

# NORTHWEST OTTAWA RECREATION AUTHORITY

## Grand Haven Area Public Schools

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

### NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** November 20, 2014      **Time:** 5:30 P.M.      **Location:** 1415 Beechtree, Grand Haven

1. Call to order: Chairperson- Craig Bessinger - 5:30PM
2. Present:      Karl French, Grand Haven Twp.      Mary Jane Belter, Grand Haven Twp.  
                 Tracy Mulligan, Robinson Twp.  
                 Mike Fritz, Grand Haven                      Bill Hunter, Grand Haven  
                 Scott Blease, Ferrysburg                      Craig Bessinger, Ferrysburg  
                 Joanne Query, GHAPS
- Absent:      Kathy Kuck, Robinson Twp.
- Also Present: Jill Vander Stel, NORA Coordinator  
                 Liza Dora, NORA Assistant
3. Approval of Meeting Agenda. Motion by Belter, seconded by Mulligan. Approved unanimously.
4. Approval of Consent Agenda. Motion by Belter, seconded by Fritz. Approved unanimously.
  - A. Approval of Board Meeting minutes of October 30, 2014 as printed.
  - B. Financial Reports
    1. October 31, 2014 NORA Financial Report
    2. October 31, 2014 Activity Fund Balance Report
    3. Chris Christiansen Financial Report
    4. 2014 Inline Hockey Financial Report

5. Recreation Millage: Pam Blough was unable to attend due to a conference in Denver. Bessinger mentioned that the NORA board opened it up for Vander Stel to contact the municipalities and that we need to continue to move forward to get on the ballot in 2016. Vander Stel updated the board that she met with the following community leaders and had positive conversations with all of them:

Crockery Township Supervisor, Leon Stille  
Port Sheldon Township Supervisor, Howard Baumann, Jr.  
Ottawa County Parks & Rec Manager, John Scholtz  
Spring Lake Township Supervisor, Gordon Gallagher  
Spring Lake Village Manager, Christine Burns  
Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging Director, Brigit Hassig and Martha Cook Assistant Director

She then stated that the YMCA is meeting Friday, November 21, 2014 to discuss and approve the "Memorandum Agreement" between NORA and the YMCA that has already been approved by the NORA board. Bessinger stated that Vander Stel has started the conversations with these parties and it is now this board's responsibility to keep these conversations going to educate them on all the advantages of joining NORA. Vander Stel reiterated as she did with each party, that they would all continue to offer their recreation programs just as they have always done but this collaboration will allow them to offer more programming.

Mulligan stated that trying to coordinate on the other side of the River wasn't going to happen.

Bessinger noted that it was important that we make sure the other communities were aware we invited them.

6. Old Business - none
7. New Business
  - A. 2014-15 NORA Proposed Revised Budget #1. Vander Stel pointed out that not a lot of changes from original budget to first revision. Lowered Program Fees due to less revenue coming in last year from some dropped programs so in turn less expenses. Coaching fees have dropped substantially due to less GHAPS teachers coaching. Motion by Mulligan, seconded by Blease. Approved unanimously.
  - B. 2013-2014 Audit Report. Motion by Fritz, seconded by Blease. Approved unanimously.
8. Coordinators Report.
9. Advisory Board Comments or Suggestions.

Blease, Belter, French, Hunter, Mulligan, Bessinger- No Comment

Query announced that this was her last NORA board meeting as her term ends on the GHAPS school board December 31, 2014. She thanked the board for the opportunity to serve and stated that she really enjoyed being a part of the Recreation Authority helping watch it grow into a strong force in the community. The program growth has helped both children and adults keep active and healthy. She talked about her possible replacement, but stated it wasn't for sure yet. Bessinger thanked her for her service and support over the years.

Fritz also thanked Query for her service and said she would be missed. He then stated that he recently attended a seminar in Marquette and wanted the board to know that these communities are so far ahead of what a lot of other communities like Marquette, have to offer their constituents. He then pointed out that communities like Minneapolis did a survey of their 24-35 year old citizens (which by the way, there are more 24-35 year olds living in Minneapolis than the whole state of Michigan). In this survey, they were asked what were the main reasons they chose to live in Minneapolis? The number one answer was transportation, number 2 was it's a beautiful city, and number 3 was available recreation. Money was listed as low as number 5. So he wanted the board to know that NORA is on the right track in improving the recreation that is available to all ages because that is what the people are looking for in the quality of life. Recreation is a very important improvement for any community to draw more families to want to live there. We have to listen to what the people want, not necessarily what the leaders want.

10. Public Comments - none
11. Next Scheduled Meeting: January 22, 2015, 5:30 P.M. at the ESC. Everyone expressed their wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!
12. Adjournment 6:10pm

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

Approved minutes Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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