

CITY OF VERGAS
Park Board Advisory Board Minutes
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Teleconference
3:00 P.M. on Thursday, July 24, 2025

Call to Order

The City of Vergas Park Advisory Board was called to order by Tony Sailer on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at 3:00 pm with the following members present: Tony Sailer, Steph Hogan and Chuck Hanson. Absent: Sherri Hanson, Maggie Puetz, and Dean Haarstick. Also present; Shannon Charpentier, Todd Morse and employees Julie Lammers and Rachel Nustad.

Additions and Deletions of the Agenda

Lammers noted that "City Worker Update" would be deleted from the agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Sailer to approve the minutes for May 22, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

Status of Recommendations to City Council

No recommendations to City Council were presented.

Budget

Lammers provided the budget information for the board's review, explaining that she had copied last year's budget for initial planning purposes. She noted that next month the board would need to finalize any desired changes to the budget.

Lammers informed the board that the parks budget is currently at \$97,000, which represents the largest allocation of taxpayer money in the city of Vergas. She then shared information about a potential sales tax initiative she had learned about at a League of Minnesota Cities conference. The proposal would be for a half of a half-percent sales tax dedicated to funding the park master plan.

Lammers outlined the process: the proposal would need council approval, then state approval, followed by placement on the November 2026 ballot. If passed, collection could begin in March 2027. The tax could generate approximately \$100,000 annually, which would significantly help fund the park improvement master plan.

Hanson inquired about the estimated cost of the park improvements, with Lammers confirming the projected cost was approximately \$1.2 million, divided into three phases. The sales tax application would need to specify exactly what the money would be used for and the duration of the tax. Lammers indicated it would be preferable to request the full project amount at once rather than applying multiple times.

Lammers also mentioned that while the state has reduced grant funding for parks, some opportunities still exist. She noted that the sales tax could be ended early if projects were completed, and any future applications would need to begin about a year before the current tax expired.

Pickleball

Charpentier presented a proposal for improvements to the pickleball courts. She distributed a sketch showing plans for two phases of improvements:

Phase 1: Installation of a concrete slab where carpet currently exists, plus cedar posts and canvas sunshades over the seating area.

Phase 2: Addition of a sidewalk leading to the courts to prevent players from tracking rocks onto the playing surface.

Charpentier explained that the pickleball group has approximately \$2,700 in their operating budget and \$1,600 in the West Central Initiative fund. She reported that they had already received pledges of \$2,500 that day for the project. Stacy, who has 40 years of concrete experience, has offered both his expertise and a donation.

The group is seeking approval for the project and plans to fundraise to cover all costs. Charpentier mentioned they would like to complete at least Phase 1 this year.

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Hanson, to recommend to City Council approval of the pickleball court improvement project. The motion carried unanimously.

Lammers noted the request would go to the council meeting on August 11th and suggested having a representative present. She also confirmed she would include the plans in the council packet.

Baseball Committee

Sailer reported on the upcoming dedication ceremony for the baseball field, scheduled for Wednesday July 30th at 6:00 PM, with the game starting at 6:30 PM. The ceremony will recognize people or their families being honored, and Sailer will serve as MC. He mentioned that articles about the dedication appeared in the local newspaper and the Vergas show.

Sailer also proposed that when outside towns use the Vergas baseball field as a neutral meeting place, the city should charge a fee of \$100 to cover maintenance costs. He recommended not charging the local school district since they donate funds for field improvements and Vergas is part of their district.

Motion by Hanson, seconded by Hogan, to recommend to City Council that a \$100 fee be charged when out-of-town teams use the Vergas baseball field. The motion carried unanimously.

Sailer also mentioned an issue with equipment storage behind the pickleball courts that limits parking during baseball games, as people avoid parking along the first baseline due to foul balls. Lammers explained that the equipment belongs to the Vergas Community Club and is typically stored there between Looney Days and Hairy Man events. She will discuss options for relocating the equipment after Looney Days.

Sailer noted that the sign recognizing honorees would be hung on the back of the third base dugout before the dedication ceremony.

New Park Property on Glenn Street

Lammers explained that the city acquired property on Glenn Street as part of a development requirement. The property, approximately 2-3 acres, is largely a slough area with many rocks, making it difficult to maintain. Neighbors have requested that the city maintain the property.

Lammers presented several potential uses for the property, including a butterfly park with wildflowers that could be burned periodically, a sledding hill, or other recreational options. She noted that a dog park had been suggested but would require water access. She asked board members to visit the site before the next meeting to consider options, and also suggested getting input from city worker Mike Dufrane about maintenance possibilities.

City Worker Update

This agenda item was deleted.

Other Business

No other business was discussed.

Next Meeting Date/Time

August 28th at 3:00 PM.

Adjournment

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Hanson to adjourn at 3:39 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Nustad, Deputy Clerk
Secretary of the Park Board

Council Recommendations

- Baseball Fee
- Pickleball

Follow Up Actions

- All members to review Glenn Street Park