Gering Parks, Cemetery, and Tree Board Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2026, AT 5:15 P.M.

1. Call to order at 5:15 and roll call: Present: Chairman Don Gentry, Vice-Chairman Tim Maxcy, Recording Secretary Vickie Nemnich, Amy Seiler, Philip Schmitt, 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; Sherry Preston

4. **Public Hearings:** none

5. **Reading and approval of the minutes** of the regular meeting of February 23, 2026. Motion to accept made by Chris Kautz and seconded by Philip Schmitt. Motion carried.

6. **Reports:**
   a. Cemetery: February report attached. Still working on plan for the roads at the cemetery. The city did a walk-through to discuss stormwater management.
   b. Parks: We are watering and have started mowing. All agreements have gone out to ball organizations for their rental fees which remain the same as 2025. The agreement with the Pioneers is not complete as of this time. The Pioneer field will be laser-leveled in May. Angel of Hope group does not have a completed contract yet. They will be putting a bronze statue in Gentry Park. The project will be completed in phases.
   c. Trees: We have watered 200 trees this month. We are doing tree inspections and removing some trees as well as beginning tree pruning. There are several dead pines.

7. **Unfinished business**:
   a. Update on Memorial Tree Program: Unfinished, and will discuss at a future meeting.
   b. Update on Memorial Plaques: Philip showed 3 finished plaques that we are considering: aluminum one by Logo $12, steel done by Aulick $50 + tile $1; and engraved floor tile $27; and they will try (free) granite countertop scraps, engraved, but we don't know the final cost. We need to think about whether to put the type of tree on the plaque since if that tree dies, we might not have a place to put the plaque, but without a tree type on them we can place the plaque anywhere we wish after the tree dies. Philip will be placing the examples of plaques outside tomorrow to test them in the weather and see how they hold up. We'd like to give people a choice of plaques and prices.
   c. Update on Memorial Bench Program: Chris presented a Power Point showing some ideas. He and Philip have decided to combine the memorial tree and memorial bench program and work on costs, locations, brochure, etc. It will be presented at a future meeting
   d. Discussion on Carl Gray Park – see attached information; Don gave us an update on the history of Gering parks and Cemetery. We would like to propose that we rename Carl Gray Park to Liberty Park because of the presence of the Statue of Liberty and because it is the 250th anniversary of the United States. A new sign will need to be made. There are trees around the Depot building that should be removed. It would also be nice to either replace the fence

surrounding the train that is there or remove the train completely. We need to think about other ideas for using that park. Discussion on this topic will continue at future meetings. Amy will talk to the City Administrator to see if we can work on a "park to park" master plan or a "total parks" master plan and report back.

8. **New Business:**
   a. Arbor Day Celebration Friday, April 24, 2026: It will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Northfield Park with Northfield 4th graders, the Mayor, and members of the Gering Park, Cemetery, and Tree Board. The public is invited to join us and participate in the activities. We will need Park employees to help plant trees. Amy will get the Proclamation ready. The Snowy Bus will be available.
   b. Discuss date for tour of West Lawn Cemetery: It is suggested that our May 18, 5:15 p.m. meeting be held at the Cemetery and we can then take a tour at the same time.
   c. Set date for tour of parks for Vickie: Amy will set that up with Vickie
   d. Discuss and schedule a date for Saturday Walk in Northfield Park: Saturday, April 18, from 9-11 a.m. Philip Schmitt will be the guide and will plant a memorial tree for Vera Delaney, demonstrate tree pruning, and discuss the Northfield Arboretum. A press release will be issued.
   e. Discuss citizen request for a historical tour of West Lawn Cemetery: Sherry Preston from the Gering library is doing a summer theme of "digging into reading" or something similar, and wondered if we knew if there was anyone in our community who knows some history of our cemetery. They would like to do a historical tour of the cemetery this summer if we could find someone. She's interested in symbolism on the stones, etc. She will check with Herstead. "Wreaths Across America" sponsored by DAR puts wreaths on every veteran's grave and Sherry will be discussing it at their meeting on April 9th, at 5:30 p.m. at Roma's. They need to know the number of Veterans buried in our cemetery. They would like a representative from our Board there and will pay for the meal. Amy agreed to attend. Amy will contact Brian Wilson about the history of the headstones.

9. **Date, time and place of next meeting:** 5:15 p.m. April 20, 2026, at Park Maintenance Building. Reminder that the May meeting will take place at the Cemetery building, not at the 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 Chris Kautz and seconded by Tim Maxcy to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Don Gentry, Chairman

Vickie Nemnich, Park Board Secretary