

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Call to order: 8:03 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present via Zoom:

Jim Filisky, President
Kyle Deininger, Vice President
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment
Mike Graham, VP of Fields
Andy Papile, Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner (out 9:18)
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Matt Bewley, Board Member (in 8:11)
Kevin Bilkie, Board Member
Brian James, Board Member (in 8:17)
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Andy Piskula, Board Member
Bobby Reville, Board Member
Kenny Sanger, Board Member
Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

Absent:

Jerry Lowery, Girls Travel Softball Commissioner
Chad Akins, Board Member

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from December 7, 2022

Jim asked Board members if there were any questions, objections, subtractions, or additions to the minutes as presented. Hearing none, Jim made the motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2022, meeting. Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Brenda. The minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

1. Presentation to Sagamore Hills Township – Trustee Meeting
 - a. Present info regarding upgrade at Field #4 (Peters)
 - b. Permission for upgrade at Field #2 (Speerbrecher)
 - c. Permission for use of concession stand in 2023
2. Presentation to Nordonia Hills City Schools – Board Meeting
 - a. Upgrade at NMS field

Jim indicated that he needs to present this information to all parties involved.

3. Outcome of Fields discussion from 12.14.2022

Providing full transparency to all Board members, Jim shared details regarding the December 14, 2022, meeting. The members in attendance included: Jim, Dave, Scott, Mike, Brian, Cathy, and Chase. During this meeting field upgrades were discussed. Jim discussed the final cost of the projects to upgrade Sagamore Field #4 and the field at Nordonia Middle School (NMS). A final invoice from Walker Supply was not paid and this is when it was discovered that the budget for these

two fields was exceeded. The excess cost included delivery fees, surcharges, etc., as well as excess cost with rental equipment. The weather necessitated an extra week of rental to complete the job. Labor costs for Mike and Brian also contributed to the excess cost for the total project. Jim indicated future large projects will require approval/sign off by the Board President and Board Treasurer. Jim indicated that future field upgrades may not require rental equipment to level off fields as Sagamore Soils can sling product onto the field – this should decrease the costs associated with future field upgrades. Scott indicated he will email all Board members the complete breakdown for the fields upgraded in 2022. The final payment indicated on the financial report was for the red clay conditioner. Scott indicated all invoices are now paid; however, the NHAA Board must collectively do better. Somewhere there was miscommunication regarding funds approved, and there needs to be procedures in place so that full disclosure of cost is known prior to any/all projects moving forward.

Jim indicated these field upgrades were the biggest projects done by NHAA and it was a learning experience for all volunteer Board members; however, checks and balances need to be in place moving forward. Jim indicated that future projects need to be itemized and broken down for all aspects of the job (i.e. product, labor, delivery fee, rental equipment, etc.). Jim indicated this was a learning experience and the NHAA Board can do better.

Bobby indicated BEI (Builders Emporium) in Macedonia does daily rentals versus weekly rentals.

III. Committee Reports

(Committee members names indicated below – Committee lead is marked with a star *)

1. Finance Committee

(Scott *, Kenny, Matt)

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

1. Current financial report

- a. Year to date
- b. Monthly financial report

Current Balance: \$14,582.72

Scott reviewed the activity statement sent to all Board members. A few key items were highlighted – uniform invoices from Fall Ball, equipment orders, tax preparation fee, storage unit rental fee, as well as field upgrade invoices as discussed.

Scott opened a discussion with Board members regarding some accounting matters brought up by the NHAA accountant. A lengthy discussion was had among members. Jim suggested that Kyle, Kenny, Scott, and Jim get together to further discuss these accounting matters, as well as meet with the accountant.

- 2. Open invoices
- 3. Update on duplication in Quick Books
- 4. Update on outstanding travel dues from one coach – two teams
- 5. Board Treasurer shadow
- 6. Insurance renewal (due in March/April)
- 7. Operating Budget for 2023 season

2. Player Development Committee

(Kenny *, Andy Piskula, Nick, _____)

a. Chair Report

b. Premier Fitness and Performance

- 1. Feedback from first clinic – 12.13.2022
- 2. Next clinic

Kenny indicated he will follow up with Mike Caza at Premier Fitness next week. It was

decided to wait until after the holidays before sending out another email blast.

Kenny indicated the first clinic went well and there was lots of interest.

c. Strike Force Clinics

1. Dates: Sundays in March (3/5, 3/12, 3/19)
2. Pricing:
3. Registration:
4. Times:

Scott did confirm that the dates are set with Strike Force. Scott asked if someone else can finalize the details with Strike Force. Kenny asked that this be discussed when the group meets to discuss accounting matters.

3. Fields Committee

(Mike *, Brian, _____)

a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

1. Toro in storage unit and winterized

Brian confirmed that the Toro is winterized and housed at the storage unit. Brian indicated he has paperwork (i.e. for direct payment) from Century requiring updating for the new year. Brian will get this paperwork to Scott to complete and submit.

2. Trailer with Brian
3. New tires to be ordered
4. Securing fields for 2023
 - a. Longwood Park
 1. M-F – Two (2) hour rental fee is \$50 (practice and game)
 2. Sat-Sun – Two (2) hour rental fee is \$95 (practice and game)
 - b. Sagamore Park (allocate in February)
 1. Use of concession stand
 - c. Northfield Village
 - d. School fields

Jim indicated that fields cannot be allocated until later in the year (usually in February) for Sagamore Park, Northfield Village, and all school fields. Jim did discuss the Longwood pricing structure for 2023.

Brian indicated discussions about two (2) new fields being upgraded at Sagamore Park. Nothing beyond simple discussion was had.

Jim asked about invoices received from Tru Green regarding spraying fields in October. Mike indicated the contract with Tru Green is for four (4) applications and October was the final application. Mike indicated this was done in the past and that is why it continues to be done this way. Mike indicated discussions will be had before any new contracts are renewed.

4. Equipment Committee

(Chase *, Mike, Dave, Cathy)

a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

Chase indicated that all equipment has been received and is housed in the storage unit.

5. Uniform/Awards Committee

(Cathy *, Brenda, Melinda, _____)

a. Chair Report

1. Uniform Bid
 - a. Vendors
 - b. Post bid form on website

Cathy indicated uniform bids have been sent out. She listed the vendors:

Prime Time, D1 Sporting Goods, Mr. J's Apparel, and Steve's Sports. Cathy indicated receiving back the completed bid from Prime Time as of January 3, 2023.

Cathy indicated she will be meeting with Mario at D1 on Wednesday of next week to discuss the sublimation process, which he would like to include with the completed bid. Dave asked about the sublimation process and Jim explained that it is a process where the designs/colors, etc. are embedded in the thread versus screen printed to a jersey. Kyle indicated sublimated uniforms are used in his travel basketball program and indicated they are pretty sharp. Jim indicated it is an easy process; however, it is a bit more expensive especially for a rec program. Jim asked about pricing for this process and Cathy indicated she will have more information after her meeting. Dave indicated no problems in the past with screen printed jerseys, and Cathy indicated she simply wishes to understand what D1 can offer with this process and present the information to the Board.

2. Sponsor form

- a. Block letters on back of jersey and banner – Sponsor Fee \$275

Dave indicated updating the sponsor form.

b. Awards

- 1. Order after formation of teams

Jim asked about ordering awards and Cathy indicated awards will be ordered when teams are formulated. Brenda confirmed.

6. Discipline Committee

(Nick *, Bobby, Chad)

- a. Chair Report

Nothing to discuss.

7. Fundraising/Marketing Committee

(Nick *, Matt, Dustin, Chad)

- a. Chair Report

- 1. 2023 Golf Outing

Jim, Matt, Dustin, and Chad will be working together to coordinate this event. With the holidays past, a meeting will be scheduled for next week to get this event in motion.

- a. Signature of Solon

Jim indicated receiving a call from Signature of Solon and he will return the call to potentially secure this location.

- b. Possible dates

- 1. Monday, June 19, 2023
- 2. Sunday, June 25, 2023
- 3. Sunday, July 9, 2023
- 4. Saturday, July 15, 2023

- c. Possible courses

- 1. Roses Run (Matt to confirm availability)
- 2. Hudson Country Club
- 3. Lake Forrest Country Club
- 4. Glen Eagles

5. Silver Lake Country Club
 6. Valleaire Golf Course (catering services would need to be brought in)
 7. Ellsworth Meadows
 8. Briarwood
 9. Boulder Creek
3. Off season fundraising
 - a. Restaurants
 4. Social media presence
 - a. Advertise registration information
 - b. Advertise sponsor information
 - c. Advertise Strike Force clinics
 - d. Advertise uniform bid
 5. Signs to post at Route 82 and Route 8 (re: registration)

Nick indicated that the committee met and have the following points to present to the Board:

- * The concession stand is still an open topic. The committee will address this issue closer to the season.
- * In February, when the committee meets, restaurants will be assigned for potential fundraising opportunities. These restaurants will be contacted and dates will be discussed for fundraising. This information will be presented to the Board. March and April are prime months for these events to happen.
- * The committee tabled the topic of sponsors on uniforms.
- * Banners and yard signs for advertisement of NHAA registration. Nick indicated discussions with Kimpton Printing regarding pricing. Nick was quoted a dozen double-sided yard signs will come to a couple hundred dollars. Nick indicated large double-sided banners (white vinyl with hemmed edges and grommets) are closer to \$250. Total cost quoted was around \$500. Nick indicated the committee discussed virtual advertisement (i.e. e-mail solicitation through NHAA and schools, social media presence, etc.) versus physical signs. Nick indicated Chad spoke with Nordonias Schools and they are happy to send out NHAA information through school newsletters. Nick has a call into St. Barnabas as well to see about running information with them. Jim suggested contacting Lawrence School as well. Nick asked the Board about why the strong feeling about putting physical signs out. Nick did say that canvassing the community through virtual advertisement may be enough to get the information out to families. Nick indicated virtual advertisement is a lot cheaper and a lot easier. Jim suggested also contacting Epic PhotoGraphic in Northfield regarding pricing on banners and signs. Jim did indicate that a visual on-the-road sign is a good reminder to community members to register for NHAA. Andy Piskula agrees that on-the-road signs are a good visual reminder about community events. Brian will inquire with Northfield Center regarding using the digital board on Olde Eight Road to advertise NHAA registration.

Dustin indicated that a quote for around \$500 for large banners and yard signs is good pricing for signage. Dustin believes in seeing better results if working with the schools and e-mail solicitation. Dustin also suggested social media advertising where target audiences can be captured at a fair price. A brief discussion was had on this topic from last year.

Nick indicated the committee will work up a comparison between virtual advertisement/ e-communication plan versus physical signage. The committee will then come back to the Board with results. Nick will email this to Board members as it will need to happen before the next Board meeting.

- * Administration of social media accounts. Nick is already an administrator on accounts, but Chad and Dustin wish to have admin rights as well. Melinda indicated that Jim is the top tier to the account, but Melinda will try to add these admins. If not, Jim may need to add these

admins. Dustin sent friend requests on Facebook to be added as an admin.

8. Technology Committee

(Dave *, Melinda, _____)

- a. IT and Communications/Chair Report
- b. Important Dates for 2023 (see last page)
- c. Registration – begins Saturday, January 14, 2023
 1. New registration fee is \$130 (T-Ball prorated for shorter season)

Dave indicated that registration is ready to go with registration fees updated. Dave will email to Board members to test out and register. Dave indicated he will send an e-mail blast to the community after registration is open.

d. IT/Scheduling shadow – Melinda

Dave and Melinda have not been able to connect yet, but Melinda indicated she is still interested.

Melinda inquired about answering social media (Facebook) messages and it was indicated that it would be appreciated if she can continue answering these messages. Dave indicated answering Facebook inquires should fall under the Marketing aspect of things, but, in this case, Melinda answering these inquires is appropriate. Melinda indicated she will answer social media posts.

9. Strategic Planning Committee

(Jim *, Brian, Mike, Dustin, _____, _____)

- a. Chair Report

Nothing to discuss.

10. Travel Committee

(Jerry *, Andy Papile *, Jim, Bobby, Chase)

- a. Girls Travel Softball Commissioner Report

In Jerry's absence, Jim indicated that practices for Girls Travel begin Sunday, January 8 in the afternoon. The season and the Girls Bash will begin to be planned soon. The Travel Committee will be meeting next week.

Dave asked about Girls Travel potential use of Longwood fields. Jim indicated having no knowledge of any teams wishing to use Longwood. Most teams wish to use NHS fields, fields at Sagamore and NMS. Kevin indicated wishing to use the field at Blue Jay.

- b. Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner Report

Andy Papile reported that scheduling at Strike Force has been handled. Some teams are beginning practice this week and other teams will be starting in February. League meetings will be held soon. Andy Papile indicated discussions with the 12U Boys coach regarding planning the Boys Bash.

Jim asked Andy Papile about fields for travel teams and he indicated some teams wish to use Longwood fields (Brumfield for both teams, Senk team) for games. Andy Papile will reach out to all coaches to solidify field usage.

V. Open Discussion

1. Off season review of league rules
 - a. Match Boys Babe Ruth with Girls Manager Pitch
 1. No strikeouts for both leagues
 2. Use of umpires

Melinda asked for the Word document for these two leagues in order to update the rules. Dave will send this over to Melinda for updating.

b. T-Ball league suggestion

1. Split league

- a. Ages 3 and 4 play together
- b. Ages 5 and 6 play together
- c. Same day play/sibling issue

2. Health and Safety (Dustin)

a. Location and use of first aid kits and AED devices

Dustin indicating being at local fields for some time now and inquired about AED (automated external defibrillator) devices at fields/in parks. Dustin also asked if there is a requirement to have these in area parks. Dave indicated that AED devices are not at parks. Dustin indicated it is his understanding that it is state law to have AED devices in parks. Dustin asked what NHAA can do to prepare should an incident happen to require an AED device. Dave indicated his belief that any such unit at a park will be difficult to securely store. Andy Papile echoed Dave's sentiments on this topic. Dustin is unclear if this is even the responsibility of NHAA, but wanted to bring up the topic for discussion. Jim indicated it should not be NHAA responsibility if required by law; it should be the responsibility of the property owner. Jim indicated that an AED device is available at the firehouse at Sagamore Park. Jim is unclear if an AED device is available at Longwood. Jim indicated that training is required for the use of an AED device. Jim indicated that other area leagues may have access to devices if they play inside of school buildings (i.e. basketball, volleyball) as well as football teams that play at Nordonia fields. Dustin appreciated the discussion because it is all about player safety. Dustin will do some research on Ohio laws pertaining to these devices.

b. Face mask requirement for softball infielders

Dustin asked about making face masks a requirement for softball players. Jim indicated that conversations were had. Presently, it is not a requirement; it is a recommendation for girls in softball to wear a mask for safety. With the bases being 60 feet, action is a lot closer and faster than other leagues – especially pitcher and third base. Jim indicated some players in travel softball wear the mask and you also have players that do not wear masks. It is a personal choice. Even pitchers do not have to wear a mask. It is not a requirement in any league to wear a mask. Dave indicated that one (1) softball mask is issued with team equipment each season.

3. Community play (Dustin)

4. All Star team for Rec girls to play at Rec League Tournament (Dustin)

Melinda inquired about when league trustees are assigned and Jim indicated this topic is usually assigned in February as the draft approaches. Chase asked if questions are coming in on social media regarding league trustees if 2022 trustees should handle the questions. Jim finds this appropriate. Melinda indicated that social media questions are mostly pertaining to girls softball. She will direct those questions to Brenda and/or Kyle.

Melinda also inquired about the 2023 Picture Day and a vendor for pictures. Melinda volunteered to take on this responsibility and will be in touch with Venditti Studios as well as Epic PhotoGraphic.

Kevin indicated that he has worked out an arrangement with Mike Caza at Premier Fitness for a girls softball workout clinic. These clinics would be held Thursday nights from 7:20 p.m. to 8:20 p.m. These clinics will be held for ten (10) weeks at \$16.00 per session. Everyone is invited. Kevin indicated having sent girls travel coaches messages regarding this training opportunity. Kevin will prepare an email that can be sent out to advertise these sessions. Kevin indicated this is perfect for those girls that are not involved in winter sports to get an opportunity to workout before the softball season begins. Kevin indicated this is agility work only. Kenny indicated talking with Mike Caza about these clinics. Kenny asked if Kevin has gauged any interest on such clinics because Mike Caza

may not be able to keep this as an open spot for potential participants. Registration will be needed. Kenny will talk with Kevin on this topic.

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 at 8:00 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:20 p.m.

NHAA Important Dates for 2023

Saturday, January 14, 2023	Registration opens
Sunday, March 5, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	General Meeting scheduled at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria
Saturday, March 11, 2023	Registration closes (without late fee)
Sunday, March 12, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Sunday, March 19, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Week of March 27, 2023	Draft Week
Week of April 3, 2023	Nordonía Schools Spring Break
Sunday, April 9, 2023	Easter Sunday
Thursday, April 13, 2023	Mandatory Coaches Training at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria – 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Saturday,
April 15, 2023	Sponsor Information Due
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Equipment Distribution Day – Space Place (8945 Freeway Drive) – 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Field Maintenance Day. Meet at Space Place – Time: 11:00 a.m. (Weather permitting)
Monday, April 17, 2023	Team practices to begin
TBD – April 2023	General Meeting at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria
Saturday, May 6, 2023	Uniform Distribution Day (coaches only)
Monday, May 8, 2023	Preseason / Scrimmage games begin
Monday, May 15, 2023	Regular season begins
Saturday, May 27, 2023	Picture Day
Friday, May 19-21, 2023	Girls Bash at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – May 2023	General Meeting at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – June 2023	Boys Colt games begin
Thursday, June 1-4, 2023	Boys Bash at Sagamore Hills Park
Saturday, June 24, 2023	All Star Saturday
Thursday, June 29, 2023	T-Ball Evening at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – June 2023	General Meeting
Friday, June 30, 2023	Regular season ends
Week of July 3, 2023	Make up Week
Saturday, July 8, 2023	GMP Day at Sagamore Hills Park – 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 8, 2023	Babe Ruth Day at Sagamore Hills Park – 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Week of July 10, 2023	Playoff Week
Saturday, July 15, 2023	Championship Week (Rain date will be Sunday, July 16, 2023)
Saturday, July 22, 2023	Equipment Return Day
TBD – August 2023	General Meeting at Sagamore Hills Park