

NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: February 26, 2026 **Time:** 5:30 P.M. **Location.:** ESC Building (GHAPS)

1. Call to order: Chairperson – William Montgomery, Ferrysburg

2. Roll Call.

Mary Jane Belter, GH Twp
Howard Behm – GH Twp - absent
Sarah Kallio – Grand Haven
Lyndsey Huisman – Grand Haven
William Montgomery – Ferrysburg
Craig Bessinger – Ferrysburg
Marc Eickholt – GHAPS
Sarah Elliott – GHAPS
Rick Mikkelson – Robinson Twp
Rebecca Hopp – At Large

Motion to approve Behm's excused absence: Huisman moved, Hopp seconded, approval of Behm's absence. Vote: 9-0

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Motion by Hopp , second by Bessinger to approve the agenda. Vote: 9-0

4. Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion by Huisman, second by Elliott, to approve the consent agenda. Vote: 9-0

A. Approval of Board Special Meeting Minutes of November 13, 2025 as printed.

B. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 18, 2025, as printed

C. Financial Reports:

1. January 2026 Financials – Revenue & Expense Sheet

Bailey is working with the city on the upcoming budget.

5. New Business

A. Spring Programming Update

Rowland: the majority of programs are up and running. She is looking forward to more outdoor activities. There is a partnership with First Tee for golf with 5 kids on the waiting list. Sessions are now at Lake Hills. They do a 100% scholarship, providing equipment for those that don't have it. Archery teams are set for kids going to tournaments.

Jackie is teaching archery at White Pines for PE and after school during early dismissal days.

Parent-child dance registration is up. It will be at White Pines with dinner (nacho bar) by Righteous Cuisine.

Registration is up on the website for the rec summer school. Things are all set with the outdoor Discovery Center for their morning sessions.

Bailey: soft ball, beach volleyball are scheduled. Both are very popular.

Pickleball will be at Schmidt Heritage Park again.

Elliott asked about the full day summer school, will the district provide transportation? Rowland: they are encouraging parent transportation, but the school system would provide transportation if needed.

B. Unicorn Fundraiser – Tentative date: July 21, 2026

Bailey has talked to Gary Boyd and they selected the date.

Montgomery: do we want to establish a committee or have the board as a whole handle it?

Hopp: the board could handle this. Montgomery will reach out to Karen Lowe as she indicated she would help with it. Donations are needed for the silent auction.

A pdf with the form will be sent to the board and a list of donors from last year. Hopp volunteered to work on the silent auction and donations.

The board discussed having the DDA assist with donations.

Montgomery: suggested perhaps some signage at the Unicorn that if anyone walks into the restaurant (which is closed on Tuesdays) signage would indicate the event is open to outside participation.

C. 2026 Millage Discussion

Discussion at first was holding a vote in November.

Need to check: deadlines for the NORA board to vote, deadlines for the governmental units to approve, deadline for submitting language to the county.

November election: perhaps GHAPS, Ottawa county parks will be going for a renewal and an increase.

The decision was then to focus on the August primary.

Timeline: need to have a special NORA board meeting to approve a motion to put a millage request on the August primary ballot. The governmental units would need to approve the requests at their April meetings. May 12 is the deadline for submission to the county.

Discussion: we need clear communication as to what the millage is for use

Montgomery will talk to Holland rec to get suggestions for type of pre millage vote info to send out.

Elliot: work with our partners to advertise the value and use of the millage.

Eickholt: do we have an idea of a millage to ask for?

There was information put together prior to the last millage votes to estimate millage rates and income.

D. Presentation at the Rotary Meeting – March 2, 2026

Bailey is presenting information, discussing NORA, programming, he could mention the millage.

Montgomery will help with the presentation if needed. Eickholt will be at the meeting and provide discussion points.

6. Old Business

A. Winter Programming Wrap-Up

Couple weeks left of basketball; basketball is going very well.

3 and 4th grade tennis is on going.

Adult pickleball, numbers not as high

Rowland: archery has been great; she has a high school girl assisting with classes.

Rowland is teaching after school; this is during the early release time (White Pines). The classes are very popular and fill quickly.

Tae Kwan Do: program is going well, added a program for 3–4-year-olds 'Tiger Tots'

Staff are looking to find activities for next year for the early dismissal time, something for the 3-4 p.m. time, activities to fill the time and provide rec activities.

B. Chris Christianson Scholarship Fund, GHACF Distribution

Motion to amend the agenda to discuss the scholarship distribution to NORA.

Motion by Eickholt, second by Hopp. Vote: 9-0

Chris Christianson Scholarship Fund, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
The current distribution available is \$1556.00.

Motion to approve the withdrawal of funds from the Chris Christianson Scholarship Fund, GHACF in the amount of \$1556.00 Huisman, Eickholt support.

7. Public Comments

No public

8. Advisory Board Comments

Hopp: sounds like everything is going well. Asked about the upcoming conference Bailey is attending He is attending the Michigan Parks and Rec conference.

Elliott: appreciates the partnerships, the increase in programming.

Mikkelson: thanks for having him back representing Robinson Township. He appreciates everything that is going on.

Montgomery: welcome to Sara Kallio who is representing the city of GH, welcome back Rick.

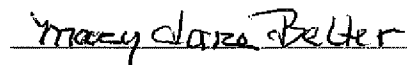
We will have a special meeting in March to work on and finalize the millage request.

9. Next Scheduled (regular) Meeting – April 23, 2026

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 6:16 p.m.

Motion by Hopp , second by Elliott . Vote 9-0



Mary Jane Belter
NORA Board secretary