GRIGNON MANSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 28, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Brian Schuh, at 4:30 p.m. in the Municipal Services Building, Hydro View Room.

Roll Call

Present –Christina Crook, Brian Schuh, Bruce Werschem, Pennie Thiele, Brian Buechel

Not in Attendance- Lyle Hansen

Others in Attendance – Allison Engels

Public Appearances- Mary Grogan-Seleen- Friends Group

Review/Approve Minutes from August 17, 2026 Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes, Werschem moves, Buechel seconds, Minutes approved.

Report from the City

Engels indicates that a budget line item for the Grignon, usually for services, is in the works. Approximate final amount for budget item would be $4,000 for the mansion. This has not been brought to a meeting of the Common Council yet to this could change. $4,000 could go towards trees and interpretive signage. The conversation for the city budget is completed in October. Thiele questioned whether or not $4,000 was enough. Engels confirms it is, the Friend Group paid for the trees and the streets crew will plant them. Werschem indicates that the Friend Group supplied five (5) trees. Although, more trees would be beneficial, five (5) trees is a good start along with a plan to add more trees in the future. Five (5) trees for a total of $848: two (2) swamp oak, one (1) hackberry one (1) birch and one (1) American Elm.

Thiele requests confirmation that in the future trees at the mansion could be considered a Parks Department expense. Engels indicates that yes, the budget request this year is being used as a place holder for future requests to be included in the city budget. Schuh confirms that the purchase of the trees was a timing issue and the Friend Group purchased them a bit early to ensure the time needed for planting. Continued discussion as to the $4,000 budget line-item request and whether or not it was enough to cover what is needed at the mansion. Werschem indicated that our agreed upon request was going to be $5,000. Schuh confirmed that the $4,000 was just a start and more of a baby step to show that requested funds would be appropriately applied. Schuh further indicated that the city budget is not a checkbook for mansion projects.

Tree Removal/Storm Damage: Engels indicated that the tree that came down during the storm has been removed and the 2nd tree in the back by the mansion was removed today, it was dead and needed to be cut down before it caused damage by falling down during another storm. The city is replacing the maple tree at the end of the soccer field.

No date has been set to plant the new trees, Schuh suggests trying to plant the trees and bury the new time capsule at the same time.

Report for the Friends

Grogan-Seleen indicated that the Lost Arts Festival was held on 9-19-2026 and it rained. It was agreed to move many of the presenters into the mansion. While there were some no-shows for the presenters, the attendance was good and presenters requested to be added to the list for next year. Instead of tours, the attendees were able to go through the house on their own and there were a couple tour guides to help answer questions, etc. No charge to go in the house; however, donation jars were set out. Schuh requested whether or not funds were raised at the event. Grogan-Seleen confirmed that funds were raised, tour donations were $250 and gift shop sales were also $250. Engels confirmed that $150 was spent on advertising through Facebook.

Grogan-Seleen confirms that the Friends Group purchased the new trees for the grounds of the mansion.

Tours: There are Life Long Learning tours set for the next two (2) weeks and the Christmas Tours are also approaching. Weather has impacted the Christmas Tours in the past. Discussion of advertising the Christmas Tours on Facebook.

Report from the Chair

Schuh discusses the status of interpretive signage and working with the Locks group to try and get similar signs. The Locks group is putting up signage along the papermill trail and their signs are almost ready to go. Discussion of where to place possible signs and what topics to include, including but not limited to: blacksmith shop, trading post, agriculture and fur trade, the deed to the home, history of the family, etc. The typical cost is between $700 and $1,500 for sign tops only we will also need bases.

Engles indicated that Cassidy Mickelson is now with the Community Foundation. Mickelson indicated that the Community Foundation is cracking down on donations and how they are being applied. Discussions of looking at area businesses for donations.

Schuh indicated that the exterior painting on the mansion will be completed in 2028. The estimated costs are between $21,000 and $23,000. He is hopeful that in two (2) years, the city will pay for the painting. Schuh indicated that it is a two (2) year budget cycle and the prep work could be done by the Friends Group in 2027.

Discussion of events in 2027 and possibly adding an event in July or something in the fall. Previously, the mansion hosted a Fall Festival. The mansion also hosted a Native American Dance in the fall with Menominee Tribal Dancers. The Lost Arts Festival could continue to be scheduled for September. Discussion of trying to start a fall event such as another Native American Dance and reaching out to other tribes such as the Oneida or Stockbridge Munsee tribes to see if they would want to participate.

Schuh indicated that the new 20x30 tent blew down during the Lost Arts Festival and was damaged, it was also damaged upon opening. He is working to get it replaced through Amazon.

Other Business

Crook requested input on security cameras installed on the mansion or grounds. Schuh indicated that the Grignon area, including soccer fields, mansion and other associated areas are a city owned park. Engels indicated she would request information as to whether not the city would install any security cameras around the mansion, grounds and other areas.

Set Next Meeting Date and Location

Monday, October 19, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. in the Hydro View Room

Adjournment

Motion by Buechel to adjourn, seconded by Werschem, Motion unanimously approved with meeting adjourned at unrecorded time.