

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Call to order: 7:43 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

Jerry Lowery, Girls Travel Softball Commissioner (out at 9:30)

Dave Hermann, IT and Communications

Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer (out at 9:03)

Cathy Loya, Secretary

Chad Akins, Board Member

Matt Bewley, Board Member

Kevin Bilkie, Board Member (in at 8:06)

Brian James, Board Member

Brenda Kovi, Board Member

Nick Lanese, Board Member

Melinda Malyuk, Board Member

Bobby Reville, Board Member

Kenny Sanger, Board Member

Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

Absent:

* Andy Papile, Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner

* Andy Piskula, Board Member

* These members notified Board of absence prior to meeting.

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from March 1, 2023

Jim asked if members had a chance to review the minutes from the last meeting. Jim asked for any additions, subtractions or questions to the minutes. Hearing none, Jim made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2023, meeting. Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Brenda. The minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

1. Game Day Athletics in Oakwood Village

Jim indicated Game Day Athletics has already been sold to another entity.

2. Securing fields for 2023

Jim indicated that fields for this season are all set.

a. City of Macedonia

1. Confirm all reserved as needed (Dave)

b. Sagamore Park

Jim confirmed securing fields at Sagamore Park. Jim indicated asking Sagamore Hills to spray the fields as soon as possible for weeds. Jim detailed the weather conditions needed for effective spraying and the coming weather looks perfect. This is an urgent need right now. Jim asked Mike to check other fields for weeds as well so that spraying can take place soon.

1. Concession stand update
 - a. Refrigeration lease

Jim confirmed Coca-Cola will be delivering the leased refrigeration unit on Friday, April 7. Jim worked with Sagamore Service Director Bill Cuprak to secure the new pass code to the concession stand.

- b. Opening of stand (Chad)

The first product delivery will be scheduled for April 27, 2023. Jim and Chad will meet to finalize details of a working concession stand.

- c. Northfield Village

1. Update on paperwork and payment to secure Magnolia and Smith

Jim confirmed arrangements with Northfield Village for use of Smith Park and Magnolia field.

- a. Confirm payment of \$250 per field

Scott indicated that payment has been made and the check has been cashed.

- b. Confirm securing portable restrooms needed

Jim indicated portable restrooms will be delivered the week of April 17, 2023.

- d. Nordon school fields/St. Barnabas

1. Confirmation on St. Barnabas field

Jim confirmed securing the field at St. Barnabas. Dave indicated that any construction done on church/school property will not be in the way of the field. Jim did note that spraying this field is necessary as well.

2. Confirmation on NHS varsity fields (girls softball and Boys Colt)

- a. Clarification from Athletic Director

Jim confirmed arrangements with the schools and the Athletic Director for use of the NHS varsity fields. Games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays only. This will keep the Nordon staff on-site two (2) days a week versus multiple days during the week. This was requested by the schools. Jim will file paperwork with the Athletic Director in the coming week.

3. Umpires

- a. Number of umpires

Jim indicated approximately 11-13 new umpires this season, including a Board member.

- b. Feedback on Umpire Classes

Jim confirmed successful umpire training classes.

There was a brief discussion regarding fee for umpires for travel games – including tournament games. The fee given was questioned by Chase, and Jim will confirm with Dan Lingo as there was a price discrepancy between 2022 and the fee given for 2023.

Scott inquired about the umpire fee scale for rec league umpires and Jim confirmed this was voted on and approved already. Dave confirmed this fee went up \$5 from 2022.

4. Mandatory coaching meeting – Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. NMS cafeteria

Jim asked for all available Board members to attend this coaching meeting. Jim did confirm the date, location, and time.

III. NHAA League Registration and Trustees – Updates from leagues

1. Trustee player/team selection (Kyle)

a. Trustee handbook

Kyle inquired if it is time to introduce a trustee handbook which outlines trustee obligations. In talking with others, Kyle expressed knowledge of some confusion on how teams are to be formed, the influence Board members should have on this process, and the coach's influence on the process. Kyle expressed his wish to have support in this process. Jim thinks it's a good idea to have something written out. Jim explained something like this trustee handbook once existed, as well as rules for a draft. Jim asked Kyle to take the lead on putting such a handbook together. Kyle agreed to do this. Melinda will work with Kyle on developing this handbook.

2. Updates from Girls Softball

a. Update on Western communities

Dave indicated games will be like in 2022 starting the week of May 22 and end the week of July 14. One game will be played the week of July 3 and July 10. This is for Girls A and Girls AA. Jim indicated there were some rule changes that trustees need to be made aware of. Dave indicated most recent rules are posted on the website.

Chad inquired about Girls AAA. Dave indicated only Broadview Heights has 1-1/2 to 2 teams. No other communities have teams for this age group.

b. Girls Manager Pitch (Girls – Grades 2 and 3)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Kevin

Back up: Jim

Kevin indicated teams have been formed. One more head coach is needed. Kevin reported five (5) teams for the league. Kevin has secured a few sponsors.

Kevin did inquire about benefits sponsors receive. Dave indicated sponsors receive their name in block letters on the back of each jersey, along with a logo on a banner as well as their logo posted on the NHAA website. Jim added special recognition is given at other times of the season as well (i.e. All Star Day, GMP Day, etc.). Jim encouraged Board members to continue looking for sponsors. Jim brought up one sponsor that contacted him and a discussion was had regarding this potential sponsor. Jim will follow up with this sponsor. Kevin asked about sponsorship by a political group or candidates. Members expressed no desire to mix politics with a non-profit organization.

c. Girls A League (Girls – Grades 4 and 5)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Brenda

Back up: Dustin

Brenda indicated three (3) teams have been formed. All teams now have a head coach. Sponsorship is known for only one team. Brenda indicated eleven (11) girls per team.

d. Girls AA League (Girls – Grade 6, 7 and 8)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Kyle

Back up: Nick

Nick indicated three (3) coaches for about 35-36 girls registered. A draft will be taking place tomorrow night. Nick brought to the Board that a few girls are double registered – registered for both travel league as well as rec league. Dave indicated this has happened in the past and also suggested not having them all on one team. A lengthy discussion was had on this topic and the rules were checked. There was also a discussion regarding priority play – travel priority versus rec priority. Dustin suggested having a rule in place for future situations, but keep it as-is for this season. Jerry suggested the Travel Committee discuss this topic further in the off season.

Nick asked Board members for input regarding the double registered players being on the same rec team. A discussion was had on this topic – especially regarding when it comes to pitching. Kyle indicated talking with Girls AA coaches to be sure to have assistant coaches

register via the website so that players can be more accurately identified and placed on the correct team. Jerry indicated that having a balanced team is the ultimate goal. Kyle did also express a need to evaluate players by coaches versus evaluation by parents. The current evaluation process may not be ultimately reliable. Kyle indicated the goal is for balanced teams and that may mean not following requests, etc. Jim agreed teams need to be even; games need to be competitive and fun.

Nick indicated the Girls AA draft will happen tomorrow as planned.

e. Girls AAA League (Girls – Grades 9-12)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Chad

Back up: Nick

3. Updates from Boys Baseball

a. Update on Eastern communities

1. Woodridge

Dave indicated NHAA trustees have been notified about Woodridge teams. Jim indicated that Nick Soboslay is the trustee for Woodridge Recreation Association (WRA). Woodridge is bringing in one (1) T-Ball team, one (1) Babe Ruth team, and one (1) Willie Mays team. Some individual players are registering directly through NHAA; they will get NHAA uniforms and will be apart of NHAA.

Jim indicated trying to get a meeting together with Twinsburg Baseball League (TBL) for Pee Wee Reese, but there was a need for a third coach. Jim proposed to the Board allowing Nick Soboslay the ability to register his child for this league as an NHAA Board member in exchange for agreeing to be the head coach of this third team. This coach is aware practices and games will take place in the Nordonia community and the majority of his players will be Nordonia kids. Jim asked for thoughts from Board members. Kenny shared multiple requests were made for volunteers to coach, but no one volunteered to be a head coach. No Board members had any objections.

Motion by Jim:

Move to allow Nick Soboslay's registration to be covered by NHAA in exchange for him coaching.

Motion first by Jerry. Motion second by Mike.

A unanimous voice vote was taken in favor of the motion.

Dave will follow up with Nick Soboslay regarding how to register.

2. TBL, Hudson, Stow, Aurora, etc.

b. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Chase

no back up

Chase indicated seven (7) teams with 13 players per team. An eighth team is from Woodridge. All coaches have player rosters.

c. Willie Mays (Boys – Grades 3 and 4)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Melinda

no back up

Melinda indicated six (6) NHAA teams and one (1) Woodridge team. Coaches are all set. Melinda indicated waiting on a couple sponsors. There will be 12-13 boys per team. Melinda indicated reaching out to the Woodridge commissioner with no success. Jim has also reached out to the Woodridge commissioner as Woodridge coaches will need to register through NHAA. Communication is going to come from NHAA. Dave confirmed Woodridge coaches have not registered as of yet. Melinda did also indicate messages on social media from Woodridge parents asking for information on what is happening.

d. Pee Wee Reese (Boys – Grades 5 and 6)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Kenny

Back up: Andy Piskula

Kenny indicated three (3) teams. Kenny did say that a few more kids from Woodridge may register and be allocated among teams.

e. Sandy Koufax (Boys – Grades 7 and 8)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Andy Papile

Back up: Matt

In Andy Papile's absence, Dave reported two (2) teams. Two coaches are registered. All contact information has been sent to TBL.

f. Boys Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)

1. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Bobby

Back up: Mike

Bobby indicated 33 boys registered with two (2) coaches. Bobby is trying to find a third coach. Bobby indicated more boys usually register closer to the start of the season – start will be in early June. The season will end in late July. There are a few boys registered from Streetsboro.

4. Co-ed T-Ball (Kindergarten)

a. 2023 Trustee Assignment: Cathy

no back up

Cathy reported five (5) teams formed with 12-13 players per team. She thanked Dave for sending out multiple emails to parents requesting coaches. Cathy indicated five (5) head coaches are secured. Matching coaches and players with appropriate age levels may be a challenge, but should work. Cathy indicated one (1) more sponsor is needed. Cathy confirmed with the one (1) Woodridge team, T-Ball will have six (6) teams.

IV. 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: \$66,591.00

Scott reviewed the balance and financial report. Scott indicated the balance includes registration fees received with little expenses as of yet. Scott did highlight some travel lines that show deposit and then movement to the specific travel account.

Scott confirmed payment of insurance and use of Northfield Village fields. Scott asked about form needed for rental of portable restrooms. Jim will get this printed and forwarded to the company. Scott asked Chase for legal review on paperwork. Scott wishes to have a better understanding of the agreement before signing. Chase agreed to review.

Scott asked for any questions on the report sent. Dave inquired about the fundraising dollars shown, and Scott indicated this is sponsorship monies received as well as the Culver's fundraising donation. Scott inquired about the fundraising check from Venditti Studios. Jim indicated speaking with Debbie at Venditti and it was indicated the fundraising check was sent. Jim will check the post office box for receipt.

A brief discussion was had regarding sponsorship fees being hand-delivered to Scott.

2. Board Treasurer shadow

- a. Nominations
- b. Vote

Scott would like to see the nomination and vote for a future treasurer because the job is very unique. Scott would like to begin training the new person to insure a smooth transition. A brief discussion was had. Scott asked for this be added to the next agenda for consideration. Jim asked Board members to consider the position and email Cathy if interested. This will be reviewed at the next meeting.

2. Player Development Committee

(Kenny *, Andy Piskula, Nick, _____)

- a. Chair Report
- b. Premier Fitness and Performance

Kenny will reach out to Premier Fitness and Performance to see if any new clinics will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

Kevin indicated Premier runs a softball clinic (speed and agility) on Thursday nights from 7:20 – 8:20 p.m. Kevin believes this clinic will be continuing. This clinic is geared for players under the age of 12.

c. Feedback on NHAA March clinics held at NMS

Jim reported the clinics went really well. Appreciation was given to Board members able to help. Jim indicated working with the NHS coaches and players was awesome! Jim has reached out to the Sagamore Voice to do a story on the clinics to inform the public.

Kenny indicated getting good feedback from March clinics as well.

Scott asked the Board if a 'thank you' gesture to the NHS Softball and Baseball programs would be appropriate. They did a lot to help and assist with these March clinics. Jim indicated volunteer hours were offered to all players. A brief discussion was had on the topic.

Motion by Scott: NHAA will present a \$200 gift card to the NHS Baseball program and a \$200 gift card to the NHS Softball program in appreciation for their participation in the 2023 NHAA clinics.

Motion first by Brian. Motion second by Bobby.
A unanimous voice vote was taken in favor of the motion.

Jim will forward to Scott the invoice from the Nordonia Schools for use of gym space for these clinics.

Kevin indicated securing a field for running drills with future and current girls travel players. Kevin hopes to encourage and promote girls to try out for the travel teams, which will be more competitive. Scott appreciates the drill day and very much likes the idea. Jerry indicated he likes the idea as well and hopes to see more drill days scheduled throughout the year. Scott indicated wishing to see a girls travel team at every age like for the boys travel program. Kevin agrees with Scott's notion. The topic can be discussed in the future.

3. Fields Committee

(Mike *, Brian, _____)

- a. VP of Fields/Chair Report
 - 1. Solicitation for 2023 field maintenance bid

Jim indicated bids were received for field maintenance work. Brian indicated reaching out to approximately ten (10) different companies. Brian shared a bid that was received from Prestige Landscapes and Snow Management. Brian indicated Prestige appears to understand the duties (i.e. field maintenance done daily

for up to 13 fields). Brian did confirm Prestige has a shop around here – border of Twinsburg and Aurora, but in Twinsburg; he is a parent of a Streetsboro player joining NHAA. Jim asked about the Toro unit and Brian indicated this has yet to be discussed. A brief discussion was had about keeping the Toro in the storage unit and possibly keeping the trailer locked in the back lot at Space Place.

Dave asked about the formal bid form being completed, and Brian indicated the form was sent to Prestige, but the form was not completed. It was asked that the bid form be completed. Brian indicated a prepared contract will also need to be completed. Jim suggested taking photos of the trailer and Toro, so that when these are returned they are in the same condition as when left. This is to ensure no excessive wear and tear. The Toro is a large investment, about to be paid off, and it needs to be protected.

The bid was shared and reviewed with Board members and discussed in detail. Brian did confirm work will be done in the afternoons so fields will be ready for evening game time. Completion of the formal bid form is needed.

Motion by Brian: Pending receipt of appropriate paperwork, move to accept Prestige Yardscapes and Snow Management for infield maintenance.

Motion first by Brenda. Motion second by Chad.
A unanimous voice vote was taken in favor of the motion.

2. Weed control

- a. TruGreen
- b. Lawnfection

Mike indicated bids were received regarding weed control. Mike shared with the Board bids received. The first quote reviewed was considerably less than 2022 pricing from a different company. Work to control weeds will only be done as coordinated with NHAA and Nordonias schools three (3) times a year – once before season, once toward the end of the season, and once before Fall Ball play. If proper notice is given, another application can be done if needed.

Motion by Mike: Move to accept the bid as presented from Lawnfection for \$67 per application.

Kenny asked if their work is guaranteed, and Brian indicated a guarantee is in place within reason. If within a week or two nothing has died back, Lawnfection will go back and spray again. Brian indicated once sprayed, things should be dying out within a week.

Jerry asked for clarification on the quoted price, and Brian confirmed the quoted price is per application. Brian confirmed the application price from 2022 for further clarification and comparison.

Jim asked if the company is local, and Brian confirmed this company is based in Macedonia. Brian confirmed Lawnfection is aware they may not go to Nordonias school fields while kids are there; work must be done after 4:00 or on weekends.

Nick inquired about Lawnfection being licensed, bonded, and insured. Brian confirmed the license number is on the bottom of the bid. Brian also indicated insurance

information will be shared with NHAA if the contract is approved. Brian reiterated the insurance declaration will need to be on file before any work is done. Jim indicated this needs to be shared with Nordon schools as well.

Motion first by Scott. Motion second by Cathy.
A unanimous voice vote was taken in favor of the motion.

Jim asked Mike to notify Lawnfection of winning the contract. Mike will secure necessary paperwork as soon as possible. Jim also asked Mike to contact the other bidding company that the contract was awarded to someone else.

3. Toro tune up (Brian)
 - a. Invoice to financials

Brian confirmed receipt of two (2) sets of tines. Brian will be doing the tune up on the Toro.

4. Field Maintenance Day – Saturday, April 15, 2023

Mike indicated most all park fields are equipped for the season. Anchors have all been found. School fields will be worked this week. Mike will be fine with field maintenance. Mike confirmed equipment is in good shape for field maintenance. Jim asked if help is needed for field maintenance, and Mike indicated probably not depending on weather conditions. The Toro will be needed the weekend of April 15 so that fields can be opened up for practices.

4. Equipment Committee
(Chase *, Mike, Dave, Cathy)
 - a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report
 1. Equipment Distribution Day – Saturday, April 15, 2023

Chase indicated no update.

Chase asked for help on Equipment Distribution Day because of a conflict.

5. Uniform/Awards Committee
(Cathy *, Brenda, Melinda, _____)
 - a. Chair Report
 1. Prime Time – 2023 Uniform Vendor

Cathy indicated speaking with Prime Time regarding product inventory. There are a few sizes and styles with a bit of a backorder situation.

Dave confirmed ordering and receiving more umpire shirts from Prime Time.

2. Spirit/Team shop for community – Prime Time

Cathy relayed that only six (6) orders have been made. Prime Time has extended the deadline on this Spirit Wear shop through April 16. Cathy asked trustees to please notify league coaches of the Spirit Wear shop so that coaches can then notify parents.

- b. Awards
 1. Order after formation of teams

Cathy indicated now that teams for being formed, the committee will get with trustees for final counts so that orders can be made for awards.

6. Discipline Committee
(Nick *, Bobby, Chad)
 - a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

7. Fundraising/Marketing Committee
(Nick *, Matt, Dustin, Chad)
 - a. Chair Report

1. 2023 Inaugural Golf Outing
 - a. Signature of Solon
 1. Monday, July 17, 2023
 2. Meeting and planning
 3. Registration link

Jim is hoping to get registration ready soon. Jim asked Scott about the platform within the website. Dustin was going to update the 2022 flier and advertise on social media. Jim asked if a QR code could be generated. Dave indicated payment can be taken through Sports Engine. Dustin indicated he can create a QR code and put it on any flier. A brief discussion was had on service/convenience fees that may be in play with registration. It was suggested any fees be added on top of the registration total. Dave confirmed any application will have fees associated with any transaction. Fees were discussed and these are standard charges that most people are getting use to paying.

The committee will meet soon in order for advertising to take place.

2. Off season fundraising
 - a. Restaurants
 1. Chick-fil-A
 - a. Schedule for fundraiser

Nick indicated reaching out to Chick-fil-A once and he has not received a response back yet. Nick will follow up on this.

2. Raffle Tickets
 - a. Contact Guardians
 - b. Possible fundraising opportunity

3. Advertising

Dave asked if all registration yard signs have been picked up and Nick indicated signs have not been picked up. Nick asked for volunteers to help pick up signs. Brian asked if schools can be contacted in case they might be inside the building. Jim indicated these signs were only to be up through March.

4. Sponsors
 - a. Sponsors (due by 4/8/2023)

Jim indicated checking the post office box more frequently to secure sponsor forms and payment received. Jim asked Scott to compile a list/spreadsheets of sponsors for the season and Scott will do so. Jim indicated potential sponsorship from the VFW as well as Pat Dees.

Chad noted communication regarding sponsors has been tough.

Nick wishes for the Fundraising Committee to meet and discuss ways to do the sponsorship activity differently in 2024. A proposal will be shared in the coming months so this aspect can be enhanced, utilizing the talent on the committee.

Jim reminded Board members sponsorship of teams was known at the time of registration. Another big time for sponsorship to come in is at the Coach's meeting.

b. Banners

8. Technology Committee

(Dave *, Melinda, _____)

- a. IT and Communications/Chair Report
- b. Update on registration (Dave to report)

Dave indicated teams are being added to Sports Engine and half of the practices are built in. Coaches are being finalized.

Dave reminded trustees that teams are to be in on Friday.

c. IT/Scheduling shadow – Melinda

Dave indicated going through things with Melinda and she was thanked for volunteering.

9. Strategic Planning Committee

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

- a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

10. Travel Committee

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

- a. Girls Travel Softball Commissioner Report

Jerry gave an update on the Girls Bash.

- Girls 14U – 9 teams (one more can be taken)
- Girls 12U – 14 teams
- Girls 10U – 6 teams

Jerry indicated the Bash is coming along fine. More teams are expected.

Jerry and Jim will be meeting to finalize some Bash details.

Jerry indicated he is documenting the project plan for putting the Girls Bash together. Jerry will get feedback so this can be used in future years.

Jerry indicated scheduling meetings are on Sunday.

Uniforms have been ordered and should be delivered in about three (3) weeks.

b. Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner Report

1. Nordon Knights Varsity/Junior Varsity baseball game invitation

Jim appreciates Kyle's efforts to get young players with NHS varsity teams. This is a good thing that should be promoted. Kyle asked for follow up on other travel teams interested so that arrangements can be made. A brief discussion was had on the topic. Kyle indicated he does not mind being a contact for making the final arrangements. Jim asked Melinda for a Sign Up Genius, but Melinda indicated further conversation/approval with the head coach is needed. If final dates are obtained, she will make a Sign Up Genius.

Jim and Jerry will discuss doing something similar for the girls as well. Kyle indicated Coach Rizzo is willing to participate.

V. Open Discussion

1. Off season review of league rules

- a. Match Boys Babe Ruth with Girls Manager Pitch (Melinda updating)

1. No strikeouts for both leagues
2. Use of umpires

Jim asked about these updates to the rules, and Melinda indicated they have been updated. She has them ready to send to Dave. The goal is to have rules the same for Babe Ruth and GMP. Kevin asked when this was discussed. A further discussion was had so that both Babe Ruth and GMP rules keep the game moving, as well as keep the players engaged in the action by having the ball in play. Jim asked if Board members agreed with discussed rules and Kevin asked to see the rule changes before posting. Jim asked Melinda to forward rule changes to all Board members before posting.

2. Community play (Dustin)
3. All Star team for Rec girls to play at Rec League Tournament (Dustin)
4. Picture Day 2023 (Melinda)
 - a. Electronic vote March 6, 2023
 1. Venditti Studios – Saturday, May 20, 2023, at NMS indoors

Melinda indicated Venditti Studios confirmed the date for pictures. Jim indicated the Girls Bash is taking place on the same date at the same location. Melinda indicated Venditti Studios did propose two dates. Jim expressed concern of a later date for pictures because it might mean a later receipt date of those pictures. Melinda indicated she will contact Venditti Studios again regarding a different date which will still guarantee pictures by All-Star Day (June 24). It was also discussed to move pictures to a different location.

5. Field work between summer play and fall play
6. Date for April General Meeting

Jim confirmed there will be no April General Meeting.

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: _____ Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 8:30 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: _____ Sagamore Hills Park – Upper Pavilion

Meeting adjourned: _____ 9:40 p.m.