

Governance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Fargo Parks Sports Center
Island Park Conference Room

Review and Discuss Governance Policies:

- Board Culture
- Committee Structure
- Commissioners Addressing Board Member Violations
- Confirm current practices match written policy and identify updates needed.

Board Culture

- Commissioner Hill reconfirmed how the consent agenda works:
 - Any commissioner can request an item be pulled from consent before the agenda is approved.
 - Often items are pulled for discussion or comments, not necessarily to oppose them.
- Discussion about public comments:
 - Board believes it is in compliance with recent state law on public comment.
 - Question from a public attendee: how can a member of the public influence an item on the consent agenda?
 - Guidance: contact a commissioner or staff prior to the meeting; Suggested this may be clarified as contacting the Board President, who then works with staff and the board.
- The President's public comment statement may be too long:
 - Idea: shorten it or simply display it on the screen rather than fully reading it; this will likely return to a future Governance agenda.
- Broadcast language is outdated:
 - References to Channel 56 should be updated; meetings are now online (Facebook/YouTube)-contact Communications team.

Committee Structure

- Proposed change to clarify that:
 - "All board members are welcome to attend committee meetings" (remove "as audience members" so participation is not restricted).

Commissioners Addressing Board Member Violations

- Policy on commissioner violations:
 - Step 1: private discussion between Board President and the commissioner.
 - Step 2: potential discussion in a public meeting if behavior continues.
 - Group considers but does not finalize adding more detailed escalation paths (e.g., governance committee involvement).

Review and Discuss Commissioners and Executive Director Relationships:

- Single Point of Contact
- Single Unit of Control

Board Culture & Role Clarity

- Clarify roles between board and executive director/staff.
- Prevent commissioners from giving directions directly to staff and insert themselves in the management chain.
- Current expectation:
 - Commissioners channel issues through the Executive Director, who then works with appropriate staff.

Review and Discuss Operational Expectation:

- Treatment of Community Members-reviewed and approved

Other:

Upcoming Topics

- Park ordinances update (last major update around 2006):
 - Need alignment with City of Fargo on enforceable rules.
 - Big issue: e-bikes/e-scooters on trails, speed limits, and enforcement challenges.
- Gaming trust / foundation / grant match program:
- Commissioners will each receive individual monitoring forms, stored in separate private SharePoint folders, to avoid open meeting issues and keep feedback separated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04am

Minutes submitted by Carmen Johnson, Executive Assistant