



HARTFORD COUNCIL FOR RECREATION
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www.hartfordrecreation.org

**INTERLOCAL BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS &
HARTFORD COUNCIL FOR RECREATION**

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

7:00 PM

HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

THE BOARD MEETS THE 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

AGENDA

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Approve minutes from March meeting; see attached documents**
- 3. Financial, Budget and Audit Updates**
 - a. Janell and Jerrod bring the board up to date with the Treasurer's report, with the current figures in the General Fund, Concession Fund, League of Miracles Fund and PayPal account. These are also available for review in paper form.**
 - b. Update on the progress and status of the 2019 audit, to the extent of the current contacts that we have had with Hungerford Nichols. Still, lack of communication exists between our organization and their organization, despite emails being sent during the current time frame. The last contact from them indicated that they would investigate the file and see if that had everything that needed. They also said that they would contact us if they didn't and they did not.**
 - c. Once we fully complete the process of the 2019 audit, the board will need to convene on future strategies on the auditing process, or something similar, so that we can get back on track for the fiscal years of 2020 and 2021. With the township giving the local entities that they have left the Interlocal Agreement, it is possible we could renegotiate having a complete audit done, but still have a licensed accountant / auditor look at our books year-round, to establish that our organization remains clean.**
 - d. Just a reminder that due to our in-progress audit and unknown future with the township (we will reach out at a future meeting to see if they would be willing to donate in lieu of being in the Interlocal Agreement), we still just can't spend on just anything; it would have to be a necessity. We must remain vigilant with our spending right now. We are now in the spring sports season, so bills for jerseys, balls, equipment and umpires, among other things, will need to be paid out, in additions to our monthly bills, such as electric and water / sewer.**
- 4. HCR Updates**
 - a. Baseball & Softball Updates**
 - 1. The season officially gets started next week! Baseball will begin their season on Monday, May 2nd, with softball starting on the following day; Tuesday, May 3rd. While we have had a couple of kids drop out of the program since the last meeting update (injured, quit with / without reason), we still will begin the year with over 200 participants in the baseball, softball and T-Ball programs, and that doesn't include the League of Miracles kids that will participate when we have field openings during May and June. We are still encouraged that our numbers are up year-over-year and it appears that it is happening in other communities, which is a big breath of fresh air.**
 - 2. All our teams now have coaches, as Jerrod has taken up the role as the head coach / manager of the third major league baseball team. Coaches have utilized the facilities properly and have worked together without the constraint of having to make a schedule for practice (outside of Friday's / weekend's). Our goal is to have our teams working well together, so that we can create better competition on the field, while trying to showcase good sportsmanship on, and off, the field, as well.**
 - 3. As far as games are concerned, the SWMBSL decided to split the league into divisions this year, creating an East Division and a West Division. We are part of the West Division, which means we will be playing Coloma, South Haven and Watervliet, for the most part. Jerrod has reached out to other communities and has a couple of softball games scheduled with Decatur. In addition,**

we had to move our 14U softball team into another league (the Suncoast), due to a lack of teams in our normal league. Because of that, it adds Berrien Springs, Brandywine, Coloma and Lakeshore to their schedule. In addition, in certain divisions, due to “balanced scheduling”, some teams currently have dates that they are not expected to play, and Jerrod is working hard to try to fill some of those dates.

4. As far as the rules are concerned, very little will be different from previous seasons. The only issue that our “West Division” is currently trying to find a quorum about is the speed of the pitching machines on the 8U / Instructional and 10U / Minor levels. There seems to be a general agreement around some figures, and coaches will be notified of the decision when it is finalized.
5. Once we begin the regular season next week, we will want to get out our tournament information as soon as possible, as well as address any rules that we wish to change. The one we have focused on specifically is the bat rule, and the ejection of said bat and coach. But we need to have a rule review each year, in case we are missing something else.
6. **REMINDER: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, everything that we set with dates, locations, or times is subject to change, and should in no way be considered final in nature.**

b. Football & Cheerleading Updates

1. At this time, no major discussion topics are warranted, as these sports are considered “out of season”. We will revisit these sports at our June or July meeting to address signup fees, dates, etc.

c. Basketball Updates

1. At this time, no major discussion topics are warranted, as this sport is considered “out of season”. We will revisit these sports in future meetings in the fall to address signup fees, dates, etc.

d. League of Miracles Updates

5. Old Business

- a. Despite the uncertainty in terms of a future Interlocal Agreement, or a similar document, we will still attempt to attend city, school and township meetings, and just give them a formal idea of what is going on within our organization. We, as board members, should all make a valiant attempt to attend, and show that we have a solid front in this effort. Our goal is to let these entities know our current and future directions and goals for our organization.
- b. Fundraisers are, for the most part, finished for the spring, and they have been solidly successful. In addition to our quarter auction, which brought it roughly \$1,500.00 for our organization, we recently had our popcorn fundraiser, which Joe took head-on in another effort to bring in money for fundraising efforts. We raised over \$2,000.00 on this project, and a big thank you goes to Joe for his time and effort, as well as the players and families that solid product. That means we have raised an additional \$3,500.00 that we wouldn't have had. The vision we have going forward is looking very bright.
- c. Contracts for our 2022 labor are being finalized and will be completed in time for everyone to sign for Opening Day on Monday. We are glad to have Jeff Christner back as Park Director, Marilyn Mead / Tim & Mary Fish back as Concession Directors and Jerrod / Kellan Nichols back as co-Head Umpire's.
- d. We still should hold a park cleanup day in May, even though the season will be underway. There is still work that can be done, but with the abnormal spring conditions we have had so far, outside of last weekend, has prevented us for the most part.

6. New Business

- a. The biggest piece of new business revolves around a fundraising event being held at the park on Saturday, April 30th for the Beam / Najacht family. They are asking consideration for us to give them access to utilizing our concession stand for their endeavor. While we have no issue with them using the fields, since this is a building, the board needs to discuss if this is feasible, and can be allowed.
- b. Honor Credit Union contacted Jerrod, and they are excited about their move to Hartford, and would like to join us in May. They would be bringing a tent and handing out some Honor “goodies” to introduce themselves to the town, as they will be opening their branch this summer. We will gladly welcome them to our facility, and Jerrod and Kurt (representative from Honor) will work together on a date and a best location for them to set up.
- c. With Jerrod having to coach a team, it is possible (depending on the schedule) that we will have to move our upcoming May meeting to a different day; it would be for just May, for the time being.

7. Public Wishing to Address the Board

8. Open Discussion

9. Next Meeting Reminder:

- a. Wednesday, May 18th, 7:00 PM, to be announced (date, time and location is pending approval by the board). A meeting reminder will also be placed on our website, social media channels, at Hartford City Hall, at Central Office at Hartford Public Schools and at Hartford Township Hall.**

10. Motion to adjourn