Gering Parks, Cemetery, and Tree Board Meeting
January 26, 2026

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

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 Philip Schmitt to table the election until next month when all members are present. Second by Mike Donovan. Motion carried.

5. **Public Hearings: none.**

6. **Reading and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting on November 17, 2025.**
Motion made to accept by Philip Schmitt, second by Mike Donovan. Motion carried.

7. **Reports:**
   a. Cemetery – Nov. and Dec. 2025: see attached reports. For 2025 our number of internments was lower than normal but because of a raise in fees we were ahead of our budget. Annie Folck is working on a plan with Amy and cemetery staff to improve the center east-west road by trying to divert water into the cemetery grass area from the road as well as improving the surface of the road. They have filled in many of the potholes but more work is needed. Some trees may need to be removed at some point so that the road and drainage can be improved.
   b. Parks – Legion Baseball did a fence improvement project to Diamond 1 by removing the south outfield fence and installing a black chain link fence in its place, installed by VanPelt fencing. The Legion Baseball also funded a "batter's eye" (making the fence behind the pitcher a color so that the batter can more easily see the pitched ball). We are working on quotes for laser leveling on the ballfields which will help with drainage issues. Also getting bids on a Ventrac which is used for snow removal, field dragging, etc. Work continues on the final design of the storage building which will go west of Diamond 1 and will house all the ballfield equipment and things like the Vantrac, etc. Seth Z., park maintenance worker, resigned at the end of the year. We will not be refilling that position at this time. We also received a thank you from a citizen of Gering for the work done on the water feature at Northfield Park.
   c. Trees - 2025 Tree report by Philip Schmitt. See attached report.

8. **Unfinished business:**
    a. Update on memorial plaques: Philip shared the following: There is one laser-cut steel one being made at Aulick's ($50), an aluminum one is being made at Logos ($12) and we are looking at pavers, and also some tiles ($27) made by Kevin Krzyznoski. Next meeting we will have all 4 types to look at.

9. **New Business:**
    a. Schedule a date for work session meeting to work on our goals and plans: date set for February 9th at 10:00 a.m. at the Park Maintenance building.
    b. Discuss a tree walk and tree planting in a city park. Philip moved to remove this item from the minutes because it will be discussed at the meeting on Feb. 9th. Vickie Nemnich seconded. Motion carried.
    c. February 26 virtual tree care workshop: We will meet at the Park Maintenance building; March 10 tree pruning workshop with NRD out at their office near the airport.

10. Date, time, and place of next meeting: Monday, February 23, 2026, at 5:15 p.m.

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

Motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m. made by Chris Kautz and seconded by Philip Schmitt. Motion carried.

Don Gentry, Chairman

Vickie Nemnich, Park Board Secretary