

# NORTHWEST OTTAWA RECREATION AUTHORITY

## Grand Haven Area Public Schools

1415 Beechtree Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417  
Phone: 616.850.5125 Fax: 616.850.5127 nora.ghaps.org

### SPECIAL NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** April 30, 2015      **Time:** 5:30pm      **Location:** 1415 S. Beechtree St., Grand Haven

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

Absent: None

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

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda: Motion by Belter, seconded by Fritz. Approved unanimously.
4. New Business
  - A. NORA Millage Planning- Pam Blough redistributed "Items to consider for expanding on Feasibility Study" handout that was discussed at the January 2015 board meeting. She then distributed a conceptual draft of the potential NORA Sports Recreation Complex using the smallest acreage needed for the projection as a piece of level ground with the largest sizes of each field. This allows the board to see what the largest piece of land would possibly be needed for outdoor complex. (Roughly 80 acres). All items from the wish list were included in this concept with the exception of the Disc Golf Course. Blough explained that it would have to be on at least a 10 acre parcel of land dedicated to just Disc Golf for safety reasons. She stated that her company designed a recreation center in Coldwater with similar features, so it was used for the footprint of this concept of approximately 25,000 sq. foot building. Parking for this size of facility would need 600-800 spaces. This plan was designed with 700 spaces. Bessinger stated the next step is to take this concept and put a price on it. Blough then distributed a revised timeline based on board input. The timeline shows the order of moving forward before we can update the Rec plan. We need people to start talking, then there are not surprises. Treutler asked if the timeline could be color coded to show progress as we move forward. Treutler pointed out that the GHAPS facilities can complement something like this as long as it is close enough. Fritz assured him that NORA will continue using school facilities, but this will lessen the burden on school facilities that are over used and not always available for NORA to program.
  - B. NORA Rec Plan- Motion to hire planner. Vander Stel distributed the first proposal from PM Blough, Inc. Blough went over the proposal and she reminded the board that her company is currently completing the Explore the Grand Region: A Community Parks and Recreation Plan in Northwest Ottawa County which will provide an excellent basis of current information for the recreation facility inventory. She will just expand on anything that may be new. She pointed out

that she would not be billing twice as they would continue to bill hourly based on what is being worked on. Her plan will be putting the plan together to stay in compliance with being able to apply for grants. Bessinger thanked Blough for her proposal and the board will decide and let her know. At that time, Blough was excused so Vander Stel could distribute the LIAA proposal. This proposal was reviewed. Vander Stel noted that the fees were similar with the exception of traveling expenses which could add as much as an additional \$2,400 or so to the cost. Then Belter stated that she liked the Blough plan and liked what Blough has done for NORA so far. Kuck liked keeping the money local and Blough's connection to the community. Please like Blough's proposal. Fritz liked the local connection. He stated that she's put in a lot of time at a low rate and is very patient with this board and showed her maximum fee limit right in the proposal. Treutler stated that from GHAPS's view point, we like to keep the money local and using local companies. Hutchins liked the Blough plan. Bessinger asked from motion to accept PM Blough, Inc. proposal. Fritz made a motion to accept the PM Blough proposal, seconded by Hutchins. Approved unanimously.

Vander Stel mentioned upcoming events Mother/Daughter Tea Party, Princess Party, Rock-n-Bowl. Hutchins noted that he spoke with French about available land. French has talked to a realtor and there is not anything available right now for the size and location needed. The realtor recommends that if something does become available, we should buy it right away as it won't be on the market long. French/Hutchins stated that they know that would be a problem, but wanted to let us know what the realtor recommends.

5. Public Comments - none
6. Next Scheduled Meeting: May 28, 2015, 5:30 P.M. at the ESC
7. Adjournment 6:36pm

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

Approved minutes date: \_\_\_\_\_

NORA Board of Trustee Secretary Signature: \_\_\_\_\_