

Governance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 26, 2026
Fargo Parks Sports Center
Alex Stern Boardroom

Jerry Rostad, Emily Secor May, Vicki Dawson, Zoe Absey, Joe Deutsch, Susan Faus, Dave Bietz, Jayne Gust, Directors for the training session

Open Records and Meetings Training
Stephen Hanson, presenter

Public Comment

Members of the public were afforded the opportunity to discuss issues with the Committee. There were none.

2027 Park Board/Committee Meeting Schedule
Commissioner Rostad, presented

- Governance and Planning Committee times were adjusted for better staff and commissioner fit:
 - Governance start time moved to 8:00 a.m..
 - Planning Committee aligned to 8:00 a.m. as well, for consistency and to avoid confusion with close start times.
 - Change to begin with September meetings; staff will update calendar invites and published schedules.

The committee recommends moving this to the full board and placing it on the Consent Agenda for consideration and approval.

Review and Discuss Governance Policies
Commissioner Rostad, presented

- Policies reviewed:
 - GP1 – Commitments
 - GP3 – Duties and Responsibilities
 - GP4 – Officer Roles
 - GP7 – Commissioner Code of Ethics
- No changes were proposed; policies proceed as-is.
- Next steps:
 - Staff to send out monitoring forms (via SharePoint) to commissioners.
 - Each commissioner will indicate compliance/non-compliance and provide comments.
 - Completed forms will be collected and summarized for reporting back.

Discussion of E-bikes and E-Scooters
Commissioner Rostad, presented

- Local news stories about kids injured on e-bikes.
- West Fargo School District banning certain devices at elementary and middle schools.

- Observations of widespread youth use of e-bikes/e-scooters in parks and near schools.
- Board/committee concern:
 - Safety (speed, quiet approach, mixed use with walkers and pets).
 - Clarity on what's allowed on trails.
 - Realistic enforcement limits.

Current Approach

- Park District coordinated with:
 - Fargo Police Department.
 - City of Fargo.
 - Fargo Public Schools leadership.
- Key tools in place:
 - New park ordinances aligned with city, giving police authority to enforce e-bike/e-scooter rules in parks and on trails.
 - Shared educational flyer (from Fargo PD) explaining:
 - What is a pedal bike vs. e-bike vs. other motorized devices.
 - Which are legally allowed on trails and under what conditions.
 - Park District has posted the same guidance via social media as an education campaign.

Enforcement Challenges

- Park staff are not deployed along trails all day; enforcement is largely dependent on law enforcement.
- Public feedback often focuses on “How will this be enforced?” which remains the main constraint.
- Signage:
 - Existing “No Motorized Vehicles” signs are being removed where inconsistent with updated laws.
 - New, detailed signage is considered problematic:
 - Expensive and permanent in an area where laws and devices are rapidly evolving.
 - Difficult to capture nuanced legal distinctions and future changes.
 - Committee leaned toward education and courtesy campaigns over extensive new signage.

Possible Future Directions

- Broader education/courtesy focus:
 - General trail etiquette: bikes vs. walkers, passing etiquette, dogs on trails, headphones, etc.
 - Framed as “Using Park Paths & Trails Safely and Courteously,” not as a crackdown on scooters.
- Legislative strategy:
 - Suggestion to raise the e-bike/e-scooter issue with NDRPA and other park districts statewide for possible state-level legislative priorities.
- Youth engagement:
 - Idea to involve Fargo Youth Initiative and students in co-creating and promoting a public education campaign (especially since youth are major users).
- Coordination with schools:
 - Staff will follow up with Fargo Public Schools about any further measures related to e-bikes/e-scooters on school property.
 - Emphasis on aligning messaging and using school resource officers where feasible.

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 am

Minutes submitted by Carmen Johnson, Executive Assistant