

## GRIGNON MANSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 27, 2025

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

### **Roll Call**

Present – Gavin Schmitt, Christina Crook, Lyle Hansen, Brian Schuh, Bruce Werschem, John Moore

Absent – Patty Brogan, Brian Buechel

Others in Attendance – Allison Engels

Public Appearances- Mary Grogan-Seleen and Carol King w/Grignon Friends Group

### **Review/Approve Minutes from September 15, 2025 Meeting**

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

### **Report from the City**

As a follow-up to the last meeting and the artifacts found by UW-Oshkosh, Engels has confirmed with Jordan from UW-Oshkosh that all artifacts with UW-Oshkosh should be returned to the Grignon.

Engels reports that tickets for the Christmas tour are available through the website, etc. The tickets will also be posted on Facebook. Terri/Friends may be creating their own Facebook page which could share events, etc.

The painting call held at the Grignon was successful in terms of attendance, the six participants had not been to the Grignon before and did receive a tour. Engels sold items from the gift shop during the class. The Friends in attendance indicated that typically it is the Friends responsibility to approve and host events at the Mansion. Discussion regarding fees associated with the painting class, any liabilities due to people being in the Mansion. Engels discussed the fees associated with the class, indicated that the class had a good turnout, etc. Discussion again lead by the Friends regarding events, costs, fees and thoughts on clarifying who is able to approve events held at the Mansion and if non-Friends events are held, a fee to host the event at the Mansion could be charged.

Civil War event will be cancelled this year, the group of reenactors are limiting their events and will host an event every other year; therefore, the next Civil War event will be in the summer of 2027.

## **Report from Friends**

Financials- King indicates the Friends' Treasurer is leaving at the end of 2025. King also indicates she may leave at the end of January but could reconsider her departure.

King discussed a possible ramp to be installed at the Mansion to make the Mansion handicap accessible to the basement. King explained that going to the basement through the bulkhead doors is difficult. The elderly during tours, like the Christmas tour, are unable to participate or use the facilities. Schuh brings up a possible elevator but does indicate that may be cost and space prohibitive.

Schmitt and Schuh continue the discussion of ADA accessibility in trying to facilitate the gift shop/classroom area possibly on the first floor of the Mansion but unsure if that could be feasible due to costs, etc. Discussion concluded with Schuh asking the Friends to possibly get bids on a ramp and Engels indicating she would talk with John Neumeier to get insight into ADA compliance, etc.

Discussion regarding the Civic Engagement class and their winter sledding hill project. The Friends indicated they do not want to work with the Civic Engagement Class and indicated they had not been informed of this possible collaboration. Crook indicated that the class had offered to allow for display areas for Grignon items in the building that would be built for their use. The Friends indicated they would not support having displayed items in their building due to the possibility of them being damaged. The Board discussed that they had been talking about the possibility of working with the Civic Engagement class to benefit both parties, the Friends reiterated they were not approached about this and do not support any involvement for them/the Mansion with the class. Resources were provided by Schuh to the Friends to learn more about the project.

Discussions regarding role and responsibilities of the Friends, the Board and the City regarding events, costs, repairs, maintenance, etc. for the Mansion.

Schmitt continued discussions as to the role/responsibilities of the Friends, Board and City regarding upkeep, fees, events, etc. at the Mansion. The Friends will be reviewing and revising their Bylaws to reflect what they currently do at the Mansion and are willing to do regarding the Mansion. Discussion about low numbers in the Friends group impacting their ability to continue at the Mansion in their current capacity. King questioned whether or not the Board and Friends Group could be joined to allow for open communication and further assistance at the Mansion. Moore indicated that the City does not know what the role of the Friends is but does know that the Friends are in charge of the funds for the Mansion. It was decided that the Board and Friends would

continue to work to try and revise Bylaws for both to reflect the updated roles/responsibilities of each group.

Grogan-Seleen brought up a new event called, "Lost Arts," which would showcase activities that would have been standard during the time of the Mansion. The Blacksmith was discussed and trying to incorporate him and his work more at the Mansion.

### **Report from the Chair**

Schmitt indicated he attended a conference focused on state historic preservation. Discussion regarding historic signage and redoing the sign at the Mansion due to disrepair. Costs of new signage and discussion of a new sign being installed by the Daughters of the American Revolution for the Stockbridge tribe was discussed. Schuh indicated he would look into preliminary costs for a new sign at the Mansion.

### **Other Business**

Werschem again suggested that the Friends when redoing or revising their Bylaws look at all documents pertaining to them. He also indicated he was able to meet with Trevor Frank to begin discussions of installing an outbuilding on the grounds of the Grignon. Due to the Times Villager office closing, Werschem has a picture of the Grignon that was in the building that was donated to the Grignon.

### **Set Next Meeting Date and Location**

Monday, November 24, 2025 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Hydro View Room.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Schuh, seconded by Werschem. Motion unanimously approved, with meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.