NORTHWEST OTTAWA RECREATION AUTHORITY
NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: June 25, 2026
Time: 5:30 P.M.

1. Call to order: Vice Chairperson:Rebecca Hopp, Ferrysburg: the meeting was called to order at 5:38 p.m.

2. Roll Call:
Mary Jane Belter, GH Twp - present
Howard Behm – GH Twp - absent
Sarah Kallio - Grand Haven - present
Lyndsey Huisman - Grand Haven - absent
Craig Bessinger – Ferrysburg - present
Ferrysburg – vacancy of elected official position
Sarah Elliott - GHAPS - present
Marc Eickholt - GHAPS - present
Rick Mikkelson – Robinson Twp - present
Rebecca Hopp - At Large - present

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda*: motion to approve the agenda: Motion by Eickholt , second by Mikkelson. Vote: 7-0*

4. Approval of Consent Agenda: motion to approve the consent agenda: *motion by Belter , second by Mikkelson, Vote:7-0*
Discussion of consent agenda items:

A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2026, as printed.

B. Financial Reports:

1. May 2026 Financials – Revenue & Expense Sheet

5. Open the Public Hearing regarding the Budget
The public hearing was opened 5:40 p.m.
No public present

6. FY2026-2027 Proposed Budget (Attached)
Bailey reviewed the budget, reviewed the funding formula.
Emily Greene, City of Grand Haven Finance Department, reviewed and provided input on the budget discussion.
Bessinger: any changes with personnel suggested: Bailey: he doesn't see us having the ability to add additional personnel either half time or full time. He is handling two jobs at this time.
Eickholt: track how much time Bailey is spending on admin and then on doing programs before the next budget cycle. We will work through the next 6 months and review the staffing situation.
Has an individual helping with some programming – hourly wage

5:49 p.m. public hearing closed.

Marc Eickholt moved to amend the agenda to move the motion to approve the budget to New Business item 8-D. Board consensus to do this.

7. Close Public Hearing regarding the Budget
The public hearing closed at 5:49 p.m.

8. New Business

A. Election of NORA Board officers – 2026-2027 term
Board chair:
Board Vice chair:
Treasurer:
Secretary: Belter

Bessinger moved, Kallio seconded, the following slate of officers for the 2026-2027 NORA FY:
Chair: Hopp
Vice chair: Eickholt
Treasurer: Behm
Secretary: Belter
Motion passed 7-0.

B. Summer Programming Updates
Bailey reviewed programming, schedules are busy. Beach volleyball, pickle ball, lower level and then higher levels. Summer soccer has increases in participation from last summer.
Jackie is doing archery, kayaking, rec summer school in the afternoons. There were staffing changes due to experienced staff finding full-time employment so Jackie is covering the rec summer school.
Tuesday Nights: kids' night. The DDA is paying someone to run the events. Jackie is on site with her family and could step in if needed.

C. Approval of 2026-2027 NORA Board meeting dates
Motion to approve the meetings: Bessinger, Eickholt. Motion passed 7-0
Aug 27, Oct 22, Dec 17, Feb 5, April 22, June 24

D. Budget approval for FY 26-27: ***To Approve the FY2026-2027 Budget as presented, which includes Projected FY2025-2026 Amendments and Requested FY2026-2027 Budgets***
Motion by Eickholt, second by Elliott. Motion passed 7-0.
Emily Greene: comment/discussion on wages for staff: with the steps that the city has, once a member of staff gets to the max then it is the COLA. Bailey's contract has him on the step increases that the City of GH uses.
Emily Greene: Bailey's increases are built into the budget.
The question was then: is the July 1 date (beginning of the fiscal year) used or the staff member's anniversary date to move to the next step. Bailey's anniversary date is December.
Bessinger: in the past the exec committee did the director's review and made a recommendation for salary adjustment.
Eickholt : the board might consider possible merit pay based on the evaluation.
Eickholt: what is the length of Bailey's contract?
It was requested that information addressing the above questions be forwarded to the board for their review.

9. Old Business

A. Unicorn Fundraiser Update and Discussion
Ticket sales are not looking good. We are in the same position as last year.
There was considerable discussion on the viability of holding the fundraiser:
Slow ticket sales
We have pretty much the same attendees each year, so we are not drawing new people to infom about NORA.
Difficulty in getting donations from merchants due to the economy.

The Unicorn is now open to the public on Tuesday evenings. What is the plan in case of rain? Does he have sufficient staff to cover his indoor dining and handling our event?

Bailey commented that NORA has received their raffle license.
A $150 gift card from Meijer has been confirmed.
Bailey was approached by an individual that assists with fundraisers – using a hotel stay. There is a cost to NORA. This was discussed; there was no decision. The status of the fundraiser is in question at this time.

Only emails have been sent out, no paper mailing to previous donors.
Kallio suggested that we work on grant writing.
Last year's fundraiser netted about $7500. We ne4ed to factor in the effort put into raising that amount, in particular the effort of staff taking away from NORA responsibilities.
Idea was to increase visibility – but we get the same people.
Eickholt: if we hold the fundraiser, the board should evaluate it at the August meeting.

Decision: Bailey talks with Gary (Unicorn) to address the following:
Provision if rain since the indoor area is now open.
Is there sufficient staffing at the restaurant to handle their regular business and the fundraiser.
What is the minimum number of tickets sold to be viable?
Deadline for making a decision as to whether or not to hold the fundraiser.
Get the information, inform the board and make a decision shortly about whether we hold the event or not.

B. Port Sheldon Summerfest
Comments: fun, many people did not know NORA, did have some people sign up for summer activities, Info table, took archery equipment, Jackie was very busy. The NORA presence was well received. The twp supervisor talked to their rec committee about providing space for NORA activities.
Flyers were distributed.

10. Public Comments – no public

11. Advisory Board Comments
Elliott: there is a great balance of activities for kids and adults,
Eickholt: thanks for the work on the budget and all the work he is doing.

12. Next Scheduled Meeting – August 27, 2026
Agenda:
Discussion with the community foundation on establishing a non-endowed fund.
Eval the fundraiser
Grant writing

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: Eickholt, Elliott.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.