

GRIGNON MANSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 26, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Gavin Schmitt, at 4:34 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 – Brian Buechel

Others in Attendance – Allison Engels

Public Appearances- Mary Grogan-Seleen w/Grignon Friends Group

Review/Approve Minutes from November 24, 2025 Meeting

Werschem requested that the Patty Brogan's name be corrected from Grogan to Brogan in "Other Business". Werschem also requested the minutes to reflect that he asked if the Mayor removed her from the board.

Motion to amend the minutes to change Grogan – Brogan and fix sentence of Werschem, Werschem moves, Schmitt seconds, motion to amend minutes approved.

Motion to approve amended Minutes, Werschem moves, Moore seconds, Minutes approved.

Report from the City

Discussion continued regarding the Friends' bylaws, revisions are being addressed and updated. Nothing has been approved.

Discussion regarding Grignon contractual services expenses being a part of the city budget. Moore indicated that the budget would allow the Grignon to have more money to address normal expenses.

Grogan-Seleen indicated there is an issue with water in the basement stemming from the rebuilding of the porch due to improper sealing. Discussion of reviewing the contract to determine what, if any, remedy through the contractor may be available.

Discussion of painting the outside fence and discussion of whether or not the Mansion has gutters which would help with the water runoff.

Schmitt indicated that the agreement should be reviewed prior to the next meeting.

Engels indicated that Terri Vosters with the city may be joining us for our March meeting if so, further discussions regarding the role of the Friends Group could be had, Moore reiterated that it was good to have the Friends involved.

Engels indicated she and Vosters met with Crystal with the Community Foundation, provided Crystal with a tour, discussed possible projects, etc. Engels applied for a \$10,000 grant that is under review. The money, if received, is not earmarked for a specific project or need. These funds would replace the grant which expired in 2025.

There are two (2) separate funds, the grant funds were given to the Friends who in turn, gave the funds to the city. Discussion by board of what to do with the funds, if received. Grogan-Seleen indicated she made Vosters aware of the water in the basement in the fall of 2025. Grant funds may be needed to address the water issue if nothing in the contract can require the contractors to make the necessary repairs.

Engels confirms she has contacted Trevor Frank to begin the discussion regarding possible ADA compliance of the Grignon; however, no meeting time has been set yet. Engels confirms that she indicated to Frank that this was a separate project from any discussed with him regarding the Grignon previously. Schmitt confirmed with Engels that this would be informal and unofficial meeting and no payment would be necessary. Moore indicated that the Board should discuss with Frank what could be possible to do with the two (2) levels, basement and 1st floor. Schuh indicated that to modify the actual building may be a large ask, would a temporary ramp be possible. Grogan-Seleen indicated that she was aware that Rob had issues working with the city in terms of accommodations.

Report for the Friends

Grogan-Seleen indicates that the Christmas tours at the Grignon were moderately successful mainly due to the lack of the horse/carriage rides the 2nd weekend which saved a lot on the cost to the Friends to have the tours/event. However, it was noted that many people were disappointed that the rides were not part of the 2nd weekend. Discussion of the pros and cons of the horse/carriage rides due to the cost and what, if anything, could address this issue considering the guests do enjoy them. The Board discussed the possibility of a sponsor for the horse/carriage rides and how to attract sponsors in the future, best avenues of contacting companies, etc. was discussed and the Board acknowledged that casting a wider net when requesting sponsorships/donations may also need to be considered in the future. The Board discussed have a list of business that the Friends could contact to try and raise additional funds for events.

Grogan-Seleen indicated that outdoor/indoor clean-up of the Grignon and grounds was set for April of 2026. She has discussed historical cleaning with other sites and learned that professional cleaning companies typically are unable to clean a historical site due to the considerations of the exhibits, surfaces, etc. She has purchased a book that has information on how to properly clean a historical site. She discussed the needs for the outdoor work including weeding, raking, etc.

Friends Officers will be voted on in March of 2026, possibly allow mail-in voting.

Report form the Chair

Schmitt indicates that he does not have much to report; however, he is working on an inventory of items at the Grignon , there are several past inventories but not a comprehensive and current inventory. He is working to update, confirm and make a cohesive inventory of all items currently at the Grignon.

Other Business

Nomination for Board Officers, discussion to keep the current Officers as is. Schmitt moves to nominate current slate of Officers, seconded by Hansen, Motion unanimously approved.

Elections will be held at the February 2026 meeting.

Hansen addresses the many historical items that left Kaukauna and how/if they could be returned.

Set Next Meeting Date and Location

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. in the Hydro View Room

Confirmation that the March 2026 meeting will need to be moved to March 16, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Schuh to adjourn, seconded by Moore, Motion unanimously approved with meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.