Gering Parks, Cemetery, and Tree Board Meeting
February 23, 2026

1. Call to order at 5:15 and roll call: Present: Chairman Don Gentry, Recording Secretary Vickie Nemnich, Amy Seiler, Philip Schmitt, Vice-Chairman Tim Maxcy, and Chris Kautz. Absent Mike Donovan

2. **Open Meeting Act – NEB. REV. STAT. CHAPTER 84, ARTICLE 14**
As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act available in the meeting room. Agenda items may be moved up or down on the agenda at the discretion of the Chairperson. As required by State Law, additions may not be made to this agenda less than 24 hours before the beginning of the meeting unless they are considered under this section of the agenda and the board determines that the matter requires emergency action.

3. Visitors: James Jackson

4. Election of Officers: Motion made by Chris Kautz for Don Gentry to be Chairman, Mike Donovan co-chairman, Tim Maxcy Vice Chairman, Vickie Nemnich secretary. Seconded by Philip Schmitt. Motion carried.

5. Public Hearings: none

6. Reading and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2026. Motion made by Philip Schmitt to accept and second by Chris Kautz. Motion carried.

7. Reports:
    a. Cemetery – January 2026 - see attached report Amy has been working with the city engineer on road improvement. They are planning to work on one or two of the intersections and on the main east west road. They will be doing some work to help with water drainage away from the roads.
    b. Parks – Ballfield watering started a couple of weeks ago but the pipes have again been drained. Quotes to laser grade the stadium and diamond 1, etc. have come in higher than anticipated so we will rethink our plan. Oregon Trial Park and McLellan Park will have porta-potties set up for the soccer practice fields. Working on a new shed for west of Diamond 1, plans are done and working on bids.
    c. Trees – January and February we have watered the one and two-year-old trees which amounts to about 200 trees. Crews have marked trees for removal.

8. Unfinished business:
    a. Update on memorial plaques: Philip and Chris brought in 2 examples. Logos did not get their example done. Powder coated laser-cut plaque mounted on tile (produced by Aulick) costs $50. Aluminum engraved plaque from Logos costs $15. Ceramic tile by Kevin Krzyznowski costs $27. Philip and Chris will put together a cost list.

9. New Business:
    a. Discussion on Carl Gray Park: Don Gentry provided a slide show concerning the park and its history. The train needs to be painted. Could we move the Statue of Liberty onto city property and off railroad property? There are some trees by the depot building that need to be removed. Perhaps we could contact UP and ask if they would pay to remove the trees. Do we need to continue with a park the name of Carl Grey (whom people don't know) or should we rename it something like Liberty Park or Patriot Park? This park is not suitable for picnicking or playgrounds due to being in a high traffic area. If we moved the statue, a new base would probably have to be built. We could start by renaming the park and getting a new sign.
    b. Memorial Bench Program: We need to come up with a memorial bench program so that we control how they look to make sure they fit into the setting they are in. We need to form a subcommittee to work on this. Chris will chair the committee and Philip will work with him.
    c. Memorial Tree Policies: We allow a plaque to be placed by the tree. We need to consider whether we allow the family to decorate these memorial trees that are in a park. We run into problems with things blowing around and causing problems for the mowers and things getting broken by people in the park. How long are we responsible for replacing a tree if it dies? 3 years? 5 years? Perhaps replace the tree within 5 years and then consider moving the plaque to an existing tree about the same age. Amy will bring a proposal to the next meeting incorporating language that will prohibit decorating.

10. Date, time and place of next meeting: 5:15 p.m. March 23, 2026, at Park Maintenance Building

    OPEN COMMENT: discussion or action by the Park Board regarding unscheduled business will not take place. This section is for citizen comment only.

Motion made by Philip Schmitt and seconded by Chris Kautz to adjourn the meeting at 6:15. Motion carried.

Don Gentry, Chairman

Vicki Nemnich, Park Board Secretary