

**NORA Board meeting
Meeting minutes
October 23, 2025**

Call to order: Chairperson – William Montgomery, Ferrysburg: the meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Montgomery.

Roll Call:

Mary Jane Belter, GH Twp - present
Howard Behm, GH Twp - present
Karen Lowe, Grand Haven - absent
Lyndsey Huisman, Grand Haven - absent
William Montgomery, Ferrysburg - present
Craig Bessinger, Ferrysburg - present
Marc Eickholt, GHAPS - absent
Sarah Elliott, GHAPS – present (arrived at 5:33 p.m.)
Rebecca Hopp, At Large - present

Also in attendance:

Bailey Gonzales-Bertapella, interim NORA Director
Jackie Rowland, NORA programmer
Tahlor Caren, City of Grand Haven HR

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda: moved by Hopp, seconded by Behm. Vote: 5-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda: motion by Behm , second by Hopp . Vote: 5-0

1.Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of August 28, 2025 as printed.

2.Financial Reports:

September 2025 Financials – Revenue & Expense Sheet

Discussion:

Bailey: salary and wages: he had assumed it was going to be lower but there was a payout to Chris VanHekken for vacation time not used. Montgomery questioned the payout since VanHekken had resigned. Bailey also was going to get clarification on the administration fee charged by the city. Question about the payout for vacation since Chris resigned.

The new fee structure has been instituted, an increase in non-resident fees.

Sarah Elliott arrived at 5:33

New Business

1.Fall Programming Updates

A large number of students are enrolled in the after school basketball programs.

National honor society students are involved with teams as a way to complete the service requirements.

Hopp suggested checking into student council and senior volunteer hour requirements.

Rowland: Outdoor rec is going well. She partnered with residents on Lloyds Bayou for the recent Halloween themed kayaking event. Residents had treats on the docks for the participants.

There is a family geo caching on Nov 1 at Hofma Preserve

Archery thru November is outdoors and then indoors at the NORGC.

A day before thanksgiving 3-D archery shoot competition is scheduled.

Both Bailey and Jackie are doing more community activities.

There is a NORA banner that is displayed. There is consideration of items to hand out with the NORA logo.

Fri fish fry at the GH Eagles: Jackie has some volunteers. The date is Fri, Nov 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. NORA will make some money on the tips received and the raffle. There will be information displayed on the tables regarding NORA.

Sarah Elliott asked if there is anything that mentions donations that would go towards scholarships for kids. And put info on for sponsorship levels

Softball and volleyball is done, moving into basketball

2.NORA Director discussion

One late application was received from Jentry Karpin. The board was asked if they wanted to add her application for consideration. The consensus was to follow the procedures as outlined. Tahlor Caren (HR, city of GH) commented that another application has been received this day.

Review of applicants and selection of candidates to be offered interviews.

Prior to the discussion of the candidates, board members were asked to keep the selections confidential until candidates are notified. The consensus was to consider the top 5-7 candidates. Candidates were discussed individually with board members commenting on their rating based on the rubric provided by Tahlor Caren (city of GH, HR)

Applicants selected for interviews:

Bailey Gonzales-Bertapelle

Aaron Shumaker

Max Golden

Naomi Alfaro

Anna Mausolf

If one of the above candidates declines the interview/withdraws from consideration – Kori Swieter will be contacted to interview.

Applications not being considered:

Hana Jaquays, Scott Wagasky, Carolyn Mitchell, Erin Vargo, Brooke Nguyen, Brett Heppler, Aaron Johnson, David Elliot, Isaac Vineyard, Angela Stasewich.

Discussion of interview format, scheduling and hiring process (Tahlor Caren, GH Human Resources). Tahlor will contact the candidates regarding the board's decision regarding candidates to interview. She will then work on the interview schedule. A list of questions – based on the job description and previous input from NORA board members – will be developed to be used in the interviews. The questions will be emailed to the interview team.

5 individuals will be interviewed with the goal of having 1 or 2 candidates to then present to the full NORA board.

Motion to authorize the Executive Committee to conduct interviews with the selected candidates and bring recommendations to the full Board for final action.

Bessinger moved, Elliott supported. Vote: 6-0

Sarah Elliott asked about having Jackie Rowland as part of the interview team just to give a staff, experience perspective. The consensus was to have her input at the final discussion, decision stage

As soon as interview dates are set – Tahlor will email the full board with date options for a special board meeting.

Old Business

1.DDA/Jackie Meeting Update

Meeting in November

2. Robinson Twp Board Member

Robinson will appoint a representative; this will be a voting position.

3. Thank you letters – Unicorn Fundraiser

Bailey: letters will be sent out, he will see if there is anything on file from last year. Board members will sign the letters.

Public Comments

none

Advisory Board Comments

Sarah Elliott: thank you to all, thank you to Bailey

William Montgomery: he had previously talked to Chris about the idea of contacting local churches, through their ministers, about NORA and the efforts of NORA to support local youth and the work with those that are in particular need of no cost activities/enrichment due to family circumstances

Bailey commented that he is working to set up a meeting with representatives from Spring Lake,.

Next Scheduled Meeting – December 18, 2025

Adjournment : *Hopp. Bessinger: motion to adjourn. Passed.*

Meeting ajourned at 6:58 p.m.

Mary Jane Belter

NORA Advisory Board Secretary