

NHAA General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Nordonia Middle School – Cafeteria

Meeting Call to order: 7:05 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present:

Jim Filisky, President
Mike Graham, VP of Fields
Jerry Lowery, Girls Travel Softball Commissioner
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Chad Akins, Board Member
Kevin Bilkie, Board Member
Brian James, Board Member
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member
Bobby Reville, Board Member
Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

Absent:

Kyle Deininger, Vice President
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment
Andy Papile, Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer *
Matt Bewley, Board Member *
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member *
Andy Piskula, Board Member
Kenny Sanger, Board Member

* Notice of absence sent to Board prior to meeting.

Approximately 40 community members were in attendance.

Agenda:

I. Review of General Meeting minutes from August 10, 2022

Jim asked if members had a chance to review the minutes from the last general meeting, and asked for any objections or additions to the minutes. Hearing none, Jim made the motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2022, general meeting. Motion first by Chad. Motion second by Brenda. The minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

Jim thanked community members for attending this meeting.

Jim gave details regarding the visible improvements made to Sagamore Field #4 as well as the field at the Nordonia Middle School (NMS). Community members were made aware of future plans for continued improvements to different area fields. Jim explained the crushed diamond clay application.

Jim did highlight donated equipment (catcher's gear) by Spitzer Chevrolet.

Jim also highlighted for community members that team sponsorship is back for the 2023 season. These sponsors will be displayed on the back of the 2023 uniforms, on the NHAA website, as well as on banners hung at various area fields.

III. Financial Report

1. Current Financial Report

In Scott's absence, Jim gave the prepared talking points.

Current balance: \$48,643.20

2. Expenses / Income

As prepared by Scott, Jim explained costs per the budget (i.e. storage unit rental, Toro payment, portable restrooms, etc.)

3. Review of 2023 Operating Budget

Copies of this proposed budget were available and distributed to community members.

Jim highlighted key areas in the proposed operating budget for community members including a negative operating revenue in 2022 due to the investment made into area community fields. As prepared by Scott, Jim explained to community members this was not a cause for alarm because of fundraising dollars raised for such improvements.

As prepared by Scott, Jim highlighted the proposed budget assumes an 8% increase in revenue in 2023, as well as assumes a 10% increase in expenses.

As prepared by Scott, Jim reported a proposed field budget of \$5,000 for calendar year 2023. This dollar value is budgeted for major field improvements (i.e. crushed diamond clay application, etc.).

After presenting the prepared financial report, Jim asked for questions. Hearing none, the financial report was concluded.

IV. Technology Report

1. Registration for league play

- a. Players
- b. Coaches

Dave did provide to community members an update on 2023 registration:

- * 348 players registered
- * 60 coaches registered (mixture of head coaches and assistant coaches)

Dave did indicate that many more players (approximately 150-200) will register before the close of registration on Saturday, March 11, 2023. After this date, a late fee will be assessed to all registrants. Dave did indicate that after the close of registration, the NHAA has the right to limit the size of teams.

Dave indicated help can be provided by league trustees who will be reaching out to coaches after the close of registration.

c. Outside communities

Jim shared with community members the partnership with surrounding communities in both baseball and softball leagues. Outside communities include Twinsburg, Hudson, Stow, Aurora, Solon, and now Woodridge for younger and older baseball leagues (Pee Wee Reese, Sandy Koufax, Colt).

Outside communities include Valley View, Independence, Broadview Heights, Brecksville, Seven Hills, Highland Heights, Brooklyn for the younger and older softball leagues (Girls A, Girls AA and Girls AAA).

Jim let community members know these opportunities allow players to see different fields and different teams to improve skill and play. These outside communities are fairly close for all participants.

2. Sponsorship

a. Team Sponsor Fee: \$275

1. Sponsor forms due Saturday, April 8, 2023

3. Insurance

a. Current 12-month policy posted on website (renewed as of 3/1/2023)

Jim indicated the current insurance policy is available for review on the NHAA website.

4. Schedule of dates

a. Important dates posted on website (see attached page)

1. Thursday, April 13 – Mandatory training meeting for coaches at NMS Cafeteria (7:00 p.m.)

2. Saturday, April 15 – Equipment pick up at Space Place (North Freeway Drive) (9:00 a.m.)

3. Saturday, April 15 – Field Maintenance Day (11:00 a.m.)

a. Volunteers needed to get fields ready for the season

Jim highlighted the above dates for community members. Jim did ask community members to volunteer for the Field Maintenance Day.

Jim did indicate that a second training meeting (potentially via Zoom) may be needed for coaches.

V. Umpire Report

1. Head umpire – Dan Lingo

Dan Lingo was welcomed to the meeting and he introduced himself to community members. Dan reported thirteen (13) umpires were at the first umpire class with the potential for four (4) more umpires. Dan indicated that umpires try to make calls the best they can. Dan asked for any questions, and a community member asked if wooden bats were allowed, and Dan indicated yes, wooden bats are allowed as long as they meet the criteria; there are no restrictions.

a. Umpire registration through NHAA website

Jim indicated that umpire registration was still taking place via the website.

b. Umpire classes at Nordonia Middle School Cafeteria from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

1. Dates:

a. Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 9

b. Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 16

c. Tuesday, March 21

Jim indicated coaches are in charge of their individual sideline. NHAA wishes to retain umpires. Jim asked community members to keep in mind that many umpires are children. Jim indicated the NHAA Board has a firm stance on this issue and will always side with the umpire. Umpires are doing the best they can, but mistakes will be made. Jim asked community members for respect and support of all umpires.

VI. Uniform Report

1. Coaches – Uniform distribution on Saturday, May 6, 2023

Cathy indicated the uniform vendor has been selected. Coaches will be responsible for finding team sponsors, and team sponsors will be displayed shoulder-to-shoulder on the back of the jersey in block letters. Cathy did invite coaches to stop at the table to secure a sponsor form.

Cathy indicated to the community what each league will be receiving as far as uniforms:

~ Boys leagues – uniform jersey and hat

~ Girls leagues – uniform jersey and socks

~ T-Ball league – uniform jersey and hat

Cathy also indicated that coaches will be receiving a uniform jersey and a hat.

2. Spirit Team Shop – Open now until April 9, 2023
 - a. Fundraiser for NHAA

Cathy indicated to the community the new Spirit Wear Shop for 2023. Cathy invited community members to pick up a paper at the table or visit the website for the link.

Cathy indicated the uniform vendor has been used in the past and has done good work in the past to make players look presentable and comfortable on the field.

VII. Fields Report

1. Plans for 2023

Mike indicated he has started field preparation for spring. Mike did let community members know that discussions have started regarding the next community field(s) to upgrade.

Nick asked for further explanation on the field upgrades done in 2022. Mike explained the diamond clay application to NMS field as well as Sagamore Field #4. Mike further explained the goal of this is to reduce the mud on the fields after a rain. The diamond clay offers much better drainage. Mike further explained NHAA, as a non-profit organization, cannot do all of the area fields at once. It was indicated that a few fields can be done each year with the fundraising efforts out there. Brian indicated NMS field received approximately 60 tons of material, while Sagamore Field #4 received approximately 160 tons of material. Brian further explained Sagamore Field #4 was made bigger for the older leagues to utilize. Brian indicated the two field upgrades in 2022 – NMS field and Sagamore Field #4 – came to approximately \$25,000, with the labor being done internally. Mike reiterated to the community that NHAA is funding the cost of these field upgrades.

Brian indicated a lot of fields still need leveling this spring and more dirt. The goal is for fields to not retain water.

2. Field maintenance bids

Brian indicated field maintenance bids are being accepted at this time and bid forms can be found on the website.

Brian indicated to the community weed control companies have been contacted to take care of this. The Board needs to make a final decision.

Jim indicated to the community that area fields are not owned by NHAA – instead NHAA only has access to the property. Working with different entities (municipalities, schools, etc.) is required for any/all work done by NHAA. Jim indicated these upgrades are being done in a step process through fundraising and sponsorship. Jim indicated some fields were opened up for community use again – including St. Barnabas field, Smith Park, Ledgeview.

VIII. Fundraising / Marketing Report

1. NHAA Inaugural Golf Outing
 - a. Monday, July 17, 2023
 - b. Signature of Solon

Jim indicated to the community the Inaugural Golf Outing at Signature of Solon on Monday, July 17, 2023. Jim indicated the information will be posted on the website soon. Jim went over a few details for the community at this time. Jim indicated this Golf Outing will be a fun way to support NHAA.

2. Restaurant Fundraisers

Nick indicated a recent fundraiser at Culver's. Nick indicated other fundraiser nights are being planned for area restaurants. Nick asked for the community to come to these events, as well as share the information with others.

3. Concession stand at Sagamore Park

a. Open for select events

Jim indicated to the community that NHAA is working to get this concession stand open during the week during games. Jim did indicate a refrigerator/cooler has been secured from Coca-Cola. The concession stand will also plan to be open for big weekends – All Star Weekend, Babe Ruth Day, GMP Day, T-Ball Day, etc.

4. Social media

Dustin asked the community to follow NHAA on social media.

5. Website

6. Local tournaments

a. Softball Bash (May 19 – May 21)

b. Baseball Bash (June 2 – June 4)

Jim indicated to the community the dates set for the local tournaments, and how these tournaments are fundraisers for the travel program. The Softball Bash is filling up quickly and the Baseball Bash is almost full with approximately 8 teams per division. The Baseball Bash is a fundraiser for the 12U Boys team for their trip to the Ripken Experience in Myrtle Beach. The Softball Bash is a fundraiser for all travel softball teams.

7. Chevy Youth Sports

a. Sign and Drive Event

Jim described to the community the Chevy Youth Sports program and the equipment received from them over the years. This year three (3) new sets of catching gear were received along with first aid kits. Jim further described the Sign and Drive fundraising event to the community and invited the community to participate.

IX. League Report

Jim indicated to the community that each league has a trustee, and this league trustee should be approached with questions, concerns, and grievances throughout the season. The league trustees are the first point of contact. Teams will be formed by these trustees.

Jim did indicate the main focus should be fundamentals, everyone gets a chance to play, and fun. League rules have been set up to reflect these focus points as well.

Jim did explain to the community that league partnerships came about because other communities also experience lower registration because of many different factors. These partnerships allow for a better experience of play.

Dave invited community members to ask any questions and/or talk with trustees after the meeting.

1. T-Ball (co-ed)

a. Trustee – Cathy Loya

Cathy indicated T-ball is primarily Kindergarten players. Cathy did indicate younger players also join. This year, players ages 3 and 4 will be grouped together and players ages 5 and 6 will be grouped together. Games are hoping to be played on the weekend. Cathy indicated the goal is for these young players to learn a few things and have a lot of fun.

Cathy indicated that coaches will be needed for all leagues, but especially in the T-Ball league. Cathy relayed her personal experience with coaching Fall Ball and how rewarding it can be at this age level.

2. Softball Updates

a. Girls Manager Pitch (GMP)

1. Trustee – Kevin Bilkie

Kevin introduced himself to the community and indicated in 2022, the GMP league grew in size. Kevin did want to stress that beginning players should begin in the T-Ball league; GMP is not really a starter league.

b. A League

1. Trustee – Brenda Kovi

Brenda introduced herself along with Dustin to the community, and indicated Girls A league is for fourth and fifth graders. Brenda invited the community to ask her any questions.

c. AA League

1. Trustee – Kyle Deininger

Nick introduced himself in Kyle's absence. Nick indicated no concerns for a good start to the season, with a good turnout of players. Nick did indicate having a good relationship with the western community leagues. He looks forward to a good season.

d. AAA League

1. Trustee – Chad Akins

Chad introduced himself to the community and did let community members know that no league trustees have a child in that league. This is done on purpose. He pointed out his daughter plays in Girls AA. Chad asked for questions to be directed to him regarding this league.

3. Baseball Updates

a. Babe Ruth

1. Trustee – Chase Senk

In Chase's absence, Jim indicated Babe Ruth is the boys coach pitch / 1st and 2nd grade league. Jim indicated this league usually has 6-8 teams and does not partner with outside communities.

b. Willie Mays

1. Trustee – Melinda Malyuk

In Melinda's absence, Jim indicated Willie Mays is the boys 3rd and 4th grade league. Jim indicated this league is historically the biggest with 6-8 teams. This league does not partner with outside communities.

c. Pee Wee Reese

1. Trustee – Kenny Sanger

In Kenny's absence, Jim indicated Pee Wee Reese is the boys 5th and 6th grade league. Jim indicated this league partners with Twinsburg Baseball League (TBL), as well as Stow, Aurora, Hudson.

d. Sandy Koufax

1. Trustee – Andy Papile

In Andy's absence, Jim indicated Sandy Koufax is the boys 7th and 8th grade league. Jim indicated this league partners with Twinsburg Baseball League (TBL).

e. Colt

1. Trustee – Bobby Reville

Bobby introduced himself to the community. He indicated Colt league is the high school division. He indicated there are usually 2-4 teams. Seven (7) other outside communities partner with the Colt division. The boys travel and see other community play. Bobby invited a team and coach present from Streetsboro to talk after the meeting.

4. Travel Updates

a. Girls Travel Commissioner – Jerry Lowery

Jerry introduced himself to the community. Jerry indicated the goal of the NHAA Travel Program is to keep players in the Nordonia community. Jerry indicated the four (4) Girls Travel teams – 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U. He indicated girls teams have been practicing since January. Travel tryouts happen in August. Jerry indicated the Softball Bash is filling up fast.

b. Boys Travel Commissioner – Andy Papile

X. Open Forum / Discussion / League Break-out Session

1. NHAA Clinics

Jim did indicate that future March 2023 clinics are full at 35 kids per session. Jim shared that one of the biggest things done this year is the partnership with the Nordonia High School baseball and softball varsity programs. The goal is to keep Nordonia strong in this sport through this partnership. Jim shared the excitement and fun had by all participants during the first clinic.

Jim indicated to the community that games usually are scheduled for play during the week; however, play may happen on the weekends. Jim also indicated that rain out games should be made up as soon as possible.

Jim indicated that practices will begin the week of April 17, 2023. Jim did indicate practices can be called at any time during the season as long as a field is available. The coach will need to secure a field through proper channels.

Jim indicated schedules are not set yet. Teams need to be formed first.

Jim indicated weekday games start at 6:30 p.m. with a time limit to end between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m. depending on the league. Coaches may ask for players to arrive at the field as early as 5:30 p.m.

Jim indicated the relationship being built with Nordonia High School in that Girls AAA, Girls Travel 14U, and Boys Colt used the NHS varsity fields as well as the field at Blue Jay. Not all leagues can play on these fields because field dimensions cannot be changed.

Jim reminded coaches of the mandatory coaching meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 13, 2023. Coaches were also reminded to obtain certification for concussion protocol and Lindsay's Law. Coaches must complete this in order to step on the field.

Jim thanked the community for attending and invited questions to be asked after the meeting.

Date of next NHAA General Meeting:

To Be Determined

Location of next NHAA General Meeting:

Meeting adjourned: 7:56 p.m.

NHAA Important Dates for 2023

Saturday, January 14, 2023	Registration opens
Sunday, March 5, 2023	Baseball / Softball clinic at Nordonia Middle School
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	General Meeting scheduled at Nordonia Middle School Cafeteria
Saturday, March 11, 2023	Registration closes (without late fee)
Sunday, March 12, 2023	Baseball / Softball clinic at Nordonia Middle School
Sunday, March 19, 2023	Baseball / Softball clinic at Nordonia Middle School
Week of March 27-31, 2023	Draft Week
Week of April 3-7, 2023	Nordonia Schools Spring Break
Saturday, April 8, 2023	Sponsor Information Due
Sunday, April 9, 2023	Easter Sunday
Thursday, April 13, 2023	Mandatory Coaches Training at Nordonia Middle School Cafeteria – 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
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 Nordonia Middle School Cafeteria
Saturday, May 6, 2023	Spirit Wear Pick Up (public) / Uniform Distribution Day (coaches only)
Monday, May 8, 2023	Preseason / Scrimmage games begin
Monday, May 15, 2023	Regular season begins
Saturday, May 20, 2023	Picture Day at Nordonia Middle School
Friday, May 19 – Sunday, May 21, 2023	Girls Bash at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – May 2023	General Meeting at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – June 2023	Boys Colt games begin
Friday, June 2 – Sunday, June 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 3-7, 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 10-14, 2023	Playoff Week
Saturday, July 15, 2023	Championship Saturday (Rain date will be Sunday, July 16, 2023)
Monday, July 17, 2023	NHAA Inaugural Golf Outing – Signature of Solon
Saturday, July 22, 2023	Equipment Return Day

TBD – August 2023

General Meeting at Sagamore Hills Park