

GRIGNON MANSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 27, 2026

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

Others in Attendance – Allison Engels, Terri Vosters

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

Review/Approve Minutes from February 23, 2026 Meeting

Werschem requests a revision to the Minutes-

FROM:

Grogan-Seleen indicates the furnace was evaluated, most likely by Bob's Quality Heating.

TO:

Grogan-Seleen indicates the furnace was evaluated by Bob's Quality Heating.

Motion to approve Minutes, with the change Werschem moves, Hansen seconds, Minutes approved.

Report from the City

Engels confirmed that per the email sent by her and Vosters, the Mansion sustained water and water damage in the basement during recent storms, approximately one (1) to two (2) inches of standing water. This was discovered in the morning after the storm and action was taken immediately by the Parks/Streets Department to vacuum, etc. Several local restoration companies were contacted and J&G Restoration was hired to work on drying out the basement, removing carpeting, etc. No artifacts or furniture was lost.

Vosters discussed insurance issues and estimates for replacement costs for flooring, etc. The claim was accepted and it was determined that the sump pump failed. The city replaced the sump pump at a cost of \$250. The estimate is \$8,887, with the city payment \$2,500.

Discussion of flooring options and photos were shown, replacement with carpet was discussed and if that was the best solution should flood or water damage occur again. Installing an epoxy floor that ran next to the remaining linoleum floor was discussed. Vosters indicated that another estimate could be calculated once a decision on flooring was made.

The stage/demonstration area was also discussed, due to non-use it was determined that this area would be removed and if able to salvage the window or other items, that would be optimal. The area also has carpet underneath that may not be able to be completely dried out which could cause mold or other issues. Schuh moves to remove stage/demonstration area, Buechel. Motion passes. Friends will have this area removed by the Street Department; the City would cover any liability for injury.

Again, it was agreed to get new estimates to show the approximate cost of an all-epoxy floor versus epoxy installed up to the existing linoleum floor would be requested.

Vosters indicates that a May timeline is optimal due to early June opening and events. Grogan-Seleen also indicates that the gift shop is in the basement. The Board also recognizes the bathroom is in the basement as well. Guests/visitors could use facilities at the pavilion located close to the Mansion.

Vosters states she will keep the Board posted of status and any additional issues. The Street Department will do as much work as possible.

Photos were shared of the gift shop wall which was opened up and discussion continued about changing the footprint/area of the gift shop to hopefully have a new flow and sightlines through the giftshop. The Friends will move the display counter and the display case could be removed or moved. Vosters indicates that the Fire Inspector could determine what, if any, fire code accommodations may need to be made with any alteration to the set-up of the gift shop.

Werschem asked whether the new sump pump had an alarm. Schuh confirmed he purchased an alarm that will detect water on the ground. It was discussed that not only the Vosters and Engels would be notified by the alarm but also the Kaukauna Police Department (KPD) should be notified too as it would take longer for Vosters or Engels to get to the Mansion than it would KPD. The Board discussed future alarm options.

Schuh confirms that the Friends are responsible for the displays in the Mansion. Vosters again confirms that the displays were not damaged.

Engels indicates that there are school tours in May and again, because the bathroom is in the basement, the children would use the facilities at the pavilion. The Mansion will host two (2) classes at the end of May.

Engels indicates that we could not work with Fox Locks this year due to scheduling issues but we will try again next year.

Werschem asked for an update with the issues of trees. Engels indicates she has discussed with the Parks Department Foreman, "Chuck" and trees are on the list. The city would help with planting but the trees themselves would need to be donated or purchased by another entity.

Vosters indicated she has talked with the council regarding the Grignon Mansion Executive Director role since Engels was here, there are some staffing needs, etc. and there is a large list for the city.

Report for the Friends

Grogan-Seleen reports that events are scheduled for the summer and the season will start on June 13, 2026 with a flag etiquette program with the American Legion Post 41 and tours at 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. The next event will be the annual Little Chute Band concert, August 9, 2026 will be the car show and on September 19, 2026 the Lost Arts Festival. Lastly, the 1st and 2nd weekend of December will be the Christmas Tours.

Reference to the time capsule buried on the Mansion land in 1976 was found during the flooding clean-up. Craig Lamb and others buried it in 1976 and plans to dig it up are set for July 26, 2026. Discussion of where it is located and what may be in it. Park School would like to be involved with the time capsule. Hansen indicated it was by the totem pole. There may be a file regarding the time capsule but unsure. Vosters indicates that July 26, 2026 there are local baseball tournaments.

Grogan-Seleen updated the Board regarding the Lost Arts Festival, which planning is coming along and she has found a bookmaker.

Report from the Chair

Schmitt planned to discuss the time capsule which was already addressed.

Schmitt also indicated that he is presenting the 2nd annual Grignon talks at the library at the following dates and times:

Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

1. 6-16-2026- Maggie Grignon
- 2- 7-21-2026- Paul Grignon
- 3- 8-18-2026- St. Paul Home

The Board indicated that these events should be listed on the Grignon Facebook page or shared from the library Facebook page.

Other Business

Moore indicated he was only going to serve on the Board for one (1) as Pennie Thiele would be rejoining the Board as the City Council member. The Board indicated they appreciated Moore's time on the Board. Moore indicated he would continue to advocate for the Mansion to the City.

Meetings will be moved to the 3rd Monday of the month rather than the 4th Monday of the month.

Set Next Meeting Date and Location

Monday, May 18, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. in the Hydro View Room

Adjournment

Motion by Schuh to adjourn, seconded by Buechel, Motion unanimously approved with meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.