

NHAA General Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

Location: NMS – Cafeteria

Meeting Call to order: 7:05 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present:

Jim Filisky, President
Kevin Bilkie, Vice President
Chase Senk, VP of Equipment
Mike Graham, VP of Fields
Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator
Dave Hermann, IT and Communications
Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer
Cathy Loya, Secretary
Nicole Gvora, Board Member
Brian James, Board Member
Brenda Kovi, Board Member
Nick Lanese, Board Member
Melinda Malyuk, Board Member
Marc Sprang, Board Member

Present via Telephone:

Absent:

Matt Bewley, Board Member
Kyle Deininger, Board Member
Julie Moran, Board Member
Bobby Reville, Board Member
Kenny Sanger, Board Member

A total of 38 community members were in attendance.

Agenda:

I. Review of general meeting minutes from August 4, 2021

Motion made by Jim to accept the general meeting minutes from August 4, 2021.
Motion first by Nikki. Motion second by Brenda. The minutes were approved.

II. President's Report

Jim opened the meeting by welcoming community members to the meeting and expressing his appreciation for the support especially over the past two (2) years. Jim expressed that the NHAA seasons were able to be played because of the support of the community.

Jim invited all board members to introduce themselves to the community members in attendance. Jim noted to community members the level of involvement by all board members, as different committees have been established so members can play an active role within the organization.

III. Financial Report

1. Current Financial Report

Current Balance: \$63,321.22

2. Expenses / Income

Scott made community members aware of the \$5 increase to the registration fee. Scott indicated a 10% inflation rate for expenses.

3. Review of Operating Budget

Scott provided the board and community members an overview of the operating budget prepared. He indicated the prepared budget includes both the summer season and the Fall Ball program. Total revenue projected is roughly \$100,000.00. Total expenditures projected is roughly \$94,000.00. A \$6,000.00 buffer is built into the budget for unexpected expenses as well as plans for reinvestment into community fields. Scott indicated this budget will be posted on the website for review. Scott clarified a question asked regarding projections given.

Scott indicated the hard work to have funds to purchase new equipment, properly maintain fields, and provide dugout maintenance.

IV. Technology Report

1. Registration for league play

a. Players

Dave indicated 358 players have registered via the website. He expects to see more players register prior to the registration deadline of March 12th, as well as after this date.

b. Coaches

Dave indicated 64 coaches have registered via the website.

c. Outside communities

Dave indicated that various leagues have partnered with outside communities for additional league play. Girls A and Girls AA have partnered with Valley View and Independence; and Boys Willie Mays, Boys Pee Wee Reese, Boys Sandy Koufax, and Boys Colt have partnered with Twinsburg, Hudson, and Aurora. Previous partnerships are now being solidified for the coming season.

Jim clarified that play with outside communities is done so that players get a chance to play different teams instead of playing the same team over and over again. A better experience is had by the players.

2. Sponsorship

a. Sponsor fee: \$275

Melinda confirmed the sponsor fee, and indicated that sponsorship can be made for a team, a league, or a general sponsor.

Jim recognized the following sponsors for the upcoming season:

- Bath Fitters
- The Workz
- Spitzer Chevrolet

b. Banner for sponsors

Melinda confirmed that sponsorship allows a company's business logo to be displayed on a banner throughout the year. It was noted that the Board still needs to make final decisions on the details of sponsor banners.

c. Sponsor form posted on website

Melinda directed interested parties to either contact her directly or go to the website for additional information.

3. Insurance

a. Current 12-month policy posted on website (renewed as of 3/1/2022)

Jim confirmed the current policy on file.

4. Schedule of dates
 - a. Important dates posted on website (see attached page)

Jim confirmed and discussed key important dates posted to the website.

V. Umpire Report

1. Head umpire – Dan Lingo
 - a. Umpire registration
 - b. Umpire classes at Nordonia Middle School

Dan Lingo was unable to attend the meeting; Jim provided an update. Jim let community members know of the scheduled umpire classes being held at Nordonia Middle School. Jim encouraged interested community members to register and attend umpire classes. Jim indicated the class for Thursday, March 10th will be canceled.

New umpire books are on order.

The pay scale for umpires will need to be solidified further with Dan Lingo. Once finalized, the pay scale will be announced. The goal is to have the pay scale in line with surrounding communities for umpire retention.

VI. Uniform Report

1. Jersey and hat for distribution on May 8, 2022

Cathy indicated that a uniform vendor has been selected, and jerseys and hats are going to be ordered based on sizes given at registration. Jim confirmed that inventory availability with vendor is one of the main reasons vendor was selected. Jim confirmed that uniform distribution will take place at Sagamore Park in a drive-thru fashion.

VII. Fields Report

1. Short-term plans
2. Long-term plans

Jim described the role of the Strategic Planning Committee as looking to the future of NHAA and what NHAA wants to do for the community. Jim indicated that NHAA restored the field at Ledgeview Elementary after a decade of no use. Jim also indicated Smith Park in Northfield Village as being reworked by NHAA along with Northfield Village. Jim also indicated bringing back the field at St. Barnabas after approval from St. Barnabas. This field was going to be torn up, but NHAA brought it back to great use. Jim also indicated continued communication with Nordonia Schools about reopening the field at Rushwood Elementary. This field could be used with younger players (i.e. T-Ball, GMP, Babe Ruth). This field is on hold at the moment due to water issues.

Jim highlighted the goal to work with the Nordonia Schools and the local Nordonia communities. Jim indicated that Northfield Village (Jason Walters) has given approval for NHAA to use and work Smith Park and Magnolia Field. Work includes re-grading and adding product/dirt. Jim also indicated that a written proposal is being worked on to present to Sagamore Hills Township to recondition fields at Sagamore Park.

Jim indicated the long-term plan to convert of a few fields each year (including NMS field) to a field mix with conditioner to a slow transition to crushed brick. The goal is for nice level fields that are not holding water. Jim indicated that this will be a very big cost. Jim did acknowledge approval

from Nordonia Schools that the NMS field can be worked on this year. This highlights the use of the extra funds in the budget.

Jim let community members know of the new Toro purchase made last year to grade all of the fields. This was made possible by the long-term projections built into the budget.

Jim indicated soil samples will be taken at Sagamore Park and the NMS field on March 10, 2022.

From there, formal proposals will be drafted and presented to applicable parties. Jim highlighted that Sagamore Field 4 is a targeted field for work, which will also include cutting a 6-foot collar so older players can utilize that field.

Jim acknowledged recognition by Nordonia Superintendent Dr. Clark of the work NHAA is doing to school field property. Jim indicated that approval was received March 9, 2022, that Girls AAA and Boys Colt will be playing on NHS Varsity Fields this year. This is unprecedented access to these fields. Jim noted that Dr. Clark expressed that NHAA does more for the Nordonia community by putting work back into school property than any other organization. (i.e. product on the field, maintaining fields, clean up of fields, weed control). The funds put into school fields by NHAA has been recognized by Dr. Clark and the Nordonia School Board. Jim again highlighted for community members the investment NHAA is making to the community.

3. Field maintenance bids

Jim acknowledged Brian James for his great work on the fields. Jim indicated that bids for field maintenance are open.

VIII. Fundraising / Marketing Report

1. NHAA Golf Outing

Melinda indicated that the date and location has not been secured yet. Nick expressed that a golf outing is looking to pump good revenue into NHAA for long-term plans outlined regarding field revival. Nick suggested sharing outing information to friends and family once available.

2. Restaurant Fundraisers

a. Chipotle – May

Nick indicated that Dine-In Nights will be held this year – a night in May at Chipotle, an upcoming night at Culver's, and possibly a third night at a different location.

3. Social media

Melinda encouraged community members to follow on Facebook and Twitter. Nick suggested community members share posts because of limits on posting.

4. Website

Jim encouraged community members to visit the website often for updates and more information on various topics.

Jim did let community members know that longer emails are being sent with various topics to avoid multiple emails, and he encouraged community members to read all information given.

Jim highlighted the free clinics being put on at Strike Force for all registered NHAA players. Clinic dates and times were discussed, along with information on registration. This is all on the website.

5. Local tournaments

a. Softball Bash (May 20 – May 22)

b. Baseball Bash (June 3 – June 5)

Nick confirmed that these two tournaments are fundraising efforts for the NHAA Travel program exclusively. Jim encouraged community members to come and watch the games at various fields. Jim confirmed for a community member that the Boys travel program includes 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U, and the Girls travel program includes 10U, 12U, and 14U.

6. Chevy Youth Sports program

Scott indicated the Chevy Test Drive program at Spitzer Chevrolet is a fundraiser for NHAA. The

community is encouraged to take part in this program. Jim indicated that equipment is received via donation from the Chevy Youth Sports program. (i.e. batting tees, catcher's equipment, first aid kits). Jim also encouraged community members to photograph Chevy product with baseball and share with NHAA. This will then be posted online and shared with Chevrolet. Previous pictures were submitted to Chevrolet and actually solidified this year's continued sponsorship.

IX. League Report

Jim indicated that NHAA tries to honor player requests, but it is important to keep teams even for fair league play.

1. T-Ball (co-ed)

a. Trustee – Cathy Loya

T-Ball Day was indicated as July 9, 2022. The season typically ends at the end of June. T-Ball is an instructional league designed to get kids out having fun while focusing on fundamentals.

2. Softball Updates

a. Girls Manager Pitch (GMP)

1. Trustee – Kevin Bilkie

Kevin will discuss with Kyle instructional drills and practice before games.

b. A League

1. Trustee – Brenda Kovi

Brenda will discuss with coaches once registration has been solidified.

c. AA League

1. Trustee – Nikki Gvora

Nikki will discuss with coaches once registration has been solidified.

d. AAA League

1. Trustee – Nick Lanese

Jim indicated that Girls AAA will try to partner with outside communities for additional play. Nick will discuss with coaches transitioning to the flat pitch.

3. Baseball Updates

a. Babe Ruth

1. Trustee – Chase Senk

Babe Ruth Day was indicated as July 9, 2022. Chase will discuss with coaches once registration has been solidified.

b. Willie Mays

1. Trustee – Melinda Malyuk

Melinda will discuss with coaches once registration has been solidified.

c. Pee Wee Reese

1. Trustee – Kenny Sanger

d. Sandy Koufax

1. Trustee – Andy Papile

Andy indicated partnership with Twinsburg, Hudson, Aurora for more experience facing other teams. Andy wishes to do a draft with limitations on player/team

requests for more parody within the league.

e. Colt

1. Trustee – Bobby Reville

Jim indicated the Colt league usually has between two (2) and four (4) teams and will partner with eastern communities (i.e. Twinsburg, Hudson, Streetsboro, Solon). According to OHSAA Rules, the Colt league must start in early June.

4. Travel Updates

a. Travel coordinator – Andy Papile

Andy indicated tryouts for Travel teams is usually last week of July/early August. Current teams have been practicing at Strike Force since January so they will be ready for outdoor practices. Andy confirms a strong and respected Travel program with outside communities. Andy indicated all Travel teams will have league play in addition to tournament play. Andy encouraged players interested in additional instruction and play to try out for the coming year. Andy expressed gratitude for the dedication of coaches to the Travel program. Andy indicated that NHAA serves as a feeder program to Nordon Varsity and Junior Varsity squads. Games will be starting games shortly and teams will play through early July.

X. Open Forum / Discussion / League Break-out Session

Chase gave an update on equipment, and indicated that the ordered baseballs will be arriving this week at his home address. Chase indicated that all equipment has been ordered and delivered (minus baseballs as discussed above). Chase confirmed an inventory taken at the storage unit, and also the need to replace some catcher's equipment.

Jim encouraged community members to help with Field Maintenance Day on April 16, 2022.

Jim highlighted the mandatory Coach's Meeting on April 14, 2022. A community member expressed concern about the date being on Holy Thursday and unable to attend. Jim indicated that options can be done to avoid this conflict (i.e. adding another meeting date, online meeting).

Jim discussed other important dates including the next general meeting for sometime in April after practices have started.

Jim indicated that Venditti Studios will be our photographer for Picture Day. A fundraiser was done in 2021 with Venditti and yielded a check for over \$1,000.00.

A question was asked about the Strike Force clinics and whether they will be providing different instruction each session. Since Strike Force is handling the clinics, they are setting the instruction. Even if the same drills are done, repetition offers reinforcement.

Another question was asked regarding night game opportunities at Longwood, as this was quite a highlight for his coach-pitch team. Jim advised that availability at Longwood is a bit challenging at this time. Further discussion by the Board will be had on this topic.

Members of the community broke into sessions with league trustees.

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 **Time:** 8:00 p.m.

Location of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting: Zoom

Meeting adjourned: 7:58 p.m.