



Joy Gaasch, NW Ottawa Chamber Foundation President and Grand Haven Township resident - Her concern when reading the Rec Plan is it looks like the facility is in the works. The scientific study that is being suggested is to see how the YMCA and NORA can collaborate together and not duplicate services. They will include Port Sheldon Twp., Spring Lake Twp. and Spring Lake Village to look out to 2030. She just wants to make sure that we are spending the foundations money the right way.

Laird Schaffer – Grand Haven Twp. resident. He stated there should not be any mention of the millage in the Rec Plan. Also there are references in the Rec Plan about the facility that should be removed. An Operating budget should be included in any idea of a facility. Rec Plan is inadequate to reflect the costs of such a facility so it should not be mentioned in the Rec Plan.

5:50pm Fritz closed public comment and thanked audience for comments.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda. Motion by Belter, second by Hunter. Approved unanimously.
  - A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of February 25, 2016 as printed.
  - B. Financial Reports
    1. February 28, 2016 NORA Financial Report
    2. February 28, 2016 Activity Fund Balance Report
    3. Chris Christiansen Financial Report- not available
6. NORA Millage Planning: Pam Blough
  - A. Recreation Plan – Blough noted Approval of the Rec Plan as written is under new business. If approved it will be submitted to the State of Michigan.
  - B. Property Update – Fritz mentioned committee is looking at a couple pieces of property and will discuss some findings at the next meeting. He stated that the question was asked at the last meeting about how this will be paid for and the Grand Haven City approved to move forward on this search.
  - C. YMCA Collaboration – Vander Stel stated RFP is out until April 15 and Joy Gaasch, Chamber President will set a meeting with Bailey-Mesler and Vander Stel.
7. Public Comments –

Walt Weber, Grand Haven City resident - No money should be spent on property until we know what the community wants. Fritz reminded the audience that studies have been done and club groups have asked what the needs are so we do have an idea of what is needed and property is very hard to find and once it's gone, it's gone.

Lew Gorbach – Grand Haven Township resident– How much property are you looking for? Fritz stated a minimum of 80-100 acres of flat land to be able to build something similar to the concept and it is not easy to find flat land so more than that will be probably needed. Vander Stel reminded the audience that the possible facility was in the Rec Plan for public viewing. She reminded the community that this is just an idea or vision of what it might look like. Gaasch informed the audience that they have asked NORA and YMCA to look at 3 possible sites and remember that we have an aging population so we need to look at all the needs and that is what the scientific study is for. Vander Stel reminded the audience that a proposed millage wouldn't be to just build a facility but also NORA plan is to find other ways to fund it. We need a way to expand programming that we can't do with our current funding. Gaasch asked if this study is important to the YMCA and NORA but it will not be something that the Foundation will want to fund if NORA has a pre-determined decision. Vander Stel stated NORA very much values the data that will be gathered. We don't have all the ideas in our plan carved in stone, it is a vision. We may be adjusting and modifying the

rec plan at any time as it is a working document. It is a plan of all the things we'd like to do, but may not be able to accomplish and certainly not all at once. Gorbach asked what the timeframe is for the millage vote. Fritz informed that we can only request a millage vote every 2 years. Gorbach asked why is NORA going for a millage before the study results completed. He suggested tabling the millage until after the study and we know community needs. Hutchins asked if there is a deadline to submit the rec plan. Blough noted, if we want to submit any grant requests, it has to be in place, as our current plan is expired. Hutchins asked what the timeframe is for the study. Gaasch stated the RFP is not due until April 15 and once started it will take several months. Hutchins stated, we can wait until after the scientific study to make adjustments to the rec plan and then submit it to state in Sept. Belter asked if we will listen to the study to move forward. Hutchins stated that if we are going to spend \$40,000 of foundation money then we need to stop moving forward until this study is complete. Blough reminded that we know that we can't do everything that is needed but the plan is a vision. We were trying to be realistic in the beginning with something the community could support. Vander Stel reminded Gaasch that NORA is fully on board with a collaboration with the YMCA and that NORA signed the collaboration memorandum to work together with the YMCA. Belter reminded the board of the questions that she has emailed 3 weeks ago about operating funding, this all needs support of the GH Community Foundation, Chamber and we should keep asking other communities to come on board. She does not think we are ready to move forward.

Michelle Bailey-Mesler, President YMCA and Grand Haven Twp. Resident – She's very happy with the work that Gaasch has been doing and wants to see this work continue so the Y can have collaboration with NORA. Fritz thinks that the study is very important and he reminds everyone that we need to stay on task to pass this plan, as the current NORA Rec Plan is expired. The Rec Plan helps with obtaining grants. Bultje is very glad to hear that the plan is not going to be using it as a millage request.

Erica Phelps GHAPS parent – After reading the plan on Grand Haven City website, her impression was that we were going to put a millage on the ballot for November. She is very concerned about where you will be putting it. Belter reminded that the location is not determined and that she remembered there was a lot of concern when the new GHHS was being built that it wasn't in a developing area.

Tabitha Barber – Spring Lake Twp. resident – Asked for clarification from Blough on if the millage is not enough to cover the facility, are you asking the community to trust NORA. Vander Stel reminded that we have been working towards a millage for years to help with funding. It is not to just build a facility, it is to expand programming and replace municipal contribution as states in the Articles of Incorporation. Blough stated that people kept asking how much land are we talking and what would fit on a piece of land, so a visual concept was developed to show what it might look like. Blough reminded everyone that passing millage won't fill everyone's dreams. It won't be enough money. Further sponsorships, grants, donations and collaborations will help to accomplish this vision.

Weber stated that he understands that NORA needs a plan. He asked what NORA can gain from the YMCA and vice versa. He stated that he hasn't seen any of this information.

8. Old Business- none

9. New Business

A. Approval of Recreation Plan – Bessinger stated that many good points were brought up tonight. He recommends we hold up on the rec plan until the study is completed and make sure we are all working together. He suggested that we don't need to approve this

plan at this time as there aren't any plans for eligible grants requests. He made a motion to hold off on the approval of the Rec Plan, Belter seconded. Five yes votes, 1 no, approved. Belter asked if we going to make revisions. It is being tabled as is at this time unless a grant request is needed.

B. 2015-16 NORA Proposed Revised Budget #2 – Vander Stel pointed out there were minor changes as stated in email sent to the board. Scholarship transfer from the ORS fund to general fund in the amount of \$5,000 to cover youth scholarships awarded and reduction in software contract due to collaboration with GHAPS in shared contract in the amount of \$1,875. Bessinger motion, Hunter seconded. Approved unanimously.

C. Appoint NORA Coordinator Review Committee. Bessinger and Hutchins volunteered.

10. Coordinators Report – Vander Stel reminded the board of how busy spring is with weather changes to coordinate limited indoor gym space forcing some middle school teams to practice in a small elementary gym. She distributed the Spring/Summer brochure to board and stated it was sent home with students prior to spring break. She noted Rec Summer School will begin June 13 and United Way Grant with investment amounts grants in May. Presentation went well.

11. Advisory Board Comments or Suggestions –

Belter asked what we would be discussing at the next special meeting. Bessinger hoped that we would have a consultant chosen for the scientific study and be able to give update on how that process is coming. Belter suggests changing the meeting title from Special Millage Meeting to Special Meeting.

Fritz stated Vander Stel came to the Grand Haven City Council meeting to give a NORA update and did a great presentation. Fritz thanked Vander Stel for doing a great job. Belter wanted to thank the audience for attending and for all their comments. She announced that the Naturalization meeting is tomorrow at Loutit Library and welcomed everyone to attend. Starts at 1pm.

Gaasch wanted to announce on April 8, 9 and 10 they will be holding Lubber Cup at Spring Lake Yacht Club with over 800 students from area colleges. There will be a Grub & Brew fest on Sat. night at Old Boys Brewhouse.

Fritz thanked audience from coming and that their comments are very much appreciated.

12. Next Scheduled Meetings: Special Meeting April 28, 2016 and Regular meeting May 26, 2016, 5:30 P.M. at the ESC.

13. Adjournment - 6:45pm

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

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

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