Grafton Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting

September 1, 2026 - 3:00 p.m.

Grafton Village Hall - Staff Meeting Room

Minutes

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by President Tom Krueger at 3:00 p.m.

Attendance

Tom Krueger, Nick Schanen, Jim Wegner, Steve Greger, John Krueger, Debbie Krueger, Phyllis Wiggins and Jim Miller.

II. President's Comments

Ladies Night Out – Tom thanked Emily and Phyllis for handling Ladies Night Out. There was a discussion regarding whether it is worth it for the GHS to participate in future years but the general consensus was that it is. Tom noted that we need to attract more members who are interested in being active in the society. Nick volunteered to take school groups on a historic tour of Grafton. He will call St. Joseph Parish School to inquire whether they are interested.

Celebrate Grafton ad – Tom reported that we took out an ad for $95 in the Celebrate Grafton publication. He will check with Dave regarding what we have to provide for the ad.

Conference Table and Chairs – Nick told the group that he has obtained a large conference table and chairs for the archives room. Phyllis moved and Jim W. seconded that we approve the $100 expenditure for the table and chairs. Motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, July 28, 2026

Nick moved and Phyllis seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion passed.

III. Treasurer's Report

John reported that we have $4,163.83 in our checking account and $15,000 in our money market account. Jim W. moved that the treasurer's report be approved. Seconded by Nick. Motion approved.

V. Committee Reports

1. Membership: John reported that no new memberships have been received. It was suggested that we host a membership meeting, perhaps in January.

2. IT/Website: Tom is working on updating the website. He will be sure that the Culver's promotion is added.

3. PR/Communications: There are currently 138 followers on our Facebook page.

4.Archiving and Research Requests: Nick reported that we have received a large number of items relating to John Long. There will also be items coming from the Town of Grafton. It was suggested that the society share the history of John Long with school students in Grafton. Phyllis will contact the Grafton superintendent of schools to work on this possible presentation. Nick asked that Debbie include in the next newsletter a note that tours of the archive room are available by appointment.

5. Program Meetings: Debbie said that it looks as though there will be a large turnout for the program on the Edmund Fitzgerald. She suggested we increase the quantity of snacks and put out more chairs. She added that the program on the Amish in Wisconsin is set for October 15th.

6. Other Events and Fundraising: Tom told board members that we have not begun to publicize the Raise Right fundraising effort because we still need a code and a list of participating businesses. As soon as we have that information, Tom will include it on the website and ask Dave to begin the publicity.

7. Oral Interviews: Tom said that he will catalogue the oral interviews we have so far, and look into "speech to text" software.

Newsletter: Debbie reported that the next newsletter will come out in September. She would like to include information on the official Grafton flag. Tom volunteered to send her information and a picture of the flag.

Scenes from the Past: Tom said that he submitted a picture of the Grafton Foundry on Beech Street.

VI. Old and New Business

1. Discussion re: future programs planned – ie. Blues Program with Dave Wadkins, DJ-Analog Entertainment, February 11, 2027 -The board decided on February 11 as a tentative date for the Blues program. Tom advised that we put together a committee to organize the event and start planning in October. It would be a fundraiser, at the Legion, with a catered menu. Phyllis added that Chick-Fil-A has fried chicken and waffles on their menu. She will check their catering menu.

2. Discussion re: Chief Black Hawk, the Blackhawk warriors, Grafton High School's team name and Grafton history relative to native Americans – Members agreed that one of the goals of the GHS should be to better address the Native American history of the area perhaps with a program. Board members discussed the plaque ceremony for the Spirit Rock and agreed that a good date would be the one year anniversary of moving the rock. It was tentatively set for Thursday, October 29th. It was also suggested that we invite members of the Meskwaki Indian tribal leaders to be guests at the ceremony. Rick Gonzalez would handle the details of the invitation. John suggested that we ask local hotels to donate the lodging. Phyllis noted that we should check with the Potawatomi Hotel in Milwaukee.

3. Update re: Research Requests – John Gassert has been coordinating the e-mail requests for information. Steve will begin

coordinating and keeping track of requests for information for a future link to the website.

4. Update re: Spirit Rock Painting by Erin Blum – Tom will ask Erin if the painting has been sold yet and inquire whether it would be possible to purchase a print of it.

5. **Update re: Spirit Rock Plaque Design, Cost and Park and Rec Board 8/18/26 meeting/approval - Spirit Rock plaque design and discussion of cost-** The board discussed placing acknowledgment of Culver's and Tommy's Car Wash on the front of the plaque. Rick Gonzalez believes that the plaque should not be commercialized. Other board members noted that it is not an uncommon practice around the village for this type of acknowledgement. It was suggested that the wording be placed on the back of the plaque. It was also suggested that we provide a picture of the rock and Ahler's farm to be displayed in the Culver's restaurant. Tom understood from owner Jordan Wright that it would have to be approved by the corporate office before it could be displayed at the restaurant.

6. Update re: Culver's Grand Opening Share Event – No discussion.

7. Discussion re: Ceremony to Commemorate the Spirit Rock Relocation and Plaque Addition – No discussion

VII. Miscellaneous: Updates by Tom – Tom said that he would deliver the Lifetime Membership certificate to Richard Kranitz. Tom is working on putting together the Silk Screen Specialists order for GHS polo shirts and pins.

VIII. Next Board Meeting:

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th at 3:00 p.m. Location to be determined.

IX. Adjourn –

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.