Gering Parks, Cemetery, and Tree Board Meeting
September 21, 2026

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

2. **Open Meetings Act – NEB. REV. STAT. CHAPTER 84, ARTICLE 14**
As required by State Law, public bodies shall make available current copies of the Open Meetings Act available on the south wall corkboard in the Park Maintenance Facility Conference Room. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication on the City of Gering website on September 1, 2026, in accordance with the designated method of giving notice. 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**: none

4. **Public Hearings:** none

5. **Reading and approval of the minutes of the regular meeting** held August 17, 2026. Motion to accept made by Philip Schmitt and seconded by Tim Maxcy. Motion carried.

6. **Reports:**
   a. Cemetery: August 2026 : see attached reports. Progress is slow on the buffalo grass trials. It has proven tough to kill. Hand spraying killed it, but the boom spraying did not. The seeder is not functioning correctly, so those areas had to be reseeded. We do have a new seeder in our budget so will get that later this fall. It is going to be suggested that we move some plots so that we can plant trees in the center of that area. Amy is working on language for the ordinance along with the city attorney, that will recall the Perpetual Care fund and create a sinking fund that will be specified strictly for cemetery use. The Wiedeman family is willing to deed some land that abuts the cemetery to the north. Amy is checking into that.
   b. Parks: Lots of vandalism in the bathrooms. Still mowing the parks and ball diamonds. Sprinkler systems have been a big problem this year. Only 2 part-time youngsters are still working. Will be planting plants at the waterfall in October. About $70,000 was cut from the budget so that has affected things being done in the parks such as planting trees, etc. The Gering Sugar Beets have been chosen to use the Oregon Trail Park Stadium.
   c. Tree Report: Philip Schmitt reported that trees are still being removed, 46 to date and should have 53-54 by the end of the year; 29 were pine, 23 were Austrian Pine. Tree Monkey did some of the removal of the larger ones. We are still watering younger trees, memorial trees and grant trees, but cutting back watering of the parks since it is cooler. We have several memorial trees to plant in September and October.

7. **Unfinished business:**
    a. Carl Gray Park discussion: Amy Seiler, Mike Donovan, and Dr. Don Gentry met and came up with some options. First option is to rename the park Liberty Park since the sign needs to be replaced anyway. The land within the park that is owned by the Union Pacific Railroad will not be gifted to the city. Amy recommends the subcommittee meet again and look at the documents she has found regarding Carl Gray Park and perhaps also get community input.
    b. Update on Memorial Tree and Bench Pamphlet: Philip shared the latest copy of the pamphlet. Motion made by Vickie to approve the pamphlet for printing and distribution. Second by Philip. Motion carried.
    c. Discussion on scooters and electric bikes in parks: tabled until a future meeting.

8. **New Business:**
    a. Discuss Park Foundation Structure: The City of Gering cannot go out and solicit donations. If you have a foundation, you can have a group of people who do fundraising for big projects in the parks like new pathways, restrooms, playgrounds, pools, etc. Amy will continue researching what is involved and finding people who would possibly be on the Board, applying for tax exempt status, etc. and report back to this board at a future meeting.
    b. Kelly Bean/Jirdon property: Dr. Don attended a meeting last Wednesday at the Civic Center regarding this property. They are looking to get a grant to help with the cost of the removal of those buildings and are looking at several possibilities for the use of this land.
    c. Discuss fence around cemetery: tabled for future meeting
    d. Consider naming the park east of Five Rocks Amphitheater: It was suggested that this board work with Tourism member, Tina Worthman, to come up with a new name for this park and invite her to the next meeting on October 19 to discuss this.

9. **Date, time, and place of next meeting**: 5:15 p.m., October 19, 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 Tim Maxcy to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Motion carried.

Don Gentry, Chairman

Vicki Nemnich, Park Board Secretary