

GRIGNON MANSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 17, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Pennie Thiele at 4:30 PM in the Municipal Services Building, Hydro View Room.

Roll Call

Present – Gavin Schmitt, Pennie Thiele, Brian Buechel, Bruce Werschem, Lyle Hansen

Absent – Patty Brogan, Christina Crook

Others in Attendance – Allison Engels, Al Borchardt, Carol King

Review/Approve Minutes from January 27, 2025 Meeting

Motion by Werschem to approve meeting minutes. Seconded by Schmitt. Motion unanimously approved.

Report from the City (Engels)

Engels presented results from Mansion survey. Data has not been analyzed, and more information will be presented in March. Information will be used to expand the sort of programming and events the public would like to see. Thiele called attention to the graph showing strong support for the Mansion to be supported by public funding.

Report from Friends (Werschem/King/Borchardt)

Friends were invited to an open discussion with the board, and King shared her calendar on upcoming events. In addition to the annual big events, there was discussion of a craft show, Mother's Day tea, a June flag retirement, and possibly some sort of cross-promotion with the NFL Draft in April, when many tourists will be in the area. Hansen suggested adding a Kaukauna birthday celebration in June, noting it would be the 235th anniversary of settlement.

King and Thiele discussed the car show. It was uncertain but sounds like it will continue and there was talk of having it be a memorial to coordinator Rob Jackels.

Werschem asked King about the Friends relationship with the City as far as funding. There seems to be a lack of clarity on where funds go. Friends turn over sales to the City rather than a direct investment in the property. However, the City does provide staff for Mansion events. If the grounds were expanded, would this be financed by the City or the Friends directly?

Borchardt was curious on how GM Friends were handled compared to 1000 Island Friends. What was their income, and were they expected to turn it in to the City in exchange for the City providing staff? He was also concerned that historic programming was (in his view) secondary to other GM events.

There was also discussion of changing Friends membership from \$10 to a volunteering minimum (or a choice of either) -- a few hours of volunteering was potentially more valuable than the cash donation.

Report from the Chair (Thiele)

Thiele suggested the slate of officer nominees be entered together, as there was no opposition. Werschem moved to accept the slate unanimously and Buechel seconded. The motion passed. New officers are now Pennie Thiele (chair), Gavin Schmitt (vice-chair) and Christina Crook (secretary).

Other Business

None.

Set Next Meeting Date and Location

Werschem suggested moving the board to the Mansion. This was denied on the grounds that public meetings must be ADA compliant, and the Mansion cannot promise this.

Monday, March 24, 2024 at 4:30 PM in the Hydro View Room was set.

Adjournment

Motion by Buechel. Seconded by Hansen. Motion unanimously approved, with meeting adjourned at 5:36pm.