

Friends of Neil M Ross
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday November 26, 2025 - 7pm
Staff Room & Virtual Link

Attendance: Jenn (online), Sheri (online), Elicia (online), Becky, Gillian, Nadine.

1. Call to Order
2. Acknowledgment of Territories: *We honour the spirit of the land, the land that has sustained us all since time immemorial. We acknowledge that we are gathering on Treaty 6 territory, meeting grounds and gathering place of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Dene and Nakota Sioux, and the homeland of the Métis people of Alberta. We acknowledge, honour, and respect the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries. Together we call upon all peoples to build a stronger understanding of those who dwell on this land we call home. The recognition of our collective histories on this land is a meaningful act of reconciliation. We honour those who walk with us-we are all Treaty People.*
3. Additions to the November 2025 Agenda
 - a. Playground update
 - b. Zeffy
 - c. New fundraising ideas
4. Approval of the November 2025 Agenda
 - a. Jenn motions, Sheri seconds. Approved.
5. Approval of the September 2025 Minutes
 - a. Jenn motions, Elicia seconds. Approved.
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Our account balance is \$49 632. The 2024/25 school year's Healthy Hunger profits have been deposited into the Friend's account. Taste of Ukraine/Widynowski's sales were ~\$6 665. The financial audit was completed. Our insurance still needs to be paid.
7. Tracking Hours
 - a. These will be reported at the next meeting as totals still need to be added for previous fundraisers, but they are estimated at 80-100 minutes so far this year.
8. Council/Admin Updates
 - a. Healthy Hunger 2024-2025 officially deposited
 - b. Playground update (see below and attached)
9. Old Business
 - a. Pedalheads - \$150 made from this fundraiser
 - b. Halloween Dance & 50/50 Raffle - Canceled due to the teacher's strike
 - c. Art Cards - Numbers seem comparable to last year, with lots of ornaments ordered. The cards have been shipped.
 - d. Taste of Ukraine/Widynowski's - Total sales of ~\$6 665 between the two fundraisers. Roughly \$456 will be made from the Widynowski's component of the fundraiser and roughly \$836 from Taste of Ukraine.
 - e. Purdy's - This is an Easter fundraiser which Elicia and Jenn will be running.

10. New Business

- a. New Dance - Date set as Friday April 10th; the DJ is available and school administration has been consulted. We will discuss planning and preparation for the dance at future meetings.
- b. Popcorn Day - This event was run by the school last year as a fundraiser for Catholic Social Services. Popcorn was sold at \$2 per bag and the event made ~\$1500. This event will be taken over by Friends this year, with money being raised for the playground. Volunteers will be needed during the day for popping and delivery. It will be held on December 19th.
- c. We will use a new platform for ticket sales for the dance called Zeffy. There are no fees involved and other schools use it as well.
- d. New fundraising ideas: cake walk, themed basket raffle, monthly cupcake sale, Freezie Friday (sold at end of day or at lunch time).

10. Meeting Adjourned - 7:58pm

NEXT MEETING: January 15, 2026

Phase 3 Playground Redevelopment – Project Update

Presented to: NMR School Council November 25, 2025

Our plan for Phase 3 remains clear: to design a playground that is inclusive, accessible, and thoughtfully planned for the collective play needs of students at NMR and Kinosayo, as well as the surrounding neighbourhood.

Project Timeline & Progress

- March 2025: Began monthly planning meetings with the City of St. Albert.
- June 2025: Launched a stakeholder survey to NMR and Kinosayo families; received 105 responses that helped guide design priorities.
- July 2025: Issued a Request for Information (RFI) to seven City-approved suppliers, using the survey data to inform requirements.
- July 2025: Submitted an application for the City of St. Albert Capital Grant (\$100,000) and received approval in September 2025.
- September 2025: Applied for the CFEP Grant (\$125,000) and the Alberta Blue Cross Grant (\$50,000). Notification timelines:
 - Dec 2025 – Alberta Blue Cross
 - Mar 2026 – CFEP
- October 2025: Shortlisted two vendors based on design quality, inclusive play elements, and technical alignment with scope.
- November 2025: Final vendor selection scheduled.

Who We Consulted

- Feedback from stakeholder survey
- District Inclusive Learning Lead
- City of St. Albert (COSA)
- Professional insights from playground suppliers and design specialists

What We Heard

Survey results showed strong preference for swings. Due to footprint constraints in the Phase 3 zone, we have made a formal recommendation to the City of St. Albert to include swings in the back playground when it becomes eligible for redevelopment, where the space can better support them.

What's Next

- Apply for Kal Tire Grant – January 2026
- Launch corporate sponsorship and community supporter outreach, supported by a drafted sponsor letter
- Continue to fundraise at the school level
- Move into detailed design and scheduling once the vendor is selected The shared play zone between Kinosayo and NMR already offers a wide range of play experiences. Phase 3 will build on this by expanding inclusive play opportunities that engage all children.

What we heard about current playgrounds

- The red/blue park and “grounders” game are favourites and should remain central.
- Avoid equipment that can easily break or be removed, ensuring lasting play value.
- Minimize repeating features that already exist in nearby playgrounds to keep the experience fresh and unique.
- Look at play elements that suit the winter climate

Phase 3: NMR Playground Redevelopment

Presented: November 25, 2025

Vendor Comparative Analysis

Category	Parkcraft	Canadian Recreation Services (CRS)	Summary / Notes
Accessibility	PIP rubber surfacing, ramp, rocker car, merry-go-round, quad teeter-totter, play panels, four-square	PIP rubber, ramp, transfer station, ground-level merry-go-round, painted pathway, team totter	Both meet accessibility standards with inclusive ramps and surfaces
Inclusivity	Sensory detailing on ramp, sensory seat, cooperative play	Simon Says, Braille, Finger Maze, Sign Language, Safety panels	Both meet inclusivity goals; CRS offers more sensory panel variety
Play Challenge & Variety	Varied-height slides & climbers, 3-way slide, continuous loop structure	Four varied slides, agility wall, car feature, deck-to-deck play, arch bridge	CRS has greater functional diversity; Parkcraft design slightly limited for non-climbers
Ground-Level Play	Merry-go-round, panels, painted four-square, stepping stones, no transfer zone	Merry-go-round, panels, painted surface, transfer zone	Both provide accessible ground play; CRS has two transfer stations

Sensory Play	Visual, tactile, auditory (recommend remove broken music panel and replace with painted game)	7 activity panels, 3 freestanding, 2 motion play elements	CRS offers more integrated sensory variety
Parkour / Ninja Features	Overhead grip and balance elements	Agility wall, fire escape climber, snake pole, silo climber	CRS includes progressive climbing and parkour options
Shade & Comfort	Shade integrated	Shade integrated	Both meet requirement
Aesthetic Appeal	Bright, vibrant colours; visually exciting	Muted, adjustable colour palette; cohesive layout	Parkcraft is more colourful, CRS more balanced and mindful
Limitations	Balance steps slippery in winter; tunnel access to large slide	None noted; good flow and accessibility year-round	CRS better suited for winter usability
Overall Impression	Fun, energetic, engaging visuals	Thoughtful, inclusive, adaptable design	Both strong; CRS recommended for broader, year-round usability

Vendor Cost Comparison

Category	CRS – Custom Little Tikes Commercial	Parkcraft – Custom Play System	Notes / Comparison
Playground Equipment (Supply & Install)	\$217,780.00 (Inclusive system with wheelchair ramps and cooperative play)	Custom Play System & Components: • Main System \$185,909.60 • Inclusive Merry-Go-Round \$9,349.67 • Tyke Seesaw \$3,728.14 • Spin Max Gyro \$3,373.68 • Custom System (R35371F2A) \$8,205.99 Subtotal: \$210,567.08	Nearly identical scope; Parkcraft slightly lower in cost
Installation / Removal / Mobilization	\$68,900.00 (includes removal of existing playground, surfacing, and install of new equipment + mobilization)	Removal & Disposal \$16,000.58 Installation \$38,722.40 Mobilization \$4,160.00 Subtotal: \$58,882.98	Parkcraft ~\$10K less; both include CSA certification and site cleanup
Weeping Tile System (Tie-In to Drain)	\$5,850.00	\$11,519.51	CRS ~\$5.7K less; more cost-efficient drainage tie-in
Surfacing (PIP Rubber – 443 m²)	\$104,850.00 (black) + \$2,875.00 (colour graphics) = \$107,725.00	\$98,784.57 (black with custom graphics option)	Parkcraft ~\$9K less for rubber surfacing

Site Furniture & Amenities	Benches & Pads:	• Remove 1 Existing Bench:	CRS includes sod
	\$3,380.00 Paris Shade Bench: \$8,805.00	\$440.00 • New Shaded Bench: \$10,676.66 •	and double furniture count;
	Garbage Cans (x2): \$2,700.00 Picnic Tables (x2): \$6,085.00 Sod (430 m²): \$11,700.00	Remove Picnic Table & Pad: \$500.00 • New Concrete Pad: \$2,500.00 • Accessible Picnic Table: \$4,079.34 •	Parkcraft scope covers comparable replacements but
	Subtotal: \$32,670.00	Trash Receptacle: \$1,774.11	fewer total pieces
		Subtotal: \$19,970.11	
Subtotal (Before Tax)	\$400,255.00	\$399,723.25	Costs now nearly identical after adding furniture (~\$532 difference)
GST (5%)	+ \$20,012.75	+ \$19,986.16	—
Estimated Total Project Cost	\$420,267.75	\$419,709.41	Net Difference ≈ \$558 (0.1%)

Both vendors met all RFQ requirements for accessibility, inclusivity, and play variety, and each submitted strong, comprehensive designs that align with the overall project goals.

- Parkcraft offers a visually vibrant and engaging design with varied play experiences. Its layout emphasizes climbers, slides, and motion elements that promote challenge and excitement; however, several balance-based components may be less suitable for children with limited mobility or during winter conditions.
- Canadian Recreation Services (CRS) provides a design that emphasizes functional inclusivity through the integration of continuous wheelchair ramps, ground-level sensory features, and multi-height play components. The overall layout supports consistent year-round usability and allows for flexible colour customization to suit the site context.