



HARTFORD COUNCIL FOR RECREATION
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www.hartfordrecreation.org

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

Tuesday, November 29, 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 October 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. REMINDER: The general account will show the amount of the football fundraisers (which is the total received after paying the required fee the company asked us to pay upon delivery). That money will be set aside, so the general fund total is currently the total in the account MINUS the fundraiser money. At previous meetings, our board has decided to revisit each sport having their own individual accounts come the first of the 2023 fiscal year, should that be the direction we go.**
 - b. **Update on the continued progress and status of the 2019 audit, to the extent of the current contact that we have had with Hungerford Nichols. Progress has been going on in recent days, as we have had communication with both Brian and Ryan, and they are working hard to get the 2019 audit done as soon as possible, so that we can get this finally off the table. That would be a step forward for us, and we can finally attempt to get the back money from the township and put it to good use helping improve our equipment and programs for the kids of Hartford.**
 - c. **Once we fully complete the process of the 2019 audit, the board, along with our municipal partners, will need to come together on future strategies on how we want to handle the audits, or something similar, moving forward. Our goal is to get back on track with the remaining years (2020 / 2021), but we are also closing in on the end of this year already, so the process for the 2022 audit will need to take place, as well. In talking with Hungerford Nichols, they will reach out to the township after completing this audit, to find out if there is a way that would satisfy the township for 2020 and 2021, without having to do a 'full audit', that will meet their standards, while saving the council and municipalities thousands of dollars.**
 - d. **Just a reminder that due to the current audit situation (the organization is short \$15,000.00 from the township from 2019 - 2021, which is held up due to the audit(s) in process), we should still continue to spend on just the absolute necessities that the facilities, grounds or sports programs need right now. We must remain vigilant with our spending habits in the near term. As we mention in our treasurer's report, the accounts are typically in decent shape, but we still need to pay monthly bills, and still have basketball going on throughout the winter, which means we have costs of jerseys and officials to cover. Hopefully, as the audit situation clears up, and we continue building new fundraising opportunities that will give us the opportunity to purchase new equipment, especially for our spring and fall sports, going forward.**
4. **HCR Updates**
 - a. **Baseball & Softball Updates**
 1. **It is probably a good time to take a moment at this meeting to start planning for spring sports, as we will want to have registration open (online) sometime around the first of the year. So, the board will need to set signup dates (for in-person) and fees for the 2023 season. We will also want to strategize on how we want to capitalize on getting the most signups and getting all the kids we can signing up. Usually, our best strategy is using our website and social media channels, while also sending out flyers in the schools, especially Redwood and Middle School.**
 2. **In terms of leagues and scheduling, it appears that the league we usually play-in (the SWMBSL) is sticking with two separate divisions (East and West), meaning only games will be scheduled with Coloma, South Haven and Watervliet. Also, they appear to be going back to half live-pitch**

and half machine-pitch in the 10U level, for both genders. It has been our general agreement over the years to NOT do any live pitch at the 10U level on either side, as coaches in the past have stressed to save players arms at that young of level. What this all means bares two questions – 1) how the four scheduling communities want that division to function (since we are scheduling together) and 2) what do we want to do for our older divisions; do we want to move them into a league with more teams for scheduling or what's the plan?

b. Football & Cheerleading Updates

1. These sports are considered 'out-of-season'; however, we still need to have an awards night for the players, coaches and their families. Awards have been ordered, but we need a date and time for the auditorium. Obviously, we want to conclude this by the end of the year and start planning for next season come later next spring.

c. Basketball Updates

1. The season has started for our young ladies here in Hartford and from the looks of it, we have had very little issues so far, which is good news when you have 68 participants playing. Of course, we have been bitten by the weather and holiday bugs, as that has put a damper on the last two weekends of action. But we are hoping to get back on track for the next few weeks and finish the season strong. We are still operating on a week-to-week basis, which makes it very difficult to get volunteers to assist on days we have home games, and I think we all agree this needs to change in future years.
2. Jerseys were ordered for the season, but our strategy needs to be for us to keep the jerseys for several years and then revisit buying them again. We should buy jerseys for the boy's season, and then follow that strategy. This is all dependent on having the necessary funds to achieve this.
3. In terms of the boy's season, our goal is to reopen signups online on Dec. 1, and then utilizing some games (middle school / junior varsity / varsity) to do in-person signups. The season starts after the first of the year, so we will need to do this all prior to winter break. The goal is to try to exceed the numbers from last year and be up in participation year-over-year. The league met for a boy's meeting earlier this month, and details of that meeting will be provided to board members as information becomes available.
4. **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.**

d. League of Miracles Updates

5. Old Business

- a. We should continue our recent discussions, from the previous couple meetings, regarding multiple topics; those topics need to include clinics (especially for coaches and making sure they follow our standards), codes of conduct (for coaches, parents and players), fundraising ideas, logo restructuring, renaming the ball park and volunteer time ideas for parents to alleviate some of the ball park stress we all feel.
- b. Just a reminder that come January, election of board members will occur, and several of us will be stepping away from our roles to move on to new opportunities. The hope is that a few of our board members will remain to continue continuity, but we also need to have conversations with community members about stepping up and being part of the organization going forward in years to come. We also will need to inquire about interested parties for labor agreements (Park Director, Concession Manager and Head Umpire) for the 2023 season, as well.

6. New Business

- a. It would be nice for the board to have an 'end of the year' party for all our volunteers. It doesn't need to be an extravagant affair; maybe just a potluck dinner to say thank you for the effort they put in this year, as many of them feel like they might be underappreciated, which is not the case. Maybe we have something on the same day as our final board meeting for the year, which will allow us to take care of two things at one time.
- b. The board should come up with a 2023 events calendar, like we did this past year. We can put dates for our signups (for spring sports), spring sports season dates, baseball and softball tournament dates and more. I think we all agreed that it helped last year and kept us organized and on-track during a hectic season.

7. Public Wishing to Address the Board

8. Open Discussion

9. Next Meeting Reminder:

- a. **Wednesday, December 21st, 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