

# 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

### NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** March 30, 2017    **Time:** 5:30 P.M.    **Location:** 1415 Beechtree, Grand Haven

1. Call to order: Chairperson Craig Bessinger 5:30pm – Welcomed new board member Eric Hayward representing Robinson Township.
  2. Present:            Ron Redick, Grand Haven Twp.            Mary Jane Belter, Grand Haven Twp.  
                         Kathy Kuck, Robinson Twp.            Eric Hayward, Robinson Twp.  
                         Geri McCaleb, Grand Haven            Taylor Schriber, Grand Haven  
                         Pat Twa, Ferrysburg                      Craig Bessinger, Ferrysburg  
                         Carl Treutler, GHAPS
- Also present: Jill Vander Stel, NORA Coordinator  
                         Liza Dora, NORA Assistant
3. Approval of Meeting Agenda - Motion by Belter, second by McCaleb. Approved unanimously.
  4. Approval of Consent Agenda – Motion by Treutler, second by Redick. Approved unanimously.
    - A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2017 as printed.
    - B. Financial Reports
      1. February 28, 2017 NORA Financial Report
      2. February 28, 2017 Activity Fund Balance Report
      3. Chris Christiansen Financial Report- December 31, 2016
  5. NORA Millage Planning:
    - A. Recreation Plan- Tabled
    - B. Property Update- No new updates.
    - C. YMCA Collaboration- Recreation & Healthy Living Survey results discussed and next steps plan. Vander Stel stated the results were positive about NORA. She stated a steering committee will be developed to move forward. Kuck and McCaleb will be on committee. Still looking for a facilitator that is neutral to keep things moving forward. McCaleb liked that she saw the public is happy with the recreation that is available in the area. She noticed that people seem to want a clearinghouse to go to one location for all their recreation needs. Redick questioned the reason for being specific regarding the location of the facility in the Grand Haven Township and Robinson Township. Schriber commented, it was interesting to see that majority of surveyed wanted a sheet of ice. He also commented about the price points. He stated that was skewed a bit because everyone will naturally pick the lowest price. McCaleb mentioned the cost of maintaining a facility. It was mentioned that a facility is usually a money pit so it will take much more than user fees to cover maintaining it. Vander Stel mentioned an operational millage might be a better way to go and it's been very successful for GHAPS.

Vander Stel asked what this board would like to see the steering committee head. Treutler says property acquisition. Belter suggests that something small be done together to

demonstrate that we can work together. Land acquisition is a high priority as there won't be too many large parcels available in the near future.

6. Public Comments - none
7. Old Business- none
8. New Business
  - A. 2016-17 NORA Proposed Revised Budget #2 - Vander Stel pointed out Blough expense is not in this year. Team fees are being collected. Motion by Belter, second Kuck. Approved unanimously.
  - B. Field Repair Request – Vander Stel distributed request list in the amount of \$9,900 for GHAPS fields and \$575 for Coast Guard Park soccer fields. Motion by Belter, second by Treutler. Approved unanimously. She discussed upcoming field repairs needed for adult softball fields, Ferry Elementary baseball field, Ferrysburg Firebarn Baseball field, but quotes were not ready for this meeting. Suggests using field user fees as follows: Coast Guard Park, Hofma, Hollow, Mercury fields up to \$7,500 from Softball Continuous User Fund. Ferry School baseball fields, Ferrysburg Firebarn up to \$4,000 from Baseball Continuous User Fund. Motion by Treutler, second McCaleb. Approved unanimously. 2015/16 continuous user player numbers are as follows; NORA Adult Softball (1,404), TCKL baseball (2,505), TCYSO soccer (5,193), Lakeshore Select Soccer (previously strikers soccer) (1,476), and YMCA Adult Soccer (1,039). Kuck mentioned Robinson Township is interested in repurposing the football field into 2 soccer or lacrosse fields. Also, based on usage, they are considering adding another baseball field.
  - C. Appoint NORA Coordinator Review Committee – Treutler and Kuck volunteered.
  - D. NORA Election of Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer – Tabled until June meeting.
9. Coordinators Report – Vander Stel noted that every program has a parent evaluation that gets completed at the end of the session. This helps direct our programs into the future. What went well, what didn't go well, what needs to be changed for the future? She reviewed and highlighted a few parent program evaluations with the board that were very positive. Vander Stel reminded the board that this is also the same result that the Healthy Living Recreation programming/facilities survey found. Majority of our NORA users are very satisfied with our programs. Vander Stel was excited to share a pickleball net that she set up with paddles and balls to show the board the new equipment that was purchased with the Come Out and Play Grant. She handed out registration flyers and highlighted the new afterschool pickleball clinic held at Griffin Elementary. The pickleball equipment will be used at Rec Summer School too.
10. Advisory Board Comments or Suggestions – Twa mentioned the GH Tribune stated Ottawa County is the healthiest county in the state. Belter suggested board notice the state recreation funding cuts, MIC Grant funding specifically, will impact the community.
11. Next Scheduled Meeting: Meeting June 1, 2017 5:30 P.M. at the ESC due to GHHS Graduation on May 25, 2017.
12. Adjournment 6:50pm

Prepared by: Liza Dora, NORA Asst.  
Jill Vander Stel, NORA Coordinator

Approved Minutes Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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