

Prairie Village Jazz Fest 2026
Committee Meeting
Tuesday February 24, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
Multipurpose Room

Attendees

J.D. Kinney	Special Events Coordinator, Committee Chair
Jim Barnes	Stage and Technical Chair
Mary Ann Watkins	Member at Large
Dave Hassett	Food and Beverage Chair
Amanda Hassett	VIP Hospitality Chair
Will Fisher	Member at Large
John Wilinski	Backstage Chair
Kyle Vanlanduyt	Master of Ceremonies
Jack Davis	Big Grove Brewery

Committee Chair's Report

The date of the Prairie Village Jazz Fest 2026 is Saturday September 12, 2026. It will be the 15th actual production of JazzFest. We will also be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of Prairie Village. Inga Selders is our City Council Liaison for JazzFest 2026. Joyce Hagen Mundy has retired from the JazzFest Committee after being involved for all 15 JazzFests. Her role as Volunteers Chair, is open.

Talent

Alex Toepfer reported via email that he had several of the performance slots penciled in. He was still looking for a headliner. He has developed a submission form for acts who wish to be considered for JazzFest and asked that it be added to the City JazzFest website.

F&B

Butterfluff Popcorn and Queen of Acorns from 2025 have committed to JazzFest 2026. Food truck corral will be placed in the Harmon Park parking lot as it was in 2025.

Big Grove Brewery, who will be opening their retail location in Prairie Village at the Village Shops in Spring 2026, was asked if they would be interested to be a vendor at JazzFest. During the discussion, it was proposed whether Big Grove would want to consider taking over the existing beer and wine concession at JazzFest, replacing the JazzFest Committee. Although beer and wine sales have traditionally generated a significant amount of revenue to support the event, a commission on sales and/or a donation from Big Grove combined with: a decrease in infrastructure and other costs, the elimination of leftovers and the liability connected to leftovers, could make the proposal a feasible one. Big Grove agreed to consider the proposal and the JazzFest Committee to explore the budget implications.

Infrastructure

Sect has added JazzFest 2026 to their schedule to provide stage, sound and light. Bid TBD

VIP Hospitality

It was proposed to eliminate the dedicated seating area for VIP guests as it has been underutilized the past several years. It was proposed that invited guests (elected officials, donors, dignitaries) receive complimentary entry passes and drink and food vouchers.

Marketing

It was proposed that we eliminate lineup fans. Onsite signage (and possibly the yard signs placed throughout Prairie Village) to include a QR code that will put the musical lineup, food truck info and marketing, and other JazzFest information on people's electronic devices.

City Committees/Exhibitor Tents

Depending on the availability and scope of branded commemorative items in 2026 for Prairie Village's 75th Anniversary, a one-time return of a merchandise sales tent was discussed.

Kyle requested that Monkey Brain Arts be included in the free/not for profit vendor tents

The meeting concluded at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: JD Kinney