

NHAA Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 6, 2021 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Call to order: 8:03 p.m.

Board Attendance/Roll Call:

Present in Person:

Jim Filisky, President

Kevin Bilkie, Vice President

Mike Graham, VP of Fields

Dave Hermann, IT and Communications

Scott Lanzilotta, Treasurer

Cathy Loya, Secretary

Matt Bewley, Board Member

Brian James, Board Member

Brenda Kovi, Board Member

Nick Lanese, Board Member

Melinda Malyuk, Board Member

Present via Telephone:

Chase Senk. VP of Equipment

Kyle Deininger, Board Member

Julie Moran, Board Member

Bobby Reville, Board Member

Kenny Sanger, Board Member

Marc Sprang, Board Member

Absent:

Andy Papile, Travel Coordinator

Nicole Gvora, Board Member

Minutes in Agenda Format:

I. President's Report

~ See below ~

II. Current Action Items

1. Creative Asset Files: Currently we do not have raw asset files (i.e. Photoshop or any vector-based image files) which would make it easy to create new materials for social media, other digital media, or printed materials (i.e. banners for fundraising events)

Not discussed

2. Off-season play/clinics for boys and girls Recreation program
(i.e. hitting clinic/pitching clinic) (Josh Bieneman)

Bradley, Facility Manager, from Strike Force in Hudson was invited to attend this meeting in order to gather ideas from the Board in hopes to form a stronger relationship with NHAA.

Jim requested information regarding Strike Force clinics. Looking for more structure from clinics moving forward as well as a positive outcome from these clinics for kids and coaches.

Bradley indicated a registration would be needed to better plan for facility use as well as staffing. Bradley also indicated that in the past there was no anticipation for the number of kids interested in attending clinics. Ideal situation is between 1 to 8 or 9 kids per staff instructor.

Scott recommended that first NHAA coaches work with Strike Force staff for consistent training on baseball/softball fundamentals as well as how to coach kids. Good discussion was had and Board spoke highly of this idea. A Coach's Clinic at Strike Force would be at no charge.

Boys and girls would be offered separate clinics. Strike Force has a primary focus of baseball, but has a few softball instructors.

Discussed offering a one-hour session for various age groups once weekly for a month. Couple this as a 3-4 hour shift on the same day. Roughly divided by grade level as follows: K-3 4-6 7-High School

Bradley indicated that registration would be set up via Strike Force's website and would look for 35-45 kids maximum per session. First come, first serve basis. Registration date and time is tracked via Strike Force's registration software.

March 2022 would be the goal for these clinics at Strike Force.

Bradley to prepare a written quote/proposal for pricing on full facility usage and instructors. This proposal will be sent to Jim for review.

Positive feedback was shared by Melinda for Strike Force's excellent work. She indicated excellent work by the Strike Force staff to instruct 10 kids for clinics as well as Fall Ball.

Nick indicated that Strike Force may not be the best option for large groups for hitting as facility space is tight.

Scott to contact Josh Bieneman to see what he might be able to offer regarding hitting clinics.

Kevin suggested contacting D-BAT for information and pricing regarding what they can offer regarding clinics. Jim suggested that D-BAT give a presentation to the Board. D-BAT has more to offer for softball players.

Scott and Bradley indicated that Travel teams should be finalizing their plans with Strike Force for the winter practice schedule now.

III. Committee Reports

****Committee members listed on separate page – all assignments have been filled****

Cathy encourages all Committee Chairs to email her with any items wishing to discuss at future meetings. These items will be added to the agenda. Please have items for the agenda sent at least one week prior to the next scheduled meeting.

1. Finance Committee

a. Treasurer/Chair Report

1. Current financial report

Scott sent full financial report via email 10.6.2021

Balance: \$49,737.97

Discussion re: \$4300 expense this year to Aris for portable bathroom facilities.

Portable bathroom facilities are needed at all school/community fields without permanent restroom facilities and NHAA paid for the rental of these units at all school and community fields. It was discussed that other groups are utilizing these portable bathroom facilities while having their events at those fields. Discussion was had about working with those other groups to share the cost for these amenities. Further it was discussed that the owner of the field/property charge each group applying for use of field/property a share in the cost for these portable bathroom facilities (i.e. schools or trustees). Portable bathroom facilities have been removed

from all fields in late September 2021/early October 2021.

Scott indicated that committees will need to come to the Board for approval of expenses greater than \$500.00.

2. Open invoices

Large invoice for uniforms outstanding.
Fields invoice outstanding.

3. Checks received – not discussed.

4. Expected expenses to close out Fall Ball – not discussed.

2. Fields Committee

a. VP of Fields/Chair Report

1. Repairs before winter

Mike reported that repairs are done.

2. Equipment boxes

Mike indicated that equipment boxes are permanent fixtures excluding two (2) that need to be cut out of Sagamore Park (retrieved from Longwood) and put in storage.

3. Collecting bases and other equipment

Mike indicated that collection of items will be done at the close of the Fall Ball season.

Dave indicated that Sagamore Hills Park and Magnolia are the only fields in use at this present time. All other fields can be broken down for the winter.

4. Any large improvements to consider before winter

Brian indicated a need for more dirt on fields prior to winter (approximately 3-5 tons per field). Fields vary and their requirement for additional dirt also varies. The Middle School field needs more work (i.e. more dirt (40 tons), grading, etc.) Brian offered to move dirt to fields. Brian to get price estimate/quote from Sagamore Soils for dirt only for these fields now. Getting this work done now in the drier fall will save lots of hassle and mess come springtime. In the spring it was indicated to condition the fields as well as get the mix of brick/dirt for at least one field.

NHAA has a good relationship with the Nordonia Schools regarding maintenance of fields.

3. Equipment Committee

a. VP of Equipment/Chair Report

1. Equipment return dates

Outstanding summer equipment has been received back at the storage locker.

Equipment return date will be the weekend after the conclusion of the Fall Ball season. Mark your calendars for the weekend of October 30, 2021. Assistance will be needed by Board members.

2. Inventory – not discussed.

3. Replacement list (i.e. catcher's gear and other broken items) – not discussed.

4. Uniform Committee

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report by Julie

Committee to meet in December 2021 and/or January 2022 to prepare gathering uniform quotes for upcoming 2022 spring/summer season.

Kevin inquired about sponsors for teams again. Jim indicated that the 2020 season gave NHAA the opportunity to go with Nordonía colors and Knights logo and/or name only on uniforms. Nordonía players were easily recognized at surrounding community fields. The logo printing of sponsors was proving challenging with lack of response for vector-based images from sponsor company as well as finding sponsors for all teams.

It was discussed about printing banners with sponsor names. It was also discussed about advertising on social media and the NHAA website for these sponsors. Mike suggested that sponsor names go on the back of jerseys; however, the issue with vector-based images and lack of response from sponsors offers the same challenge. Brenda suggested offering various price points for sponsorship via a banner (i.e. Small banner sponsor fee vs. large banner sponsor fee) or an end-of-season plaque with picture of team for an additional sponsorship fee. Sponsor banners would be each team's responsibility to post at field during play. Removal of sponsor banner would be team's responsibility as well.

The Uniform Committee will discuss these topics in more detail.

b. Keep in mind visors for girls softball leagues for spring/summer

5. Discipline Committee

a. Chair Report

1. Any open topics to review or report out?

Nick reported no issues.

6. Marketing and Fundraising Committee

a. Chair Report

Nothing to report by Melinda

1. Brand logo assets

Work to get logos to be vector-based. Use images for printing of banners for various events. (i.e. advertise fundraising events, advertise registration, etc.) Work with the City of Macedonia for posting banners at the corner of Route 8 and Route 82.

Melinda discussed holding in-person registration while offering mini-clinics as well as refreshments, etc. Scott suggested partnering with Josh Bieneman for mini-clinics.

Melinda discussed working with the Nordonía schools to email blast and/or

physically pass out NHAA-prepared flyers for various events (i.e. registration, clinics, etc.) Advertisements in the Sagamore Hills Voice, Newsleader, Nordonia Hills News, etc. are other options.

2. Off-season fundraising (alcohol sales opportunity with the City of Macedonia)

Alcohol sales fundraising not happening this off-season. Look to summer with Spirit of Macedonia/Fun Fest.

Melinda discussed opportunities at Blossom Music Center for alcohol sales fundraising for NHAA. A golf outing was mentioned along with doing a Hit-a-Thon.

Nick discussed that fundraising with restaurants will be solicited again in January 2022 for February through April.

3. Facebook transfer away from Sean Nowlin to Melinda Malyuk and Nick Lanese

Nick and Melinda will contact Sean to make this transition happen.

Melinda indicated that a Twitter and Instagram account will be established for NHAA.

4. Pictures and 'thank you' card for new catcher's equipment donated by Bendix

Nick had a 'thank you' card for all Board members to sign.

Bobby will get pictures taken for Nick to submit to Bendix.

7. Technology Committee

a. IT and Communications/Chair Report

Dave indicated that the website to be updated.

December 2021 will be built for registration to begin in January 2022.

b. Scheduling back up representative

Melinda will serve as back up to Dave.

8. Strategic Planning Committee

a. Chair Report

1. Outcome of September 13, 2021, Sagamore Hills Township Trustees meeting regarding long-term strategy

Jim gave a report regarding his meeting with Sagamore Hills Township Trustees on September 13, 2021. The Sagamore Trustees were open to NHAA improvements at Sagamore Hills Park, but it was repeated by Sagamore Trustees that NHAA will not monopolize fields. Jim indicated that the purpose for improvements to Sagamore Hills Park by NHAA would be to give back to the Nordonia community. It has been the goal of NHAA to keep at least one (1) field open for public use while the other fields are in use for NHAA events. Jim expressed to the Sagamore Trustees that NHAA maintains all other Nordonia fields (i.e. school fields, community fields, as well as St. Barnabas field). Fields in the City of Macedonia are not maintained by NHAA, but rather by the City.

Sagamore Hill Township will install dugout covers at Sagamore Hills Park at no cost to NHAA. This will create shade for players as well as provide safety.

Jim indicated that working with the Fields Committee to create a written proposal for NHAA improvements will need to be composed for presentation to Sagamore

Trustees. Estimates for Field #4 to expand infield before winter. Estimates for brick/dirt mixture for fields. (i.e. cost, how to grade properly, etc.)

Jim was unable to discuss with Sagamore Trustees a multi-year agreement.

Jim indicated that Sagamore Trustees are going after grant funds for potential installation of soccer fields at Sagamore Hills Park.

Kevin suggested Sagamore Trustees investigate grants from NOPEC regarding funds for field lights as done in the City of Macedonia at Longwood. Nick suggested that a lighted field would allow flexibility with public field availability. NHAA cannot go after these types of grants because Sagamore Hills Township owns the property.

2. Update regarding additional quote(s) for reworking fields (Marc Sprang update)

Not discussed

b. Please plan a small group meeting to define short-, mid-, and long-term objectives

Not discussed

IV. Travel Update

1. Travel Coordinator Report

Jim reported that there is no 12U Girls Softball travel team.

Jim reported that Ross May will be coaching the 11U Boys Baseball travel team.

Scott and Jim will need to update travel accounts.

V. New Action Items

Follow up was requested regarding picking up used baseballs in Mentor from Nations Baseball. Brian was unable to meet Harry for pick up last month. Harry to be contacted for pick up arrangement. Matt to pick up used baseballs and these are to be put in the storage locker.

There are four (4) open slots on the NHAA Board and recruitment of new members is welcome.

VI. Open Discussion/Comments

None

Date of next NHAA Board of Trustees meeting:

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Location to be determined

Meeting adjourned:

9:34 p.m.