Cabin 10 delivery will be scheduled.

3. Pool:

- i. Bill turned it over to Kristi Wilfahrt for the Pool Project update. Kristi W. informed the board that she has \$3.1 million in requests currently out and another \$750,000 committed to the pool project. She feels very positive about current and upcoming funding position. By the end of August we should be able to start the engineering phase of the pool project. The Capital Steering Committee meets next week with the focus on \$20,000 - \$50,000 pledges. Bill explained that if we can get the engineering process rolling in August then the goal would be demolition of the existing pool in the fall or spring making this season the last season for the current pool if there is enough funding to move forward. There will be at least a year without the pool until the new pool is fully operational. Bill will need to have a meeting with Jon Markusen to discuss the relocating of the pool house and how much

more that would cost if any due to the additional site prep that it would take. Kristi O. asked if there is a fundraising goal that will need to be reached before demo starts and if there was a goal for continuing the fundraising campaign? Kristi W. explained that to do the demo we need to have a combination of enough cash and an understanding of what the local banks can do to help with financing the rest. There is a positive response from construction companies reaching out that want to help with the pool. Hopefully by mid-September we know what that fundraising number will be to start demolition.

- ii. Kristi W. shared a draft of a press release announcing the formation of the Red River Rural Communities Foundation with Red River Regional Council, Blue Line Club, and Grafton Parks & Recreation as founding members. There is a lot of wealth in the area with strong interest in building endowments, but nobody that is actively engaging in local interest to be good stewards of their legacies. Darrin asked when Pembina, Nelson, and Grand Forks counties were added to the Rural Communities Foundation? Kristi W. explained that the Red River Regional Council serves all those counties along with Walsh County. The focus service area will be a 30-35 mile radius from Grafton which includes 3 of the 4 counties listed in the press release. The 3 founding members of the Rural Communities Foundation have large projects in Grafton so that will be the initial focus until those projects are funded. If more communities, organizations, or groups want to join in; they will have the option to invest funds with the Rural Communities Foundation which will broaden interest and scope of the foundation. The foundation will need cash to become stable. In 5 or more years, it will need to expand their service area to include all those counties to become self-sustaining. Kristi W. mentioned that she had one individual ask, what happens to my donation pledge payments if the funding cannot be raised and the pool project does not happen? With the Rural Communities Foundation, this individual would be able make an endowed gift designated to the Grafton Pool Project contingent on the construction of the new pool then list alternative designations of their funds if the project falls through. That way they feel safe to make the commitment knowing that their donated funds will only be used for what they want to fund. Kristi W. explained that a more robust accounting software program will need to be implemented for the Rural Communities Foundation that is built for tracking endowments. With this software you can track funds donated to each designated interest of the donor and track what the funds were used for and when they were granted/spent. Reports will be reviewed monthly by the Rural Communities Foundation board to make sure the policies and designations are being followed. Kristi W. explained that both the Grafton Blue Line Club and the Red River Regional Council have made a commitment of \$250,000 over 5 years. Bill explained that to move forward the Park Board would also have to commit \$50,000 a year for 5 years. Scott made a motion for the Grafton Park Board (a.k.a. Grafton Parks & Recreation) to be a founding member of the Red River Rural Communities Foundation at a cost of \$50,000 for 5 years. Jon seconded the motion, motion passed with no opposition.
- iii. Bill reported that the pool has been running ok this season. There were issues with the chlorinator, but those have been resolved now.

4. Arenas: (nothing to report)

5. Athletic Fields:

- i. Kristi asked if there was a way that the fields could be set correctly for games? She has seen and heard complaints from parents that the fields need

to be reset often before games. Bill explained that a couple base anchors were pulled out at 8th Street which took the field out of play until Todd could repair them. Darrin mentioned that it is a scheduling issue. Practices are scheduled before games for different age groups that use different base paths causing the bases and portable pitchers mounds not be set right for the game that is right after the practice. Bill has been in contact with Nick Ziegelmann about the issue and explained that the Park Staff cannot move the portable mounds. It takes 4 people to move them and we only have 1 high schooler that gets the fields ready for the day. Bill has asked that the Ball Diamond Boosters have 4 parents help them move the portable pitchers mounds off the field so our staff member can get the field ready the next day then parents will have to set the portable mound up before a practice or game. The mounds are just too heavy and we do not have enough staff that we can devote to moving mounds. Darrin has been trying to get certain fields designated for certain age groups that would cut down on how often bases and portable pitchers mounds would need to be moved.

- ii. Bill reported that the post holes will be dug and the posts set for the south Complex field scoreboard tomorrow. Bill will order concrete to be poured by the end of the week. The scoreboard will be installed 2 weeks later, allowing time for the concrete to cure.

6. Elmwood: (nothing to report)

C. Business Manager:

- i. The Grafton Park Board will meet to discuss the 2027 Budget and have the 1st reading of the 2027 Budget on Tuesday, August 4th at 12:15pm.

X. Old Business:

XI. New Business:

XII. Public Comments:

XIII. Adjournment: Kristi asked for adjournment. Jon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darrin seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 pm.