

**PARK DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
SEPTEMBER 2, 2025**

The Board of Park Commissioners met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at Choice Health & Fitness community room, 4401 South 11th Street, at 5:00 p.m. with President Skarperud presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present were President Skarperud, Vice-President LaDouceur, Commissioners Bartholomew, Kraft, and McIntyre.

Park District staff in attendance were: Executive Director Hellyer, Director of Finance & Administration Lancaster, Director of Operations & Community Relations Nelson, Director of Facilities & Programs Orr, Parks Operations Manager Hell, Sports & Recreation Manager Rollefstad, Marketing Manager Trontvet, Senior Accountant Larsen, and Project Administrator Swenberger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-President LaDouceur made a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Bartholomew seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 5, 2025

Commissioner Bartholomew made a motion to approve the minutes from August 5, 2025. Commissioner McIntyre seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

FOR DISCUSSION

Altru Sports Complex Update

Executive Director Hellyer provided an update on the Altru Sports Complex, including the continued efforts to complete the phase 1 operations and maintenance budget. Hellyer reviewed discussions that took place with local user groups about potential facility use of the proposed phase 2 hardcourt addition, noting their current use of School District properties without cost. Hellyer summarized inquiries from the public on fee or membership structure for the facility, citing the intent to have a rental based structure like ice facilities. Hellyer noted the recent discussions on including a tournament coordinator position to help facilitate local tournaments. Hellyer presented two new phase 2 facility design options, one with four high school basketball courts and the other with two basketball courts. Discussion took place on limiting financial losses to prevent detracting from other community offerings.

FOR ACTION

Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association – Facility Improvements

Director of Facilities & Programs Orr presented to the Board the request from Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association (GFYHA) to make concession and storage area improvements and to waive the annual concession fee in exchange. GFYHA is estimating improvements to cost around \$20,000 for the concession improvements at Purpur Arena and \$14,000 for storage improvements at ICON Sports Center. Orr stated that staff are supportive of a 50/50 cost share of

the improvements to the facilities up to a maximum of the \$10,000 concession fee. Discussion took place on the importance of traffic flow and aesthetics.

Vice-President LaDouceur made a motion to approve the Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association – Facility Improvements with a 50/50 match up to \$10,000. Commissioner Kraft seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Blue Line Club IcePlex – Naming Opportunities

Director of Operations & Community Relations Nelson provided an overview of Blue Line Club IcePlex facility events and visitor traffic. Nelson presented the proposed naming opportunities for the arena renovation campaign. Discussion took place on facility use agreements and previous campaigns.

Vice-President LaDouceur made a motion to approve the Blue Line Club IcePlex – Naming Opportunities. Commissioner McIntyre seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Director of Finance & Administration Lancaster reviewed the July 2025 financial reports. Vendor and payroll payments for July 2025 were \$2,191,174.29.

Commissioner Kraft made a motion to approve the financial report for July 2025. Commissioner McIntyre seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS

Parks Operations Manager Hell reported his team is busy mowing grass in the parks and will transition to winterizing irrigation at the end of the month.

Orr presented the August membership numbers, upcoming events, programs, and promotions for Choice Health & Fitness, noting that facility visits fell in August due to annual facility cleaning and maintenance. Orr reported pool deck discoloration following the replastering, stating it would be addressed with the contractor in the next week. Orr informed the Board that regular facility hours for Choice Health & Fitness started today and that fall programming is up and running. Orr notified the Board of the Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association season kickoff event will be on September 17 at the ICON Sports Center. Orr reported that Facilities Manager Colborn and Facility Assistant Supervisors Rep and Middleton are out this week attending an arena conference. Orr concluded by providing a preliminary project timeline for the renovations at Blue Line Club IcePlex.

Marketing Manager Trontvet invited the Board to the dedication for the Terry Paukert Tennis Complex on October 8 and the grand opening of Crary Park on October 9, stating details would be forthcoming.

Nelson updated the Board on an upcoming visit from the Mayor of our sister city in Japan with a gathering planned for October 2nd at the Japanese Gardens at Sertoma Park. Nelson provided an overview of upcoming events including “Parktoberfest” and movies in the park. Nelson reported positive feedback following the placing of a halfway house concession trailer at the course restrooms at King’s Walk Golf Course. Nelson informed the Board that the King’s Walk Golf Course bridges will all need to be replaced within four years, noting the intent to hire a local engineering firm through a request for qualifications. Nelson concluded her report by informing the Board that she continues to work on cooperative purchasing options for new tables and chairs at King’s Walk Golf Course.

Lancaster stated that the public hearing and final budget approval will take place at the October Board meeting. Lancaster also noted the Grand Forks Parks and Recreation Foundation Board meeting will immediately follow the regular Grand Forks Park District Board meeting on October 7th.

Hellyer informed the Board that Forestry Operations Manager Lee reported over 100 tree removals and over 300 broken branch removals following a recent storm and subsequent tornado. Hellyer reported that discussions with the North Dakota Association for the Disabled (NDAD) on naming Kiwanis South Park continue, as well as discussions

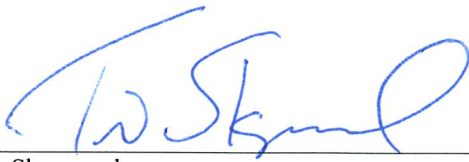
with the Grand Forks School District about a potential land swap agreement involving Williamson Field. Hellyer updated the Board on a dog park inquiry for the south end of town, noting this item is currently being considered for 2027. Hellyer concluded by informing the Board that seven staff will be attending the National Recreation and Park Association annual conference in Florida from September 15-19.

BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS

Commissioner McIntyre inquired on building a storage shed near the Wynne Tennis Complex and adding heavier kettlebells at Choice Health & Fitness. Orr stated that a storage shed is on the C&B list for future consideration and that the kettlebells will be evaluated.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President LaDouceur made a motion at 6:17 p.m. to adjourn. Commissioner Kraft seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.



Tim Skarperud
President of the Board of Park Commissioners



George Hellyer
Executive Director and Clerk