

# **Hartwell Board of Directors**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, May 16, 2011, 8:00 PM**  
**Location – GHS Room 104**

**Planned Attendees:** Joe Andrade, Mary Kay Brophy, Matt Tierinni, Joan Norman, Sandy Gardner, Jim Wadleigh, Rich Williams, Andy Pinkowski, Dave Baker, Tim Cavanaugh

**Not Attending :** Sue Buckley, Bill Haddad

**Guests:** N/A

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*Meeting was initiated at 8:05 PM.*

### **President Update**

Tournament was a huge success! Had some issues with the referees but overall all went really well. Everyone worked hard and there will be a celebration for tournament volunteers on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 Hopewell.

Bob Bigelow presentation was excellent although the majority of people there were from other sports – not soccer.

### **Recreation Report**

Tim proposed that we reduce the late fees. They are currently \$35 and he proposed we change them to \$20. We need to know numbers early for training and teams so we need to keep an early cutoff for implementing the late fee. The board voted to approve the change.

They are looking at the Jr. Coach program. They got feedback on Junior Coaches from coaches and parents and they will be rating them. They are somewhat concerned with managing the expectations of the Jr. Coaches. Some kids want to learn, some just want something to put on their college application, and some want adults to step aside so they can take head coach positions. This past season some Junior Coaches wanted head coach positions and weren't looking to volunteer in general. Last year we gave some head coach positions only because parents weren't available. This year some were disappointed.

Tim Cavanaugh spoke of the need for the Junior Coaches to meet Hartwell's needs and be flexible with volunteering opportunities. Maureen DeSena is in touch with the kids – she is very involved. The program is heading in the right direction but we need to formalize the guidelines because right now they don't exist.

Rec is modifying how they do Kindergarten soccer. There will be no rostering of players onto individual teams – they are going academy style. There will be a Monday or Wednesday practice night and you pick one of those days. This is a great opportunity for the Junior Coaches to help out. The K rec training will be co-ed. It will include 30 minutes of dynamic training then 3v3's. On Saturday AM there will be 3v3 games with 4 DOC's and coaches. In the fall we are expecting 230-250 kids in Kindergarten rec so during the week they are expecting 125 per night and on the weekend the full amount of children.

This change in direction will give us a way to look at coaches before they are assigned to a team on their own. It will give them experience running drills and seeing Hartwell's curriculum.

For fall Rec Soccer, the training will take place at Riverfront. There will be 2 boxes for Kindergarten (every week), 1 box for 1st grade (every other week) and 1 box for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (every other week). 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will get training at the beginning of the season until daylight becomes a problem. On Friday nights, grades 4-8 will have academy style training for free.

They are looking at reversible pinneys for K-2 and plain (not tie-dyed) shirts for older kids. Rich and Tim need to define the financials for the DOC needs to make sure we are within budget for this new training plan.

Rec fee will change from \$65 to \$70 for the fall season. In addition the move back to solid color T-shirts will save \$2 per shirt.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade format will change from 6v6 to 5v5 in the fall. The field sizes will have to change. The nets may or may not change.

Tim Cavanaugh wants to open registration on June 11<sup>th</sup>. It would be good if we could open registration before school ends so we can get access to Naubuc kids (via John Briody) at the school who need financial assistance.

## **Travel Report**

We need to send an e-mail to the club members letting them know that travel registration is open – this should go to all club members.

About 40-50 people came to the new travel info meeting at SMS. The event lasted 1 ½ hours with a lot of questions.

Travel try-outs are 2 weeks away. There is a lot to do with getting volunteers, tents, etc. Michelle Pascetta is assisting with volunteers through the team managers. Jim is asking for assistance from the board but wanted to be clear that board members shouldn't be walking onto the field talking to DOC's.

The question of using existing coaches for evaluations came up and Jim doesn't want to use existing coaches because it could result in a bad perception of favoritism or lack of objectivity.

Jim would like the kids to be ranked 1-n as best as evaluators can.

For U9-U13, player placement will have already been seen at a high level from the DOC's training sessions. Also included in the input is information gathered from practices, games, coach input, subjective testing on iSoccer, coach evaluations, talking to coaches – and finally try-out results.

Player evaluations will need to be done prior to the try-outs with rankings. Coaches need to give them out prior to try-outs. We will be using a new system for this called ZoomReports.

Jim will send a note to coaches telling them that evaluations are due soon and that these need to go to parents before try-outs.

As far as tournament results, 3 Hartwell teams won their division. Overall we went 46 (wins) – 18 (tie) – 52 (loss).

## U9 Try-OUT

There has been a lot of discussion about the U9 Try-outs and how to set up the teams. Should they be A-B-C, all equal, A-B-B, etc. Should we just have one big age group and move kids from team to team. Rich Williams would prefer one large team where kids can be moved around. This is like how Enfield does it. Sandy thought that we'd need to look at how we roster everyone on CJSA on the system. Generally each team has a separate roster. Rich would like to see all the teams practice together 2x week and have no friendly games on Saturdays – instead do 4v4 inter-squad scrimmages on Saturdays.

Sandy expressed concern that the better players would not get as much out of travel if equal teams – how would they benefit and improve without others pushing them. Thinks it benefits the weaker players and we'd be losing some of the better players which is something we should avoid doing.

Joan's concern was the logistics if kids moved from team to team (e.g. dues, tournament signups well in advance, team gifts, parties, team notifications via LeagueAthletics, who moves down if someone moves up, etc.) Too much angst for children and adults if constant scrutiny of which team you are on. Dave Baker felt it could prevent logistical issues for parents who needed to plan in advance.

Rich felt strongly that equal teams were the direction we should be going based on what CJSA's recommendations were.

Sandy felt strongly that it would deter good players and good coaches since coaches really only have Sundays to run their team. On the flip side – you wouldn't necessarily be stuck with a "bad" coach since kids would have the benefit of being around multiple coaches during the week. Stronger coaches could help weaker coaches along.

Issue came up of who plays the hard teams (e.g. Farmington A)? There were a lot of issues for Jim Wadleigh to take in. He will consolidate all the feedback and get back to the board with a proposal for U9.

Sandy pointed out that we need to do a communication of the changes to everyone who signed up and change the website if we are making these types of changes – particularly after we had a meeting and they weren't communicated.

## New Business

Jerilyn Labas will step down after the spring season and we will need a new ref assignor. Mary Kay will do a job posting and Joan will post it on the web. Mary Kay would like to look at redefining this role before we just find someone new.

***Director Reports Submitted by: Buckley/Cavanaugh (Rec), Travel (Wadleigh), DOC-Bob Bigelow Review (Williams).***

Respectfully submitted

Joan Norman  
Secretary