

CITY OF VERGAS
Park Board Advisory Board Minutes
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Teleconference
3:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 13th, 2025

2025	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dean Haarstick, Council Appointment	P	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	A	P	N/A	A	P	
Sherri Hanson, Member	P	P	A	N/A	P	N/A	A	P	N/A	P	P	
Chuck Hanson, Member	P	P	A	N/A	A	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	A	
Steph Hogan, Member	P	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	A	P	
Maggie Puetz, Member	A	P	P	N/A	A	N/A	A	A	N/A	A	A	
Tony Sailer, Member	P	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	P	N/A	P	P	
Rachel Nustad, Secretary of the board						N/A	P	P		P	P	
Mike DuFrane, Utilities Superintendent	P	P	P	N/A	P	N/A	P	A	N/A	P	P	

P: Present. A: Absent N/A: No meeting

Also present: Citizen Tiffany Prindle.

Call to Order

The City of Vergas Park Advisory Board was called to order by Sherri Hanson on Thursday, November 13th, 2025 at 3:00 PM.

Additions or Deletions

Nustad noted that there was an error on the date of the minutes on the agenda. It should be October 9th, 2025 not August 28th, 2025.

Minutes

Sailer pointed out a correction needed in the baseball committee section, where it stated 400 games had been played at the field, which should be changed to 40 games per year. Motion by Sailer, seconded by Haarstick to approve the minutes with the noted correction. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Recommendations to City Council

None.

Budget

The board reviewed the 2025 Budget Comparison. Sailer questioned why repair and maintenance was \$5,000 over budget, showing \$8,265.05 spent when only \$3,000 was budgeted. Lammers provided the individual expenses that contributed to this total, including:

- \$300 for Recreational Repair, LLC.
- \$1,486.14 to Barefoot Lawns (for spring weed spraying in all parks).
- \$58.77 to Hansons Plumbing and Heating.
- \$1,475 to Minnesota Boardwalks, LLC.
- \$149 to Hansons Plumbing and Heating.
- Another \$1,486.14 for Barefoot Lawns (for fall weed spraying in all parks).

- \$600 (\$300 from 2024, \$300 from 2025) to remove/install docks at public beach.
- \$2,310 to Haugen Construction Inc. (for bathroom work)
- \$400 to Scott Ehlike

S. Hanson noted that the Community Club would be meeting in December regarding their donation to the baseball field, with an anticipated \$1,500 contribution.

Motion by Sailer, seconded by Hogan to approve the 2025 Budget Comparison. The motion passed unanimously.

Story Walk

S. Hanson reported that the Arts Committee is moving forward with the Story Walk project scheduled for May 16th 2026. The project will feature yard signs displaying pages from the book "Little Loon Finds His Voice" by author Yvonne Pearson, who will be present for a book signing and the unveiling. Billy's Corner Bar has donated 50-75 hardcover books for families. The signs will be positioned to not interfere with mowing, and the plan is to potentially change out the book every year or two to keep the content fresh. JH Signs will be creating the signs, which are designed to be replaceable rather than permanent metal installations. The event will be part of the "Bring on Spring" event and will include a class for children on loon calls.

Pickleball

The nets have been taken down for the season. The committee reported that the pickleball courts had a good year. The concrete work has been completed and paid for. The portable toilet was extended for two months, with one month paid by the Community Club and one month by the pickleball group. DuFrane noted there was a pile of dirt left at the courts and asked if he should check with Shannon Carpentier about plans to spread it out to eliminate the lip between the ground and the concrete.

Baseball Committee

No updates.

New Park Property on Glenn Street

The board members who visited the site expressed a preference for keeping the area natural rather than developing it extensively. S. Hanson shared a conversation she had with someone who had successfully used wildflowers on a steep bank, noting it took 2-3 years to establish and look intentional rather than weedy.

The board discussed concerns about aggressive weeds taking over the area. DuFrane expressed reservations about using chemical sprays, particularly given the proximity to water. He also noted challenges with mowing the steep incline, stating that the tractor isn't designed for such grades, and it poses safety concerns. Board members acknowledged the difficulty in pleasing everyone, as some residents want the area mowed while others prefer it natural.

City Worker Update

DuFrane inquired about plans for the skating rink. He noted that last year's rink at the beach area saw less usage, possibly due to the mild winter. The board discussed alternative locations, with the little ball field near the event center suggested as a potential site that would avoid interference with the pickleball courts. DuFrane recalled the cost for boards would be approximately \$2,800. The board also discussed the need for a warming house if they were to establish a dedicated rink. DuFrane agreed to speak with contacts in Frazee about their warming house setup, including how they heat it, staff it, and what size it is. The board mentioned the possibility of fundraising or seeking community club support for the project, noting the lack of winter activities in town currently. DuFrane will report his findings to S. Hanson.

Other Business

Nustad reported that Puetz's term on the board is ending at the end of the year and she will not be renewing. S. Hanson indicated she would be willing to continue serving unless someone else was interested. A potential new member, Tiffany Prindle, was in attendance and was encouraged to consider applying for the vacancy. Nustad will add information about the vacancy to the next newsletter after City Council has accepted Puetz's resignation officially.

Comprehensive Plan

Board members were asked to review the comprehensive plan and provide any additional items for the 2025 column. Nustad requested that members email her with suggestions. The ice rink project and Story Walk were noted as items to be added to the 2025 plan.

Next Meeting Date/Time

The board agreed to skip the December meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2026. The board also discussed potentially skipping February and March meetings as suggested by the council, since there is typically little activity during those months.

Adjournment

Motion by Sailer, seconded by Hogan, to adjourn the meeting at 3:39 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Follow Up Actions

- Members are to email Nustad with updates for the Comprehensive Plan.
- S. Hanson to check with Shannon Carpentier about the dirt pile at pickleball courts.
- DuFrane develop ideas/plan for mowing and maintenance of the New Park Property on Glenn Street.
- DuFrane talk with Frazee Utilities Superintendent about their ice rink set up.
- Nustad put Park Board member opening in next month's newsletter.