Wednesday, January 14th, 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, Cory Burns, Jon Jelinek, Darrin Wollitz
   B. Staff Present: William Dahl, Matt Oppegard
   C. Media Present: Todd Morgan
   D. Public Present: Kristi Wilfahrt

III. Kristi asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Bill added Beautification Committee to the Director's Report. Scott added Gymnastics to the Recreation Report. Jon added Trophy Storage Room Shelf to Director's Report.

IV. Kristi asked for approval of the minutes from the December Park Board Meeting held on 12/10/2025. Darrin made a motion to approve the minutes from the December Park Board Meeting. Seconded by Jon, 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 October, November, & December bank statement reports for the board to review.

VII. Reports:
   A. Recreation Manager
      i. Matt reported that the Candlelight Hike went well, raising $1,386 for the Gymnastics program.
      ii. The Grafton Learn-to-Skate Competition will take place on Sunday, January 25th. So far, the registrations for the competition have brought in $14,981. Matt explained that there will be costs that will be deducted from that total such as merchandise costs, awards, snacks for coaches and judges, and $5 vouchers for concessions for participants. The final net income should be around $11,000.
      iii. Scott was approached by a parent of one of the gymnastics participants and explained that the head coach Jess is hard on the kids and many of them end up crying. Scott was wondering if that is normal. Bill explained that with Gabbi out on maternity leave, the programs are not being watched as closely as she would when available. Darrin explained that Jess runs a tight ship and the kids that are not listening or horsing around are the ones she gets after.

   B. Director
   1. Parks
      i. Bill reported that the new bridge on the Leistikow Park trails has been completed and an invoice for most of the work has been received. There is

some bank work that will be done in the spring, and a final invoice will be sent at that time. Matt will send in for a grant reimbursement from the state.

ii. The outdoor ice rink at Schumacher Park is getting a lot more use then it has for several years. Lee West has been volunteering time to maintain the outdoor rink. Jasson Latraille asked if a water fountain could be added to the warming house. A new bottle fill water fountain is on order and will be installed when it comes in. Also new LED lights have been installed to light up the ice surface. Total costs for the new lights and water fountain totaled $3,400.

iii. Friday is the deadline to remove the lights from Leistikow Park. Monday the park road will be barricaded, and the rest of the lights will need to be removed this spring. The participating businesses did a great job with their displays this year.

iv. Bill explained that Vonda Collette with the Beautification Committee contacted him asking if the Grafton Park Board would be interested in owning and maintaining a piece of property that the Beautification Committee would purchase and develop into a "pop-up park." The piece of property is 25'x135' and is owned by John Tweten. Scott made a motion to approve the Beautification Committee land transfer of the pop-up park on Hill Avenue when they purchase it from John Tweten. Darrin seconded the motion, motion passed all approved.

2. Campground:
    i. Bill reported that the electric rough-in is almost complete for cabin 9. Once that is completed then the insulation can be installed, and plumbing work can resume.

3. Pool:
    i. Kristi Wilfahrt presented a packet updating the Park Board with the Rual Catalyst Grant. Kristi highlighted the benefits of the pool and the alarming fact that rural pools are disappearing. Kristi explained the pool design and amenities. The total cost of the new pool facility $5.5 million, capacity development of $400,000, and endowment goal of $500,000 for a total project cost of $6.4 million. Funding will come from the sales tax ordinance ($3 million), Grants ($750,000), In-Kind Donations ($350,000), Partnership/Naming Rights ($1 million), and donation pledges ($1.3 million).
    ii. Kristi O. explained the work that the Future Business Leaders of America students have been doing for marketing the Leistikow Park Pool Project Giving Hearts Day fundraiser. The big event that the FBLA students will be doing for Giving Hearts "early giving" is a Beach Party at the Centennial Center lobby on Monday, February 2nd at 3pm. Kristi O. encouraged the Park Board members to come out for the event even if it is just an hour. The total Giving Hearts Day goal is $100,000. Kristi W. explained that $52,500 in match funds has been secured. Matt explained the prizes that each donor could win. Kristi O. explained that the pool design and renderings will be available for viewing at the FBLA Party. Maggie Suda has donated her time and talents to market the FBLA party and the Giving Hearts Day campaign.

4. Arenas:
    i. Jon was asked by Ryer Stark if any shelving was installed in the upstairs storage room in the Centennial Center. Bill will check with Ryer, but he does not remember shelving being installed.
    ii. Bill explained that Kieley Electric will perform an energy audit and submit for lighting efficiency grants at the state and federal levels that are typically 50/50 grants.

iii. The Centennial Center sound system is mostly done. Russ only has the toggle switches to install outside of the office. Bill asked the board to thank Russ Geddes for all the work he has done for the Centennial Center if they see him.

5. Athletic Fields:
   i. Bill has not heard back from the Grand Forks KLJ Engineering surveyor. They will have the 8th Street Diamond property line surveyed sometime in the spring.

6. Elmwood: (nothing to report)

C. Business Manager:
   i. Matt presented Kristi Wilfahrt's Phase 3 contract. Matt explained that without Kristi W. we would not have secured $52,500 for Giving Hearts Day matches. Darrin made a motion to approve Kristi Wifahrt's Phase 3 contract. Scott seconded the motion, motion passed all approved.
   ii. Matt issued a copy of the Annual Filing Statement of Interest Form that is now required to be filed with City Hall each year. The forms will need to be turned in by Friday, January 30th.
   iii. There are 3 Park Board seats that are expiring in June. Those running for the Park Board seats will need to pick up a petition from City Hall and have it returned by Monday, April 6th at 4pm.

X. Old Business:

XI. New Business:

XII. Public Comments:

XIII. Adjournment: Kristi asked for adjournment. Cory made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jon seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm.