

# **Hartwell Board of Directors**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 7:00 PM**

**Location – Matt Tierinni's House**

**Attendees:** *Mary Kay Brophy, Joan Norman, Sandy Gardner, Erik Barbieri, Betty Davis, Mike Newhouse, Matt Tierinni, Tim Gourley*

**Not Attending :** *Dave Baker, Andy Pinkowski, Jim Wadleigh*

**Guests:** *David Mahery (Positive Coaching Alliance)*

***Meeting was initiated at 7:00 PM.***

### Positive Coaching Alliance

David Mahery, from Positive Coaching Alliance, met with the board to give an overview of the PCA Program. David is a PCA Partnership Manager in CT and has worked with other Glastonbury organizations (LAX, GBA, Little League).

PCA is a national non-profit committed to developing “Better Athletes, Better People” through training for youth and high school sports coaches, parents, student-athletes and organizational leaders. According to PCA, 70% of children stop sports before the age of 14 usually due to a negative experience. PCA is trying to reverse that trend. PCA offers research-based workshops with certified trainers, online courses, books for coaches, parents and athletes; a PCA website, and/or year-round reinforcement of training. Dave presented some sample videos that would be played during a session and discussed tailoring our sessions based on who the audience is (coaches, parents, players, administrators).

GBA does the online course offering for coaches. Mike Newhouse indicated he had done the online course and that the content was very good. Dave Mahery said that we could “go under” GBA’s umbrella to leverage a group discount since many coaches coach both soccer and basketball. GBA has an annual contract with PCA. The online cost is \$300 base fee plus \$15 per person seat cost if less than 100 seats. 100-199 seats is \$12.50 pp, and 200+ seats is \$10 pp.

Mary Kay explained that we’ve had some problem parents in the past season, that GHSC doesn’t police parent behavior very well, and we don’t always get the feedback we need from ref reports which is the reason GHSC is looking for PCA. She indicated we will start with Travel Division as that is the bigger issue right now.

Some things discussed were:

- Matt suggested we could offer the online version in lieu of – or in combination with – the parent’s code of conduct.
- Potentially having Refs do reports that included parent sideline behavior assessments.
- Having workshops with U9 Coaches which is a smaller audience and would work better with the workshops (Dave suggested 40 max attendees for a workshop).
- Getting the ref videos from the CJSA website and putting them on our website.

We decided the following:

- Board member(s) would attend a local PCA presentation in another town to review the material, presentation, etc.
- We would start with a large presentation geared towards coaches, and 2 large presentations geared toward parents (we offer 2 different dates to parent).
- Joan would secure SMS Auditorium for 3 dates in October.
- Andy/Dave would look at contract implications of “sharing” costs with GBA – particularly because GHSC would “hit” the coaches first who do both and we should be sharing those costs.
- PCA information would be put on coach and manager presentations for upcoming meetings.
- We can utilize online registrations for signups of October sessions.

### Retail Rental Space

Mary Kay is looking at retail office space for GHSC. She outlined the benefits of having some “store-front” capabilities and consolidated storage. We currently have 2 storage units at Uncle Bob’s and we use the shed at Parks and Rec. Having some office space would give us some flexibility for meeting space, distributing equipment and uniforms, selling Hartwell gear, providing space for Trainers e.g. we could utilize trainers to be there and give them a space to work at the same time. Mary Kay looked at the old Glastonbury Dance Center which is located in the plaza with Wang Palace. It’s in the left side/rear section of the building. It offers office space above and (clean) storage space below along with parking and access to riverfront fields through the paths in the woods. The cost was \$2000 per month. Some thought that \$24K per year was a high cost for storage/office space but all thought it was worth looking into further. Matt indicated he was interested in touring the space. Mary Kay is working with a real estate person to see if we can get a better price or a different location and will provide an update at the next board meeting.

### DOC Report

Erik Barbieri presented his travel report which included a review of the try-outs. Overall it went well and they received few complaints. One issue was that they could have used more trainers/evaluators at the older age groups. Erik noted that there was more movement across age groups than in previous years. Also that we need to get rid of the perception that rec players can’t move to travel as some rec players are very strong. Mike Newhouse added that there is a disconnect between what coaches think and what parents think and that player evaluations were not properly shared in many cases. Mike Newhouse has many ideas on how to improve the try-out process and will be putting together a document to address this at a future date.

Also mentioned in this discussion is that the Soccer Interactive contract ends 12/31. The consensus is that we need to continue this or offer a replacement tool to coaches.

***Full DOC report will be posted online with Minutes.***

### Volunteer Recruitment

Tim Gourley is still actively pursuing an equipment manager – so far no takers. He is working on outlining a field position that is similar to what Mark Mistretta did e.g. field maintenance, nets, etc. Field Scheduling is currently being handled by Cathy Chisholm (Rec) and Joan Norman (Travel). It was suggested that Cathy put together a field schedule similar to the Travel one that is posted online to provide a “quick look” of availability so fields can be shared across travel & rec.

### Golf Tournament

Matt Tierinni shared his draft of the Golf Tournament brochure which GHSC fundraiser. The brochure will be finalized and shared at coach and manager meeting. Betty will be posting details online and Tim will be working with Matt to staff volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. The Next Board meeting is Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

*Joan Norman*

Secretary