

**Park Advisory Board**  
**2026 March Park Advisory Board**  
**Government Services Center & Zoom Id 267-094-2170 password 56587**  
**3:00 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2026**

1. **Call to order**
  - Members Present
  - Others Present
2. **Additions and Deletions**
3. **Minutes**
  - November 13, 2025 and January 8, 2026
4. **Status of Recommendations to City Council**
  - None.
5. **Story Walk**
6. **Pickleball**
7. **Baseball Committee**
8. **Long Lake Park Master Plan**
  1. Sales Tax Update
9. **Budget**
10. **Other Business**
11. **Next Meeting Date/Time**
12. **Adjournment**

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**Park Advisory Board  
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**1. Call to order**

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Members Present  
Others Present

**Park Advisory Board**  
**2026 March Park Advisory Board**  
**Government Services Center & Zoom Id 267-094-2170 password 56587**  
**3:00 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2026**

**3. Minutes**

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November 13, 2025 and January 8, 2026

**Files Attached**

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- Park Board 11.13.25.pdf
- Park Board Minutes 1.8.26.pdf

CITY OF VERGAS  
 Park Board Advisory Board Minutes  
 Vergas Event Center & Zoom Teleconference  
 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 not August 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 Engebretson 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.

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**4. Status of Recommendations to City Council**

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None.

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**10. Long Lake Park Master Plan**

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1. Sales Tax Update

**Park Advisory Board**  
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**3:00 PM on Thursday, March 12, 2026**

**11. Budget**

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**Files Attached**

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- 2026 Park Income and Expense Report.pdf

	<u>Income &amp; Expenses</u> <u>2/27/26</u>	<u>2026 Budget</u>	
<b>Income:</b> City Taxes (Approved by Council)	0.00	82,485.00	
Land Dedication Fee	0.00	0.00	
Swimming Lesson Donation (Lion's)	0.00	300.00	*used for swimming lessons
VCC - donation to ballfield for events	0.00	1,500.00	
Bathhouse Donations (Liquore Store Box)	0.00	0.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$84,285.00</b>	
<b>Expenses:</b> Wages and Salaries (100)	2,140.58	25,000.00	
Employer Cont./Soc.Sec/PERA. (122)	1,121.08	9,840.00	
Employee Insurance (131)	596.40	3,900.00	
Workers Compensation	0.00	2,400.00	
Office Supplies (200)	117.03	350.00	
Operating Supplies (210)	328.54	3,500.00	Wood Chips
Telephone	62.50	375.00	
Repair & Maint. Supplies (220)	1,111.12	1,500.00	
Engineering	0.00	5,000.00	
Travel, Mtgs, & Schools	0.00	20.00	
Employee Clothing Allowance(245)	0.00	100.00	
Licenses/Permits	35.00	360.00	
Insurance (360)	0.00	3,300.00	
Utility Services (380)	344.29	4,000.00	
Rubbish Service (384)	928.40	4,200.00	
Repair & Maintenance Service(400)	0.00	3,000.00	
Baseball Field	0.00	1,500.00	
City Share/Assessments (440)	0.00	700.00	
			Long Lake Park, Riding lawn mower scheduled to be replaced in 2026 for est. cost of
Improvements (530)	0.00	15,000.00	\$13,000.00
Donations transferred from 2024	0.00	0.00	
Refunds & Reimbursements	29.68	240.00	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,814.62</b>	<b>\$84,285.00</b>	
<b>Total for Parks</b>			
<b>Savings Accounts for the Park (need Council Approval to spend)</b>			
Money Market Account			
West Central Initiative (bathhouse funds)			
Total	\$67,051.69		