



KINDRED PARK BOARD MINUTES

July 15, 2026 6:30 pm

Location: Kindred City Hall

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:33 PM by President Rob Sahr

Present Members: President Rob Sahr, Lloyd Hoffarth, Justine Gibbon, Kevin Mehrer, & Patrick Bergh

Absent Attendees: Accountant AnnDee Erickson, & Parks Director Mike Brown

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

- **Election of Park Board President:** The board held an election for the position of Park Board President. Kevin Mehrer was nominated by Lloyd Hoffarth and seconded by Patrick Bergh. There being no further nominations, Kevin Mehrer was elected Park Board President by unanimous vote.
- **Election of Board Officers:** The board conducted its annual election of officers. Following nominations, the following officers were elected and all appointments were approved unanimously.
 - **Vice President:** Patrick Bergh
 - **Secretary:** Justine Gibbon
 - **Treasurer:** Lloyd Hoffarth
 - **Newly Appointed Member At-Large:** Kerri Whipple
- **Treasurer Authorization:** Following the election of new officers, the board approved authorization for Treasurer Lloyd Hoffarth to sign checks and approve routine payments on behalf of the Park District, including monthly bills and other approved expenses. The motion was made by President Kevin Mehrer and seconded by Justine Gibbon. Motion passed unanimously.

APPROVE MINUTES for June 10th, 2026

- President Mehrer asked the board to review the June 10th Meeting Minutes. Mehrer made a motion to approve the minutes, Patrick 2nd the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- No comments were received.

FINANCE REPORT

- **Discuss about accountant:** The board revisited discussion regarding long-term accounting services, including contracting with an accounting firm. Lloyd Hoffarth obtained a proposal from Reliance Associates Accounting for accounting services. The board expressed support for transitioning to the accounting firm, noting that it would provide greater stability while resulting in only a minimal increase to the annual accounting budget, estimated at less than \$1,000 per year. The board also acknowledged that current accountant AnnDee Erickson has agreed to continue serving through the busy season and assist with completion of the Park District's annual budget submission to ensure a smooth transition.
- **Monthly bills:** The board reviewed and approved payment of the monthly bills, including invoices for accounting services, Hawkins pool supplies, and skid steer rental. All bills were approved for payment.
- **Softball Account Update:**
- **New Pick Up Truck:** Brown reported that a truck was purchased in June for \$2,800 with prior approval from Rob Sahr and Kevin Mehrer. The vehicle will be used for local transportation, and Accountant AnnDee Erickson requested that a purchase agreement be completed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Update on ipad / card reader for pool:** The board discussed the current concession tracking process and noted that attendance and food sales can be tracked using the existing cash register system. The process will be reevaluated this fall. The board also discussed moving forward with an iPad at the



Pro Ag fields for the summer of 2027, pending MLGC providing internet service at no cost. Gibbon will follow up with Mike Brown for concession close out reports.

- **Rescheduling Donut Ball:** The board discussed options for rescheduling the Donut Ball. Twelve participants had registered for the winter event, and all registration fees were fully refunded. The board considered hosting a mother/son pool party event this fall as an alternative or attempting the Donut Ball again next winter. It was noted that attendance has declined each year. The board discussed sending a community survey to gather feedback from families regarding continued interest in the Donut Ball, as well as other potential events, facilities, and projects currently being considered by the Park Board.
- **T-ball and Softball Wrap Up:** The board received a recap of the 2027 T-Ball and softball season. T-Ball had 60 participants. Softball participation included 18 players in 8U, 21 in 10U, and 27 in 12U.
 - For the first time, Kindred entered both 10U and 12U teams into a weekend tournament. The board discussed continuing tournament opportunities next season, including the possibility of participating in the Barnesville tournament, which provides an opportunity for rural communities to compete against similar sized programs.
 - The board also discussed implementing a three-day player evaluation for 8U, 10U, and 12U participants prior to the start of the 2028 season to create more balanced teams. Following the evaluations, players will be placed on equitable teams, and families will be notified of team assignments. It was noted that communication regarding team placement will occur later than in previous years due to this process, although families will be informed in advance that 10U games will be held on Mondays and 8U/12U games on Wednesdays.
 - An update was provided on the 8U league. In recent years, Kindred, Enderlin, and Lisbon have been the primary participating communities, with Kindred coordinating the schedule. After Lisbon withdrew this season, Enderlin was the only remaining opponent. The board learned of an existing southwest regional league that includes 8U, 10U, and 12U teams from several surrounding communities. Despite multiple attempts to schedule additional 8U games, no responses were received from several contacts. The board discussed the possibility of joining the Fargo 8U league or continuing to schedule games with Enderlin and Buffalo in future seasons.
- **Grant Opportunities:** Finally, Brown provided updates on grant opportunities. A meeting is scheduled regarding the Healthy Kids Initiative Playground Grant, and additional information will be shared after that meeting. The Community-Based Walking Program grant application was submitted in May, and the board is awaiting a funding decision.
- **Vacation Leave:** Brown also notified the board that he will be on vacation August 3–9.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Naming right to Gilbertson softball field:** Justine Gibbon contacted previous Park Board members, Scott Milbrandt and Kitty Blilie, who were active members in 1995 during the construction of the ball diamond at Gilbertson Park. Milbrandt and Blilie were involved with writing the grant for the field project and provided historical background. They expressed that renaming a field would be appropriate as long as the overall park name remains Gilbertson Park. President Kevin Mehrer made a motion to grant Kindred Youth Baseball naming rights for one ball diamond located within Gilbertson Park for a period of ten years for capital promotion purposes. Lloyd Hoffarth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Barley Days (formerly Kindred Days):** The board approved purchasing a foam party event for the park on Saturday, August 8, from 1:00–2:00 p.m. The cost of \$550 will be paid for by the Parks Department. The Park Board will also participate in Barley Days activities by providing a bubble party and hosting a float in the town parade. The pop-up movie trailer event will be coordinated by Lydia Ronningen through the Barley Days committee.



- **City Park Final Touch Ups:** The board received an update on the final improvements and cleanup efforts at City Park. Park and City employees have been working several days each week to complete the remaining project items. The existing swing set will remain in the park. New swing hardware will be needed, and further discussion is needed regarding who will order and cover the cost. The decision to keep the swing set was made at the request of the City. The City has ordered additional mulch at a cost of \$3,805 and will be responsible for the expense. The playground border will be extended to the sidewalk, and work will continue with city employees to remove excess dirt and install fabric before the remaining mulch is delivered. The board also discussed the possibility of removing the concrete bench located between the pool and the new playground area. Grass restoration around the new playground is not yet complete but will be addressed after Barley Days, as both the Park Board and City prefer to wait until after the event.
- **Charter bus trip for Twins game:** The board discussed the proposed charter bus trip to a Minnesota Twins game and decided not to move forward with the idea at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Recognition for Rob Sahr of Years of Service:** The board recognized Rob Sahr for his years of service and dedication to the Park Board and the Kindred community. The board expressed appreciation for his time, leadership, and commitment to supporting parks and recreation opportunities for local families.
- **New member:** The board welcomed Kerri Whipple as the newest Park Board member at large. Kerri was elected and approved to serve as a member of the Park Board. The board expressed appreciation for her willingness to serve the Kindred community.
- **Election of Parkboard President and Vice President:** The board held an election for Park Board President and Vice President. Discussion and voting results are documented in the officer election notes above.
- **Revisit other portfolio assignments:** The board also held an election for other portfolio assignments and voting results are documented in the officer election notes above.
- **Preliminary Budget Preparation:**
 - The board reviewed the previous year's budget and discussed adjustments needed for the upcoming budget year. Updates were made to reflect new projects, anticipated maintenance needs, and employee-related expenses. The board will continue reviewing and refining budget items as preparation continues.
 - The board discussed budgeting for future capital purchases, including replacement mowers for new park developments in Spring 2027 and a new softball field groomer. The current groomer has been repaired multiple times and is no longer effectively leveling fields. Pricing is being obtained for both new and used equipment.
 - Brown informed the board that space may be available to lease in the City's new shop for equipment storage and office space. Monthly rent is still to be determined, and the board discussed the possibility of using funds currently allocated to the Toolcat payment once it is paid off to offset future rental costs.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

- **Newport park name:** No new updates were reported regarding the Newport Park naming discussion.
- **Walking path:** The board received an update that the City has submitted a grant application for the walking path project and work is currently underway. This item will be removed from future Park Board agendas unless additional discussion is needed.
- **Gilbertson Parking Lot:** The board continued discussion regarding improvements to the Gilbertson Parking Lot and potential funding options. The board discussed exploring fundraising opportunities,



including charging for parking during events or using a free-will donation approach to help offset project costs. Further discussion and planning will continue.

- **Linden Lot:** Discussion regarding future development plans for the Linden Lot was tabled until next month's meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Youth Soccer - July
- Swimming Lessons - July 27-August 7
- 5th & 6th Youth Football - August 3rd
- Kindred Days - August 7, 8, 9
- 3rd Flag Football - August 31-October 14
- Homecoming - September 11

ADJOURN

- 8:18 President Kevin Mehrer makes a motion to adjourn. Gibbon Seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

Elected Position – Park Board Member	Officers	Portfolio	4-Year Term End Date
Kevin Mehrer	President	Fundraising/ Finance	June 2028
Lloyd Hoffarth	Treasurer	Projects Coordination	June 2030
Kerri Whipple	At – Large	Community Engagement & Volunteerism	June 2030
Justine Gibbon	Secretary	Recreation Programming & Events	June 2028
Patrick Bergh	Vice President	Grounds and Maintenance	June 2030