



February 16, 2022

Minutes

Hartford High School Library

Called to order at 7:08 PM by Chairman Birmele

Interlocal Board Members present: Birmele, Mead, Mireles, Bachman, Morsaw
Interlocal Board Members absent: Hall, Sweet
HCR Directors present: Birmele, Morsaw, Mead, Parker
Others present: Kim Hicks, Craig & Hannah Moore, Veronica Wolf

Motion to approve January 2022 meeting minutes made by Mead, supported by Mireles. Motion approved 5-0. Before approval, Jerrod reminded the board of all the discussion topics from the meeting that we discussed, so that those who may have missed the meeting previously knew what was discussed.

Jerrod brought the board up to date with the latest treasurer's report for the past month, which showed the current balances in the General, League of Miracles and Concession Funds, as well as showing the expenditures the council had in the previous month. Balances included \$2,482.95 in the general account, \$1,861.68 in the League of Miracles account and \$320.31 in the concession account. Since we are currently between our winter (basketball) and spring (baseball / softball) seasons, there were very few payments that needed to be made, but two big checks were written for final payments for Park Director and Concession Director, to clear contracts from 2021 season. To do as such, money was transferred from the concession to the general account for those payments, as is usual. Without the concession funding, our balance would not have been enough to make those payments in full. In addition, any remaining deposits made in the general account for the month were for online spring sports signups.

In addition, Jerrod mentioned that he has been in contact with the organizers of the Allegan Youth Sports group, and has advised them that they still owed us \$470.00 from a non-payment for our baseball tournaments last summer. He mentioned that they have a completely new group in charge, and they were never advised on any outstanding bills. They have promised to stick a check in the mail about March 1st, and we should receive the payment shortly thereafter.

Jerrod spoke of the audit from Hungerford Nichols. Slow progress continues, and most of the documentation that they have requested from the 2019 audit has been submitted, and now, we will wait on any additional information. The board all agreed that we wanted to get this situation taken care of as soon as possible, because we need to move forward and get 2020 and 2021 done right thereafter. The board also discussed the potential to look at different options in the future, namely, a new auditor or having someone with significant financial experience looking over our books on a monthly basis to ensure that we are continuing to handle our financials in the correct manner.

Jerrod has also spoken to the city regarding a renewal of the liability coverage, which comes up every so often. The city has requested a multitude of information, including asking the age and material of the buildings on the property. As a board, we know that the clubhouse has been there a very long time (since the school used the park as the football field at one time), and the concession stand is more recent (the last decade or so), so Jerrod sent Kelly Millin an email asking the school to look into the situation further, since it is their property and any improved or new buildings would be included on their insurance. She has stated she passed along the information to Rebecca Drake, and hopes to have that resolution soon.

Regarding baseball and softball, Jerrod brought the board up to date on the status of signups. So far, most, if not all, of our signups have occurred in the virtual registration (online) setting, and we currently sit at roughly 30-35 signups. This is close to where we were at last year, if not a little bit lower, due to a lack of in-person registration nights thus far. The board discussed the best way to handle in-person signups, since usually, unless there are bigger school events, parents don't turn out. It was decided that we would have signups on both nights of Parent-Teacher Conferences (March 1st and 3rd) at Redwood Elementary. Marilyn will take the first day, while Megan will handle the second day. We had roughly 200 kids play ball last year and we hope to expand on it in 2022.

Continuing with baseball and softball, Jerrod mentioned that the league that our older kids (11 – 14) play in has decided to play pitching machine in the 9 – 10 level, which would be in line to what we have done for years in our games with Coloma and Watervliet, among others. It was determined that our group should ask to join the league in that division this year, as well, to keep the same amount of games, while widening out our potential opponent base. The league is playing from May 2nd through June 9th, and our calendar will look similar. This is actually a couple of weeks later than it was before the pandemic (we usually started around April 20th), so it gives us some extra practice time, and Megan mentioned it might be a good idea to use that last week in April for scrimmages between our Hartford teams.

Continuing with baseball and softball, Jerrod mentioned that we will need to take a look at the rules for the upcoming season, and make sure that they are in order, but with all but one division going into the league, we will only need to look at the 8U / Instructional rules. Also, it was determined that Megan Mireles would like to stay on as the softball director, and that Kellan Nichols had asked to become the baseball director this year, in place of Andy Bachman, who was okay with giving up these duties.

Regarding basketball, Jerrod brought the board up to date on the status of the season to date. Thus far, the season has gone well, except for some issues back in January that the board had to address and did so in the proper manner. Jerrod made mention to thank our players, parents and coaches for making this season fun and educational for all around. The board also thanked Lee Mireles, Megan Mireles and Marilyn Mead for their hard work in-terms of running the basketball program and concession stand during the season. The final home game is coming up on Saturday,

February 19th and that will finish all sporting events until the spring season. Remember, this is our first season organizing basketball, so we hope to clean up on the mistakes that we made this year, and make our season run much better next year.

Regarding basketball and football awards, the board is trying to create a creative way to do them, because while the financial situation remains okay, the prices of the awards (nearly \$1,000 total between football and cheerleading) were quite pricey and the way things are going, the prices will just keep going up. In addition, we know we don't want to spend money that we need to utilize for baseball (those funds go towards jerseys, baseballs / softballs, umpires, insurance, etc.) and those costs look to be going up. Meanwhile, we still have to be 'frugal' with our funds, since we don't have our normal funding from the township, which the \$5,000.00 they usually send leaves us with a big hole to cover.

It was determined maybe the best option would be to attempt to have something in March, and hand out 'multi-sport' certificates for 2021 sports, and have it in the auditorium. Marilyn asked if we had the list of participants in all sports (spring, fall and winter). Jerrod stated that he had all the participants from the spring sports season, while Janell and Megan thought that they had all the participants in the fall and winter sports. Jerrod mentioned that they should gather the lists, and send them to Marilyn, and see what she could do. When we can schedule these awards, it was mentioned that maybe we do a little food table, and that was something that could be donated by a sponsor or board member. We will continue to see what we can do.

Jerrod mentioned to the board that he has spoken to Jeff Christner about his interest in returning to the Park Director position, and it appears from conversations with Joe that he would do as such, which is good to hear. Jerrod and Kellan Nichols also wish to remain in the position as co-Head Umpires, which leaves us with Concession Director. Marilyn stated that she is exhausted from being at the ballpark every single night, in addition to her current work-life in the 'real world'. Last year, she had Mary & Tim Fish in the concession stand during the baseball / softball season and tournaments, but that if they wanted to split time with her this year (one group take Monday / Wednesday, the other Tuesday / Thursday), she would consider staying on and helping out, in addition to taking care of the ordering and making sure that funds were deposited in the bank. The board encouraged her to speak with the Fish family directly and gauge their opinion regarding the situation before deciding.

Regarding new business, Jerrod mentioned that the Wes Leonard Heart Team has approved our application for an AED to be placed at the ballpark at no cost to us. While this is something that we never want to have to use, if we need to use it and it saves one life, it was worth it. Marilyn mentioned that when it does come in that the board members that are down at the park on a consistent basis should receive training on the AED, so that more than one person is properly trained. The cost is reasonable, and Jerrod even mentioned to look to see if the VBISD safety director that does train at the High School would be interested in training us, as well.

Continuing in new business, the board felt based on other communities that we should set a solid schedule of upcoming events for the 2022 season. Calendar dates that were set included but were not limited to: signup dates and the end of the signup process, first practices, first games and end of the regular season. The board also set the dates for the 2022 tournaments, with the softball tournament occurring June 16-19 and the baseball tournament happening from June 23-26.

In open discussion, Marilyn mentioned that the quarter auction is taking place on March 10th, and that flyers are on our website and in the community to draw attention to the event. The biggest issues are two-fold: donated items and snack station. In terms of donated items, she has received several donations from throughout the community, but we feel more could be done. Additional items were pledged during the meeting and discussion turned to going into the community further for not only goods, but gift cards.

Continuing in new business, the board discussed an additional fundraiser opportunity. Megan mentioned the idea of having a fundraiser through spirit wear sales. She mentioned that her daughter's travel ball programs utilize Lazer Graphics for sales, and the company gives back a portion of the sales should we reach a certain threshold. The board loved the idea, and approved Megan to execute that plan. Additional conversation about the spirit wear came around a design for the front, and whether the board wanted to go out by having it include the Indian head (since this is the last season we will be able to use it) or just do a general Hartford design. It was decided to use a general 'H' this year, so that families could wear them at not only our sporting events, but others, as well.

Next meeting will be scheduled for March 16, 2022. We will hold it in the Hartford High School Library, unless the weather improves enough to move things outdoors.

Motion to adjourn by Birmele, supported by Bachman. Motion approved 5-0.

Birmele adjourned the meeting at 8:40 PM.

Submitted by
Megan Mireles
Interlocal Board Secretary