

**PARK DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 2, 2026**

The Board of Park Commissioners met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at Choice Health & Fitness community room, 4401 South 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Programs & Facilities Orr, Facilities Manager Colborn, Parks Operations Manager Hell, Altru Sports Complex General Manager Rollefstad, Marketing Manager Trontvet, Senior Accountant Larsen, Lincoln Golf Course Superintendent Motl, 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 MAY 5, 2026**

Commissioner McIntyre made a motion to approve the minutes from May 5, 2026. Commissioner Kraft seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

**FOR DISCUSSION**

**Altru Sports Complex Update**

Altru Sports Complex General Manager Rollefstad provided an update on facility agreements, including the deep dive well agreement with the University of North Dakota and the Altru Health System naming rights agreement. Rollefstad reported that City Council approved phase 2 of construction (GMP 3), which includes the building exterior. Rollefstad also presented an overview of construction costs, updated site plans, and renderings of the athletic development space and building exterior. Discussion took place on concession area design and operations. Executive Director Hellyer reported that the phase 1 opening remains planned for fall 2027 and phase 2 is planned to open in summer 2028.

**Review Potential Capital & Betterment Projects for 2027**

Director of Finance & Administration Lancaster reviewed the 10-year forecast that currently projects \$950,000 for C&B projects in 2027. Lancaster presented a preliminary list of potential 2027 projects developed with input from management across all departments and discussed additional project considerations and potential funding sources. Hellyer noted that the final list with updated costs will be brought back to the Board at year-end for consideration.

**FOR ACTION**

**Purpur Arena Renovation Project – Request for Qualifications**

Hellyer provided an overview of the Purpur Arena renovation project. Staff received five proposals, Design Rich Architects, EAPC, Hepper Olson Architects, ICON Architects, and MJBA Architects. Hellyer provided an overview of project funding

from the Blue Line Club. Facilities Manager Colborn presented an overview of the planned renovation project, including the proposed scope of work and project timeline. The selection committee met to interview and evaluate the firms and is recommending approval of ICON Architects for the Purpur Arena renovation project.

Vice-President LaDouceur made a motion to approve ICON Architects as the architect for the Purpur Arena renovation project. Commissioner McIntyre seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

### **Altru Sports Complex – Operations Agreement**

Hellyer presented the Operations Agreement, including phase 1 and phase 2, with the City of Grand Forks for the Altru Sports Complex. Hellyer noted the effective date of the agreement is July 1, 2025, with a term ending date of December 31, 2035. Hellyer highlighted key provisions of the agreement, including capital expenditure guidelines, fundraising and sponsorship structure, and utility responsibilities. President Skarperud commended both organizations for their commitment to the partnership and collaborative efforts in developing the agreement.

Vice-President LaDouceur made a motion to approve the Altru Sports Complex – Operations Agreement. Commissioner Kraft seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Lancaster reviewed the April 2026 financial reports. Vendor and payroll payments for April 2026 were \$1,914,953.91.

Vice-President LaDouceur made a motion to approve the financial report for April 2026. Commissioner Bartholomew seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous, motion carried.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Director of Programs & Facilities Orr presented May membership numbers and provided updates on upcoming events, programs, and promotions at Choice Health & Fitness, noting that facility visits for May were trending downward, which is typical for this time of year. Orr stated Choice Health & Fitness will be closed on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Orr provided an overview of upcoming tennis events and highlighted the 2026 North Dakota Tennis Hall of Fame inductees. Orr informed the Board of plans to hire a Maintenance & Housekeeping Specialist following the completion of interviews and reported that Isaac Olson has started as the Sports & Recreation Coordinator. Orr concluded by discussing potential uses for the UND tennis and USDA spaces that will soon become available within the facility.

Colborn provided an overview of facility usage and upcoming events. Colborn updated the Board on the planned renovation process and timeline at the Blue Line Club IcePlex.

Parks Operations Manager Hell reported on progress of the playground installation at NDAD Park and provided updates on the playground replacement projects at Elks Park and Exchange Club Park. Hell informed the Board that court resurfacing has been completed at the Abbott Sports Complex and the University Park tennis courts.

Lincoln Golf Course Superintendent Motl thanked President Skarperud for his service to the organization. Motl also thanked Vice-President LaDouceur and Commissioner McIntyre, who are up for re-election, for their service to the organization.

Marketing Manager Trontvet reported that current marketing efforts are focused on promoting summer programs and events. Trontvet informed the Board that the Marketing & Graphic Design Specialist position has been posted due to Megan Cory's upcoming departure by the end of July. Trontvet updated the Board that she is working with NDAD on joint communications and a promotion plan for NDAD Park and the adaptive golf carts at King's Walk Golf Course and Lincoln Golf Course. Trontvet concluded by reporting that Kimberly Diane was selected for the website redesign project following review and evaluation of three proposals.

Director of Operations & Community Relations Nelson informed the Board of efforts to promote adaptive golf in June, supported by generous donations from NDAD and Albatross for the Vertacat golf cart and a wheelchair-accessible golf cart. Nelson highlighted the green fee and cart scholarship provided by NDAD to help reduce barriers to participation for golfers utilizing the Vertacat. Nelson reported on the King's Walk Golf Course bridge replacement project, noting that a request for qualifications has been published. Nelson also provided an overview of upcoming golf events and reported that Tyler Wiertzema has joined the staff at Lincoln Golf Course as the Assistant Superintendent. Nelson updated the Board on

upcoming events, including Hooked on Fishing, Arbor Day, Movie in the Parks, Just For Fun, and other community activities. Nelson provided an update on the employee culture survey which currently has a 67% response rate, noting efforts will continue to achieve full participation. Nelson concluded by providing an overview of a donation from the Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association for speakers and a projector in the community room at the ICON Sports Center and that the Grand Forks Children's Museum is anticipated to open in fall 2027.

Lancaster informed the Board that work on the 2027 budget is underway and will be presented at the Finance Committee meeting to be scheduled in late July. Lancaster also reported that thirty items were sold at the annual used equipment sale, generating \$14,226 in revenue.

Hellyer invited Board members to attend the 50th Annual Arbor Day event at Sertoma Park. Hellyer also informed the Board that the Park District is not involved in the Beacon Development project. Hellyer reminded the Board that the July Board meeting is scheduled for July 7<sup>th</sup> and noted that the election will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, during which three Board positions will be elected. Hellyer concluded by acknowledging President Skarperud is not running for re-election following 16 years of service to the Board of Park Commissioners and Grand Forks community. Hellyer highlighted numerous projects completed during President Skarperud's tenure from 2010 to the present, including the opening of Choice Health & Fitness, ICON Sports Center, and Veterans Memorial Park, and renovations at Blue Line Club IcePlex, Kraft Memorial Field, and Paukert Tennis Complex, and the forthcoming Altru Sports Complex. Hellyer thanked President Skarperud for his dedicated service to Grand Forks and for championing recreation, parks, and other quality-of-life initiatives that have enhanced the Grand Forks community. President Skarperud was presented with a plaque to commemorate his service by Park District staff.

### **BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner McIntyre thanked President Skarperud for his leadership that emphasized treating people with respect while remaining focused on achieving organizational goals. Commissioner McIntyre noted that President Skarperud's presence and contributions will be missed on the Board.

Commissioner Kraft thanked President Skarperud for his many years of dedicated service to the community and for his contributions to the Park District during his tenure on the Board of Park Commissioners.

Commissioner Bartholomew stated he felt the operations agreement for the dryland hockey training space at the ICON Sports Center being proposed by the Grand Forks Youth Hockey Association does not have to be completed prior to the land lease agreement for the facility. Commissioner Bartholomew also thanked President Skarperud for his service to the community and expressed appreciation for the example set through his leadership, community service, and dedication to advancing the Park District's mission.

Vice-President LaDouceur inquired about operating hours at Eagles Crest, noting concerns raised by customers. Staff reported that operating hours will be established and posted for the season. Vice-President LaDouceur also expressed appreciation for the leadership, guidance, and service President Skarperud has provided to both the Board and staff.

President Skarperud expressed gratitude for all present at the meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
Greg LaDouceur  
Vice-President of the Board of Park Commissioners

  
George Hellyer  
Executive Director and Clerk