

CITY OF VERGAS.
Park Board Advisory Board Minutes
Vergas Event Center & Zoom Teleconference
3:00 PM on Thursday, August 13th, 2026

2026	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Dean Haarstick, Council Appointment	P	N/A	A	A	P	P	A	P				
Sherri Hanson, Member	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	A				
Chuck Hanson, Member	P	N/A	P	P	A	P	P	P				
Steph Hogan, Member	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Tiffany Prindle, Member	A	N/A	A	A								
Tony Sailer, Member	P	N/A	P	P	A	P	P	P				
Rachel Nustad, Secretary of the board	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P				
Mike DuFrane, Utilities Superintendent	P	N/A	A	A	P	P	P	P				

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

Present via person: Julie Lammers.
Present via zoom: citizen James Stenger.

Call to order

The City of Vergas Park Advisory Board was called to order by Sailer on Thursday, August 13^h, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Additions and Deletions

Nustad noted one addition to the agenda: Park Board Member.

Minutes

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Hanson, to approve the minutes from July 9, 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Status of Recommendations to City Council

1. Bathhouse Demolition

Nustad reported that the City Council denied approval of the bathhouse demolition at this time, citing concerns over associated costs. Specifically, porta-potty rental costs were found to be significantly higher than initially anticipated—approximately \$16,000 per summer season for four units—particularly given the lack of a defined timeline for bathhouse replacement. The matter remains on hold pending further planning.

2. Water Ski Team Dock and Lift Storage

Nustad reported that the City Council tabled the matter, directing staff to explore whether alternative storage locations might be available to the water ski team and to allow more time for community input. A concern was raised about setting a precedent, as a previous resident's similar request had been denied. The item was tabled accordingly.

Bathhouse Demolition

No additional discussion was held beyond what was covered.

Water Ski Team Dock and Lift Storage

The Board discussed the water ski team's concurrent request to place a sign near the location where their dock and lift equipment would be stored. It was agreed that action on the sign request should be deferred until the question of dock and lift storage approval is resolved.

Nustad provided additional detail for the record: the equipment consists of a 48-foot sectional dock and two 4,000-pound lifts. DuFrane expressed his view that there would likely be sufficient room at the site, provided the equipment is placed properly. It was noted that a draft storage agreement would require the dock and lift to be stored at least 50 feet from East Frazee Avenue, placed on City property no earlier than October 15th, and removed by April 15th. A hold harmless provision for the City was also noted as part of the proposed agreement.

The Board discussed the background context: the water ski team had previously arranged for a dock and lift company to handle seasonal removal and storage, but that arrangement is no longer in place under new team leadership.

The Board also noted that the ski team has received DNR approval for a ski jump for the upcoming season. Questions were raised regarding where the jump would be stored off-season and the added consideration that the lake has an invasive species designation, requiring thorough cleaning of equipment before transport off-site. No formal action was taken; the matter remains tabled pending the Council's direction.

Budget

2026 Income and Expenses

The 2026 income and expense report was reviewed. No questions or concerns were raised by Board members, and the Board moved forward to the 2027 budget discussion.

2027 Budget

DuFrane raised two potential additions for consideration in the 2027 budget: an Agri-Lime line item for the ball field, and wood chip compost for the playground areas (estimated at approximately \$3,200). It was discussed that coordinating with the another City, who are rebuilding their adjacent field, could offer a cost-sharing opportunity on compost delivery, as transportation represents the primary expense.

The most significant increase in the proposed 2027 budget was a \$50,000 equipment line item, reflecting a proportional share (0.333) of the cost of a replacement pickup truck and lawnmower equipment, shared among multiple City departments. It was noted that the current City truck is approximately 14 years old.

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Hanson, to approve the 2027 budget as proposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Haarstick joined the meeting.

Pickleball

No representatives were present and no discussion was held on this item.

Baseball Committee

The Board discussed the status of a proposed second access gate at the ball field. Lammers reported that an estimate had been obtained and shared with the Community Club, which declined to fund the project. Stenger clarified the Community Club's position: they were willing to fund the addition of a second gate but were not willing to pay for relocating the existing gate as part of a combined project. If the City were to cover the cost of moving the existing gate, the Community Club indicated it would look at funding the new gate addition.

Nustad noted that the original proposal did not involve moving the existing gate but rather installing an entirely new double gate further down the fence line, near the left field foul pole, to allow vehicles with trailers a straight entry path onto the outfield—avoiding the sharp turn currently required after entering the existing gate. This issue was connected to a recurring problem of vehicles damaging underground irrigation pipes, which had required costly repairs two to three years prior. The estimate for the project was approximately \$1,200–\$1,500, inclusive of labor and hardware, using good-condition used materials. It was noted that the baseball committee's budget line for repairs and maintenance has already been exceeded. The Board briefly discussed the possibility of charging vendor trailer fees at events such as the Hairy Man Festival as a potential funding mechanism, and suggested raising this idea with the Community Club. No formal action was taken.

City Worker Update

DuFrane reported that the restroom facility has been pumped out and is ready for winter, with water service to be restored for the season. He also noted that the Lions Club has installed new composite wood railings on the park stairs leading to the lake, which were described as attractive and a good match for the existing structure. The Board expressed appreciation for the Lions Club's continued contributions.

A brief discussion followed regarding the poor condition of grass under by the Loon at the Long Lake Park, attributable to soil acidity from the tree canopy combined with the ongoing dry conditions.

Other Business

The Chair noted that Bob Hager has expressed interest in joining the Park Board. The Board agreed that, as Mr. Hager was not present at the meeting to speak on his own behalf, a recommendation to the City Council should be deferred until he attends a future meeting. The item was tabled.

Next Meeting Date/Time

The next Park Advisory Board meeting was set for **September 10, 2026**.

Adjournment

Motion by Hogan, seconded by Hanson, to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Nustad, Deputy Clerk (assisted by ClerkMinutes)

Secretary of the Park Board

Recommendations to City Council

None.

Follow Up Actions

- Table the recommendation of Bob Hager for the park board until he confirms his interest and can attend a meeting.
- DuFrane: Check in with the other City to see if the park board can piggyback on an Agri-Lime order for the ball field.