

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Call to order: 8:02 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
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Chad Akins, Board Member (in at 8:11 p.m.)
Matt Bewley, Board Member (in at 8:38 p.m.)
Kevin Bilkie, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member
Andy Piskula, Board Member
Bobby Reville, Board Member
Kenny Sanger, Board Member
Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

Absent:

Andy Papile, Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner
Brian James, Board Member
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from September 7, 2022

Jim asked if any additions needed to be made to the minutes. Hearing none, he made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2022, meeting. Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Jerry. A unanimous voice vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

Jim indicated areas of focus: (1) finalizing Fall Ball, (2) setting up dates for the upcoming year, (3) getting some of the committee reports active, and (4) plans for additional field upgrades.

1. Sagamore Hills Township

a. Information regarding field upgrades at Sagamore Park – to present to Township

Jim asked Scott to provide a financial breakdown for the amount of money invested into the field (Field #4 – Peters) at Sagamore Park. Jim wishes to present this information at the upcoming Sagamore Hills Township Trustee meeting, which is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2022. Scott indicated paying the bill for the work done, but the invoice did not reflect specifics on each field. Scott suggested contacting Brian for this information. Mike indicated that billing for each field was not done separately. For instance, one Skid Steer was rented and used for both fields upgraded. Mike will provide in writing for Jim the material cost per field. Jim will look for this written information so that a financial report can be prepared for both Sagamore Hills Township and Nordonia Schools. The report will include material cost, labor time, etc. Jim asked that Scott be copied on this written correspondence.

- b. Permission for another field upgrade at Sagamore Park
- c. Concession stand use for 2023

Jim reported that there are no new updates on the concession stand.

Cathy asked if Sagamore Hills Township has given NHAA permission to use the concession stand for 2023. Jim indicated that these conversations will not happen until January 2023, but there are no foreseen issues that would prevent NHAA from utilizing this stand. Jim will express to Sagamore Hills Township at their October 2022 Trustee Meeting that NHAA wishes to utilize this concession stand for 2023 as done in 2022.

Cathy wanted to express to the Board the intentions of the Boys 12U Baseball team for using the concession stand this summer for the Boys Bash. Cathy let the Board know of conversations at the team meeting where parents would like to secure a temporary food permit from Summit County in order to offer a wider selection of concession options including hot food. A brief discussion was had on this topic.

Nick and Cathy will discuss this topic further as it relates to permission, food-grade refrigeration, staffing, etc., for the concession stand.

2. Nordonia Hills City Schools

- a. Information regarding field upgrades at Nordonia Middle School (NMS) – to present to School Board

Jim asked Scott to provide a financial breakdown for the amount of money invested into the field at Nordonia Middle School (NMS). Mike will provide this information in writing. Please see notes above for more information.

III. 2022 Fall Ball

1. Feedback on Fall Ball season

Jim wanted brief feedback from each league.

Jim asked if everyone has had a chance to play at Sagamore Park on Field #4 (Peters). Kenny indicated that he has not had a chance to play on this field yet and would like to do so if possible. Dave indicated that a few girls softball games had to move from Field #2 to Field #4 due to wet field conditions.

Jim asked if Sunday play has been working for everyone, and no members expressed any issues.

Jim indicated that if girls numbers are low in the future, then splitting the leagues as done this fall is a great alternative.

a. T-Ball (co-ed)

1. Trustee – Cathy Loya

Cathy thanked Brian for lining the fields for the T-Ball kids. Cathy let the Board know that the T-Ball kids are having a good time and learning a few things along the way. Cathy did share with the Board the intentions of having a pizza party after the last game, which is Saturday, October 22, and will extend an invitation to Brian. An invitation was also extended to other Board members as well.

b. Baseball Updates

1. Babe Ruth

a. Trustee – Chase Senk

Chase had nothing to report.

2. Willie Mays

a. Trustee – Melinda Malyuk

No report given in Melinda's absence.

Dave asked if Kenny had any input regarding Willie Mays this fall because of coaching in this league. Kenny indicated that practices have been a bit difficult to schedule due to the rainy weather. Kenny indicated everything has been pretty good. Kenny also indicated that playing Hudson has been a good experience because of traveling to a different field. Everything has been fine with no issues.

3. Pee Wee Reese

a. Trustee – Kenny Sanger

Kenny had nothing to report. He indicated that all has been good.

4. Sandy Koufax

a. Trustee – Andy Papile

No report given in Andy's absence.

5. Colt

a. Trustee – Bobby Reville

Bobby indicated no issues.

Dave indicated that the Colt league has finished for the fall. The playoffs happened, and both NHAA teams were eliminated.

Jim asked for feedback from Scott since he was involved with the league. Scott indicated that it was tough to schedule practices due to field availability. Approval could not be obtained for use of the NHS Varsity Field, so Scott worked with Dave for use of a field in Macedonia. Scott pointed out the challenges with field use because of the field dimensions needed for Colt play. Scott indicated this affected play because opposing teams had regular practices throughout the season, while one NHAA Colt team had only two practices all season. Dave indicated that the NHS Varsity Field was having drainage work done and that prevented use of this field. Hopefully in the future the field will be more accessible. Jim did explain that a Nordonia staff member must be present if an NHS field is in use.

Scott wishes for a more proactive approach to using the NHS Varsity Field for practices during the week. The Board will follow up on this in the future.

c. Softball Updates

1. A League (Grades 3-6)

a. Trustee – Brenda Kovi

No report given in Brenda's absence.

Dustin indicated that everything went pretty well with good competitive teams. Dustin indicated getting in all games except for one game. League play for Girls A is now complete.

2. AA League (Grades 7-9)

a. Trustee – Kyle Deininger

Kyle indicated that everything is good.

IV. Committee Reports

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

Cathy did confirm that names listed underneath each Committee title are those registered on the SignUp Genius as of October 4, 2022. Cathy also confirmed that blank lines indicated open committee slots.

Nick indicated he would like to join the Player Development Committee.

1. Finance Committee

(Scott *, Kenny, Matt)

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

1. Current financial report

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

Current Balance: \$35,110.31

Scott addressed the issue of duplicated transactions within QuickBooks. This issue was noticed by the accountant and is being rectified. Scott wanted to make Board members aware of this issue.

Scott made available to all Board members the monthly statement directly from the Huntington account. A number of larger transactions were reviewed on the statement including the uniform invoice.

- 2. Open invoices
- 3. Travel fees due

Scott indicated one coach has outstanding travel dues.

Jim indicated the importance of transferring funds like other teams. Until those accounts are accessible by NHAA, then maybe fields and practice time need to be withheld. The Board will follow up on this at the next meeting.

Scott will contact this coach again. Scott will let this coach know that electronic payments options (such as Zelle and/or PayPal) are now available.

Jerry, Dustin, and Kevin need to be set up with travel accounts. Jim and Scott will work with these coaches in order to schedule a convenient time for all to meet at the bank to complete signature cards.

4. Filing of taxes (with accountant)

Scott confirmed that the accountant is working on the taxes.

2. Player Development Committee

(Kenny *, Andy Piskula, _____, _____)

a. Chair Report

b. Premier Fitness and Performance proposal follow up

Kenny discussed conversations with Mike Caza at Premier Fitness. Kenny indicated this program is for children ages 10 and up. The program is for strength, conditioning, speed, and agility training. Kenny indicated having a great conversation with Mike Caza. Mike Caza indicated doing something for coaches/parents; clinics on stretching, speed, agility

training; give NHAA \$500 for uniforms; and all NHAA needs to do is send out three (3) emails. Kenny wanted to talk further with committee members as well as visit the facility himself. Kenny reiterated that this program is strictly for speed and agility training; not baseball training.

Kevin indicated that his girls have gone to Premier Fitness. Kevin confirmed the type of training that they offer. Kevin also indicated that they translate the training into sports. This program is to improve quickness and agility.

Kenny asked regarding the number of email addresses that NHAA has access to. Dave indicated there are over 2,000 email addresses registered with NHAA now through Sports Engine.

Scott asked about the terms. Kenny indicated \$500 would be given to NHAA by Premier Fitness to go towards uniforms in exchange for sending out three (3) email blasts. Mike Caza will provide the template to be sent in this email blast. Kenny went on to indicate that a coaches/parents clinic will be offered along with two (2) player clinics all at no charge. NHAA would then need to work with Mike Caza regarding dates of these clinics as well as the number of participants. Kenny reminded Board members that these player clinics would be for kids ages 10 and up.

Scott suggested getting half or all of the money up front before sending out emails. Kenny will address this specific topic with Mike Caza. Kenny did indicate that Mike Caza has invited Board members to visit the facility first.

Nick asked if there is a clause or agreement with Mike Caza at Premier Fitness that they will not scout players and take them for their purposes. Kenny indicated that Premier Fitness is not a baseball facility; they strictly do strength, conditioning, speed, agility, etc. training. Nick understands this fact, but wanted to note that a good athlete can be spotted during this training. Jim indicated that Mike Caza will not be seeing any email addresses; all emails will be sent through Sports Engine on the behalf of Premier Fitness. The Board appreciated Nick's questions in order to protect NHAA and its athletes.

Cathy asked if there is a minimum requirement of participants for each clinic. Kenny will discuss this type of more specific information soon with Mike Caza. Kenny did indicate that Mike Caza is willing to do more than one clinic (both player and coaches/parents). Kenny wants to see the facility for himself to gauge the size/capacity and then figure out clinic capacity.

Jim asked that all Player Development Committee members (Kenny, Andy Piskula, and Nick) go to Premier Fitness to look at the facility, and provide feedback and dates at the next Board meeting.

- c. Off season clinic planning
 - 1. Player clinics
 - 2. Coaching clinics
- 3. Fields Committee
 - (Mike *, Brian, _____)
 - a. VP of Fields/Chair Report
 - 1. Quote from Sagamore Soils regarding additional field upgrade at Sagamore Park

Jim asked about further quotes from Walker Supply and Mike gave the following quoted information received the morning of October 5, 2022: \$80.95 per ton. Twenty-four (24) tons would be \$1,943.00. This product would be picked up by Sagamore Soils, delivered to Sagamore Park, and then a slinger truck would be used to get the product onto the field. The use of a slinger truck eliminates the need to rent a Skid Steer. The approximate cost for delivery would be \$1,700.00.

Sagamore Soils approximate cost: \$1,700.00
Walker Supply approximate cost: \$1,943.00
Total: \$3,643.00

Jim asked that Mike write all of this information up in an email to send to all Board members for review. Jim indicated this information will be needed to present at the upcoming October 11, 2022, Sagamore Hills Trustee Meeting. Jim did explain that weather conditions and soggy ground may prevent this from happening this year.

Jim confirmed that Sagamore Park Field #2 (Speerbrecher) would be the next field to upgrade. Jim asked about infield mix to fill in some low spots and then top dress with the Walker Clay. Having product in place prior to winter will allow fields to set.

Kenny asked regarding maintenance of fields in surrounding communities, such as Hudson. Kenny indicated that they have a huge bin of clay product at the fields in order to fill in holes (i.e. pitching mound, batter's boxes, etc.). Kenny asked if something like this can be done with the fields NHAA uses. Jim indicated that Sagamore Hills Township will not allow dirt to be stored behind any backstop. Jim also indicated that Sagamore Hills Township will not allow dirt to be stored back by the Sagamore Hills Service Center either. Jim suggested getting a pallet of the Washington Clay in bags and have that product stored at the storage unit and to be used as needed. Bags would be made available inside the field boxes as well.

Jim indicated speaking with Brian about getting new tines for the Toro because fields are being dragged with short tines and scalping the fields. Proper tines will be needed in order to prevent damage.

2. Collection of equipment prior to winter

Mike and Chase will work together to collect all of the equipment from area community and school fields. Everything will be stored in the storage unit for winter. Jim indicated that all signage must be removed from area fields along with wind screens. Sagamore Hills Township does not want these up for the wintertime.

It was confirmed that the home run fences are down at Sagamore Hills Park and are back in the storage unit. Mike and Brian were thanked for removing these fences.

3. Repairs before winter

4. Equipment Committee

(Chase *, Mike, Dave, Cathy)

a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

1. Update on equipment return from spring/summer season

Chase indicated that one team has equipment outstanding from the spring/summer season. It is a Girls AAA coach and she will be contacted again to coordinate a time to return equipment. Nick will also contact her.

2. Return date for Fall Ball equipment

Dave indicated that no formal Fall Ball equipment return date has been set, but the committee will work to get this scheduled. Coaches will be notified.

3. New equipment quotes

- a. Baseballs/softballs
- b. Feathers

Chase indicated that the new equipment order was placed last year in December/January, but this year Chase would like to place the order in November. Chase indicated he will be coming to the Board next month with quotes. Chase did indicate that there is a lot of equipment already housed at the storage unit. For example:

- * There are 35 dozen baseballs
- * There are 15 dozen 12" softballs
- * There are 20 dozen 11" softballs

Jim asked about baseballs for T-Ball play, and Chase indicated that there is tons of this product in the storage unit. Jim also asked that bases, pitcher's rubbers, etc. be checked and replaced as needed. Mike asked about ordering anchors and feathers, and these will be added to the order.

Chase indicated that prices have gone up on product. He will continue to seek quotes for product from suppliers such as BSN, PrimeTime, along with any other company recommended. Chase indicated that a good bulk of product was ordered from BSN last year along with Play it Again Sports in Twinsburg. Chase indicated that he has continued communication with BSN and will contact him when appropriate.

5. Uniform/Awards Committee
(Cathy *, Brenda, Melinda, _____)
a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report.

7. Fundraising/Marketing Committee
(_____ *, Matt, Dustin, Chad)
a. Committee chair needed
1. Sagamore Park concession stand business plan
 2. 2023 Golf Outing

Jim asked for a meeting with the Fundraising/Marketing Committee in the next few weeks so that planning can begin on the 2023 Golf Outing. Dates will be finalized soon because now is the time that other outings will be scheduled for the summertime. Jim will contact members to schedule this meeting.

- a. Possible dates
1. Monday, June 19, 2023
 2. Sunday, June 25, 2023
 3. Sunday, July 9, 2023
 4. Saturday, July 15, 2023
- b. 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. Vallearie Golf Course (catering services would need to be brought in)

7. Ellsworth Meadows
8. Briarwood
9. Boulder Creek

3. Sponsors for 2023

a. Banners

Jim reminded Board members all sponsor banners must be removed before wintertime. Jim also asked that a committee member draft a letter to sponsors (along with Chevrolet) so that they can be officially thanked for their sponsorship this year. A picture of the banner can be sent as well. This will allow sponsors to see what was displayed. The Board will follow up on this at the next meeting.

b. Logo on uniforms

Dave asked about pushing coaches to get a team sponsor for the coming season. A brief discussion was had on the topic regarding block letters versus logo designs on uniforms. Dave indicated team sponsors is a huge overall sponsorship for NHAA (\$10,000 - \$15,000). The Board will follow up on this at the next meeting. Dave suggested still doing one big banner for all sponsors as well as doing block letters on uniform jerseys.

4. Off season fundraising

There were no comments regarding off season fundraising.

5. Social media presence

8. Technology Committee

(Dave *, Melinda, _____)

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

Dave did report that Sports Engine was renewed for the annual cost of approximately \$700.00. ScheduleWerks was also renewed for approximately \$400.00. Jim did recall that yearly the approximate cost is close to \$1,000.00 for both programs.

Jim brought up the fact that, like Scott talked about at the September 2022 meeting, backups and next-in-line personnel is needed for various positions on the Board – including Treasurer and IT/Scheduler. Melinda was mentioned during this conversation as having expressed interest in the IT/Scheduler position in the past. Dave indicated that no communication was had with Melinda on this topic.

b. Google Drive stream-line process of communication feedback

Dave did indicate speaking with Kyle about this and it was determined that trustees should submit information as they see fit. Dave did indicate that he is always open to feedback and suggestions on how to make things better.

9. Strategic Planning Committee

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

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

10. Travel Committee

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

Jim indicated that he would like to meet as a committee to set guidelines and parameters as

it pertains to various aspects of the Travel Program. Jerry will work with the group to schedule an evening meeting date.

a. Girls Travel Softball Commissioner Report

Jerry indicated that all rosters have been filled. He did indicate that possibly a few spots are open on the Girls 18U Team. Everything is in good shape. Jim asked about communication with Northeast Ohio Fast Pitch, and Jerry indicated that there has been no communication. Jerry did indicate that some activity may take place in the coming months as girls may become available. Jerry did indicate not a lot of Girls AAA players tried out for the Girls 18U Team. These girls may be contacted to fill open spots.

Jerry indicated that all Girls Travel teams have had their team meetings – except Girls 18U. Jim will schedule this meeting once other activities have calmed down.

Jerry indicated that all Girls teams will be practicing at the same facility in the off season. Clinics will be done with all teams. Jerry's goal is to build a program and not four (4) individual teams.

b. Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner Report

Nothing to report in Andy Papile's absence.

c. Off season workouts

Jim confirmed D-BAT as the location for all Girls Travel off season practices. Kevin was thanked for setting this up with D-BAT.

d. Travel bank accounts

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

b. T-Ball age requirements

Kevin indicated that a parent on his team is opening a facility soon in Macedonia off Highland Road. Kevin indicated he can check out the space and report back. This could be a good local space for practices.

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:01 p.m.