

NORTHWEST OTTAWA RECREATION AUTHORITY

1415 Beechtree Street, Grand Haven, MI 49417

Phone: 616.850.5125 www.norarec.org

NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 21, 2019 **Time:** 5:30pm **Location:** 1415 Beechtree, Grand Haven

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

2. Present: Ron Redick, Grand Haven Twp. Mary Jane Belter, Grand Haven Twp.
 Kathy Kuck, Robinson Twp. Eric Hayward, Robinson Twp.
 Vacant, Grand Haven Geri McCaleb, Grand Haven
 Chris Streng, GHAPS Taylor Schriber, GHAPS
 Scott Blease, Ferrysburg Craig Bessinger, Ferrysburg
 Vacant, Member At Large

Absent: None

Also Present: Brook Bisonet, Guinan Bisonet PLLC
Chris Van Hekken, NORA Director
Liza Dora, NORA Assistant
Howard Baumann Jr., Supervisor Port Sheldon Twp.

3. Board discussion with NORA Attorney – Brook Bisonet. Bisonet letter was shared. Bisonet answered board member questions as they pertained to millage language for potential ballot proposal.

4. Approval of Meeting Agenda – VanHekken rearranged item 8 B and C. Motion to approve as amended by Redick, second by, Blease. Approved unanimously.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda - Motion by Belter, second by Schriber. Approved unanimously.

A. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

a. September 26, 2019 as printed

B. Financial Reports

1. October 31, 2019 NORA Financial Report & 1st Budget Revision. VanHekken pointed out changes reflected in 1st revision. They are the combination of accounts by City of Grand Haven that were separate accounts under GHAPS. Bessinger asked about change in team entry fees. VanHekken explained changing structure. Bessinger noted the reduction in accounting fees by City. VanHekken stated NORA is looking into new ways to lessen the touch points for the City with more automatic pay structures. Will review new software at MParks Conference. With reduced touch points by City it should help to reduce their fees

2. October 31, 2019 Activity Fund Balance Report

6. Old Business

A. Millage Discussion – VanHekken provided a Power Point presentation laying out discussion points. Bessinger pointed out that we have 2 meetings to make our decision on what we want to do. This is a great start. Geri really liked the packet and the information that was provided. There are a lot of things that will appeal to the public. Belter asked where we are going to get the funding for a millage planning. VanHekken

stated this will be added to the agenda for next meeting. He stated to the board to feel free to call him if you come up with any other questions.

7. Director's Report – Kuck commented on how great it is that VanHekken has been meeting with all these other area Rec. Dept. and groups. It's great that we are showing that we are working together. Hayward stated that he has been hearing all good things about our archery programs from the community. It's great that NORA is offering programs that are out of the box. VanHekken stated NORA will be doing more over winter break for the first time. Kuck asked how scholarship applications process is going. VanHekken stated that the requests are lower but the people who need it are getting it.
8. New Business
 - A. Residency Report – VanHekken stated that a glitch was recently found in the number gathering of the RecPro software that NORA has been using for some time. This error has been corrected moving forward.
 - B. Member at Large openings – VanHekken introduced Baumann to the board and notified board that Port Sheldon Twp has an interest to bring a person to the table as the Member at Large. Baumann stated that he will appoint a community member or he himself will plan to attend the next meeting.
 - C. Attorney Fees discussion – Invoice regarding NORA transition from GHAPS to the City of Grand Haven was discussed and resolved.
9. Public Comments – Mike Dora stated the millage information that was presented was great information and he is very hopeful. He wanted to the Board to know that his family attended the You, Me & Archery event NORA provided at the North Ottawa Rod & Gun Club and everyone had a great time. He'd like to see more programs like this.
10. Advisory Board Comments or Suggestions –

Kuck - Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. The Rec Task force will meet again the 1st week in December and she was excited to be able to mention that NORA has been meeting with other groups for continued collaboration.

Hayward - Appreciate the millage information. It was well presented. He asked that in the future, any program changes, need to be explained better to affected parties.

Schriber - Really liked the presentation.

Streng – Echoed the previous members' sentiment regarding the presentation.

McCaleb - Also really liked packet.

Blease - Good job. He announced this was his last meeting on the NORA Board. Transferring to new Board. Board thanked him for his service.

Redick - Stated that Grand Haven Township approved Phase One of Schmidt Heritage Park which will include the walking trail around the whole perimeter of the full property.

Belter – Stated there will be an exhibit at Loutit Library that falls under Freedom of Speech. Hopefully, it will not cause a lot of problems in the community.
11. Next Scheduled Meeting: January 23, 2020
12. Adjournment 7:11pm

_____ Date Approved _____
NORA Board of Trustee Secretary Signature