

GRIGNON MANSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 27, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Pennie Thiele at 5:00 PM in the Municipal Services Building, Hydro View Room.

Roll Call

Present – Christina Crook, Gavin Schmitt, Pennie Thiele, Bruce Werschem, Lyle Hansen

Absent – Patty Brogan, Brian Buechel

Others in Attendance – Terri Vosters, Allison Engels

New board member Hansen introduced himself to the board as the former owner of the Kaukauna Times, and a 26-year veteran of the Army Reserves (8 years as a tank commander). He was drawn to the board by his “keen interest” in local history.

Review/Approve Minutes from October 28, 2024 Meeting

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

Report from the City (Vosters/Engels)

New Community Enrichment Program Manager: Allison Engels introduced herself to the board; she is effectively the successor to former Mansion director Cassidy Mickelson. Engels brings with her the experience of working with the Paine Museum and Gardens in Oshkosh.

2025 Grignon Mansion events: Popular events including Little Chute Community Band and the Civil War reenactment will be returning. Car show is “up in the air” with long-time coordinator Rob Jackels stepping down. A new coordinator would be needed. Other events, including a craft fair, are in the discussion stages.

Report from Friends (Werschem/Vosters)

A review of 2024 numbers (financial and attendance) was presented. Some numbers went down (Christmas tours, guided tours) while others went up (tours during car show, Civil

War attendance). Overall, it was considered an “excellent” year for the Friends, with both expenses and profit up. Biggest expense increase was horse carriage rental, which may lead to its discontinuance.

Werschem identified two areas for growth with the Friends: recruitment and PR. Hansen offered to get the word out through his email network. A suggestion was also made to get the local news more involved with events.

Report from the Chair (Thiele)

Thiele alerted the board to a presentation on Grignon history that would be held February 12, 2025 at 2:00pm at Statesburg Apartments. (Thiele is executive director of the Kaukauna Housing Authority.)

Other Business

Nominations for officers: Schmitt motioned for Thiele to remain chair, seconded by Werschem. Werschem motioned for Schmitt to become vice chair, seconded by Thiele. Thiele motioned for Crook to become secretary, seconded by Schmitt. Elections will be held at the February meeting.

An invitation was made for the Friends to join the board meeting in February for discussion.

Set Next Meeting Date and Location

Monday, February 17, 2024 at 4:30 PM in the Hydro View Room was set.

Adjournment

Motion by Crook. Seconded by Werschem. Motion unanimously approved, with meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.