Minutes of the Board of Directors
Visit Fargo-Moorhead
Wednesday, July 29, 2026

Members Present: Doug Peters, Scott Anderson, Clare Hughes, Sean Brandenburg, Emily Nielsen, Kimberly Bush, Casey Sanders-Berglund, Kira Odenbach, Ramon Sosa
Others Present: Shirley Hughes, Rachel Williams. For Capital Presentations only: Stephonie Broughton, Logan Schauer, Danni Melquist, WF Hockey Team (Jeremy Jorgensen, RRVF Team (Cody Cashman and Travis Toliver)

- Chair Doug Peters called the meeting to order.
- Doug started out with welcoming our two new board members – Scott Anderson and Kira Odenbach.
- A motion was made by Emily, seconded by Kimberly, and passed approving the June Minutes.
- Chair Doug asked Rachel to give any red, yellow or green updates on the financials. Rachel shared with the Board that we had two fraudulent checks hit our operating checking account at Bell Bank. Bell is trying to get the money back and, in the meantime, we have registered for their Positive Pay program that requires us to approve every check that goes through Bell before they pay it out. We have signed up for the same service with Gate City Bank where our Capital account is located at. In digging into how we believe this happened, it appeared that someone made a copy of our checks as it had signatures on it, but used check numbers that we still have in our files. Rachel caught in an audit of our account statement.
- Rachel also gave a quick operational update regarding our stairwell repairs – they are starting this week hopefully to be completed by the end of next week.
- With the departure of Kember Anderson, the Board's Secretary/Treasurer, Chair Doug asked if anyone is interested in raising their hand for that role. Emily Nielsen said she was and a motion was made to nominate her for the role by Clare, and Casey second. All approved. Emily Neilsen is now the new Secretary/Treasurer of the Visit FM Board of Directors.
    - Doug also asked that the Visti FM team develop JDs for the Exec Team to be used moving forward along with the general JDs we have for the Board overall. Shirley will complete that.
- Shirley updated that she will be speaking to the FMWF Chamber Board on August 5 to give an update on our organization, our strategic direction, large initiatives, challenges and opportunities. She will share the presentation with the Board.
- Capital Grants submissions. Today there were two Capital Grant request presentations. The Visit FM Staff had prepared a scoring guide to be used by the board as a tool to guide thinking around the buckets of consideration for making a decision on grants.

- First presentation was from Jeremy Jorgenson from WF Hockey. He walked through their plan that of building a new hockey arena in Horace with two sheets of ice, locker rooms, concessions and a large lobby. They serve WF and Horace kids as Horace goes to WF Schools. They are at capacity with how many they can serve, AND they are limited to what types and how many tournaments that they can bring to our community. In addition, these sheets of ice will be Sled Hockey accessible, which allows Visit FM to pursue USA Hockey events and for others locally to have another venue for sled hockey. The entire ask from WF was $500k and they are open to receiving payment over multiple years.
- The second presentation was from the RRVF. They are asking for funds to help put LED screens on the new Grand Stand stage that they have built as well as additional support for the overages on the stage itself due to higher than anticipated costs. Cody explained the reason behind building the permanent stage: to attract larger acts, to have the ability to have concerts outside of the Fair window as they currently rent all of the staging they need including the LED screens. Their goal is to drive my visitors by hosting more and bigger concerts, to add to the existing RRVF programming during the ten days of the fair and to be able to bring in festivals as well. They asked for $250k for the LED lights and $250k to help cover general constructions costs of the stage that were incurred

- The Board did not have time to make decisions on the Capital Grant requests today but have asked the Visit FM team for further capital budget forecasts for 2027 to help make decisions.
- As Visit FM is entering into planning for their next 3-year strategic plan, the agency that was hired to help develop, DCI, presented to the Board. They gave an overview of who they are as well as lead a , 30 min focus group of the members. Visit FM staff will send the current strategic plan to the Board members as a refresher so they can be ready for another session that will happen in October.
- Kimberly made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Casey second. Meeting adjourned.

The next Board meeting is a Board Outing at 1889 on Tuesday, August 11 from 4-6pm.

The Visit FM Board will participate in a joint meeting with the Fargo Airport Authority, FMWF Chamber and the GFMEDC on August 26 at Bell Bank Tower.

The next REGULAR Board Meeting will be on September 16, 2026 at the Visit FM Board Room. There will be a Teams Link, as well.