

**NORTHWEST OTTAWA RECREATION AUTHORITY
NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Date: April 25, 2024, **Time:** 5:30 P.M. **Location.:** ESC Building (GHAPS)

Call to order: Chairperson – William Montgomery, Ferrysburg
The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Roll Call:

Mary Jane Belter, GH Twp - pr

Vacant – GH Twp

Frank Johnson - Robinson Twp. - pr

Rick Mikkelsen – Robinson Twp – ab

Ryan Cummings, Grand Haven - pr

Vacant - Grand Haven

William Montgomery, Ferrysburg - pr

Craig Bessinger, Ferrysburg - pr

Marc Eickholt, GHAPS - pr

Sarah Elliott, GHAPS - pr

Rebecca Hopp - At Large – pr

Motion to excuse Rick Mikkelsen: Motion by Hopp, second by Cummings. Vote: 8-0

Approval of Meeting Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda: Motion by Belter, second by Eickholt. Vote: 8-0

Approval of Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the consent agenda: Motion by Hopp, second by Cummings . Vote:8-0

Discussion:

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024, as printed.

Financial Reports:

March 2024 Financials – Revenue & Expense Sheet

2024-25 – NORA Budget

The amended budget for each of the municipalities was higher.

Zeroed out the United Way grant line.

Many teams have sponsors, clothing vendors are doing donations.

New Business:

Spring/Summer Planning & Updates –

Program highlights/programs scheduled:

740 participants this year

Maxed out on adult softball, beach volleyball is steady.

Adult pickle ball at Schmidt Heritage Park

A lot of different youth archery classes this year. 13 students are going to state competition.

Wednesday afternoon drop-in archery classes started 2 weeks ago

Jackie has helped with the middle school archery classes.

Boater safety coming up conducted by the OC sheriff dept marine division.

3 middle school baseball teams

2 middle school softball teams

7-8 lacrosse, 5-6 grade lacrosse

5-6 volleyball

5-6 tennis

5-6 track with 52 kids

Looking at the possibility of launching a lakeshore soccer program Chris was approached by the person running the Little League program in Fruitport, they have a large number of SL and GH kids in Little League and are wondering about setting up a program in the GH area. NORA works with the TriCities Kids League which is different in format from the Little League.

Residency report: gained about 287 participants over last year.

Rec Summer School Updates

115 kids signed up; the program is a collaboration with GHAPS and Outdoor Discovery Center. They are responsible for the morning program. NORA will run the program from 12:30 – 3 p.m.

Kids that enroll for both will get a free lunch.

The earlier start will be adding about an hour of childcare; something that has been requested.

NORA received a grant from the North Bank Communities Fund that will be used for field trips, a Critter Barn presentation (Friday activities)

Continuous User/RecPro Update

Working with GH Twp with scheduling Schmidt Heritage Park; Ferrysburg with Coast Guard Park.

A contract is in place with GHT and Ferrysburg for scheduling the fields.

The scheduling and costs are modeled after the format that the schools use for time, etc.

RecPro: used for scheduling, hosting the website. Rec Pro was bought out by another company. Staff researched other software companies in the past ten months. Will continue with the company that bought out Rec Pro - Day Smart.

The transition will be around Thanksgiving: new website, data base, etc...

First year costs will be about \$5400 for the transition, website design, etc. Being a previous customer will help with the transition and costs.

Whitecaps event – June 23 game

NORA was approached by the White Caps to set up this fund-raising event.

Director's review

William Montgomery and Craig Bessinger will handle the review.

Old Business:

NORA Board openings: GH City & GH Township

VanHekken reported on the email he received from Ron Redick regarding his service on the NORA board. Chris has a meeting next Wednesday with Bill Cargo. Cargo has a candidate he wants to discuss.

City of GH – still looking; VanHekken spoke to Bob Monetza and Ashley Latch; the city is having difficulty filling vacancies.

United Way update:

Call received Tuesday from the Heart of West Michigan United Way (Kent, Ottawa, Allegan) that their main focus is on families and food and shelter.

Want things to be another focus; we fall into the healthy living categories.

Unicorn event: NORA exposure/funding: The networking event at the Unicorn in October helped. The next event at the Unicorn will be in July when the outside dining area is ready. Belter suggested the possibility of adding a silent auction to this ticketed event.

NORA is going to host 8 kid friendly nights this summer in the GH social district. The events will be 2 hours long with entertaining, interactive activities.

Sara Elliott expressed concerns with summer rec school and Harbor Transit. There are difficulties with getting the kids picked up at schools at dismissal time, Harbor Transit arrives late. She is wondering if this will be an issue with the summer rec school. Vanheken: With summer rec school licensing, the State licensing department (LARA) doesn't want them to use Harbor Transit or have kids riding bikes, skateboards, walking to the site. NORA staff with GHAPS is working on this. Bussing is being put in place for Robinson and Rosy Mound areas.

Robinson Twp and NORA: the attorney has drawn up papers for the twp. withdrawal from NORA. This will be acted on at the June NORA board meeting.

Public Comments: none

Advisory Board Comments

Eickholt: appreciates the rec summer school programming and the scheduling adjustments.

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 27, 2024

Agenda items:

Robinson Twp withdrawal from NORA: effective July 1, 2025. Discussion, vote to accept.

Election of officers

Meeting schedule

Discuss director's evaluation.

Fund raiser at Unicorn.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Mary Jane Belter
NORA Secretary

June 20, 2024
Date