

CITY OF VERGAS  
 Park Board Advisory Board Minutes  
 Vergas Event Center & Zoom Teleconference  
 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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

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

**Call to order**

The City of Vergas Park Advisory Board was called to order by Sailer on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 3:00 PM.

**Additions and Deletions**

Nustad requested a deletion of the Long Lake Park Master Plan from the agenda.

**Minutes**

Board reviewed the minutes from November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

S. Hanson joined the meeting.

**Status of Recommendations to City Council**

None.

**Set Time, Place and Date of Regular 2026 Meetings**

The board discussed the schedule for 2026 meetings. The consensus was to continue meeting at 3:00 PM on the second Thursday of each month. Hanson suggested they could evaluate each month whether a meeting was necessary based on agenda items, particularly during slower winter months. Nustad proposed sending an email at the end of each month to determine if there were sufficient agenda items to warrant a meeting.

**Appointments**

**Chair**

**Vice-Chair**

**Secretary**

The board discussed appointments for the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. A "white ballot" was proposed, meaning all current position holders would remain in their roles. It was confirmed that S. Hanson would continue as Chair, Sailer as Vice-Chair, and Nustad as Secretary. The board also noted that a new member, Tiffany Prindle, had joined the Park Advisory Board but was unable to attend the current meeting.

**Story Walk**

S. Hanson provided information about the Story Walk project being developed by the arts committee, a subcommittee of the community club. The Story Walk will feature pages from a book mounted on signs along Tin Can Alley, allowing families to read the story while walking. The book selected is "Little Loon Finds His Voice." The project launch is scheduled for May 16, 2026, at the Bring on Spring event, with the author present to introduce the book and teach children different loon calls. The Community Club has purchased 50 copies of the book to distribute to families. S. Hanson noted this project might increase visitor traffic to the area and could be the beginning of additional amenities along the trail.

**Pickleball**

No updates.

**Baseball Committee**

No updates.

### **City Worker Update**

DuFrane reported on the construction of an ice rink. He noted they had built a breakwater but hadn't completed further work due to weather conditions and debris on the ice. The rink has good lighting, and they are waiting to properly prepare and flood the ice surface. DuFrane mentioned that neighbors were helping to monitor usage of the rink. DuFrane also discussed options for a warming shelter near the ice rink. He mentioned that Frazee has a small warming house with an electric heater. The board discussed using the existing shelter structure with possible modifications or potentially building a simple structure using available materials. DuFrane also noted they were considering placing benches near the ice for skaters to use. There was discussion about placing a "dogs must be leashed" sign at the park, as Minnesota has a leash law, and there have been incidents with unleashed dogs at the park. The board also had a broader discussion about the Little League Field, which is currently underutilized. Various potential uses were mentioned including a community garden, pickleball courts, dog park, and frisbee golf. DuFrane expressed opposition to a dog park due to maintenance concerns. The board acknowledged that while they can make recommendations about the field's use, the final decision would rest with the City Council.

### **Budget**

DuFrane inquired about transferring unused funds from the previous year to the current budget. It was reported that there were no leftover funds due to higher costs and lower liquor store profits. It was also noted that the park budget had been reduced by approximately \$12,000 to \$13,000 from the previous year, making it a "tight year" financially. S. Hanson asked about the sales tax for the Long Lake Master Plan. Lammers informed the board that the Council has approved the sales tax and now we are just waiting to get approval from the state. If the state gives us that approval, then it will be on the ballot in November 2026 for the citizen of Vergas to vote. If it passes there is still a 90 day wait. If it passes, in February 2027 is when it would go into effect.

### **Other Business**

DuFrane mentioned that he and Mayor Julie Bruhn would be attending a meeting about noxious weeds. Sherri Hanson noted there was community interest in repurposing the Little League Field, with various groups interested in the space for different uses.

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

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 3:00 PM. Nustad would send an email prior to the meeting to determine if there were sufficient agenda items, and if not, they might postpone until the March meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by S. Hanson, seconded by Sailer, to adjourn the meeting at 3:37 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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

### **Recommendations to the Council**

None.

### **Follow Up Actions**

- Nustad: Send out an email at the end of each month to all members to check if there are agenda items for the next meeting and potentially consolidate or skip meetings as needed.
- DuFrane: Find out if the wood from the old trailer is available for use in building a shelter at the lake, and coordinate with City Employee Matt Engbretson on possible shelter construction if the wood can be donated.
- DuFrane: Move a donated pickleball bench to the lake area for public use, or coordinate with Loons Nest regarding possible use of their benches.
- DuFrane: Continue to coordinate with neighbors to monitor and log usage at the new ice rink.
- DuFrane: Order and install a "dogs must be leashed" sign at the park using park budget funds.