

## **NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING minutes**

**Date:** February 20, 2025, **Time:** 5:30 P.M. **Location:** ESC Building (GHAPS)

**Call to order:** Chairperson – William Montgomery, Chair (Ferrysburg)  
The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **Roll Call.**

Mary Jane Belter - GH Twp  
Howard Behm – GH Twp  
Adam MacMillan - Robinson Twp. - ab  
Rick Mikkelsen – Robinson Twp  
Karen Lowe, Grand Haven  
Lyndsey Huisman -Grand Haven - ab  
William Montgomery - Ferrysburg  
Craig Bessinger - Ferrysburg  
Marc Eickholt – GHAPS - ab  
Sarah Elliott - GHAPS  
Rebecca Hopp - At Large

### **Approval of Meeting Agenda:**

***Motion to approve the agenda. Motion by Hopp, second by Howard. Vote: 8-0***

### **Approval of Consent Agenda:**

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

Discussion: the budget amendments were discussed

Elliot arrived at 5:42 p.m.

### **Consent agenda items:**

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of October 24, 2024, as printed.
2. Financial Reports:
3. January 2025 Financials – Revenue & Expense Sheet
4. 2024-25 NORA budget amendments – discussed changes in the budget and amendments.  
The largest change is the misc. account. NORA was reimbursed for the retirement funds collected.  
Increase in player fees: beach volleyball and pickleball account for that amount.  
Office supply increase: \$600 was a water cooler installed in the office. Having to outsource copy work since the copy machine is having issues.  
Admin charge is higher.  
Salary: staff salary has been increased which has added to increased city payroll admin costs.  
Adding coaches, moving from the Arbiter pay program to the city handling the payment for contracted services. The amount for professional development has been increased.  
Baileys and Jackie's wages have been increased for the remainder for the fiscal period.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Winter Program Updates – Classes/programs, Youth/Adult leagues**

4<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball: all elementary schools involved, all played at White Pines on Monday nights. Officials and coaches were hired. Did this with the girls in the fall and it worked well.  
5/6th grade is playing at White Pines. Basketball has been expanded for 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Space is an issue.

8 different archery classes. Classes are being held at NORGC and an after-school class at White Pines. Working with a WP P.E. teacher. Some of the kids are enrolling in the NORA classes.

Other offerings include:

Pickle ball: Tues and Friday for leagues.

Fifth and sixth grade pickle ball

Adults: pickleball and dodgeball

## **2. Spring/Summer planning**

Rec Summer school, Youth/Adult programs

NORA oversees most of the middle school athletics: baseball and softball, track, volley ball, tennis.

## **3. Outdoor Recreation Programs**

New classes are being offered and will be increased thanks to the GHACF Grant.

There are 3 competitive teams for archery.

Boater safety will be offered in May.

The first hiking class is scheduled.

Mountain biking classes are scheduled.

Kayaking has been scheduled with Karen Chapel and her business.

There is a partnership with the Grand Haven high School Bass Masters club.

There will be a mountain biking class at Hofma Park and then a ride over to the NORGC for archery.

One concern is not reaching the k-3 kids as fully as needed. NORA is looking at having someone part-time to oversee that area of programming.

In some cases, it is difficult to find an instructor that has the skill set to work with inexperienced but interested youth.

Running rec summer school: this has been moved off of Jackie's responsibilities so she can handle the expanded programming including the outdoor recreation offerings.

**Rec summer school** – partnering with outdoor discovery. M-Th; will do the optional Friday field trips.

## **4. NORA – Technology updates & upgrades**

Switching in July to Team Sidelines a software registration program. This will increase the cost by about \$500 per year. There will be some staff training. Holland rec uses the program, it has received good reviews. Rec Pro was sold so there is no longer the support. There are close to 11,000 family accounts, those who have not been active in the last 2-3 years will need to create a new account otherwise current accounts should be transferred over.

## **5. Summer fundraiser event – July 15**

Chris has checked with Gary Boyd at the Unicorn with some dates for the fundraiser. Some suggestions for the format for this year were discussed based on the 2024 fundraiser.

Last year was a ticketed event, maybe increase the price and everyone would get a drink ticket.

Ticketed one would be beer or wine. The beverage order and bar set-up was problematic.

Possibly a station for beer and wine and a separate area for mixed drinks.

The profit last year was over \$6000. The silent auction was a large part of that amount.

Behm left the meeting at 6:12 p.m. for another meeting.

## **Old Business**

**1. United Way grant:** NORA is going to receive \$4100; renewal application is in for next year.

**2. July 16 – NORA Fundraiser** – the 2024 fundraiser was discussed during the discussion of planning for the 2025 event.

### 3. Robinson Township - July 1, 2025, changes to NORA board

The new township supervisor will be on the board, explaining the situation with the representation, the withdrawal from the authority. He will be elected official from Robinson.

**Public Comments** - none

### **Advisory Board Comments**

Sarah Elliot: discussed the email staff received during the day about shifting school boundaries, changes in schools and make-up. This will affect NORA activities for after school activities where the kids depend on transportation and Harbor Transit does not go to areas like Robinson Twp.

Discussion of expanding programming to assist those with physical restrictions. What resources can we contact and ask for assistance?

**Next Scheduled Meeting – April 24, 2025**

### **Adjournment**

***Motion to adjourn: Hopp, Mikkelson. Motion approved.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Mary Jane Belter  
NORA Secretary

Mary Jane Belter

NORA Secretary

April 24, 2025

Date