



GRINNELL PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD REGULAR
SESSION MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 13, 2026, AT 5:15 PM
IN THE GRINNELL ATHLETIC AND RECREATION CENTER

MINUTES

1. Roll Call:

Russ Crawford, Whitney Jensen, Ralph Eyberg, Lee Staroska, Lisa Lindley, Matt Moyer, Lauren Gant, Jack Eckstaine and Jordan Allsup.

2. Approve Agenda:

At 5:16pm Staroska made the motion to approve the agenda, second by Lindley to approve the agenda. AYES: All. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. June 8, 2026- Lindley made the motion, second by Jensen, to approve June 8, 2026, meeting minutes. AYES: All. Motion carried.

4. Committee Business:

A. Master Parks Plan – priority of projects, fundraising opportunities, grant writing, goals for 2026-2027 fiscal year

- Parks and Cemetery Vegetation-Pollinator Garden at Merrill Park is coming in nicely. Central Park vegetation is coming along around Vets Monument. No action necessary.
- Arbor Lake/Lake Nyanza-Allsup reported that the project is nearing 60% design and should be at that review point by the end of the month.
- Recreation Facilities Feasibility Study-Steering committee has been set up with all identified individuals agreeing to serve on the committee. City staff will look to set the first meeting in early August. No action necessary.
- Merrill Park Green Space project Allsup presented two options from different contractors converting existing ball diamond at Merrill Park into a multi-use green space as recommended by the 2025 Master Parks & Recreation Plan. Lindley motioned to pursue the lower estimate to convert Merrill Park ball diamond into a green space. Second by Jensen. AYES: 5 (Lindley, Jensen, Gant, Moyer, Staroska) Abstained: Crawford and Eyberg. Motion carried.

B. Recreation — Allsup reported that Movie Night in the Park has been a great success in its first year with nearly 100 people in attendance for the second showing of Zootopia 2. Adult softball league is a go for the first time since 2022 and Allsup stated that with team athletic programs nationwide in a decline it was nice to see this program going again. No action necessary.

Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the meeting, or any person with limited English proficiency (LEP) who requires language assistance to communicate with the City Council during the meeting, should contact the City Clerk, (641) 236-2600 or adevig@grinnelliowa.gov, no fewer than two business days prior to the meeting to enable the City of Grinnell to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility or language assistance for the meeting.

- C. Aquatics — Eckstaine reported that admission numbers are slightly down from 2025 at the Aquatic Center contributed mostly from a cooler June. The Capes, Crowns, & Waves event at the Aquatic Center was a great success even with sub-par weather the date of the event, and staff look forward to hosting again next year.
- D. Special Event Request — Staroska motioned to approve the rental of the Central Park stage on Thursday, August 20th for the “Air Force Brass Band” concert. Second by Moyer. AYES: all. Motion carried.
- E. Special Event Request — Moyer motioned to approve the rental of the Central Park Shelter for the “All Church Picnic” event on Sunday, September 27th. Second by Jensen. AYES: all. Motion carried.
- F. Elect board chairperson and Vice chairperson. - Lindley motioned to re-elect Russ Crawford as board chairperson and Whitney Jensen as board vice chairperson. Second by Staroska. AYES: all. Motion carried.

5. Notes:

6. Inquiries:

- 7. Adjourn:** Jensen made the motion at 6:18pm to adjourn the meeting, second by Lindley. AYES: All. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Director
Jordan Allsup