*Emily Schieler opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.*

**Agenda**

**Welcome – Emily Schieler**

* Introductions
* Thank you to the four new people attending their first meeting!

**Approve February minutes – Joe Johnson**

* Minutes approved by Emily and Karen Yaros.

**Financial Update – Candi Owens**

* Received our final concession profit from the 2023 season: $3,407
	+ Concession profits were down from 2022 (roughly $5,000 profit) due to some bad weather games, increasing food/drink prices and the game vs. Normal West was away.
* FOIF has roughly $15,600 in the bank, including $12,000 in an interest-bearing money market account.
* Coach Drengwitz has additional requests from the annual $5,000 provided to the program from FOIF, including funds for team building and prizes for winter workout.

**Updates/Q&A – Athletic Director Nic Kearfoot**

* Happy to work with FOIF on streamlining the concessions process.
* Discussed the UnderArmor branding contract
	+ Would like to offer apparel through BSN Sports with proceeds to FOIF if possible.
	+ Unable to use items with Nike logo.
	+ Discussed factors involved in moving to a new branding contract.
* New sponsorship program rolls out on 3/18/2024. All sponsorships are funneled through the NCHS athletic office. Sponsors will be able to advertise in all venues (gym, football field, soccer and baseball fields, etc.). Packages will also be available to include the NCHS website and new NCHS Ironmen app.
	+ Any contracts currently in place will be honored.
	+ FOIF will get 60% of the annual sponsorship fee on all sponsorships it secures. Three-year contracts will pay annually.
	+ Normal West has used a similar approach. Most of the agreements are secured by mid-August for that school year.
	+ Nic recommended keeping current sponsors on FOIF site for now.
* Misc
	+ Nic responded to suggestion that we always have a live singer or band for the national anthem as opposed to a recording. This usually is the case. Nic is responsible for coordination and will work with the Band program.
	+ Ms. McClure is responsible for the Ironman mascot/costume and may be able to help with securing it for varsity games.

**Subcommittee updates**

* Communications (Emily) – New pictures are on the website, along with the program schedule
* Fundraising/Trivia Night (Heather Potts)
	+ Event is June 27 @ Eastland Suites Conference Center
	+ Eight participants at a table. $325 per table, includes entry and popcorn and a raffle ticket.
	+ Goal is at least 10 tables, usually 10-15 tables. Usually have a table(s) for folks who don’t have eight people and willing to split and the cost and join others.
	+ Chris Merrill will emcee.
	+ In the process of selecting food trucks.
	+ Working on basket donations – Let Heather know if you are able to donate big ticket items or baskets for donation. Typically the baskets have $50-75 worth of goods/services. Examples of some big ticket items auctions last year: Tesla for a day, Botox treatments, Yeti Cooler, etc.
	+ Eight participants at a table. $325, includes entry and popcorn and a ticket.
* Spirit Wear (Wendy Kretsinger)
	+ Wendy will check about a pop-up store for Mother’s Day/Father’s Day.
	+ She has met with Read’s and working on offering some new items along with things that sold well last year.
* Kickoff Bash/Varsity Meals (Karyn)
	+ Identified Aug. 24, 2024 as date for Kickoff Bash. Returning to Kegler’s Pub again this year, with volleyball and bags tournament, etc.
	+ Varsity meals
		- Karen has reached out to seven businesses so far.
* Parent recruiting (Emily for Beth Beaty)
	+ - Good job, Beth!
		- Will need people for upcoming meetings to represent FOIF

**Open positions**

* Tony Marchand will handle coordination of the 50/50 drawing for fundraising
	+ Need parent volunteers (likely underclassmen) for ticket sales at varsity games
	+ Candi – We will have to register for each event, so we need to get names ahead of time
* Need team parents for freshmen and JV teams. The team parent role is to pass out food at away games and also being a liaison to the FOIF.
* A concession manager is needed. **Note:** You don’t have to work the stand during the game. You only have to do the prep to get the concession stand ready.

**Salute to Service Game (Joe)**

* Salute to Service is offered by the National Guard. Camoflague jerseys are loaned free to schools for a game on a reservation basis. Olympia, El Paso and LeRoy did this in 2024. Schools can work with the Guard to do activities around the Salute to Service game, i.e. color guard, special spirit wear, set up a recruiting booth, commerative coin, honor veterans, etc.
* Coach D is looking at the schedule to see if it can work. There are only four home games in the 2024 season and other themes are already planned including Senior Night, honoring the 1974 NCHS team, and Buddies Night.

*Meeting adjourned following motion from Emily Schieler and Wendi L.*

**Next meeting**

April 10, 2024

NCHS Cafeteria

6 p.m.