



GRINNELL PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD REGULAR
SESSION MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2026, AT 5:00 PM
IN THE BOARDROOM AT THE DRAKE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Roll Call:

Lindley__, Eyberg__, Crawford__, Jensen__, Staroska__, Gant__, Moyer__

2. Approve Agenda:

3. Approval of Minutes:

A. April 14, 2026

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
 - Arbor Lake/Lake Nyanza- Allsup
 - Master Plan Implementation-
- B. Recreation- Report on current and future programming offered by the Recreation Department.
- C. Aquatics- Report on Aquatics.
- D. Girl Scout Tree Planting project — Request to plant four trees in a city park.
- E. Special Event Request — Request to rent Central Park shelter for the Ready, Set, Safe Community Safety Fair on Saturday, June 20th.
- F. Creatures of Grinnell Scavenger Hunt — Request to install temporary public art in select city parks and public spaces.
- G. Grinnell Bike Network Plan- Request to develop a bike network plan that incorporates the Grinnell Area Recreation Trail and other trail ways in city parks and public spaces.

5. Notes:

6. Inquiries:

7. Adjourn:

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.



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.

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- 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

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Grinnell Girl Scouts-tree planting

From Linda Tish <lmtish13@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 6:53 PM

To Jordan Allsup <JAllsup@grinnelliowa.gov>

The leaders would like to have the girls learn about planting trees and plant 4 trees at a park. That would be one tree for each troop.

Is there anyone who would be interested in helping us with this?

We need to know when and how much the trees would cost. We were hoping to do this in May.

Thank you

Linda Tish



City of Grinnell Parks and Recreation Department
Special Event Application

Event Name: Ready, set, safe! community safety fair Event Date: 6/20/2026

Event Location: Central Park

Sponsor Organization: ISU + UnityPoint

Contact's Name & Title: Brooke Holder - Public Health Manager

Address: (Street): 306 4th Ave City, State, Zip: Grinnell, IA 50112

Cell Phone: 3143269874 Day Phone: ← Email: brookeholder@unitypoint.org

Event Type: Walk/Run Athletic Event Fair/Festival Outdoor Concert Other: Comm. safety fair
Circle all that apply

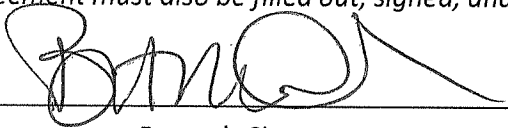
Event Time: Setup Start: 0700 Event Start: 0900 Event End: 1300 Teardown End: 1500

Event Description:
Attach additional pages if necessary. Community-wide safety fair. free event to
bring (all) things, safety education, awareness,
& prevention for all ages.

Estimated Attendance: 200 Number of Pedestrians: 200 Number of Vehicles: ?

- Admission/Registration Fees? Y N If yes, how much? _____
- Product sales on site? Y N If yes, a peddler's permit will need to be obtained. You can apply at the City Clerk's office 30 days prior to the event.
- Will beer be served or sold? Y N If yes, a license to sell alcohol is needed. A liquor license application Will need to be completed through the Iowa Alcoholic Beverage Division. Once completed it must be forwarded to the City of Grinnell and the City Council for approval 60 days prior to the event.
- Will you use inflatables? Y N A Liability Insurance Policy (\$2 million coverage) that lists the City of Grinnell as an additional insured party must be provided. _____
- Will you use amplified sound? Y N If yes, what type of sound? _____
- Will you be having a band? Y N If yes, please provide who they are and contact info. _____
- Will you need access to electricity? Y N If yes, please explain specific equipment used and amperage needed. _____
- Do you need anything for set up that you hope the City will provide? Y N If yes, please explain. just street blockades for park st.
- Will you install event signs off park premises? Y N If yes, please see City Code Chapter 157.
- Will there need to be street closures? Y N If yes, this must be requested and approved by City Council at least 60 days prior to event. -Done
- Will you be providing port-a-potties? Y N There are 2 restrooms at Central Park, but for multi-hour events, one restroom/port-a-potty is recommended for every 50-75 people attending.
- Will you need access to a water source? Y N If so, what is the water to be used for? _____

If any of the following questions were marked "Y" then the renter will need to provide copies of the correct documentation needed for the event to be approved. It should be fully understood that the Grinnell Parks and Recreation Department has the authority to grant or deny permission for this event. If approved, a Park Pavilion rental agreement must also be filled out, signed, and paid for.



 Renter's Signature

4/13/20

 Date

Office Use Only:

Correct Documentation Supplied: Y____
N____

What's needed: _____

Will the event need access to all Park facilities: Y_ N__

Will the event conflict with any existing events: Y__ N__

Event Approved____ Event Denied____

Reason for Denial:

If approved, begin process of renting pavilion.

Staff: _____

Date: _____

Central Park Reservation Request

From Holder, Brooke L. <Brooke.Holder@unitypoint.org>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 10:13 AM

To Jordan Allsup <JAllsup@grinnelliowa.gov>

Cc Andera, Alathia A [CO PD] <aalathia@iastate.edu>

Dear Jordan,

I am writing to respectfully request a waiver of the Central Park pavilion rental fee for our upcoming “Ready, Set, Safe” Community Safety Fair on June 20th, 2026. This event is a collaborative effort hosted by UnityPoint Health – Grinnell, Poweshiek County Public Health, and Iowa State Extension.

The purpose of this event is to raise awareness, provide education, and promote prevention strategies that help keep our community members safe. We anticipate offering a variety of resources, demonstrations, and family-friendly activities focused on health, safety, and wellness for individuals of all ages, while highlighting the many valuable resources available within Poweshiek County.

As this is a community-focused, non-profit event aimed at benefiting the public, we are seeking support through a waiver of the pavilion rental fee. Your consideration would greatly assist us in maximizing available resources and expanding the impact of this important initiative.

We truly appreciate your time and consideration of this request. Please let us know if you need any additional information or documentation. I would gladly attend the Park Board meeting if you would like me too.

Thank you for your continued support of community health and safety in Poweshiek County.

Brooke Holder, MSN, RN
Public Health Manager
Unity Point Grinnell- Public Health
306 4th Ave Grinnell, Iowa
cell- 314-326-9874
office- 641-236-2551

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Project Overview: Creatures of Grinnell Scavenger Hunt (Creative Places Accelerator Project)

The City of Grinnell and the Grinnell Area Arts Council, in partnership with a local artist and community collaborators, are implementing a temporary public art installation through the Iowa Arts Council's Creative Accelerator Program. The project features a whimsical, community-wide scavenger hunt made up of "creature" artworks created by local youth.

Artwork submissions were collected through local arts programming and Art in the Park activities. A selection committee finalized the designs that will be produced as durable composite cutouts by Latitude Signage and Design. Installation is scheduled to begin in early June 2026.

The artwork will be installed throughout downtown Grinnell and in select public spaces, including city parks where appropriate. The project is intended to showcase youth-created artwork in public spaces and encourage exploration of downtown and park areas through the interactive scavenger hunt.

The installations are temporary, with an expected lifespan of 3-5 years, but can easily be removed or relocated if needed or if concerns arise. Mounting methods will be coordinated between Latitude, the city, and property owners where applicable, and necessary repairs following removal will be completed to restore surfaces to their original condition.

Attached are examples mockups of the creature artwork and installation concepts. The project team is requesting the Parks and Recreation Board's support for installation within:

- Central Park
- Merrill Park
- Arbor Lake Park

Potential locations within these spaces will be coordinated by City staff to ensure installations do not interfere with park operations, maintenance, accessibility, or safety.

Joe Tuggle Lacina | joelacina@gmail.com | 5152296626
12/4/2025

CREATURES OF GRINNELL
SITE MOCK-UPS + SIZE OPTIONS



Drake prairie, creature: #9, large sign, divided into two or three sections, (x2)~2'x8'



Central Park, light pole, creature: #5, 2' x 3'



Central Park, creature: #3, 8'x4'



On Broad St. beside UCC, light post, creature #2, 3'x3'



GAAC, creature: #12, 4'x4'



Marvin Gardens, creatures: #8 & #4, two large 8' x 4', exact locations tba.

Grinnell Bike Network Plan

Overview: A subcommittee of the Poweshiek Economic Development Collaborative is developing a community-wide bike network plan to improve safety, connectivity, and usability of existing trails and on-street routes. The goal is to complete the wheel and spoke model, connecting current assets into a cohesive, easy to navigate system for residents and visitors.

Why it matters

- **Safety:** Close gaps in the current network, especially for youth and less experienced riders
- **Connectivity:** Link parks, schools, downtown, and recreational assets
- **Economic Impact:** Encourage visitors to stay longer, explore more, and spend locally
- **Quality of Life:** Support a healthier, more active community

What we've identified

Grinnell already has strong trail assets (parks, soft trails, and shared streets), but the system is fragmented, making it difficult to navigate confidently. There are opportunities to improve wayfinding and signage, strengthen trail and on-street connections, and align those improvements with planned city and DOT projects.

Key early priorities

The addition of around 20 signs, along with shared road markings across the system could clearly identify routes, destinations, and safety guidance. Identify missing links or major barriers and incorporate them into existing or upcoming projects.

What comes next

- Finalization of a comprehensive bike network plan (June completion)
- Integrate recommendations into future city projects and funding opportunities
- Develop ongoing promotion, mapping, and education



— Proposed Grinnell Loop, Wheel

— Bike friendly routes, spokes

- - - Missing infrastructure
1 Crosswalk enhancements
at 11th St and West St

2 On street bike route signs on 4th Ave W

3 New trail south of Reed St

4 Crosswalk enhancements
at Washington Ave and West St

5 Widen multiuse path along East St

6 Widen multiuse path along Penrose St

7 On street bike route signs on 4th Ave W

8 Expand trail south of Broad St