

NORTHWEST OTTAWA RECREATION AUTHORITY

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NORA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 24, 2023

Time: 5:30PM

Location: ESC Board Room

Call to order: In the absence of Board Chair William Montgomery, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ron Redick at 5:30 p.m.

Roll:

Present:

Redick, Grand Haven Twp
Johnson, Robinson Twp.
Cummings, Grand Haven
Bessinger, Ferrysburg
Eickholt, GHAPS

Belter, Grand Haven Twp
Vacant, Grand Haven
Montgomery, Ferrysburg – arrived at 6:06 p.m.
Elliott, GHAPS

Absent:

Mikkelson, Robinson Twp
Hopp, At large

NORA Director VanHekken introduced Sarah Elliott as the GHAPS non-elected representative to NORA. Sarah is the liaison for homeless students, families and works with students in other critical situations.

Approval of the agenda: motion to approve the agenda: Belter, Johnson. Motion passed.

Approval of the consent agenda: motion by Cummings, seconded by Bessinger. Motion passed.

Consent agenda items:

Board minutes - accepted

Financial reports – Chris discussed the financial challenges with the United Way funding. We are not receiving United Way funding for the recreation summer school for this summer. Staff had been hired, planning started. Were told there were issues, ultimately all grants were rescinded. Grant letters were received in May and June from United Way when no funding was forthcoming. Rec summer school was reduced for the summer of 2023 from the summer of 2022 in anticipation of some adjustments needed which was fortunate.

VanHekken has met with the city finance dept , looked at budget. Grant funding is not anticipated and none is factored into this budget. Grant applications will be made. Re-formatted rec summer school, 1 site, kept some costs down. Price for the rec summer school was increased. Programming is going well. Sarah Elliott spoke to the value of the rec summer school for her students, working out participation, attendance any transportation issues.

VanHekken: looked at areas to save. One item is not giving shirts for some of the activities to reduce the costs. Teams will get the shirts as that is part of their team fee..

New business:

Summer and fall programs

Over all it was a good summer, leagues for volley ball and softball are just starting up.

A Taekwondo class, which is new, has started. Also new for the summer – a 1 week day camp. 2 sessions were scheduled, both were well attended. 6 week youth baseball leagues starting after Labor Day. Registrations going well. Pickle ball leagues starting after Labor Day at SHP in partnership with Lakeshore Pickle Ball Club. Planning on 3 sessions, may have 4.

Basketball league for girls is starting up.

The NORA staff is looking at areas where more can be done to create a positive income flow.

They are working on more special, 1 day events in the community. This is an opportunity to capture families, more participants and expose more people to NORA.

A 3D archery challenge with the NORG C is scheduled.

3 on 3 basketball tournament was held in June

There will be a fall family day at the NORG C late October

Oct 17 NORA awareness/fund raising event

Unicorn Tavern

Format: 7-8 tables with table hosts, invite 5-6 guests, people that would be positive in their response

Give the NORA story, ask questions, have light food, cash bar

Need to get the word out, what is NORA, what we do, what we want to do

VanHekken will be working the next couple of weeks to get the table hosts in place

Kennari updates

Wrapping up the last contracted week with them. They have been a lot of help – providing info from interviews on what we are, how we are viewed, getting our message out. They talked about continuing the contract, but we will not do that at this time. That was put on hold. They will help with the fund raising event

Old business

Discussion was on the several attempts for a millage, the areas where the vote failed. There are issues with not getting a favorable majority vote in Robinson Twp and then in GHT.

Should we look at other funding sources

Board member comments: Redick and Belter – don't attempt another millage at this time.

Other board members expressed the same.

Frank Johnson suggested a fundraiser with 'membership/sponsor' type categories like with Ducks Unlimited does. Create a sustaining membership category.

Kennari had talked about different pledge levels for the next step.

Public comments: none

Advisory board comments: none

Next scheduled meeting: October 26, 2023

Meeting adjourned.

Mary Jane Belter
NORA Secretary

Oct 26, 2023
Date