



City of Grand Forks
Staff Report
Committee of the Whole – January 12, 2026

Agenda Item: Appointment to Visit Greater Grand Forks- Jeff Groven

Submitted By: Mayor Brandon Bochenski

Staff Recommended Action: Approve the appointment of Jeff Groven to the Visit Greater Grand Forks Board of Directors for a three (3) year term to begin January 2, 2026, and expire December 31, 2028

Committee Recommended Action: Motion by Osowski, second by Berg to refer to City Council with recommendation to approve the request. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Action:

BACKGROUND:

- Per City Code, the membership of the Visit Greater Grand Forks is selected as follows: one (1) member shall be selected by the mayor of the City of East Grand Forks; one (1) member shall be selected by the management company of Engelstad Arena; one (1) member shall be selected by the Grand Forks Park District Commission; one (1) member shall be appointed by the chair of the Events Center Commission; two (2) members shall be selected by the mayor of the City of Grand Forks and two (2) members shall be selected by the hotel/motel association.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

- Julie Rygg, Executive Director of the Visit Greater Grand Forks, expressed that she values Mr. Groven's commitment to Grand Forks
- Mayor Bochenski is recommending Mr. Groven to be appointed for a three (3) year term.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

- Cover letter, Resume and references from Mr. Groven
- Email correspondence between Mayor Bochenski and Ms. Rygg

Jeff Groven
P.O. Box 5594
2211 Springbrook Court
Grand Forks, ND, 58201
jeff@lhmcompany.com
(701) 610-9040

November 16, 2025

Board Nominating Committee Visit Greater Grand Forks

Dear Members of the Nominating Committee,

I am excited to submit my application for a position on the Visit Greater Grand Forks Board of Directors. As a Multi Unit Field Director of LaHaise Management LLC (Buffalo Wild Wings) and lifetime resident with deep roots in the Greater Grand Forks region, I am passionate about promoting our area as a premier destination for tourism, economic growth, and community vitality. My professional background in restaurant management, marketing, customer service, community connection building, and hospitality and proven track record of strategic leadership make me eager to contribute to the mission of Visit Greater Grand Forks in driving visitor experiences, supporting local businesses, and enhancing our region's appeal.

For the past 23 years, I have managed and led the Grand Forks Buffalo Wild Wings to being one of the top restaurants in the area. I have expanded these skills throughout ND and SD with the directing of 11 of our sports bars. These experiences have honed my skills in strategic planning, stakeholder collaboration, and data-driven decision-making skills directly aligned with the board's goals of expanding promotional efforts, fostering partnerships with area attractions, and measuring the return on investment for tourism initiatives. Additionally, my involvement in the Grand Forks Youth Hockey Board of Directors and Grand Forks Blue Line Club Board of Directors has given me an understanding of our community's unique strengths, from the vibrant youth scene and outdoor recreation, to the University of North Dakota's contributions.

What draws me most to this opportunity is the chance to help shape innovative strategies that position Greater Grand Forks as a year-round destination. I am particularly enthusiastic about leveraging digital marketing, sustainable tourism practices, and cross-sector collaborations to attract new visitors while ensuring long-term benefits for residents and businesses alike. As a board member, I would bring fresh perspectives, fiscal oversight, and a commitment to inclusive growth that amplifies the voices of all stakeholders in Grand Forks and East Grand Forks.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my expertise and enthusiasm can support Visit Greater Grand Forks in achieving its vision. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to the board and our community's continued success.

Sincerely,

Jeff Groven

Jeff Groven

Multi Unit Field Director

Contact

P.O. Box 5594
Grand Forks, ND 58206
(701) 610-9040
jeff@lhmcompany.com

Education

University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, ND
Bachelor Degree in Business
and Public Administration
Graduation 2005

Key Skills

Management
Marketing
Building Connections
Communication
Problem-solving

Professional Summary

Detail-oriented and self-motivated management professional with extensive experience in the restaurant industry and property management. Proven leader with a strong focus on customer service, team development, and community engagement. Adept at managing operations for multiple locations while ensuring high standards of service and profitability.

Experience

JANUARY 2024 - PRESENT

Multi Unit Field Director | LaHaise Management LLC

AUGUST 2008 – JANUARY 2024

General Manager | LaHaise Management LLC dba Buffalo Wild Wings

APRIL 2002 - AUGUST 2008

Server/Bartender/Shift Lead | LaHaise Management LLC dba Buffalo Wild Wings

JUNE 2006 – PRESENT

Owner/President | Ivy Properties LLC

Board of Directors Experience

October 2021 – August 2025

Officer | Grand Forks Youth Hockey Board of Directors

November 2025 – Present

Officer | Grand Forks Blue Line Club

Jeff Groven
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2211 Springbrook Court
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jeff@lhmcompany.com
(701) 610-9040

List of References

Jason Anderson – Friend – 40 Years
Sales Associate
Oxford Realty – Grand Forks
jasonandersonrealestate@gmail.com
(701) 610-9269

Ryan Jundt – Friend – 40 Years
President
Structures Inc – Grand Forks
build@structuresinc-gf.com
(218) 779 – 8606

Jeremy Lembke – Colleague – 23 years
Director of Operations
LaHaise Mangement LLC dba Buffalo Wild Wings
jeremy@lhmcompany.com
(701) 388-3066

From: "Bochenski, Brandon" <BBochenski@grandforksgov.com>
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 at 3:21 PM
To: Julie Rygg <julie@visitgrandforks.com>
Cc: "Burris, Tammie" <TBurris@grandforksgov.com>, "Lundmark, Sherie" <SLundmark@grandforksgov.com>
Subject: Re: Visit GGF board appointment

Ms. Rygg,

Thank you for reminding me. I intend to move forward with Mr. Groven and will have it on the next committee of the whole meeting one week from today.

Respectfully,
Brandon Bochenski
Mayor of Grand Forks

From: Julie Rygg <julie@visitgrandforks.com>
Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 12:41 PM
To: Bochenski, Brandon <BBochenski@grandforksgov.com>
Cc: Burris, Tammie <TBurris@grandforksgov.com>
Subject: Visit GGF board appointment

Mayor Bochenski,

Happy New Year!

I am just checking in to see if you have had an opportunity to review Jeff Groven's application for the Visit GGF Board of Directors.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if I may be of assistance.

Thank you!

Julie

Julie Rygg, Executive Director
Visit Greater Grand Forks
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[Facebook](#) // [Instagram](#) // [YouTube](#)



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