

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 8:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Call to order: 9:06 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present:

Jim Filisky, President
Kevin Bilkie, Vice President (in at 9:08)
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment
Mike Graham, VP of Fields
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Matt Bewley, Board Member
Kyle Deininger, Board Member
Brian James, Board Member
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member (out at 10:32)
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Julie Moran, Board Member (in at 9:27; out at 10:28)
Bobby Reville, Board Member (out at 10:41)
Kenny Sanger, Board Member

Present via Telephone:

Absent:

Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Nicole Gvora, Board Member
Marc Sprang, Board Member

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from July 6, 2022

Jim made the motion to accept the minutes from the July 6, 2022, meeting. Motion first by Brenda.
Motion second by Matt. A unanimous voice vote was taken and the minutes were accepted.

II. President's Report

1. Final on Macedonia Summer Fest fundraiser (Beer Tent)

Jim gave a financial breakdown regarding this event.

Pay Pal receipts: ~~\$191.00~~

* Corrected Pay Pal receipts: \$190.00

NHAA payment to House of LaRose - \$3,431.88

NHAA cash withdrawn as change - \$1,000.00

Total withdrawn - \$4,431.88

NHAA income from event - \$8,921.00

Cash income counted multiple times by Jim, Dave, and Brenda the final night of the event.

Pal Pal receipts - ~~\$ 191.00~~

*Corrected Pay Pal receipts - \$ 190.00

House of LaRose reimbursement payment - ~~\$1,400.00~~

* Corrected House of LaRose reimbursement -	\$1,076.50
Balance -	\$6,080.00
* Corrected Balance -	\$5,755.62
30% payment to Macedonia Rec -	\$1,824.00
* Corrected 30% payment to Macedonia Rec -	\$1,726.68
NHAA Net Fundraising -	\$4,256.00
* Corrected NHAA Net Fundraising -	\$4,028.94

* Corrected dollar values given via email from Jim on July 21, 2022.

Jim will finalize with the City of Macedonia.

Jim indicated this was a very good fundraiser for NHAA and appreciates the efforts of those who were able to volunteer time to the event.

2. Sagamore Hills Park concession stand – calendar year 2023

Jim indicated that the concession stand was used for tournaments and for staging, but the concession stand was not maximized for 2022. Jim asked for a business plan to be developed on how NHAA can use this concession stand as a fundraising opportunity. A cost analysis is needed, and Nick volunteered his time and efforts to prepare this because of his experience with developing these reports. Cost of purchasing non-perishable items so that additional food permits are not needed, as well as the cost of refrigeration will need to be included with the cost analysis report. Jim stressed the need for Board member volunteers to work the stand. After a plan is developed, Jim wishes to present this plan to the Sagamore Hills Trustees and go from there. The Fundraising Committee with work on this project so this plan can be presented at the NHAA General meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 10, 2022. Presentation of a plan to the community may also spark more interest in this fundraising opportunity, as well as possibly attract new Board members.

A brief discussion was had regarding cost of a commercial-grade refrigerator.

3. End-of-Season awards discussion

Jim discussed communication received with the community regarding trophies and medals with regards to first place and second place. The community member received email responses from Jim, Brenda, and Melinda regarding the fact that second place medals were purchased by a parent alone and not by NHAA for Willie Mays.

Jim reminded the Board that things must be done universally through all leagues.

Jim indicated that a few years ago the community was asked if second place awards/medals should be given, and the response was just for first place trophies to be awarded to the more competitive leagues (Girls A, Girls AA, Girls AAA, Millie Ways, Pee Wee Reese, Sandy Koufax, and Colt). Participation awards for the younger leagues (GMP, Babe Ruth, and T-Ball) are given to all players to keep these kids engaged for years to come. Jim asked Board members if the issue of awards should be readdressed (i.e. all competitive leagues get first place and second place awards or all competitive leagues get only first place trophies). Melinda indicated that with the Uniform committee taking on the awards aspect, that they can decide how to proceed in the future after presentation to the Board.

Brenda indicated she did not know what to say when first receiving this message from the community member. Brenda felt bad and was approached by a Girls A coach who would have purchased second place trophies. Brenda also said that she received a lot of flack from coaches on the situation when delivering first place trophies. Kevin indicated from his experience that

coaches should have known that only the first place team received a trophy. Jim reiterated the importance of keeping things the same through all leagues.

Kenny inquired about looking at league participation in regards to age group when it comes to awards. Kenny pointed out that there are many players involved in the Willie Mays league and that providing a second place award would keep these kids engaged to continue playing in the next league, Pee Wee Reese, where there are fewer players. A lengthy discussion was had on the topic. Matt inquired about the cost of the trophies and suggested that every league get a second place award. Jim reiterated again the importance of keeping things consistent throughout all leagues – whether only first place award or whether giving both first place and second place awards.

Kenny indicated the number of players in Willie Mays does not translate to the next league, Pee Wee Reese. Seeing both leagues, Kenny indicated he heard from many people involved in Willie Mays this season who will not be going to Pee Wee Reese next year. Kenny also heard from Pee Wee Reese coaches that players will not move up from Willie Mays; Willie Mays has 7 teams and Pee Wee Reese has 3 teams. Kenny pointed out a loss of approximately 40 players between the two leagues. Nick saw Kenny's concerns as a bigger discussion than just second place medals. Matt expressed that medals are not going to retain players in NHAA. Matt also shared that kids at this age find other sports/activities to be involved with and leave NHAA. Jim expressed that kids at this age also may decide to play/tryout for Travel Ball (also Club teams); every community faces this issue. Retrospectively, NHAA has been losing players throughout the years as more club opportunities get established in the surrounding areas. Jim stressed the importance of keeping NHAA strong and focus on that goal.

Kenny also brought up to Board members at this time overall field conditions (i.e. weeds at Sagamore Park, Ledgeview issues, etc). Kenny indicated that field conditions are another deterrent for parents to not play NHAA ball. Kenny indicated his desire to do what is best for the community, best for the kids, and to make sure that NHAA keeps going. Kenny indicated injuries at fields because of a not secure home plate and balls bouncing off of weeds and rocks in the infield. Kenny wishes to see second place medals to possibly keep a few more kids interested in playing, especially older kids.

Jim reiterated the area fields are not owned by NHAA. The NHAA only has access to these fields. NHAA does a lot with the fields. A lengthy discussion was had with Kenny and Brian regarding overall field conditions. Kenny indicated after hearing from several parents that people are leaving NHAA because of overall field conditions. Brian indicated that surrounding communities take care of their own fields. Brian indicated that certain things cannot be done to the fields by NHAA (such as spraying school fields, water issues, etc.). Brian asked that coaches fill in the holes at the pitcher's mound and batter's boxes after games. Community fields require the community to work together to take care of them. Brian gave an example of how a surrounding community maintains their fields with full time employees versus Brian, who is one person, who maintains fifteen fields with many restrictions on what can be done. Brian asked for suggestions on how to better maintain fields.

Kenny asked why Ledgeview continues to be a field used if problems continually persist. Kenny suggested that we respond to what the community is saying. Mike reminded the Board that these field topics being discussed is the reason that NHAA is preparing field rehabilitation at Sagamore Field #4 and the NMS field. Both of these fields will accommodate Pee Wee Reese games. Mike also reminded the Board field conditions at Ledgeview are not being ignored; rather proper channels need to be followed in order to have continued access to these fields. Jim indicated the field rehabilitation projects planned for Sagamore Field #4 and the NMS field will show the community that improvements are being made. Jim asked Mike to reach out to Rich to get the infield conditioner ready for application. Jim is looking forward to hearing from the community on the issues discussed here.

A brief discussion was had regarding holding off on rehabbing the NMS field because of potential future development plans at the current Middle School property.

4. Golf Outing

a. Current info

1. Date: Sunday, July 31, 2022

2. Venue: Roses Run in Stow

b. Discuss change in date and/or possible change in venue

1. Open dates per Roses Run (as of July 18, 2022)

a. Monday, September 19, 2022

b. Friday, September 23, 2022 (confirm date)

c. Sunday, September 25, 2022 (need minimum of 100 golfers)

Matt reported low registration (6 teams) so far for the July 31st Golf Outing, so the option was discussed to postpone the outing until the fall. Matt and Jim will meet to discuss the Golf Outing and both will work to plan the event. Melinda indicated that no payment was received yet from any registrants, so no reimbursement will need to be made. Matt will communicate with Roses Run to cancel the July 31st outing. Jim expressed that this inaugural Golf Outing needs to be set up for success to carry it into the future. Melinda will communicate with current registrants that the Golf Outing is just delayed until the fall. Continued promotion of the event is needed.

III. Trustee Final League Reports

1. Girls Softball

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

1. Primary: Kevin Back up: Jim

a. Feedback on GMP Day (July 9, 2022)

Kevin indicated GMP Day went well with popsicles and trophies for all participants. Two games were had and Kevin reported it to be pretty successful and well organized.

b. Girls A (Girls – Grades 4 and 5)

1. Primary: Brenda Back up: Julie

Brenda reported that Girls A went well.

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

1. Primary: Nikki Back up: Kyle

Kyle indicated that everything went well. Kyle appreciated Jim's help with some situations and expressed that the coaches were understanding of these situations.

d. Girls AAA (Girls – Grades 9-12)

1. Primary: Nick Back up: _____

Nick indicated talking with Mike Smith, WRL Commissioner, regarding pitching concerns and that Mike would give out a general reminder to 18U Premier teams that they should not be going with a top pitcher against NHAA teams, as our teams come from a long pedigree of recreational play. Nick will be invited to future conversations with the WRL. Jim asked Nick to discuss with Mike the issue of a run limit for when WRL teams play against NHAA teams, so that additional innings can be played.

2. Boys Baseball

a. Babe Ruth (Boys – Grades 1 and 2)

1. Primary: Chase Back up: _____

a. Feedback on Babe Ruth Day (July 9, 2022)

Chase indicated that all is good.

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

1. Primary: Melinda Back up: _____

Melinda indicated no problems. She indicated receiving positive feedback from parents at the Willie Mays final playoff game.

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

1. Primary: Kenny Back up: Mike

Kenny reported all good. Issues were previously discussed.

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

1. Primary: Andy Back up: _____

Dave reported in Andy's absence and reported that all teams were eliminated in the first round. The only complaints received back from TBL was that NHAA teams were not following pitching limits and recording pitch counts. No other complaints were received from TBL.

e. Colt (Boys – Grades 9-12)

1. Primary: Bobby Back up: _____

Bobby did discuss with the Board an incident at one of the games that was handled by coaches. Two of the three Colt teams have been eliminated, but Nick reported that one team is still playing.

3. Co-ed T-Ball (Kindergarten)

- a. Primary: Cathy Back up: Marc

1. Results from end-of-season survey from coaches

Cathy shared with the Board a survey created for the twelve T-Ball coaches. Five responses were received. Cathy pointed out the trouble finding volunteer coaches at the beginning of the season and how at the end of the season, the five respondents indicated that they would consider coaching again with NHAA. Cathy reported that respondents would like to see more structure – instructional guidance and/or drills for practices, more structure with games – making a play at first and the runner is out and leaves the field. Cathy reminded the Board of the issue of the ages of the players ranging from age 3 to age 6, suggesting to refer age 3 and 4 year old players to the Macedonia Rec program.

Cathy also reported to the Board that coaches, through the survey, indicated that parents were disappointed with the timeliness of getting pictures back – parents who ordered buttons to wear could not wear them because league play was over. Jim briefly discussed Picture Day and the contractor used. Jim expressed that Epic PhotoGraphic reached out to NHAA and wants to talk about doing work together in the future. Venditti Studios does a great job with photography and they have a timeline to work with.

2. Training packets for new coaches

IV. 2022 Fall Ball Preparation

1. Registration (closes July 29, 2022)

- a. Total to date
- b. League practices start Aug. 15
- c. Game schedule – weekends from Aug. 20 through Oct. 23

Dave indicated that currently there are around 60 registrants for Fall Ball. Dave reported that 2021 ended the season with 237 registrants.

2. Leagues to participate

Jim indicated that typical Fall Ball registers as many players as possible. There may not be enough players for certain leagues.

3. Coordination with outside communities

Jim indicated that NHAA is working with outside communities to continue play (i.e. TBL, Aurora). Dave indicated his discussion with Hudson and partnering up with them as in past years. A brief discussion was had about outside communities and their timeline for play. Jim and Dave will continue conversations with these outside communities.

4. Coaches

5. Umpire availability

Kenny asked about Fall Ball schedule being flexible to work with fall football leagues (Saturday play). Kyle also wants to see flexibility to work with cheerleading schedules (Saturday cheer). Dave indicated working around football leagues/cheerleading in previous years and look to do the same this season. Jim reminded the Board that Fall Ball games cannot be pushed too late in the day because of limited daylight in the fall season – a 4:00 start may be the latest to start a game.

Chase inquired about scheduling Fall Ball games on Sundays. A brief discussion was had and Jim pointed out this can be done as long as there is field access, field prep availability, and umpire availability. Jim indicated that he will submit field reservation paperwork for Fall Ball to various municipalities. Jim reminded Board members that early Fall Ball games are tried to be played during the week, but then moved to the weekend once we get further into the fall due to daylight.

Chase indicated hearing from community members that people wait to register for Fall Ball once other schedules are known, but Sundays are a good open day for many. Kenny agreed with getting the same feedback as Chase. Dave suggested spreading the word that other fall schedules will be worked around. Kyle suggested locking up Sunday play to share with the community.

Nick inquired about Girls AAA for Fall Ball entering the WRL and Jim responded that it depends on the community interest. Jim indicated that WRL Fall Ball will be starting very soon. Nick wants to remind girls aging out of Girls AA that they can play in Girls AAA. Jim suggested that Nick speak with Mike at WRL to secure dates for registration and see if a team can be formed.

V. Committee Reports

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

1. Finance Committee

(Scott *, Matt, Kyle)

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

1. Current financial report
2. Open invoices

No report given.

2. Skills Clinic Committee

(Kenny, Kevin, Scott, Marc)

a. Chair Report

No report given.

3. Fields Committee

(Mike *, Brian, Kevin)

a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

1. Review of field maintenance project

- a. Prepare and schedule for conditioner application prior to Fall Ball Season
 - b. Sagamore Park dirt and spray application
- 2. Fall Ball 2022 field maintenance contract – bid process

No report given.

4. Strategic Planning Committee

(Jim *, Bobby, Kevin, Scott, Nick, Mike)

- a. Chair Report
- b. Update on written future strategic plan to guide focused fundraising efforts

No report given.

5. Equipment Committee

(Chase *, Mike, Dave)

- a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report
 - 1. Equipment Return Date – ~~Saturday, July 23, 2022~~
 - a. Updated to Wednesday, July 20, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 - b. Volunteers

Chase appreciated Mike's help on July 20th. Chase reported that a handful of coaches returned equipment. Chase reported 21 still outstanding. Mike tied all shin guards together for next equipment handout. Volunteers spoke up to report to Space Place on Saturday, July 23rd (9-10 am) to receive equipment. Dave, Mike, Brenda, and Cathy volunteered to be there.

6. Uniform Committee

(Julie *, Brenda, Cathy)

- a. Chair Report
 - 1. Fall Ball uniforms
 - a. RDP Quote
 - 1. Delivery closer to August 18, 2022

Cathy reported Julie's conversations with Sue at RDP. Cathy reported that RDP will need final numbers right after registration closes and that delivery will be closer to August 18, 2022. Quoted fall pricing was shared with the Board and there was a significant increase on product versus the spring. Nick highlighted there is nearly a 40% increase. RDP based the quoted pricing off the total registrants from 2021. Speculation was given on the increase from the current economic conditions to the smaller volume versus the spring/summer season. Jim suggested contacting a different vendor for comparative pricing. Cathy pointed out that the bid says that if the bid is awarded in the spring then it's awarded for the fall. Cathy and Brenda reported that further work will be done and will be reported back to the Board.

7. Discipline Committee

(Nick *, Bobby, Marc)

- a. Chair Report

No report given.

8. Player Development Committee

(Andy, Nikki, Kenny)

- a. Chair Report

No report given.

9. Marketing and Fundraising Committee

(Melinda *, Nick, Matt)

a. Chair Report

1. Update on fundraiser opportunities

a. Restaurants

1. Presentation of Culver's donation (Monday, April 25, 2022)

No report given.

10. Technology Committee

(Dave *, Melinda, Mike)

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

No report given.

VI. Travel Update

1. Travel Coordinator Report

a. League updates

1. Recap on 2022 Travel season

2. 2023 Tryout Schedule

a. Boys Travel (see attached with times listed)

1. 8U (Coach Brumfield) – Dates are July 18 and July 21 at Longwood
2. 9U (Coach TBD) – Dates are Aug. 2 and Aug. 10 at Sagamore Park
3. 10U (Coach Senk) – Dates are July 19 and Aug. 3 at Longwood
4. 11U (Coach Brumfield) – Dates are July 18 and July 21 at Longwood
5. 12U (Coach May) – Dates are July 28 and Aug. 2 at Sagamore Park

b. Girls Travel (see attached with times listed)

1. 10U (Coach Griffith) – Dates are July 24 and July 31 at Sagamore Park
2. 12U (Coach TBD) – Dates are July 24 and July 30 at Sagamore Park
3. 14U (Coach TBD) – Dates are July 24 and July 30 at Sagamore Park
4. 18U (Coach Filisky) – Dates are July 24 and July 30 at Sagamore Park

Jim thanked Melinda for putting together and posting the Travel Tryout fliers.

The Travel Tryout schedule was reviewed. Jim reported that a previous coach has a lead on previous players who are looking to come back and build an 18U team. Jim reported that Girls 10U will be coached by Coach Brian Griffith and Coach Scott Lanzilotta. Coaches for Girls 12U and Girls 14U are yet to be determined. Jim asked that anybody interested in coaching in 12U and/or 14U to contact Jim. Volunteers for the Girls Travel Tryouts are needed.

b. Additional feedback on 2022 Girls Bash: May 20 – 22, 2022 (financial)

1. Financial Review:

26 teams – collected \$11,050.00

Expenses = \$8,186.00

Balance = \$2,864.00 (Each team net = \$1,432.00)

2. Payment to City of Macedonia

Jim reviewed the numbers listed above. Payment to the City of Macedonia for use at Longwood Park was discussed. Umpire fees were reported as \$4,440.00. Softballs were reported as \$750.00 for 10 dozen softballs.

VII. Calendar Review

1. Fall Ball registration closes – Friday, July 29, 2022

2. Golf Outing – Sunday, July 31, 2022 ??

3. August General Meeting – Wednesday, August 10, 2022 at Sagamore Park

4. Fall Ball season begins – Monday, August 15, 2022

VIII. Open Discussion

Jim highlighted and congratulated the Boys 12U Travel Team and Coach Lanzilotta currently playing in Tennessee during the Ripken tournament. They are doing so great! They were awarded this special invitation because of their great play in Cooperstown. Jim pointed out the great play and the wonderful experience for these young players! A local NHAA travel team is having great success against premier teams.

Brenda discussed about parents making coach requests when signing up for Fall Ball. A discussion was had regarding honoring coach requests versus a player draft versus not honoring any coach requests at all. Making teams even is the ultimate goal. Jim shared with the Board how he conducted drafts in the past with players being drafted, and then coaches discuss trading players and agree to these trades. Jim discussed about honoring as many requests as possible and how this is stated on the website when players are registered by parents. Further discussion was had relative to specific leagues.

Kyle discussed making and creating younger leagues to be more developmental versus three practices and then play games. Kyle discussed age ranges with GMP and how some players have left the league because developmentally they are not progressing. A creative focal point for next season is needed in order to keep younger players more engaged. Jim suggested that the Skills Committee work to offer clinics to these younger age groups. Jim also suggested shortening up games in order to have a combined practice in order to focus both teams on a specific skill. Kyle wishes to see something beyond the coach level and have this developmental process be more of an NHAA program way to develop younger players. Kyle and Kevin will work together to make suggestions on how players are drafted, how practices are conducted, and how games are played. This will be presented to the Board before next season. With a broad range of abilities, it is a challenge to balance a league. Kenny gave his experience with GMP this season where more instructional games were played. Chase suggested that teams have more practices; coaches need to arrange this. Chase also stated that GMP should not have strikeouts; the girls should be putting the ball in play every time. GMP should be reflective of Babe Ruth.

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, August 3, 2022 **Time:** 8:30 p.m.

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

Meeting adjourned: 10:42 p.m.