

NORTHWEST OTTAWA RECREATION AUTHORITY

Grand Haven Area Public Schools

1415 Beechtree Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417

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SPECIAL NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 28, 2016 **Time:** 5:30 P.M. **Location:** 1415 Beechtree, Grand Haven

1. Call to order: Chairperson Mike Fritz, 5:30pm
2. Present: Mary Jane Belter, Grand Haven Twp.
Kathy Kuck, Robinson Twp.
Mike Fritz, Grand Haven
Bill Hunter, Grand Haven
Craig Bessinger, Ferrysburg
Carl Treutler, GHAPS

Absent: Mike Hutchins, Grand Haven Twp.
Pat Twa, Ferrysburg
Tracy Mulligan, Robinson Twp.

Also Present: Jill Vander Stel, NORA Coordinator
Liza Dora, NORA Assistant
Pam Blough, PM Blough

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda, amended to include Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from March 31, 2016. Motion by Treutler, second by Hunter. Approved unanimously.
4. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of March 31, 2016 as printed. Motion by Belter, second by Kuck. Approved unanimously.
4. NORA Presentation: Pam Blough and Jill Vander Stel
 - A. Recreation Plan – Treutler stated that upon reading the minutes from the last meeting that he couldn't attend, he was very discouraged to read that the Recreation Plan was tabled. He feels that NORA has taken a step backwards. We need to keep moving forward and didn't understand why the Recreation Plan was tabled. Vander Stel and Blough then presented a Power Point presentation to help explain or clarify why NORP became NORA and why we have a 5 year Recreation Plan. Belter stated that she thinks that until all the questions are answered about building and operating cost of a facility, we can't move forward with a millage and that because we mention a millage in our Recreation Plan we can't approve until we know if we are going for a millage in November. Fritz and Vander Stel reminded the board that the Recreation Plan and the millage are 2 separate things that we simply are working on at the same time. They also reminded the board that the Recreation Plan is only a vision. It is not carved in stone, but is a working document. Not all things in the plan may be completed, but it is a vision for the future. Some things will be added and removed as we go along. The first 5 year plan mentioned a millage. Bessinger stated that because we don't have any deadlines in place right now, grant applications, etc., it is not necessary to approve the Recreation Plan at this time. We can leave it tabled for right now until such time as we may need it. Upon completion of the presentation, Fritz reminded board that Vander Stel would be glad to attend any of the municipal meetings to make this

same presentation. She presented to Grand Haven City Council work session and they were very pleased with the information. Treutler invited Vander Stel to present at the GHAPS Board meeting, the 2nd meeting in May.

B. Property Update- Fritz stated that the Property Committee has looked at several properties that were unsuitable. He asked permission from the board to write a formal sincere letter to Mrs. Bolger regarding the 80 acres that she owns near the intersection of 152nd and Lincoln in Grand Haven Township. He reminded the board that GHAPS has acreage adjacent to this property that they might be interested in discussing. Treutler reminded the board that property in our region is becoming rare and that we can't just sit back and wait and see. We need to keep moving toward a facility if we ever want to have one in our community. Motion was made by Truetler to send a formal letter to Mrs. Bolger. Second by Hunter. Approved unanimously.

C. YMCA Collaboration- Chamber received 2 RFP's, which will be reviewed this week. Vander Stel stated that she met with Gaasch from NW Ottawa Chamber Foundation and Bailey-Mesler from YMCA to discuss the RFP's and that they have several questions. These questions will be addressed at a phone conference on May 4. Then the RFP's will be brought to each board for review to make a selection. Vander Stel reiterated that this study will gather scientific data to formulate the needs of the community into 2030. Kuck stated that what she is hearing is that we need to keep going on this study collaboration with the YMCA, Chamber and Community Foundation and just keep moving forward.

- 5. Public Comments
- 6. Next Scheduled Meeting: May 26, 2016, 5:30 P.M. at the ESC
- 7. Adjournment, 6:30pm

Prepared by: Liza Dora, NORA Assistant
Jill Vander Stel, NORA Coordinator

Approved minutes date: _____

NORA Board of Trustee Secretary Signature: _____