



**HARTFORD COUNCIL FOR RECREATION**  
**PO BOX 332, HARTFORD, MI 49057**  
**[www.hartfordrecreation.org](http://www.hartfordrecreation.org)**

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

**Wednesday, March 23, 2022**

**7:00 PM**

**HARTFORD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**THE BOARD MEETS THE 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Approve minutes from February 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. We have sent emails to their organization over the past several months, with the last contact that they would investigate the documentation they already had, and if they needed anything further from us, they would contact us. Nothing has occurred since that contact, and we will do our due diligence to find out the next steps in this process.**
  - c. Once we fully complete the process of the 2019 audit, the board will need to convene on getting the audits, or something similar, completed for both the 2020 and 2021 fiscal years. Under the current Interlocal Agreement language, the yearly audits are in-fact, required. However, with the township giving the other two local authorities notice about leaving the agreement, it is possible we could renegotiate having complete audits, and having someone look at our books year-round.**
  - d. Just a reminder that due to our in-progress audit and unknown future with the township (we will reach out to see if they will donate in lieu of the agreement), we still do not have a "free flow" of funds to spend, and we must remain vigilant with our spending. We are now entering spring sports, so those bills (jerseys, balls, equipment, etc.) will need to be paid, in addition to our monthly bills, like electric, water / sewer, etc.**
- 4. HCR Updates**
  - a. Baseball & Softball Updates**
    - 1. We are a bit ahead of schedule this year, in terms of getting signups completed and teams drafted, in terms of previous years, which is a good thing! Our total number of participants are even higher than last year, which is a surprise considering last season, we were coming off a year of COVID, and many just wanted to play. We ended with well over 200 kids between T-Ball, Baseball and Softball, which is our largest figure in quite some time. One thing that we have to do in the future is both cut off signups at a specific date and hold our ground, while also looking at the possibility of an early bird fee and a late fee, to encourage more parents / guardians to sign up earlier, and face the consequences of higher costs, or their participants not playing.**
    - 2. As far as rules and scheduling occurs, our 8U and Instructional teams will be participating locally, only playing currently at Hartford, Watervliet and Coloma, with Decatur, Dowagiac and South Haven always possible due to local proximity, and a need for more games. The rest of our teams from 10U / Minor all the way up, are due to play in the SWMBSL. Jerrod submitted the team numbers to the league so they could begin the process of putting the schedules together, which will come in a multitude of times until the schedules are set and finalized.**
    - 3. As we have established before, we will begin practices roughly around the spring break time period, but coaches will have the flexibility to begin practices sooner, since some of the equipment that they may need is actually locked away where a director doesn't need to be present. The current plan is to have the season start the first full week of May and run until the**

first full week in June. It is possible that teams could take part in preseason tournaments or scrimmages prior to that, but it is up to the specific coaches what they wish to do.

4. We will have to revisit the rules and regulations for both of our tournaments in the coming months and get the information out to local area directors in prompt time, as we have our dates now set. All of this includes going rule-by-rule and the paperwork to get ready is a process that takes some time to do, so this will be done as we get into early-April.

**5. 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 still need to decide how we want to handle the awards situation from the 2021 season, as we have discussed this option as several meetings. We would like to get something done, but we would like to execute it properly, and get it completed before the upcoming spring sports season.

**c. Basketball Updates**

1. At this time, no major discussion topics are warranted, as this sport is considered “out of season”. However, much like football & cheerleading, we need to determine how we want to handle the awards ceremony; likely, all sports awards would be completed prior to the start of the spring sports season.

**d. League of Miracles Updates**

**5. Old Business**

- a. Despite the uncertainty in terms of the Interlocal Agreement, we will still attempt to schedule a meeting with the city, school and township, and make a formal presentation to all three entities, once the audit is done. We, as board members, will all need to attend to show a united front. Our goal is to have everyone on the same wavelength, so that we can get to pursuing our current and future goals as one team.
- b. Fundraisers have occurred, are underway, and are still in planning. We recently had the quarter auction earlier this month, that saw businesses and individuals alike, donate items of varying dynamic, which raised roughly \$1,500.00 for our organization. The turn-out was good for our first event, and with even more planning and support, could come back better and bigger next year. Huge thank you to Marilyn for all her hard work in planning and executing an event of that caliber. Currently, we have our spirit wear fundraiser underway, that is strictly being done online, and is open through at-least the first part of April, that will hopefully garner a lot of support, and we will see it all over the ball park this coming spring. Finally, a popcorn fundraiser is also in the works, and will need execution on both our end and the team end to be another successful way of raising funds to support our organization.

**6. New Business**

- a. The school has officially changed the mascot to “Huskies” starting in the 2022-23 school year. This means that the ballpark, as it’s known now (Indian Pride Park), will have to alter its name starting after the baseball / softball season. What is our organizations plan on a name change, or do we make the change silently, to keep the threat of commotion down to a minimum?
- b. We must address the recent elephant in the room, and that is regarding the vandalism recently at the fields. We have had our lady’s bathroom door damaged, the sink destroyed, and the toilet cover broken. We have had graffiti spray painted on the pony field scoreboard and multiple doors around our clubhouse. This is unacceptable, and we cannot have this going on year-round. How do we plan to attack this effort?

**7. Public Wishing to Address the Board**

**8. Open Discussion**

**9. Next Meeting Reminder:**

- a. Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, to be announced (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**