

CITY OF VERGAS  
Park Board Advisory Board Minutes  
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Teleconference  
3:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 28, 2025

**Call to order**

The City of Vergas Park Advisory Board was called to order by Sherri Hanson on Thursday, August 28, 2025 at 3:00 pm with the following members present: Tony Sailer, Steph Hogan and Chuck Hanson, Sherri Hanson, and Dean Haarstick. Absent: Maggie Puetz. Also present; Shannon Charpentier, Todd Morse, Ann Richard and employees; Clerk-Treasurer Julie Lammers and Deputy Clerk Rachel Nustad.

**Additions and Deletions**

Nustad noted that the board received a citizen concern. Nustad explained that the concern was about the beach needing a sign saying no fishing on the swimming dock, as there were little kids swimming and fishing on the same dock with hooks flying everywhere.

The board discussed the issue, with S. Hanson noting that it was a matter of parenting but acknowledging there could be a conflict between swimmers and fishers. After deliberation, the board considered options for signage. C. Hanson suggested labeling it as a swimming dock rather than prohibiting fishing outright.

Lammers raised a legal consideration about whether the city had authority to restrict activities on water, as the city leases the land but the water is open to anyone. She recommended consulting an attorney or the DNR for clarification.

Motion by Hogan, seconded by S. Hanson, to put a sign designating the dock as a "Swimming Dock."  
Voting yes: Hogan, C. Hanson, S. Hanson and Haarstick. Voting No: Sailer. Motion carried.

**Minutes**

Motion by S. Hanson, seconded Sailer, to approve the minutes from July 24, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

**Status of Recommendations to City Council**

No recommendations to City Council were presented.

**Budget**

Lammers reported that the 2026 budget was less than the previous year due to lower wages and changes in some items. She noted that the improvements budget was increased from \$15,000 to \$21,000 because they would need to purchase a new lawn mower next year.

Motion by S. Hanson, seconded by C. Hanson, to recommend the increase in the improvements budget. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Pickleball**

Charpentier, Richard, and Morse from the Pickleball Board presented information about the pickleball courts. Richard provided statistics showing that the average number of players per day increased from 19 in 2024 to 24 in 2025, representing a 26% increase. Total player visits for 2024 were 2,300, and they were forecasting 3,000 visits by the end of September 2025, a 30% increase.

Richard noted that the courts were bringing people to Vergas who might otherwise go to Detroit Lakes or Perham, benefiting local businesses. S. Hanson mentioned that she noticed teenagers were increasingly using the courts in the evenings.

Charpentier presented a proposal for improvements including a sunshade and concrete apron. She explained that they had adjusted the original plan and now had exact costs. The improvements for the pickleball club would cost around \$15,000, which they were close to raising through donations. Charpentier also mentioned that at Utilities Superintendent Mike Dufrane's suggestion, they had inquired about adding concrete in front of the bathrooms at a cost of \$2,310.

The board discussed ADA compliance for the proposed steps leading to the bathroom area. Sailer questioned whether a slope would be better than steps for accessibility. Charpentier explained that the concrete contractor had recommended steps due to the 14-inch drop between the bathroom exit and the ground.

Motion by Sailer, seconded by S. Hanson, to recommend to City Council that whatever portion of the concrete pad in front of the bathrooms is not covered by the Community Club, the Park Board would pay through their budget. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Baseball Committee**

Sailer reported that they had not met since the baseball field dedication. He mentioned they would need to block off the infield before the Hairyman event on September 27th.

The board discussed the baseball field dedication, with S. Hanson noting positive feedback. There was discussion about potentially adding more names to the dedication sign in the future. C. Hanson explained that they had chosen to honor financial contributors, coaches, and volunteers rather than players, as it would be difficult to differentiate between players.

The board discussed the possibility of having a nomination form for 2026 but being clear that they were not looking for player nominations. S. Hanson also mentioned that someone had suggested creating a permanent display for baseball memorabilia, possibly in the Event Center.

### **New Park Property on Glenn Street**

Lammers reported that Dufrane was in favor of planting wildflowers on the new park property. The board discussed contacting East Otter Tail Soil and Water for suggestions, similar to what they had done for previous projects. Ideas included creating a walking path through the wildflower area, adding benches made from recycled plastic, and possibly creating a butterfly garden.

Nustad agreed to contact East Otter Tail Soil and Water for guidance.

### **City Worker Update**

None.

## **Other Business**

### **Next Meeting Date/Time**

The board discussed changing their meeting schedule since the City Council meetings had moved to the third Tuesday of the month. They considered meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 PM to ensure their recommendations could reach the Council in a timely manner.

Given the proximity of the September meeting date (September 11th) and the lack of pressing business, the board decided to skip the September meeting and next meet in October unless something urgent arose. They agreed that email communication could be used if needed before the next meeting. Next meeting date will be Thursday October 9, 2025.

The board also discussed preparations for the Hairyman event, noting that Sailer would be the contact person in case of rain. S. Hanson mentioned that the entrances for the event would be at Veterans Park and the entrance closest to the road, not the entrance by third base.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by S. Hanson, seconded by Hogan to adjourn at 3:40 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Nustad, Deputy Clerk (assisted by ClerkMinutes)  
Secretary of the Park Board

### **Council Recommendations**

-Park board to cover the remaining costs of the pickleball improvements

### **Follow Up Actions**

Nustad will contact East Otter Tail Soil and Water for suggestions on the new park property on Glenn Street