

NORTHWEST OTTAWA RECREATION AUTHORITY

1415 Beechtree Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Phone: 616.850.5125 www.norarec.org

NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 27, 2023

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Location.: ESC Building (GHAPS)

Call to order: Chairperson - Taylor Schriber, GHAPS, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call.

Present:

GH Twp: Mary Jane Belter

Robinson Twp: Frank Johnson, Rick Mikkelsen

GH City: Ryan Cummings, (Vacancy)

Ferrysburg: Craig Bessinger, William Montgomery

GHAPS: Taylor Schriber

At Large member: Rebecca Hopp

NORA: Chris Van Hekken

Absent:

Ron Redick, GH Twp

Marc Eickholt, GHAPS

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Motion by Hopp, second by Cummings, to approve the meeting agenda. Vote: 8-0

Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion by Hopp, second by Montgomery, to approve the consent agenda. Vote: 8-0

Discussion of the Consent Agenda::

1.Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2022 as printed. - approved

2.Financial Reports: have sponsors for softball shirts

3.March 2023 Financials

4.NORA 2023-24 Budget – used a 5% cost of living to determining budget numbers.

Rec summer school is budgeted at \$37,000

The grant request to United Way is \$10,000 (decrease from \$20,000 for 22-23_

Received about \$15,000 so far in registrations

Each session is \$150 per child, that was the bulk of the early registrations.

NORA offers a 25% scholarship for each child that qualifies and we are also using the Wiggington scholarship and a bi-weekly payment plan to help families that qualify..

Program fees will stay the same

Team entry fees have increased with more teams signed up

Biggest area of growth: donations and grants. NORA staff has applied for 3 grants

The \$44,000 in the line item includes the United Way grant request (\$10,000)

Letters were sent out to people that had previously given or rounded up their fees as a donation.

Letters were sent to businesses for pledges, donations.

Expenditures

Bringing Bailey on full time, so that has reduced the part time wages

Software maintenance may increase. Rec Pro was bought out so there is a possibility of an increase in that category. Any software changes will be a positive for NORA

Postage increase is noted due to the increased mailing volume anticipated. We have a non-profit status for mailing.

Schriber: Is there room in the budget for a raise for Chris? He is not asking for a raise for this year. He wants to see how the grants go and the donations/fundraising and keep that in mind for the next budget year.

Schriber: what we have done in the past – inflation, GH City is doing a 5% COLA

New Business

Spring programming updates: Programs/classes/camps:

Intermediate , middle school programs are in full swing.

There has been an increase in players and teams for baseball and lacrosse including a youth (K-4) lacrosse program. There is a youth pickleball program, boater safety with 27 registered.

Lakeshore track meet coming up – this is a cooperative meet organized by lakeshore area rec depts.

Archery – team practicing to go to state competition in May

Adults – 23 softball teams

Pickle ball 101 for adults with the Lakeshore Pickleball Club

Adult volleyball including beach volleyball is scheduled.

Staffing . 2023 summer planning

3 full time, 10 part time, 2 college students for field maintenance

Our kids will use tckl kids league equipment, store at Sluka field

Rec Summer School Updates

About 50 % full, only at Lake Hills this summer because Ferry School has a construction project.

River Haven is an issue because the management does not want the program/kids to use the facilities with the required water availability (state required)

Staff is waiting to hear about the United Way grant request.

They are anticipating that 5-30 homeless students will be enrolled.

The goal for the summer of 2024 is to have a summer rec school location at either River Haven or Peach Plains.

Director Review

Group of 2 board members to work on the director eval: Schriber and Montgomery will do the review. They will use the evaluation form that the city uses.

Old Business**Kennari Consulting updates/NORA next steps**

Discussed the recent mailing to potential donors

Can donate via the website. Personal acknowledgements are sent to donors.

Montgomery: Question if we have donor management software

VanHekken: going to look at Little Green Light for a donor software management system

Wait and see how the funding goes before purchasing.

VanHekken will send the board a list of the business donors that have received letters.

Belter suggested WAWL for a program on NORA

Public Comments - none**Advisory Board Comments:**

Rebecca Hopp: are there opportunities for kids with physical limitations or we make an effort to create more opportunities

VanHekken: we haven't done anything like that.

Next Scheduled Meeting – June 22, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Mary Jane Belter
NORA Secretary

June 22, 2023
Date