



July 20, 2022

Minutes

Indian Pride Park

Called to order at 7:20 PM by Chairman Birmele

Interlocal Board Members present: Birmele, Mireles, Hall, Morsaw
Interlocal Board Members absent: Mead, Bachman, Sweet
HCR Directors present: Birmele, Morsaw
Others present: Bianca Deckard, America May, Jason May, Lee Mireles

Motion to approve June 2022 meeting minutes made by Hall, supported by Morsaw. Motion approved 4-0. 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. The current balances in the accounts showed that the general account had \$9,286.53 in it, while the League of Miracles account had \$361.20 in it, and the concession account had \$2,246.45 in it. The accounts remain in solid shape all being told, but board members were reminded that spending must remain within the limitations we have set throughout the past few years, especially as the costs of expenses for equipment, uniforms, etc. will continue going up. The council still owes some monthly bills, like water and electric, but also owes Joe \$500.00 for serving as the park director for the softball tournament, and we still owe \$1,826.09 to Hartford Athletics for the softball team helping at the gate during our boy's tournament. Jerrod has the check, but was informed that Abel Robles (athletic director) is on vacation.

In addition to the treasurer's report, Jerrod told the board that he and Janell have not had any contact with the auditor in the recent month regarding the 2019 audit, which is apparently still in processing. So, that means no news – and maybe no news is good news. The board discussed ways to move forward in the future with the auditing process, because now that the township is out of the Interlocal Agreement, the city, school and our group will need to come together to redraft an agreement.

In addition, it was mentioned that Joe, Megan and Rick met with the new superintendent and the meeting was productive looking forward and the group will reconvene after the beginning of the school year. The biggest concerns are insurance at the park, as it was found that both the city and school have been paying for liability insurance and no one exactly knows who 'owns' the concession stand. Jerrod mentioned that he wrote the grant letter on behalf of the council to get the monetary donation from the Pokagon Fund many years ago but does not have a copy of it in his files. It was suggested that maybe the school board was informed of it in the past, as they must have communicated about it, since it is on school property.

Regarding baseball and softball, Jerrod brought the board up to date on the progress of these sports. With the conclusion of the baseball tournament a few weeks ago, the season is officially complete. We had 23 teams compete in our tournament, and each one of our four divisions had different communities win the crown. Paw Paw won the instructional division, Watervliet won the minor division, Brandywine won the major division and Hartford won in the pony division. It was also noted that two of the Most Valuable Player trophies were given to Hartford players: Jose Perales in the major division and Timmy Wimbley in the pony division.

Before we declare the season closed, the board discussed the reasoning of why nearly \$1,000.00 sits out in on balances from spring sports. Jerrod, Marilyn and Megan all mentioned that we have attempted to collect it, but when it happens, some people will just brush it off and not pay. Most of the discussion the board had revolved around ways that we could collect the outstanding balances, in addition to potential future penalties. We don't want to have to turn away players, but we must run this organization like a business. Board members will continue to work every angle to get the balances collected.

Regarding cheerleading and football, Jerrod and Lee split time informing the board on the progress of these sports. The signup period is still ongoing, as online registrations opened on July 1st and will close on July 31st, giving parents / guardians exactly one month to get their children signed up for the season. In addition, Lee is organizing a pair of free camps to be held at the ballpark, on July 21st and July 28th, and that will give us additional periods for in-person signups.

Continuing with cheerleading and football, Lee mentioned that the first practice for football will be on August 8th (tackle) and August 22nd (flag), while cheerleading will begin on August 15th. The league has selected Hartford to host the annual weigh-in and jamboree (scrimmages) on August 27th at the high school football field. Also attending will be Coloma, South Haven and Watervliet. It will start at 9:00 AM, but the weigh-in will occur before then. We will need volunteers to help with getting kids weighed-in, as well as at the concession stand and general help, like referees. It was mentioned that we hoped we could count on some of the varsity football players to help throughout the season, including at the scrimmages, and Joe stated that he would make it happen.

Continuing with cheerleading and football, it was mentioned that the first game will be on September 10th and last for approximately six or seven weeks. Hartford will host four home games this season and the final game of the year will be under the lights against Watervliet, which both communities and teams really enjoy.

Regarding basketball, Jerrod brought the board up to date on the progress of that sport. While it is currently out-of-season, we need to start coming up with plans to get kids signed up, especially girls, as their season starts just as the cheerleading and football season ends in October. It was mentioned that the school will be hosting Back to School Bash, so the board agreed that a table at that event could serve as our first in-person signups for winter sports. Bianca offered to help us run the table at the event, which would be rather helpful in the case that our other board members would be busy with other events.

Regarding League of Miracles, Jerrod mentioned that the group recently had a car show and motorcycle ride that they hosted during the second Saturday in July at the race track, and it proved to be rather successful, and the event brought the group much needed funds and visibility in the community.

In old business, the board continued their discussion into potential future fundraising ideas to bring in additional funds to the organization. America May suggested that she would investigate a large-scale raffle, which could have a mixture of smaller and bigger prizes. Bianca mentioned that she will investigate additional fundraising ideas that can be done for the football season. Additional sources of income are welcome, and would allow us to purchase much needed upgraded equipment, among other things.

In 'new' business (albeit a continuance of old business), the board discussed how the quarter auction was successful in raising money last March, and if we would be interested in having it again. All board members agreed that it would be beneficial. The board also discussed a previous idea of having a golf outing, but we don't want to hold one when other groups are holding similar events. We will want to get the calendar of fundraisers planned out well in advance, so that we can get the word out in public.

Next meeting will be August 17, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Birmele, supported by Hall. Motion approved 4-0.

Birmele adjourned the meeting at 8:15 PM.

Submitted by
Megan Mireles
Interlocal Board Secretary