



GRINNELL PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD REGULAR
SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2026, AT 5:15 PM
IN THE GRINNELL ATHLETIC AND RECREATION CENTER

MINUTES

1. Roll Call:

Russ Crawford, Whitney Jensen, Lauren Gant, Ralph Eyberg, Lee Staroska, and Jordan Allsup.

Absent: Lisa Lindley and Matt Moyer

Guests: Myla Kurk

2. Approve Agenda: At 5:15pm Gant made the motion to approve the agenda, second by Staroska to approve the agenda. AYES: All. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. March 9th, 2026- Eyberg made the motion, second by Jensen, to approve March 9th, 2026, meeting minutes. AYES: All. Motion carried.

4. Committee Business:

A. Master Parks Plan – priority of projects, fundraising opportunities, grant writing, goals for 2025-2026 fiscal year

- Parks and Cemetery Vegetation – Eyberg- Vegetation is greener up with the moisture we have received this month. There are a few trees in the cemetery that need to be inspected for unwanted pests. No action necessary.

- Arbor Lake/Lake Nyanza- Allsup- City along with its partners are planning an open house for the project on Tuesday, May 5th at 5:30pm located in the community room at the Drake Community Library. No action necessary.

- Master Plan Implementation- Staff removed the outfield fence of the ball diamond at Merrill Park as part of the transition to a multi-use space identified as a priority in the 2025 Master Parks & Recreation Plan. Allsup noted that the fence removal has already improved visibility and provided a clearer vision of an open-use area on the west end of the park. This space is intended to accommodate a variety of community activities and programming. No action was necessary.

B. Recreation- Allsup reported the annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt was still a success utilizing indoor spaces at the GARC with the inclement weather with 218 children participating. Spring and summer programs are live and registration has started. The department is once again hosting a Live Healthy Iowa Free Youth Track meet with the Grinnell College Track and Field team on Thursday, April 16th. 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- Allsup reported that the Aquatic Center is fully staffed and the department is preparing to get the facility ready to open for the season on Saturday, May 30th. No necessary.
- D. Merrill Park Pollinator Garden — Myla Kurk presented her capstone project proposal for a pollinator garden at Merrill Park. Allsup and Eyberg assisted in identifying a suitable location. Kurk will be responsible for planting and maintaining the garden during the first growing season. Eyberg made a motion to approve the pollinator garden on the east end of Merrill Park. Second by Staroska. AYES: all. Motion carried.
- E. Special Event Request Music in the Pavilion — Staroska motioned to approve the rental of the Central Park shelter for a Music in the Pavilion concert series on Tuesdays, May 19, June 16, July 28, August 25, and September 15, 2026. Second by Gant. AYES:all. Motion carried.
- F. Special Event Request for Big Gay BBQ — Gant motioned to approve the rental of Central Park facilities for the Big Gay BBQ event on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 9:00am-3:00pm. Second by Jensen. AYES: all. Motion carried.
- G. Special Event Request for DAMfest — Eyberg motioned to approve the rental of the Central Park stage for the DAMfest concert on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 6:00pm-10:00pm. Second by Staroska. AYES:all. Motion carried.
- H. Special Event Request PALS & Performing- Staroska motioned to approval the rental of Central Park facilities for the PALS & Performing event on Thursday, May 7, 2026. Second by Jensen. AYES: all. Motion carried.

5. Notes:

6. Inquiries:

- 7. Adjourn:** Eyberg made the motion at 5:53pm to adjourn the meeting, second by Staroska. AYES: All. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation Director
Jordan Allsup