

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: October 30, 2014 **Time:** 5:30 P.M. **Location:** 1415 Beechtree, Grand Haven

1. Call to order: Chairperson Craig Bessinger - 5:30pm

2. Present: 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
 Joanne Query, GHAPS

Absent: Karl French, Grand Haven Twp.

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

3. Approval of Meeting Agenda & meeting minutes of September 25, 2014 as printed.
Motion by Belter, seconded by Fritz. Approved unanimously.

4. New Business

A. NORA Millage Planning- Pam Blough

1. Building Authority – Bessinger asked for update from the municipalities:

- a. Grand Haven Charter Twp.- Vander Stel received an email from Bill Cargo regarding their consensus position at this time was to not support moving forward with the exploration of a Building Authority for the purposes of developing a community-wide recreation facility. They believe time and energy should be directed toward expanding the boundaries and tax base of the Authority by including municipalities north of the river and collaborating with private entities (e.g. YMCA, Chamber of Commerce, or smaller entities) to establish a more inclusive Recreation Authority.
- b. Robinson Twp- Mulligan reported their board's consensus is that they encouraged looking into researching a Building Authority.
- c. City of Ferrysburg- Blease reported that there was some confusion and concerns from council as to what would be paid for by a Building Authority.
- d. City of Grand Haven- Fritz stated that their council is in favor of a Building Authority as a possible way to fund the building of a recreation complex.
- e. GHAPS- Query stated that GHAPS board is very much in favor of moving forward the Building Authority to help get more facilities and programming for their students and the community.

Belter questioned the report by LIAA stating the 5 communities (which includes Spring Lake

Village & Spring Lake Township and not Robinson Twp.) need to keep moving forward to collaborate. She asked shouldn't NORA be including SL & SLT in this plan before we pursue the Building Authority. Blough stated that years ago it was decided that NORA would handle the programming separately from facilities. NORA is now pursuing facilities because the programming that NORA wants to offer needs more facilities than the communities have to offer. Fritz stated that the study Blough has done recently is taking the communities separate 5 year plans and putting them together in one book so that it doesn't duplicate requests for grants. Blough stated it is also a way to inventory facilities to see what everyone has and allows that to be categorized for grants. Then each community can ask for different things so everyone can get everything that is needed. Belter is concerned about the report from LIAA and how it is going to be used by the communities. It was explained that it is just an opinion but not necessarily what is going to be done. It is necessary to hear all opinions. Mulligan suggests that Spring Lake Village & Spring Lake Township are brought to the table for the discussion all at the same time. Kuck asked if our next step, as a board, is to call a meeting with Spring Lake Village & Spring Lake Township. Bessinger stated that we need to turn to Blough to talk about the time line.

2. Planning Time Line – Blough handed out timeline table. Bessinger stated we need to continue to get in position to levy a millage. That includes involving other communities, work on designation of land, millage amount, and getting the YMCA on board.

3. YMCA Collaboration – Vander Stel handed out a copy of the “Memorandum Agreement” for board review. Vander Stel stated that Blough came up with some bullet points and then Ron Bultje (Scholtan & Fant) put it into a legal document. Fritz stated that he has looked this over and is very happy with this document and it can be used in other incidences. Blough stated that this is a serious document that can be taken to the Community Foundation to show collaboration between NORA and the YMCA. Bessinger asked around the table if there are any concerns or questions about the document prior to voting to approve. Query stated that she had a prior concerns but she is very much in favor of this agreement. Kuck stated that is the right step forward. Motion by Fritz to accept this Memorandum Agreement as written and present it to the YMCA board. Seconded by Kuck. Approved unanimously.

Kuck asked how we find the right people to talk to at the county and state level regarding property that has been bequeath to the county or state. Blough stated that she knows people to contact regarding this and will look into it. Vander Stel noted that she met with the Grand Haven Community Foundation on writing a grant to support the planning expense for Pam Blough needed to keep moving forward the research and collaborations for a recreation complex. They were very supportive, but made it clear that the YMCA needed to be involved.

5. Old Business - none
6. Public Comments - none
7. Next Scheduled Meeting: December 4, 2014, 5:30 P.M. at the ESC. **Meeting date has been changed to November 20, 2014 due to board member conflicts.**
8. Adjourned 6:20pm.

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

Approved minutes Date: _____

NORA Board of Trustees Secretary Signature: _____