

**Minutes of the Board of Directors**  
**Visit Fargo-Moorhead**  
**Wednesday, April 23, 2026**

**Members Present:** Doug Peters, Kember Anderson, Clare Hughes, Nicole Steen-Dutton, James Stinsman, Terrance Johnson, Sean Brandenburg, Casey Sanders Berglund

**Others Present:** Shirley Hughes, Rachel Williams, Danni Melquist

- Chair Doug Peters called the meeting to order.
- A motion was made (Nicole), seconded (Clare), and passed approving the March Minutes.
- Rachel gave the financial updates for March financials. Doug asked if financials would be considered Red, Yellow or Green. She said Green. Other notes: we have paid out one of our big Capital Grant commitments in March – Plains Art Museum and our expenses for the mold remediation will be an estimate of \$50,000. Discussion was held around how we potentially try to anticipate other capital expenses.
- Rachel shared re the mold remediation that it has all been removed, but we are waiting to re-construct once we fix spots on the roof that could be the entry point of water.
- Shirley gave an update on the WF discussions and update on the conversation she; Clare and Doug had with Commissioner Zundel. Shirley also offered to provide anyone on the Board a copy of the report that was created for that meeting that included EVERY aspect of how we work and where we spend our dollars AND how and where we support WF in those efforts. WF is going to come back to share with us their opinion on RRVF and Bonanzaville and if it should count as allocation to WF attractions for our count of support. Shirley and Nicole also gave an update on their meeting with Mayoral candidate Eric Gjerdivig. It was educational for him and thanked us for the meeting to help with understanding our partnership.
- Shirley gave a reminder that our next Board meeting will be held at Grand Farm. It will include a tour and informational presentation from the GF team and our normal Board agenda.
- Capital Grants – Four organizations presented today for Capital Construction grants for their projects:
  - Northern Plains Botanical Garden (to build a Koi pond) - \$32,000 ask
  - Air Museum (to repair their parking lot) - \$42,000 ask
  - Clay County Historical Society(restore the Bergquist cabin) - \$22,000 ask
  - Folkways (to create a new mural downtown to help celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> - \$7500 ask
- Once the presentations were completed the committee discussed. Chair Doug suggested first that moving forward we create a score card as our process has

changed and we have decided to be more diligent on the amount of money we give each year. Shirley will work on creating one for these purposes.

- After discussion the Board made the following decisions:
  - Botanical Gardens - Sean made a motion to approve ALL funds for the Botanical Gardens that were requested. Clare amended that motion to approve \$25,000 vs the full ask. Kember second and Sean accepted amended motion. In addition to the dollars, Visit FM will provide marketing support in new photographs once the pond is finished and support on social media at an agreed upon schedule. Chair Doug asked for approval – all voted to agree.
  - Air Museum – the Board did not approve funding at this time, but asked that the Visit FM team go back and ask key questions: Do you have bids to show costs, do you have other forms of funding, does this increase the number of spots you will have, do you have cost per parking spot and what will your maintenance plan be.
  - Clay County Historical Society – Nicole made a motion to approve granting a payment for all of the funds requested contingent upon their receipt of funds from the MN Historical Society that they are also pursuing. The Board also wants plans around programming and reporting at the end of construction and programming for the season (2027). Clare second the motion and all approved
  - Folkways – the Board unanimously agreed to pay the Full \$7500 funds that were asked for and was approved in the same vote as the Botanical Gardens, per above)
- Kember made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Clare second.

**The next Board Meeting is scheduled for 8:00\* am on Wednesday,  
May 25, 2026 at Grand Farm.  
There will be a Teams Link, as well.**

**\*Please note time change for THIS meeting only!**