



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

Minutes:

- I. Call to Order by Scott Hills at 5:17 PM
- II. Board Members Present:
 - A. Board Members Present: Scott Hills, Cory Burns, Jon Jelinek, Darrin Wollitz
 - B. Board Members Absent: Kristi Olson
 - C. Staff Present: William Dahl, Matt Oppegard, Gabbi Holand
 - D. Media Present: Todd Morgan
 - E. Public Present: Kristi Wilfahrt
- III. Scott asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Scott added the Foundation Board Update to the Pool section of the Director's Report.
- IV. Scott asked for approval of the minutes from the March Park Board Meeting held on 03/11/2026. Jon made a motion to approve the minutes from the March Park Board Meeting. Seconded by Cory, the motion passed all approved.
- V. Scott asked for a motion for the authorization of expenditures as listed. Cory made a motion to approve the expenditures as listed. Seconded by Jon, the motion passed all approved to pay bills.
- VI. Matt presented the February and March bank statement reports for the Board's review.
- VII. Reports:
 - A. Recreation Manager
 - i. Gabbi reported that Soccer started Tuesday, March 31st and is going well. The PreK-K level is the largest followed closely by the 3rd-6th Grades level. This has been the most that has been in the oldest group since Grafton Parks has offered Soccer.
 - ii. Gabbi updated the board on the Corn Maze Survey. There have been 8 responses with 100% asking for a semi-permanent enclosure for animals.
 - iii. Gabbi has all the summer programs online so anyone can see when the registrations will open for each of the programs that will be offered this summer. Golf registrations are open now.
 - iv. Pool Bingo Fundraiser Pre-Sale discount ends Wednesday, April 15th. The Pool Bingo Fundraiser will be on Saturday, April 18th. Doors will open at 4pm with the 1st Bingo game being called at 5pm. \$5,000 in cash prizes will be given away. This year kids under 18 years old will be allowed to attend with adult supervision and will be expected to be quiet while Bingo numbers are being called.
 - v. Gabbi has received 12 lifeguard applications for the 2026 pool season. Gabbi is hoping to have 15-18 lifeguards again this year. Kasey Young has the training dates set for May. Gabbi explained that she receives several applications after the Internship Expo at North Valley Tech Center which is Wednesday, April 15th.
 - vi. Gabbi showed the Park Board what the campground "Welcome Bag" will look like. She reported that a couple businesses have dropped off coupons, flyers,

and even candy bars to add to the welcome bag. There is plenty of room for more businesses to participate. Gabbi reported that our campground sees over 300 campers annually.

B. Director

1. Parks

- i. Bill reported that spring cleanup will start once it warms up and dries out enough to collect garbage that has been caught by trees, shrubs, and fences.
- ii. Bill is working with Jenny Dusek with contacting businesses that still have decorations in Leistikow Park. Grafton Parks has plenty of its own stakes and lighting that still need to be removed, but cannot until the ground thaws.
- iii. Bill has contacted Shane Shrank to remove a dying tree by the Leistikow Park pump house. Bill explained that it is a dangerous tree that will eventually fall on the road. The tree will be removed in the next week or so.
- iv. The Leistikow Park road will remain closed until the spring thaw is done to help protect the road.
- v. The new Corn Maze Admission Shed is on order and should be delivered in late April or early May. The new admission shed is being paid for by the Grafton Community Foundation Annual Grant that was awarded in late 2026.

2. Campground:

- i. Bill reported that the carsiding in Cabin 9 is being installed now. Kutz and O'Brian have a couple things left before the plumbing is complete. Matt is working with the State Health Department to complete the Lodging License for Cabin 9. Cabin 9 will open early May.
- ii. Campers will be allowed to arrive mid-April and stay in the sites on the north section of the campground. Gabbi has a list of campers that want to be called as soon as the campground is open.
- iii. The heat will be turned on in the Comfort Station Bathrooms at the end of the week. Should be ready to turn water back on to the bathroom for the weekend of April 24th.

3. Pool:

- i. Kristi Wilfahrt updated the Park Board on the Pool Project. Kristi W. shared the Red River Regional Council Data Analysis, the Grafton Outdoor Aquatic Center business plan, and the Pool Project Case for Support packet. Kristi W. explained that there will be a story about the Pool Project in the Grafton High School Alumni newsletter along with a donation envelope that alumnus can fill out and send donations back to the Grafton Parks & Recreation Foundation. Kristi W. is working on the lead naming partnership. The Steering Committee is working on contacting potential donors to get their pledges towards the pool project. Kristi W. will have the committee focus on the \$20,000-\$50,000 requests while Bill and Kristi W. focus on the higher asks. Kristi W. is seeing an issue with staffing capacity with the amount of work that needs to be done, but not enough available time from the current full-time staff to be able to complete tasks in a timely manner and be able to complete their regular job duties. Kristi is starting conversations for a collaborative model that could pull resources together to add a Foundation Executive Director. Kristi W. explained that there needs to be 100% board participation for the Pool Project from both the Park Board and the Foundation Board. Kristi W. asked that all board members that can attend the EDC Meeting on May 5th at 7am please do so to show support for the pool project.

4. Arenas:

- i. Bill reported that the Party Wall & Parking and Cross Easement Agreements are being finalized by the lawyers. Once complete, Bill will sign the agreements.
- ii. Bill is still waiting on quotes to install a heating system in the air handling unit for the heat reclaim. Todd was able to use metal tape and seal the rusted-out holes in the Co-Ray-Vac pipe. So, it is able to be used for the Fireman's Smoker Saturday, April 11th at the Centennial Center.
- iii. Bill reported that the Pool Bingo Fundraiser is Saturday, April 18th at the Centennial Center

5. Athletic Fields:

- i. Bill reported that the east property line at the 8th Street Ballfield has been completed and found that all of the pop-up campers and trailers are on the ballfield property. Bill notified the neighbor that he will need to remove all of his property from the 8th Street Ballfield property by May 1st. Bill will then work on removing a fence that is impeding the alleyway. Once that is complete Bill will finish making the alleyway, so it is straight
- ii. The heat and water are on at the Complex Fields. Todd is working with the interim athletic director, Randy Rice, on the High School Fastpitch practice and game schedules.
- iii. The Ball Diamond Boosters Association purchased a scoreboard for the south field at the Complex. The Ball Diamond Boosters will purchase the posts as well. Park staff will install the posts and scoreboard then have it wired for electricity.
- iv. Bill reported that Todd will be working on the infield of the 90' field at Chandler. Todd will repair the lip at the infield/outfield transition and repair the mound.

6. Elmwood:

- i. The Historic Elmwood board replaced the Stove with a new one and has the flooring scheduled to be replaced in the kitchen and entry way the week of May 18th.
- ii. Elmwood received the Grafton Community Foundation Annual Grant to install a new patio on the east side of the house. This will help increase summer rentals to provide an outdoor entertainment area.

C. Business Manager:

- i. Matt reported that he is still waiting to hear from Brian Osowski with AMKO Advisors from Fargo, ND about the bonding options for the pool project. Matt will let the Park Board know when he has new information to share.
- ii. There are 3 Park Board seats up for re-election. Remember to vote on June 9th.

X. Old Business:

XI. New Business:

XII. Public Comments:

XIII. Adjournment: Scott asked for adjournment. Jon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Darrin seconded the motion, motion passed all approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.