

GRIGNON MANSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Gavin Schmitt, at 4:31 p.m. in the Municipal Services Building, Hydro View Room.

Roll Call

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

Absent- Patty Brogan, Brian Buechel

Others in Attendance -Allison Engels, John Neumeier (Director of Public Works - City)

Public Appearances- Carol King- Grignon Friends Group

Review/Approve Minutes from July 21, 2025 Meeting

Motion to approve Minutes, Moore moves, Werschem second, Minutes approved.

Report from the City (Engels & Neumeier)

Board members discussed options for storing the small findings from the recent archaeological dig. Some members suggested keeping the items at the Grignon Mansion, while others proposed storing them at UW Oshkosh under the condition that the items could be retrieved whenever needed. John Neumeier volunteered to contact the dig lead to gather more information and clarify the terms of potential storage at UW Oshkosh. Not all board members agreed on a preferred storage location. Some raised concerns about the limited storage capacity at the Grignon Mansion, noting that it is already housing many items. Others emphasized that the artifacts may receive better long-term care and curation if stored at UW Oshkosh. Further discussion and a decision are expected to take place at the next board meeting in October.

The archeological dig report was discussed and found to be underwhelming. Neumeier indicated there was no damage and the current location of the blacksmith shop is a good location.

Not much information from the city regarding staff, etc. Preparations are underway for the Civil War event. Kaukauna Utilities donated \$100 to the Civil War event.

Report from Friends

Carol King representing the Grignon Friends Group:

Car show was not as successful as hoped, mainly due to weather. There were 35 cars this year compared to 150 last year. Some money was raised but not a lot.

Help is needed for the Civil War event and for the 50/50 raffle. The blacksmith is enthusiastic and has items to auction off. Moore indicated pictures could be posted to get the items advertised. The reenactors needed tent stakes which they were able to have made.

Volunteer lunch at the car show went well, volunteers were able to have a sandwich, chips and a soda. There was some confusion as to what the lunch consisted of, so moving forward, clarification would be provided.

Engels indicated that the city has staff that can help at the Civil War event.

Elle was recognized at the car show. The mayor provided her with a certificate and made a speech. The Friends are still giving her a gift basket.

At an event in Sherwood, it was noticed that tickets were used to purchase the food at the event instead of cash exchanging hands at the food booth. This may be an easy/good switch.

Discussion of possible additional events i.e. candle making, etc. In May of 2026, a possible, "Lost Arts Day" for activities like spinning, etc.

Report from the Chair

Schmitt thanked all volunteers for the car show and the Friends, indicated that the tours were steady. Schmitt reminded the Board that he is doing a speech at the library on the Grignons on 8-19-2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Election of Vice Chair: Werschem declined the nomination, Schuh accepted. Crook made the nomination, Werschem 2nd and motion for Schuh to be Vice Chair carries.

Other Business

Werschem is still working to connect with the architect/builder to discuss a possible building at the Grignon.

Set Next Meeting Date and Location

Monday, September 15, 2025 beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Hydro View Room.

Adjournment

Motion by Hansen, seconded by Werschem. Motion unanimously approved, with meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.