



## **November 29, 2022**

### **Minutes**

### **Hartford High School (Library)**

#### **Called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Birmele**

Interlocal Board Members present: Birmele, Mead, Mireles, Morsaw

Interlocal Board Members absent: Hall, Bachman, Sweet

HCR Directors present: Birmele, Mead, Morsaw

Others present: Bianca Deckard, Bradley Geesaman, Angela Glover, Michelle Mattimore, America May, Jason May

Motion to approve October 2022 meeting minutes made by Mead, 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 \$4,454.05 in it, while the League of Miracles account had \$8.01 in it, and the concession account had \$5,610.81 in it. The accounts still remain in solid shape for the time being, but there is a friendly reminder, especially with the general account, that \$2,046.00 is for the two football fundraisers (cards and pizza), and it's being kept aside to be spent on future football-related expenses, so the 'real' total that can be used from the general account is roughly around \$2,400.00 or so. Income taken in included signups for all three seasons – baseball / softball, football and basketball, as well as for the card fundraiser football did, while the concession account had income brought in via concession from the last two football games and first girls basketball game. Bills that were paid in the previous month from the general account included girls basketball jerseys, the final payment for the Park Director, fall sports (cheerleading / football) awards, and referee checks from the fall football and girls basketball season. Concession had one expense from an order at Walmart for concession supplies, while the League of Miracles had one cash withdrawal.

In addition, bills remaining outstanding as of this time includes a large water bill (a toilet had a leak in July) which totals almost \$800.00, monthly electric with Indiana Michigan Power, and future purchases of boys basketball jerseys, which the board agreed to do this year, while keeping the jerseys to be used until future purchases can be done in a few years. Jerrod will talk to Janell about reaching out to RoxAnn at city hall about whether they would be willing to work with us on getting the water bill reduced, or if we can pay in payments, since money will be a bit of an issue once we get into the period where income will not be coming in directly. Also, America May gave Jerrod an envelope containing over \$100.00, which was the proceeds after payouts from the square fundraiser we did during the fall as a test run for future fundraising opportunities.

In regards to the audit, no significant changes have occurred since the previous months meeting, which is a good thing, because the audit is still moving along and proceeding as planned after a period of back-and-forth between our organization and the auditing team. The board will continue to need to address future strategies towards streamlining our financial situation going forward. We will need to catch up for 2020, 2021 and eventually 2022, to get back on track.

Jerrod brought the board up to date on the status of baseball and softball. He felt that with the signup period coming up sooner than we know it, that the board should address when we start online registrations, in addition to costs for the season. The board was conflicted, mostly, on how to cover escalating costs of equipment, insurances and jerseys, amongst other things. Hartford has one of the least expensive costs per player in this area, which has made our organization much more attractive over the past several years, but we need to make an adjustment in our prices to offset the potential of having a loss between income and expenses in the coming spring. The board discussed it could attack it in one of two ways and allowed the public the opportunity to discuss it. The first way would be to raise prices by, say \$10, and that would follow what we've done in previous years. The other way would be to create a 'volunteer' fee that would be assessed at signup and could potentially be refunded if the parent or guardian volunteers a certain number of hours during the season. While both ways would work, the board felt option one would be the best way to go, because option two would mean someone would have to keep track of hours worked, and we already have enough issues getting volunteers to help us, as is.

After deliberations, the board agreed to raise the price of T-Ball for the coming season to \$50 per player. For the older age groups, the prices will be as follows: \$90 (one player), \$140 (two players), \$170 (three players) and \$25 per player from the fourth player in the family on. Motion to approve the price structure made by Morsaw, supported by Mireles. Motion approve 4-0.

Continuing with baseball and softball, Jerrod suggested that we have the online registration going, as we always do, in early January, right after the new year, and keep it running until the Sunday after Parent-Teacher Conferences. We will still have in-person signups, but we have learned in recent years that we usually split right down the middle in terms of those registering online and those registering in-person. Much like in previous years, the recreation council will work to get participants signed up through advertising, which will include having flyers passed out in our elementary and middle schools, as well as having someone at Redwood Elementary during conferences, which usually happen in early-March.

Finally, in finishing with baseball and softball, Jerrod mentioned that the league our teams play in has had their first meeting, in which the discussion revolved around two areas: the first involved the continuation of the East / West split in the league which started last year, and the second around the 10U age group, and whether they would remain machine pitch or revert back to live pitch. In terms of the division split, the league will remain East / West next year, which means we will be playing against primarily Coloma, South Haven and Watervliet once again, while

it appears that the league will also be going back to a half-machine and half-live pitch for the 10U divisions, for both boys and girls, next season. After board discussion, the board remains adamant about not wanting to live-pitch in the 10U divisions for the time being, having consulted with past and present coaches, who simply are not fans of wearing out players arms so early on (especially baseball).

Jerrod brought the board up to date on the status of cheerleading and football. The season has officially ended, and an awards night will be held on Dec. 6, 2022, in the auditorium. Looking forward, the board discussed what would be best to purchase with the over \$2,000.00 that the fundraisers took in. The consensus was the need for new football helmets, which is a necessity with safety the top priority on our minds. As football coach, Joe mentioned that there are some short-term deals going on with helmets, and that he would contact Riddell to see what kind of deals they had, and how many helmets could be purchased. The board agreed to the purchase of new helmets, so long as the cost did not exceed the \$2,046.00 from the fundraising efforts. If there is still money left over after that purchase, it can be rolled over to next year, or another equipment purchase could be made, as long as it does not exceed the balance of what is left.

Jerrod brought the board up to date on the status of basketball (for both boys and girls). In terms of girls, the season has been going on, and we are pleased to see that the 68 participants that signed up are getting proper coaching and playing time and are learning the sport the proper way. The only issue has been the week-to-week schedule we have been given for games, which makes it hard to get facility use request forms completed, but more importantly, tough to get volunteers (such as parents or varsity players) scheduled. Another issue popped-up that Marilyn would not be able to do concession for the last home game, so Angela Glover volunteered to run the concession stand for those last games. In addition, team and individual pictures are scheduled for Dec. 8.

Continuing with basketball, on the boys side of things, online registrations will come back open on Dec. 1, 2022, and run until the league cutoff date, in which they would need the final number of players and teams per grade. We will also have an in-person registration during our last girls home games, which are scheduled for Dec. 10, 2022.

In terms of old business, multiple topics were covered. First, Jerrod reminded everyone that several board members will be stepping down at the end of the year, and that fresh, new ideas and people, are needed to keep the recreation council on the right track for years to come. Second, the board discussed a need for baseball and softball clinics, which would be held in February, and that it might be enticing to make them available for those who have registered prior to that date; if they wish to participate, and want to sign-up that day in-person, they could do that, however. Third, the board needs to continue thinking about revisiting the codes of conduct for all involved in sports, including coaches, parents and players. Finally, the board continued discussion on planning future fundraising efforts. America May continued to float around multiple ideas, including a large raffle, give back nights, golf outings, quarter auctions and a gala, among other things. All of the fundraising do ideas make sense, as long as they don't conflict with other school clubs or groups that are trying the same exact fundraising activities.

Next meeting will be December 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM. Jerrod mentioned it would be nice to have a little holiday 'potluck' dinner for all of those who gave their time to the organization this year, and also invited the members of the public that were present to attend, and if they wished to bring a dish, they were more than welcome to. Joe suggested that we have the meeting at the Van Buren Sportsman's Club, which all board members were open to.

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

Birmele adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Submitted by  
Megan Mireles  
Interlocal Board Secretary