

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 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
Kyle Deininger, Vice President (in at 8:54 p.m.)

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
Matt Bewley, Board Member
Kevin Bilkie, Board Member (in at 8:25 p.m.)
Brenda Kovi, Board Member (in at 8:08 p.m.)
Nick Lanese, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Andy Piskula, Board Member
Bobby Reville, Board Member (in at 8:08 p.m.)
Kenny Sanger, Board Member
Dustin Wadsworth, Board Member

Absent:

Andy Papile, Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner
Brian James, Board Member

Agenda:

I. Review of meeting minutes from November 2, 2022

Jim asked Board members of any additions, subtractions, or any questions regarding the November 2, 2022, minutes as put forth. Hearing none, Jim made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2022, meeting. Motion first by Dave. Motion second by Matt. The minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

1. Presentation to Sagamore Hills Township – Trustee Meeting
 - 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
2. Presentation to Nordonia Hills City Schools – Board Meeting
 - a. Upgrade at NMS field

Jim had no updates to present at this time.

III. 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: \$30,748.18

Scott forwarded to all Board members the detailed year-to-date activity. Scott noted basic transactions on the activity report (i.e. Space Place rental, Toro payment, equipment orders).

Scott asked to speak with several Board members after the full Board meeting to discuss field upgrade invoices received. This group will report via e-mail to the entire Board after further discussions.

It was noted that a \$30 check was received in payment for a 2022 Fall Ball night game at Longwood.

Scott confirmed these payments:

- 2021 taxes are paid
- accountant fees are paid
- umpire fees are paid

- 2. Open invoices
- 3. Update on duplication in Quick Books
- 4. Update on outstanding travel dues from one coach – two teams
- 5. Establishment of new travel accounts
 - a. Cards obtained and provided to all travel coaches

Scott indicated getting all travel accounts set up at Huntington Bank. Scott indicated having all of the bank cards with all cards distributed except for one card for the 9U Boys Travel Team. Cathy will reach out to this coach to have him contact Scott. User profiles are being established for each coach. Jim asked if any Board members who are coaches had any issues, and Dustin indicated that the card is good and he and Scott are working on the on-line access. Jerry indicated that he has not done anything yet. Jerry will keep in touch with Scott with any issues. Jim asked Jerry to reach out to Kevin to activate his card before the activation grace period is over – please have done within the next 30 days.

- b. Must use cards for team funds
 - 1. No fields to be allocated and no umpires to be scheduled if not used
- 6. Board Treasurer shadow
- 7. Community Care Grant – through Chad's employer
 - a. Checks to be picked up from PO Box and will be provided to Scott for deposit

Scott confirmed the receipt of two checks; one in the amount of \$50 and the second in the amount of \$450. These checks were received from Chad's employer as a donation. Chad indicated that an additional \$500 check will be distributed in January 2023. The Board voiced gratitude for Chad's employer for the generous donations made.

Nick expressed appreciation to Chad's employer for making these donations, and Nick is hopeful that he will have some announcements from his company as well.

- 2. Player Development Committee
(Kenny *, Andy Piskula, Nick, _____)
 - a. Chair Report
 - b. Premier Fitness and Performance

1. Payment to NHAA

- a. Check picked up by Kenny and was to get to Scott for deposit

Scott confirmed receipt of the \$500 check from Premier Fitness and Performance, and this check has been deposited.

2. Schedule for solicitation emails

- a. Update from Dave on email blasts

Jim inquired about the time interval between email blasts. Kenny indicated that Mike Caza at Premier would like at least two weeks before the blast. Mike at Premier will talk with Kenny this coming Tuesday regarding the next one. Kenny will then keep in touch with Dave regarding the timing on sending out the next email.

3. Tuesday, December 13, 2022 – First clinic for ages 10-14

Kenny indicated that within the first 24 hours, the first announced clinic was booked with 40 kids. Mike at Premier Fitness is very happy with the interest. Kenny indicated that a second player clinic may be offered the following Tuesday (12/20/2022). Kenny confirmed that there will be two (2) player clinics and one (1) coach clinic to equal three (3) clinics total. Kenny indicated there may be an additional player clinic in January 2023.

Jim asked if Board representation will be needed at the clinics, and Kenny indicated that representation is not needed. Kenny did indicate any/all Board members are welcome to attend. Chad indicated that he will be there with his daughter, and Cathy indicated that she will be there with her son. Cathy did indicate that an email was received from Mike at Premier stating that the time for his clinic session moved to 7:45 p.m. versus the advertised 6:30 p.m. start time. Kenny will reach out to Mike at Premier to confirm session time change because of the number of registrants. Kenny will report back to the Board regarding the split sessions.

Cathy inquired about 9-1/2 year-old kids registering for the clinics even though the age minimum is 10. The parent wished to be respectful of the age range, but would like for his son to participate.

c. Strike Force Clinics

1. Three Sundays in March – (3/5, 3/12, 3/19)

Scott confirmed that the dates listed above have been reserved with Strike Force, but no further conversations have been had. Jim asked that additional conversations be had to confirm pricing and registration.

3. Fields Committee

(Mike *, Brian, _____)

- a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

Jim announced that the Fields Committee Report will be shared with all members after a separate meeting.

1. Quote on upgrade to Sagamore Field #2 (Speerbrecher)
2. Update on field repairs done
3. Blue Jay field equipment picked up and returned
4. Toro returned to storage unit (and trailer ?)
 - a. New tires needed prior to spring

Mike and Chase confirmed that the Toro is currently in the storage unit. It

was unclear if the Toro had been winterized. It is also unclear if the trailer is at the storage unit. Confirmation with Brian is needed on these two matters.

Mike confirmed that all bases, plates, feathers, etc. are in the storage unit.

Jim asked that two (2) sets of new tines be ordered for the coming season so that there is a replacement pair in house and ready to use when needed. Work in the field with long tines is needed to prevent low spots which may hold water. Mike agreed to this suggestion. A discussion was had on the vendor for these tines and Jim asked that these be ordered.

4. Equipment Committee

(Chase *, Mike, Dave, Cathy)

a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

1. All equipment returned from Fall Ball

Chase confirmed that all equipment has been collected and returned to the storage unit from both summer ball and fall ball.

2. Update on equipment order

a. Estimated arrival date(s) on equipment

Chase appreciated Scott's involvement with contacting Ken at Strike Force regarding equipment (i.e. baseballs and softballs) at a much lower cost.

Chase confirmed that all equipment has been ordered and due in within the next few weeks. Upon receipt, Chase will make sure that all equipment is taken to the storage unit.

Chase shared that the Board approved no more than \$4,800.00 to be spent on new equipment, and all new equipment totaled just under \$3,600.00.

Several Board members thanked Chase for taking care of this new equipment in such a quick manner and for great prices.

5. Uniform/Awards Committee

(Cathy *, Brenda, Melinda, _____)

a. Chair Report

1. Committee meeting scheduled for 12/5/2022

Cathy gave an update on the committee meeting, and shared that the committee would like to get All Star medals for the 2023 season soon in order for those to be on hand with plenty of time. Cathy also shared the committee would like to order participation and championship trophies shortly after the teams are formed and finalized for each league. With regards to championship trophies, Cathy indicated the committee would like to offer a runner-up award – either a trophy or a medal. A brief discussion was had on the runner-up award.

Cathy shared with the Board that the committee would like to see team sponsors represented again on jerseys. Cathy shared information received from Dan Leemaster at Prime Time Sporting Goods about their costs and hassles with full front sponsor representation versus a CAD cut block lettering on the back and/or sleeve of a jersey. A discussion was had on this process and a picture was shared with the Board showing a sponsor's name on the back of a jersey above the number. Jim suggested to go with block lettering versus sponsor logos.

Cathy also shared with the Board the committee's desire to offer tiered sponsorship where different sponsorship donations can be made for various advertisement

(i.e. one value for representation on the jersey; another value for representation on the jersey along with representation on a banner; another value would include the jersey and banner along with sponsoring a golf hole at the outing, etc.)

The committee wishes to make it aware on the front end that coaches will be responsible for finding a team sponsor this year by having this stated during the registration process with months before the playing season.

Cathy also shared with the Board the committee's discussion surrounding the idea of promoting NHAA more by having the NHAA logo appear somewhere on the jersey and/or hat. A brief discussion was had regarding the NHAA logo appearing on hats for the boys leagues. Jim and Dave shared that in year's past the NHAA logo did appear on hats but didn't translate into everyday hats for kids to wear throughout the year in the community. The block N hat is more versatile and worn more by the kids. Additionally, suggestions were made to possibly include the NHAA logo on the jersey with a Knights image.

Cathy indicated that the bid form is being updated for the coming season, and Cathy shared that bids will be sent out soon to Prime Time Sporting Goods, D1 Sporting Goods, as well as a local store named Mr. J's Apparel.

Cathy asked for Board feedback regarding sponsors represented on jerseys and making this known to coaches prior to registration. A discussion was had on this topic and sponsors are a vital part to the organization. The committee did volunteer to work with coaches to secure the necessary information from sponsors for representation on jerseys. A brief discussion was had about having sponsorship for all teams, and Dave indicated that in years past this has never been an issue. Jim suggested that advertising and publicizing – via social media, the website, through e-mail blasts – that sponsorship representation on NHAA jerseys has returned. Dave will add a separate page to the registration site for coaches to be aware and acknowledge that sponsor representation on jerseys is back and coaches will be responsible for securing team sponsorship. Dustin inquired about a list of previous sponsors and Melinda indicated that she does have such a list. Dustin offered assistance with the use of a prospecting tool.

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

Nothing to report.

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

Nick indicated that the committee will meet prior to the January meeting. Nick shared that a 6-point agenda was created and will be discussed prior to the next full Board meeting.

Nick asked for Board feedback regarding use of the Sagamore Park concession stand outside of the travel leagues and tournament weekends. Scott shared that discussions were had about utilizing the concession stand only during select events (i.e. All Star Day, Bash tournaments, etc.) Nick inquired about the need for a potentially expensive refrigeration system for the concession stand when used so sparingly. A discussion was had on volunteers to run the concession stand as well, and it is going to be tough to find volunteers. Nick stated that confidence is needed in concession stand profitability and in the volunteer help needed to run such an operation before purchasing a refrigeration unit. Many Board members expressed agreement with this statement. The committee will discuss this topic further and report back to the Board with a proposal.

1. Sagamore Park concession stand business plan
 - a. Sagamore to allocate fields in February
 - b. Jim to request the use of the concession stand for 2023
 - c. Concession stand use
 1. Fundraising for Travel Programs during tournaments
 2. Trial program for week night with Rec League ??
2. 2023 Golf Outing – Committee meeting scheduled for 12/5/2022

Jim reported that the Golf Outing committee will be meeting soon to solidify dates. Jim also indicated that they will discuss any type of tiered sponsorship related to the Golf Outing and report back to the Uniform Committee. Jim asked for any other volunteers to help with the Golf Outing, as it is just Matt and Jim working on the Golf Outing. Dustin and Chad volunteered to help.

- 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
3. Off season fundraising
4. Social media presence

Jim wanted to confirm who was handling the social media presence, and Nick will work with committee members to find a lead person to handle postings. Nick confirmed that he has admin status on Facebook, and he will work with Melinda regarding access to other social media accounts (i.e. Twitter, Instagram, etc.)

5. Thank you letter to 2022 sponsors
 - a. Approve copy and mail out with Christmas holiday greetings

Jim did confirm for Cathy that a thank you letter was signed. Cathy will be sure to get this letter out to 2022 sponsors.

6. Signs to post at Route 82 and Route 8 (re: registration)
 - a. Pricing on signage for registration (Melinda/Brian James with contact at Kimpton)

Jim asked about signs being printed to advertise registration, and Melinda will forward along contact information to the Marketing Committee so that these signs can be made. Melinda will forward these contacts to Nick and they will take the lead on this. A brief discussion was had regarding permission to post signage at various intersections. Dave suggested that any signs made for this should be generic enough so they can be used from season to season. Jim also suggested smaller signs to advertise registration. Melinda shared that contacts from last season had very quick turnaround times and that smaller signs were inexpensive to produce.

8. Technology Committee

(Dave *, Melinda, _____)

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

Dave indicated a conversation with the City of Macedonia regarding field requests at Longwood Park, and the City of Macedonia will be emailing something out either late December or in January regarding these requests. Dave will inquire with Travel Commissioners regarding travel team requests for fields at Longwood Park. Dave will need this information within the next few weeks.

Chad asked about offering games under the lights for teams at Longwood Park. Jim will look into this option. It was also discussed that a second field is being fitted with lights at Longwood Park.

b. Important Dates for 2023 (see last page)

Dave indicated that 2023 important dates have been updated on the website. Dave asked for feedback from the Board regarding dates, and Cathy indicated the scheduled Picture Day of Saturday, May 27, 2023, is the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. A brief discussion was held on this date and it was determined to table this discussion at this time. Jim wishes to discuss options for photographers this year including Venditti Studios and Epic PhotoGraphic. Scott asked if the fundraising check was received from Venditti Studios for the 2022 season, and Jim indicated that this check is not usually received until the spring. Jim will follow up with Debbie at Venditti Studios.

c. Registration fee

Dave asked Board members for comments on the 2023 registration fee. The 2022 registration fee was \$120.00. Keeping in mind the \$5 service fee associated with registration and potential increases in umpire fees, Board members had an open discussion regarding changing the registration fee for 2023.

Kenny indicated with each team being responsible for sponsorship then additional dollars will be coming in to the association. Keeping the registration fee as low as possible will keep the option to play open for more kids. A brief discussion was had before the vote.

Motion by Jim – Option A: The registration fee for the 2023 spring/summer season will be \$130.00.

A voice and visual vote was taken and there were 12 aye votes and 5 nay votes. The motion passes.

Motion by Jim – Option B: The registration fee for the 2023 spring/summer season will be \$135.00.

No vote was taken.

d. IT/Scheduling shadow – Melinda

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 indicated that the Travel Committee will be meeting again the second Tuesday in January, and travel softball coaches will likely be meeting the first week in January before beginning practices. Jerry confirmed that practice schedules are set and teams will begin practicing at D-BAT on January 8.

1. Dates for Girls Bash
 - a. Girls Bash: Friday, May 19, 2023 – Sunday, May 21, 2023

Jim confirmed the dates listed above for the Girls Bash.

2. New 18U Division
3. Possible secure dates at Longwood Park

Jerry will discuss with travel coaches and report back to Dave.

- b. Boys Travel Baseball Commissioner Report
 1. Dates for Boys Bash
 - a. Boys Bash: Thursday, June 1, 2023 – Sunday, June 4, 2023

Jim confirmed the dates listed above for the Boys Bash. A brief discussion was had regarding beginning the tournament on Thursday evening versus Friday evening and it will depend on the number of teams participating.

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

A brief discussion was had on making these rules match for both leagues. Dave asked that this be done soon so that documents posted on the website can be updated prior to registration. Melinda offered to draft this revision.

Kevin wishes to steer GMP kids appropriately – meaning Kindergarten and first graders should have some T-Ball experience before moving to GMP, unless there is an invitation to play GMP. Dave did offer that if GMP mimics Babe Ruth then a tee will be offered to players after a predetermined number of pitches and a lot of past issues may no longer exist. Dustin indicated that the Brecksville softball program does not offer a manager pitch league and younger girls are combined. Dustin indicated that the competition is very young and not fun for anyone. Dustin asked if other communities might be considered to play in Girls A ball. A brief discussion was had on this topic, including asking Brecksville if they would like to participate in the NHAA GMP league.

- b. T-Ball age requirements

Jim asked about adjusting T-Ball age requirements and a brief discussion was had.

Kevin indicated that he will be meeting with Mike Caza at Premier Fitness regarding setting up weekly open workouts (i.e. core training, speed, strength, agility) for softball players which will be paid for by individual participants. Kevin will communicate with Kenny on these conversations with Mike Caza.

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 8:00 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 9:24 p.m.

NHAA Important Dates for 2023

Saturday, January 14, 2023	Registration opens
Sunday, March 5, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Wednesday, March 8, 2023	General Meeting scheduled at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria
Saturday, March 11, 2023	Registration closes (without late fee)
Sunday, March 12, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Sunday, March 19, 2023	Strike Force Baseball / Softball clinic
Week of March 27, 2023	Draft Week
Week of April 3, 2023	Nordonía Schools Spring Break
Sunday, April 9, 2023	Easter Sunday
Thursday, April 13, 2023	Mandatory Coaches Training at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria – 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Sponsor Information Due
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Equipment Distribution Day – Space Place (8945 Freeway Drive) – 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, April 15, 2023	Field Maintenance Day. Meet at Space Place – Time: 11:00 a.m. (Weather permitting)
Monday, April 17, 2023	Team practices to begin
TBD – April 2023	General Meeting at Nordonía Middle School Cafeteria
Saturday, May 6, 2023	Uniform Distribution Day (coaches only)
Monday, May 8, 2023	Preseason / Scrimmage games begin
Monday, May 15, 2023	Regular season begins
Saturday, May 27, 2023	Picture Day
Friday, May 19-21, 2023	Girls Bash at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – May 2023	General Meeting at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – June 2023	Boys Colt games begin
Thursday, June 1-4, 2023	Boys Bash at Sagamore Hills Park
Saturday, June 24, 2023	All Star Saturday
Thursday, June 29, 2023	T-Ball Evening at Sagamore Hills Park
TBD – June 2023	General Meeting
Friday, June 30, 2023	Regular season ends
Week of July 3, 2023	Make up Week
Saturday, July 8, 2023	GMP Day at Sagamore Hills Park – 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 8, 2023	Babe Ruth Day at Sagamore Hills Park – 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Week of July 10, 2023	Playoff Week
Saturday, July 15, 2023	Championship Week (Rain date will be Sunday, July 16, 2023)
Saturday, July 22, 2023	Equipment Return Day
TBD – August 2023	General Meeting at Sagamore Hills Park