Grafton Parks & Recreation Foundation

Wednesday, September 24th, 2025
Red River Regional Council Conference Room
516 Cooper Ave, APT 101
Grafton, ND 58237
5:00 p.m.

Minutes:

I. Call to Order by Bill Dahl at 5:00 PM

II. Board Members Present:
   A. Board Members Present: Bill Dahl, Mike Shereck, Seri Gerszewski, Amy Geiger, Mark Burns
   B. Board Members Absent: Jarrod Steele
   C. Park Board Members Present: Kristi Olson, Scott Hills, Jon Jelinek, Darrin Wollitz
   D. Park Board Members Absent: Cory Burns
   E. Public Present: Matt Oppegard, Kristi Wilfahrt

III. Pool Project:
   A. Bill updated the Board that he has met with KLJ Engineering and architect. Project budget given to them is $4-$4.5 million. Asked for the same pool capacity. A block plan should be completed by November.
   B. Kristi Olson asked about Kristi Wilfahrt's contract and where we will end up by the end of the year. Kristi Wilfahrt explained that her hours for this contract will be lower then expected and so will the remaining estimated payments.
   C. Kristi Wilfahrt explained that there is $5 million financial capacity in the area. We need to start growing interest in the pool project. The target fundraising is $2.5 million along with a gift chart with naming rights at the $500,000 level. Recognition on a doner wall would start at $5,000.
   D. Kristi Wilfahrt shared confidentiality agreements with everyone present asking that everyone sign so that confidential information can be shared.
   E. Darrin Wolitz asked if there were any loan programs that this project would qualify for from the Bank of North Dakota or grants that the Red River Regional Council could help with.

IV. Kristi Wilfahrt shared a peer-to-peer approach to establishing a Capital Campaign Team. She asked for suggestions of who to ask to be on the capital campaign team with a maximum of 15 members. The 2 names mentioned were Tom McCarty and Vonda Collette. Kristi W. asked for 2 board members from each board to serve on the capital campaign team. Kristi Olson, Darrin Wolitz from the Park Board volunteered to join the capital campaign team. Seri Gerszewski, Amy Geiger, and Bill Dahl from the Foundation Board volunteered to join the capital campaign team.

V. Kristi Wilfahrt shared a Prospects List for each board member to review, rate, and assign someone that could open the gifting conversation. Kristi W. shared why people give and explained that the list is not set in stone. Most did not participate in the prospects list exercise.

VI. Kristi Wilfahrt shared that the endowment fund goal is $500,000. She explained the North Dakota tax credit that maybe beneficial for those in a higher tax bracket. Each individual can make a $25,000 gift to receive up to 40% ND tax credit. A married couple could donate $50,000 total at the 32% tax bracket equates to a credit of $5,000. The goal would be to split larger gifts into 25% for the endowment and 75% for capital. There are 2 options for endowment funds. The Foundation could run their own with an investment committee or one can be set up through the North Dakota Community Foundation. The North Dakota Community Foundation assesses a 1% service fee and only allows a 4% distribution. A Foundation ran investment committee could distribute 5% with a 1% operation fee. Kristi W. explained that we would need to find financial-minded individuals to be on the investment committee. Scott Hills asked how Grand Forks is fundraising for their new sports complex. Kristi W. explained that they are not doing a lot of fundraising and are relying on their mill and larger partnerships from Altru and the City of Grand Forks. Kristi W. explained that there is a skillset in town to create an investment committee to run the endowment. Kristi W. explained that there is a great opportunity to partner with North Stars Youth Hockey to go in together with raising funds for the endowment to multiply the impact. Scott Hills explained that it is worth asking them to come to the table. Kristi W. explained that it takes $25,000 to set up an endowment. Mike Shereck made a motion to move forward with setting up an endowment with a funding goal of $500,000. Seconded by Amy, motion passed all approved.

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:

IX. Adjournment: Jon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kristi O. seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.