

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Meeting Call to order: 8:05 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present via Zoom:

Jim Filisky, President

Chase Senk, VP of Equipment
Mike Graham, VP of Fields
Andy Papile, Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner (in at 8:08 p.m.)
Jerry Lowery, Girls Travel Softball Commissioner
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Chad Akins, Board Member
Matt Bewley, Board Member (in at 8:18 p.m.)
Brian James, Board Member (in at 8:14 p.m.)
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Andy Piskula, Board Member
Bobby Reville, Board Member
Kenny Sanger, Board Member
Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

Absent:

Kyle Deininger, Vice President

Kevin Bilkie, Board Member

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from October 5, 2022

Jim asked if any changes needed to be made to the minutes. Hearing none, he made the motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2022, meeting. Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Scott. With no objections, the minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

1. Presentation to Sagamore Hills Township – Trustee Meeting (Monday, November 14, 2022)
 - a. Present info regarding upgrade at Field #4 (Peters)
 - b. Permission for upgrade at Field #2 (Speerbrecher)
 - c. Permission for use of concession stand in 2023

Jim has no updates on the presentation to Sagamore Hills Township at this time. He will be working on putting the information together for presentation.

2. Presentation to Nordonia Hills City Schools – Board Meeting (Monday, November 21, 2022)
 - a. Upgrade at NMS field

Jim has no updates on the presentation to the Nordonia Hills School Board at this time. He will be working on putting the information together for presentation.

3. Setting 'Important Dates' for 2023

Jim indicated that dates for 2023 do need to set, including spring/summer league registration as well as the date of the Golf Outing.

III. 2022 Fall Ball

1. Final feedback on Fall Ball season

Jim asked Board members about keeping Fall Ball play on Sundays. Dave indicated positive feedback regarding the scheduling of games on Sunday. Kenny indicated that Sunday play worked out well because kids still had the opportunity to participate in other activities that may meet on a Saturday. Kenny indicated that rain out games were often rescheduled during the week. Melinda indicated that parents appreciated knowing what day the games were going to be played. Dustin appreciated having the games being played at the same park because of ease with multiple children. Jim expressed that Sunday play should be advertised and communicated with surrounding communities. Dave indicated that Hudson was real happy with Sunday play.

Jim asked Brian about field prep for rescheduled games during the week. Dave indicated that fields were available for weekday games, but he knew of some issues with coaches being able to field a team during the week.

a. T-Ball (co-ed)

1. Trustee – Cathy Loya

Cathy indicated that 17 players were split between two (2) teams and each team played each other all season. Basic skills were worked on this season. A short practice was held prior to each three-inning game. Cathy indicated that a pizza party was held at the conclusion of the season and the kids had a very good time. Cathy indicated that parents were appreciative of NHAA allowing the young kids to play this fall and are looking forward to the next season.

b. Baseball Updates

1. Babe Ruth

a. Trustee – Chase Senk

Chase indicated one issue with rescheduling games which was quickly corrected by Dave. Chase indicated the season went well.

2. Willie Mays

a. Trustee – Melinda Malyuk

Melinda indicated no issues with Willie Mays.

3. Pee Wee Reese

a. Trustee – Kenny Sanger

Kenny indicated the season went well.

4. Sandy Koufax

a. Trustee – Andy Papile

Andy indicated the season went well.

5. Colt

a. Trustee – Bobby Reville

b. Use of NHS Varsity Field for practice – proactive securing of fields

Dave indicated that he heard of no issues. Playoffs were held a bit early because of league play starting late. Scott indicated that only 5-6 games were played due to weather issues.

Dave only knew of issues with Colt teams scheduling practices. A discussion was had regarding Nordon High School field use during the fall for Colt practices during the week. Jim reminded Board members that a staff grounds crew person must be on duty if the field is in use. Nick suggested renting fields at Longwood Park well in advance for weekday Colt practices.

c. Softball Updates

1. A League (Grades 3-6)
 - a. Trustee – Brenda Kovi

Brenda indicated the season went well. Brenda also indicated the division of the league went well.

2. AA League (Grades 7-9)
 - a. Trustee – Kyle Deininger

In Kyle's absence, Jim indicated not hearing of any issues and that the girls had fun.

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: \$32,118.84

Scott pointed out to Board members that the difference between net revenue versus expenses was only a few thousand dollars (~\$2,200.00). Scott indicated this difference has been closer to \$10,000.00 in the past. Scott acknowledged expenses are increasing on everything (i.e. equipment, umpires, storage unit rental, uniforms, field product, etc.), and Scott asked Board members to consider a registration fee adjustment. Dave expressed it was good information to have regarding revenue versus expenses, and understands large expenses this year was because of field upgrades. Jim asked where most of the expenses are going, acknowledging the field upgrade expenses. Scott indicated that with continual field upgrades throughout the year a good revenue stream will be needed in order to pay for these larger expenses.

2. Open invoices

Scott indicated that he does not believe there are any open invoices pertaining to Fall Ball. Dave asked about payment of an invoice from TBL. Scott will check on this invoice.

3. Update on duplication in Quick Books

Scott indicated that the accountant is continuing to review and clean up the duplications in Quick Books. Scott let Board members know that these duplications did not impact taxes for 2021; however, these duplications will impact taxes for 2022.

4. Update on outstanding travel dues from one coach – two teams
5. Establishment of new travel accounts (Kevin, Jerry, Dustin)

Scott indicated trouble with communication with Huntington Bank regarding setting up these accounts. Jim indicated he will be available to meet at the bank in person if needed.

6. Filing of taxes (with accountant)

Scott confirmed that 2021 taxes were filed in advance of the deadline.

7. Confirmation on umpire fees being paid

Scott indicated that umpires have been paid.

8. Board Treasurer shadow

2. Player Development Committee

(Kenny *, Andy Piskula, Nick, _____)

a. Chair Report

b. Feedback on Premier Fitness and Performance

1. Visit to facility

2. Proposed dates for clinics

a. Coaches/Parents clinic(s)

b. Player clinic(s)

1. Age 10 and up

3. Email solicitation parameters and terms

Kenny indicated that Mike Caza at Premier Fitness and Performance is ready to move forward and will be cutting a check to NHAA prior to sending out solicitation emails. A brief discussion was had regarding authority to move forward, and Kenny is approved to pick up a check (made out to NHAA) and sign off on the agreement on behalf of the NHAA Board.

Kenny indicated him and Andy Piskula visited the facility and it is a decent facility, and Mike Caza is motivated to help the kids with fitness and agility. The NHAA will be responsible for sending out emails to contacts, in which the email template will be provided by Mike Caza at Premier Fitness and Performance. Kenny will confirm the number of times the email must be sent out in order to meet the agreement.

It was discussed that these clinic dates should not conflict with clinic dates established with Strike Force. Kenny indicated that Mike Caza is looking at clinic dates in November and December 2022. Kenny indicated that one or two parent clinics will be offered, a couple kid clinics, and even a coaching clinic with payment to NHAA beforehand. Payment is to be \$500.00.

Kenny asked about promoting dates for these clinics. Jim advised being careful with scheduling dates; sticking to weeknights might work out best at this point. Kenny indicated the first date suggested by Mike Caza is Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at 6:15 p.m. for one hour. Kenny is waiting for confirmation on the capacity of the clinic. This would be the first kid clinic suggested.

c. Off season clinic planning

1. Player clinics

2. Coach clinics

Scott shared with Board members a quote received from Strike Force for player clinics. Jim indicated that the quote received from Strike Force is a significant expense when discussions were just had about revenue versus expenses. Jim asked the thoughts of Board members about doing clinics at Strike Force versus arranging for in-house clinics. Scott indicated that rec players get a great benefit

from attending a facility like Strike Force with their instructors. Kenny suggested offsetting the cost of these clinics with a nominal fee paid by participants. Jim suggested continuing to offer these types of clinics as an investment when registering with NHAA. A discussion was had further on this topic. Andy Papile indicated registration fees will start to be received prior to these clinics so these clinics can be paid. Jim appreciated the discussion.

Jim indicated the need to get clinics scheduled early to advertise to the community upon registration. A discussion was had regarding the clinic dates as presented in the quote from Strike Force. A consensus of Board members voiced agreement with setting the clinic dates now.

Motion by Jim: Move to schedule with Strike Force three (3) quoted clinics from 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. for the following dates:
 ** Sunday, March 4, 2023
 ** Sunday, March 11, 2023
 ** Sunday, March 18, 2023

Kenny asked about any scheduling issues with area basketball leagues. A brief discussion was had on potential scheduling issues.

Motion first by Chad. Motion second by Mike.

Before a vote was taken, Jim asked Board members if other facilities should be contacted for quotations on similar clinics. A brief discussion was had on this, but the consensus was to move forward with taking a vote to secure the dates and pricing given.

A unanimous voice vote was taken and the motion passed.

**** Dates confirmed with Strike Force as the following:**

Sunday, March 5, 2023
Sunday, March 12, 2023
Sunday, March 19, 2023

Confirmed as of 11.10.2022

3. Fields Committee

(Mike *, Brian, _____)

a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

1. Quote on upgrade to Sagamore Field #2 (Speerbrecher)
2. Field repairs prior to winter (low spots, top dress with Walker Clay where applicable)
3. Feedback on collection of equipment, wind screens, and signage prior to winter

Mike indicated that all signage, wind screens, and equipment has been removed from field boxes and moved to the storage unit for winter storage. Mike indicated the wind screens appeared to be in good shape for use next year. Only the equipment (bases) at Blue Jay field needs to be moved back to the storage unit. Chase offered to help Mike with this task if needed.

4. New tines for the Toro

Jim inquired about new tines and a brief discussion was had on this topic.

5. Winterizing and storage of Toro and trailer

Brian indicated that he will level a few fields this coming weekend due to the nice weather predicted so that these fields can settle over the winter. The Toro will then be washed again and taken to the storage unit next week. Brian will winterize the Toro as well prior to winter storage. Mike offered to help get the Toro into the storage unit. Brian indicated the trailer will also be stored at the storage unit this winter.

4. Equipment Committee

(Chase *, Mike, Dave, Cathy)

a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

1. Update on equipment return from spring/summer season

a. Girls AAA coach

Chase indicated that all spring/summer equipment has been returned.

2. Update on equipment return from Fall Ball (10/29/2022)

Chase indicated four (4) remaining coaches from Fall Ball that need to return equipment. It was noted that three (3) coaches are Board members. Chase discussed with members how to schedule to return equipment.

3. New equipment quotes and proposal for ordering in November 2022

Chase shared with Board members the proposal for equipment to be ordered this year. The proposal includes:

- baseballs
- softballs (11" and 12")
- home plates
- anchors
- digout tools
- scorebooks
- feathers

The proposal was discussed in depth with Board members. It was noted that pricing went up from previous years. Chase noted that baseballs last year were \$50 per dozen and this year the best price found was \$64 per dozen.

Chase indicated the total cost for equipment needed is just under \$4,700.00.

Chase asked for Board input on the proposal as presented. Dave asked about the style of anchors (wing vs. octagon). Scott asked about buying baseballs (possibly even softballs) directly from Rawlings/direct from the manufacturer. Chase and Scott will look into this idea. Chase indicated that all items on the quote are in stock at the various listed vendors. Chase indicated that price increases will be happening come January 2023. Dave suggested approving the equipment purchase and if equipment (i.e. baseballs and softballs) can be found cheaper then these will be ordered.

Motion by Jim:

Move to approve the equipment purchase proposal as presented. Anything over \$4,700.00 will need Board approval.

Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Mike.

A unanimous voice vote was taken; the motion passed.

Chase will update Board members once purchases are made. A brief discussion regarding payment was had and Scott advised that each vendor be reminded that NHAA is a 501(c)3 entity.

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

Cathy indicated that she will be reaching out to committee members soon to meet. Ending Fall Ball was first priority.

- b. Discuss team sponsors
 1. Logo on uniforms
 2. Block letters on uniforms and logo on banners
 3. Uniform companies to contact

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

Nothing to report.

7. Fundraising/Marketing Committee
(_____ *, Matt, Dustin, Chad)
 - a. Committee chair needed

Dustin indicated he wishes to see a chair/point person named for this committee. Since he is new to the Board, he does not wish to lead the committee. Nick indicated that he is happy to help, but he feels that the committee works best with three (3) members versus four (4) members. Nick indicated that he will do it, but only wants to work with meeting as a group of three. Jim indicated that the Golf Outing will require more than three (3) people to run such an outing. Nick volunteered to be the Fundraising Committee Chair and finds four (4) members reasonable for the committee with the golf outing.

1. Sagamore Park concession stand business plan

Nick indicated a discussion with Cathy regarding concession stand use in 2023. Cathy briefly shared a suggestion made by Nick where the Boys 12U team works the concession stand for the Girls Bash and the Girls teams work the concession stand during the Boys Bash. Cathy shared this idea with another Boys 12U parent, but has not heard anything back about the suggestion. Cathy understands the logistics of making this happen and that it will take a coordinated effort with both boys and girls teams. A brief discussion was had on this topic. Scott encouraged that a Sign Up Genius be created in order to coordinate whatever is done for running the concession stand.

Chad indicated that the idea of assigning teams to run the concession stand on various dates should not be abandoned. Nick indicated that ideas shared pertain just to the Bash tournaments not regular rec play. Nick indicated the idea of running the concession stand one key day a week for regular rec play is still on the table. Jim also indicated that refrigeration is needed in the concession stand still. A brief discussion was had, and it was determined to seek approval first from Sagamore Hills Township before making any type of refrigeration purchase.

2. 2023 Golf Outing – Committee meeting to be scheduled

- 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. Valleaire Golf Course (catering services would need to be brought in)
 7. Ellsworth Meadows
 8. Briarwood
 9. Boulder Creek

There is no new information on the Golf Outing at this time.

3. Off season fundraising
4. Social media presence
5. Thank you letter to 2022 sponsors

8. Technology Committee

(Dave *, Melinda, _____)

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

Dave will begin to look at setting the calendar for 2023 along with building registration. Dave asked Board members of any issues with dates from the previous year. Dave indicated he will stick to the same schedule as last year and just update the specific dates for 2023. Dave indicated that registration in 2022 opened on January 15. It was discussed that there never really was a firm close date for registration. Scott appreciates the idea of Dave drafting a calendar for 2023 and Board members can review and look for conflicts. Cathy indicated there was an issue with the mandatory coaching meeting in 2022 being on Holy Thursday.

b. IT/Scheduling shadow

Dave indicated Melinda reached out about shadowing the work done. Dave and Melinda will stay in touch regarding this topic.

9. Strategic Planning Committee

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

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report.

10. Travel Committee

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

a. Travel Committee meeting updates

Jim shared with the Board notes from the October 18, 2022, Travel Committee meeting. It was indicated the committee met to discuss a mission statement and how to encourage players to stay in the Travel program. Chase is working on developing a mission statement. Jim indicated that the committee plans to meet quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for January 10, 2023. Jim indicated a few topics discussed including uniforms for both boys and girls so that teams are in the same uniforms.

Jim indicated the co-chairs of this committee are Jerry and Andy Papile.

Jerry indicated the establishment of structure for the committee. Jerry indicated setting a mission statement and goals for the committee that supports and mimics the goals and mission of the entire NHAA. Jerry also indicated that a review of the Travel Bylaws is in order. These will be reviewed before the January meeting. Tryouts were also discussed and how these can be run within the parameters of the Travel Bylaws. Consistency matters. Evaluation of the tryouts was also discussed. It was noted that independent evaluators should be on hand at tryouts including possibly Freshman and Junior Varsity coaches. Each member will review the Bylaws, make notes, and discuss at the January meeting. Dave indicated that he can forward along the latest copy of the Travel Bylaws if needed.

Andy Papile indicated the meeting was great, with great discussion by all. Questions were asked and discussed. Andy Papile indicated the goal is create more of a pipeline to the Nordon High School teams (Freshman, JV, and Varsity).

b. Girls Travel Softball Commissioner Report

Jerry indicated that winter practice space is booked. Jerry reiterated the goal is to build a community; build a program and not four (4) separate teams. Jerry indicated that the Girls 10U and Girls 12U teams will practice at the same time slot splitting field space; and the Girls 14U and Girls 18U teams will practice at the same time slot splitting field space. Options will be available to do clinics as well. Jim and Jerry indicated creating more of a "Nordon Knights Fastpitch" feel or club feel – a community club – versus a Girls Travel program. Jerry indicated re-branding the Travel program may retain more players as well as making the community understand that this is a competitive travel league where kids can grow. Jerry also indicated creating a path for coaches to grow and move up in the program.

c. Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner Report

d. Off season workouts

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

Dave asked about changing these rules to match. Melinda indicated bringing up this topic in the past and was under the impression that we were ready to move forward on this.

Dave asked who might work to update these rules. Dave and Jim indicated that Kyle may be the one to assist with this as this was brought up by him in the past as well.

b. T-Ball age requirements

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 8:00 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:19 p.m.