



Wednesday, March 12th, 2025
Grafton Parks & Recreation Board Room
715 West 5th Street
Grafton, ND 58237
5:15 p.m.

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order by Kristi Olson at 5:16 PM
- II. Board Members Present:
 - A. Board Members Present: Kristi Olson, Scott Hills, Cory Burns, Darrin Wollitz
 - B. Board Members Absent: Jon Jelinek
 - C. Staff Present: William Dahl, Matt Oppegard, Gabbi Holand
 - D. Media Present: Todd Morgan
- III. Kristi asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.
- IV. Kristi asked for approval of the minutes from the February Park Board Meeting held on 02/12/2025. Darrin made a motion to approve the minutes from the February Park Board meeting. Seconded by Cory, the motion passed all approved.
- V. Kristi asked for a motion for the authorization of expenditures as listed. Scott made a motion to approve the expenditures as listed. Seconded by Cory, the motion passed all approved to pay bills.
- VI. Matt presented the February bank statement report to the Park Board for their review.
- VII. Reports:
 - A. Recreation Manager
 - i. Gabbi reported that the Skating Show will be held on Saturday, March 15th at 5pm and Sunday, March 16th at 2pm.
 - ii. The Grafton Anything Goes Sale vendor registration has been going well with half of the booth spaces reserved with 21 vendors. The sale will take place on Saturday, April 26th from 10am-3pm at the Centennial Center.
 - iii. Gabbi reported that there are 11 registered for Spring Soccer. Gabbi has 4 adult coaches lined up for this season. Soccer starts on Tuesday, April 1st at the Centennial Center.
 - iv. The online Lifeguard application is available to those who want to apply to be a lifeguard for the 2025 pool season. Currently 3 have applied for the Lifeguard position. Lifeguard job openings are being advertised on Facebook. Gabbi is planning on attending the job fair at the high school in early April, which went well the last time she attended the event.
 - B. Director
 1. Parks
 - i. Bill still has not received any word yet about the special roads fund grant that was submitted. The delay may be due to the federal cuts and layoffs.
 - ii. Wade Thompson with KLJ is working on completing the engineering portion of the Clean Water Act permit. Wade will have the permit ready to be submitted at the end of the week. Once approved Bill will order the bridge and schedule the contractors. The goal is to have the bridge completed before September for the Corn Maze wagon train ride.
 - iii. Bill shared the cost estimates and layout for the Leistikow Park Pickleball, Elementary Basketball, and High School Basketball courts that Grafton Parks

will be submitting to the Grafton Community Foundation Super Grant. The Super Grant is a \$50,000 grant. The Grafton Parks portion of the project would be about \$14,000 if awarded.

- iv. Bill reported that last month there were 5 Christmas cutouts that were stolen from Leistikow Park. The cutouts were hand painted by Wally DeSautel who donated them to the park to display. The cutouts were not removed earlier due to the rebar being frozen in the ground that were used to hold the cutouts up. Cory asked if there could be something that could be attached to the rebar to barricade them. Bill will put caution tape around all the rebar until the ground thaws enough to remove them.

2. Campground:

- i. Bill reported that the interior wall work is almost done. Waiting on plumbing to be completed and inspected. The venting portion of the plumbing will be completed in the next day or 2.
- ii. Site and cabin reservations for the 2025 camping season have been rolling in. Expecting another good year for the campground.

3. Pool:

- i. Bill reported that Kristi Wilfahrt is still working on finding funding for the pool project at the state level.
- ii. Senate Bill 2390, for the Rural Catalyst Grant, passed the senate at 17% of the original proposed funding. SB 2390 will be funded with a 1 time transfer of \$5 million for grants to be issued over the next 2 years for rural quality of life projects. Maximum grant awarded will be capped at \$500,000.
- iii. Kristi Wilfahrt is working with the state to provide funding for LSTC redevelopment and master planning to help find solutions to empty buildings that are no longer being used by LSTC. She has received positive feedback from legislators and support for the funding.
- iv. Bill explained the next fundraiser for the pool project. Grafton Parks is planning on running a Bingo event at the Centennial Center on Saturday, May 3rd. Total of \$5,000 in cash prizes to be giving to the winners. Bill will check with Last Chance Bar to see if they would be interested in providing a cash bar at the event. The Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce is interested in selling food at the event. Bill will work on submitting the needed permits to be on City Council's April Agenda.

4. Arenas:

- i. Bill reported that the Zamboni is running much better after the neutral start switch was replaced.
- ii. The ice plant will be turned off on Sunday after the skating show. Ice will be removed the next week in preparation for the Mega Raffle to be held on Saturday, March 29th.
- iii. The School Carnival will be held on Thursday, April 10th.
- iv. The Grafton Volunteer Fireman's Social will be held on Saturday, April 12th.
- v. The Grafton Anything Goes Sale will be held on Saturday, April 26th.
- vi. The Grafton Pool Bingo event will be held on Saturday, May 3rd.

5. Athletic Fields:

- i. Bill will be ordering 2 loads of Agrilime for the ballfields. The Ball Diamond Boosters have agreed to pay for 1 of the loads.

6. Elmwood:

- i. Bill reported that the Historic Elmwood had received the Grafton Community Endowment Fund Grant for Skinner Roofing to repair the porch roof. The project will start late spring/early summer when the weather warms up.

- C. Business Manager:
- i. Matt reported that \$18,445 in donations and matching funds were raised for Giving Hearts Day (GHD). Expenses for advertising and the GHD subscription totaled \$1,385.25 leaving a net income of \$17,059.75 for the Foundation's Pool Project Fund.
 - ii. Scott asked what will be looked at for the IBIS Enterprises Business Plan for the Pool Project, indoor or outdoor. Bill explained that IBIS will look at the feasibility of an indoor aquatic, health and wellness center. If IBIS finds that the community cannot sustain an indoor facility, then an outdoor option will be pursued. There is the issue covering the funding gap with only \$2.5 million funded through the sales tax. What was found through Kristi Wilfahrt's interviews of local major donors, and possible partners is that the large donors/partners will only donate if the project is for an indoor facility. When asked if they would support an outdoor pool project? The majority answered no with a couple saying they would donate, but not nearly as much for a facility that can only be open for 10 weeks out of the year. Possible partners are the state, Grafton Public Schools, and health providers for sports fitness and/or physical therapy. Todd Morgan explained his conversation with Kristi Wilfahrt and now leans towards the indoor facility.

X. Old Business:

XI. New Business:

XII. Public Comments:

XIII. Adjournment: Darrin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cory seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.