



Wednesday, November 12th, 2025
Red River Regional Council Meeting Room
516 Cooper Ave, Suite 101
Grafton, ND 58237
5:00 p.m.

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order by Kristi Olson at 5:02 PM
- II. Board Members Present:
 - A. Board Members Present: Kristi Olson, Scott Hills, Cory Burns, Jon Jelinek, Darrin Wollitz
 - B. Foundation Board Members Present: Seri Gerszewski
 - C. Staff Present: William Dahl, Matt Oppegard, Gabbi Holland
 - D. Public Present: Kristi Wilfahrt, Jodi Lahaise, Dave Hills, Kim Droog, Jon Suda, Amy Stromsodt, Brody Boe, Page Suda, Susan Shuley
- III. Kristi asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Scott added the Leistikow Park Dock to the Parks section of the Director's Report.
- IV. Susan Shuley, Brody Boe, and Page Suda presented the Leistikow Park Pool Project Logo to the Park Board. Kristi Wilfahrt explained that the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students are working on the marketing for the Giving Hearts Day campaign. They are planning the event, a video campaign, and the logo that they presented. Susan Shuley explained what the students had been working on and what they had left to plan. They are hopeful that this project will take them to the state competition. The Park Board liked the logo and thanked Susan, Brody, and Page and the rest of the FBLA students for their hard work for the Giving Hearts Day campaign.
- V. Kristi asked for approval of the minutes from the October Park Board Meeting held on 10/08/2025. Jon made a motion to approve the minutes from the October Park Board Meeting. Seconded by Darrin, the motion passed all approved.
- VI. Kristi asked for a motion for the authorization of expenditures as listed. Cory made a motion to approve the expenditures as listed. Seconded by Scott, the motion passed all approved to pay bills.
- VII. Matt presented the August bank statement report for the board to review.
- VIII. Reports:
 - A. Recreation Manager
 - i. Gabbi reported she put posters up with a QR code to sign up for the Grafton Learn-to-Skate Competition to be held January 25th at the Centennial Center Arena. This will be Figure Skating's big fundraiser for this season. Registrations for the competition are open now on EntryEeze. Sign up deadline is Monday, December 15th. There will be merchandise available for purchase when registering a skater for the competition.
 - ii. Gymnastics fundraising event will be the Candlelight Hike on Saturday, January 3rd with a backup date of Saturday January 10th in case there is bad weather on January 3rd.
 - iii. Learn-to-Skate Figure Skating started Thursday, November 6th with 86 skaters registered.
 - iv. Gymnastics started in October with 69 registered.

- v. Gabbi reported that there have been more skate sharpening this year. To have the skate sharpened, drop the skates off at the parks office, pay \$5 and we will have them ready to be picked up later or left at the CC to be picked up.
- vi. Gabbi explained that the public skates have been busy and there have been plenty of ice rentals over the holiday break.

B. Director

1. Parks

- i. Scott asked when the dock in Leistikow Park was going to be removed. Bill explained that the dock was removed this morning.
- ii. Bill reported that lights are beginning to be set up in Leistikow Park. Plenty of businesses and organizations still need to set up their decorations. Deadline to set up is November 16th with the lights set to be turned on the following day.

2. Campground:

- i. Bill reported that the water in the campground had been turned off and the lines have been winterized.
- ii. The last 4 Express Employment workers left this morning. Only 1 camper left in the campground.

3. Pool:

- i. Bill presented the new pool block plans from KLJ Engineering, the pool builders, and the architect. The pool layouts have roughly the same square footage and capacity as the current pool, but will use less water to fill due to the design and the zero entry in the shallow part of the pool. The soil core boring study showed that the current site is suitable for construction of a new pool. KLJ will finalize the layout and render a drawing by the 1st of the year.

4. Arenas:

- i. Bill reported that Lunseth Plumbing still had not gotten back to him with a price of a new pump. The pump will be needed to replace the pump that was repaired during ice plant start-up procedure. The pump cast has corroded drain plug threads. It's important to have a replacement pump on hand since a new pump will take 6-8 weeks to arrive when ordered.

5. Athletic Fields: (nothing to report)

6. Elmwood:

- i. The Spenser Spaghetti Supper was Tuesday, November 4th. Went well again this year and raised around \$3,400 for the Historic Elmwood house. Bill mentioned that the Elmwood board is noticing more take-out orders.

C. Business Manager:

- i. Matt turned the meeting over to Amy Stromsodt for her presentation about the North Dakota Community Foundation (NDCF) endowments. Amy explained the different funds and that you could have a parent fund with sub-accounts for different facilities or interests. Kristi W. asked if an endowment can be started with the NDCF then get transferred to a self-ran endowment at a later date? Amy explained that there are types of funds that would be able to transfer, but not endowed funds. Amy explained that their fees are low for the value of assets they manage. Scott asked who invests the funds. Amy explained the group of banks and wealth management funds that all participate investing the funds for NDCF endowments. The Park Board thanked Amy for her time.

- ii. Kristi W. explained that at the joint, Foundation and Park Board, meeting that a motion was made to set up a \$500,000 endowment for the Grafton Parks & Recreation Foundation to offset operating costs of the new pool. Kristi W. explained the roadmap to running a self-managed endowment. There would need to be an investment committee for the qualified endowment. Those donating would benefit from the extra tax credits that they would receive when gifting to an endowment. Also creates the opportunity to receive stocks, bonds, or property as gifts. The organization must be a 501(c)3, which the Grafton Parks & Recreation Foundation and the Grafton Blue Line Club are both 501(c)3 entities. The investment committee would have to create an endowment policy, an objective and distribution policy. Kristi W. explained that she has templates of all the policies needed from her past work with other 501(c)3 organizations that set-up endowments. The endowment fund will need to be segregated from other assets. Kristi W. explained when having a self-managed endowment 7% can be distributed, but with the NDCF only 5% distributions are allowed and they have a 1% administration fee. It comes down to administration and oversight of the endowment. Do we want full control of the funds or have the endowment with the NDCF which would be easier to set up since they already have all the compliance requirements taken care of. Kristi W. mentioned that the decision will need to be made soon. The NDCF can freeze the distribution at 3% and there is no way to increase it until NDCF decides to. Kristi W. mentioned the local talent within the community that can help with running an investment fund under the endowment. Scott asked we get bankers, accountants, financial advisors but how long do they stay on the investment committee? The key will be succession planning. Scott supports starting with the NDCF then set-up our own self-managed endowment at a later date. Kristi W. explained that Amy will send a fund agreement. Kristi O. asked for a motion to establish an endowment fund through the NDCF. Scott made the motion to establish an endowment fund through the NDCF. Jon seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. Dave Hills expressed interest in setting up a fund under the Grafton Parks endowment for the Grafton Blue Line Club. A minimum of \$25,000 will be needed to set up an endowment with the NDCF.

- X. Old Business:
- XI. New Business:
- XII. Public Comments:
- XIII. Adjournment: Krist asked for adjournment. Jon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cory seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.