

Hartwell Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 7th, 2012, 7:00 PM

Location – GHS Room B104

Attendees: *Mary Kay Brophy, Joan Norman, Sandy Gardner, Erik Barbieri, Betty Davis, Andy Pinkowski, Mike Newhouse, Matt Tierinni, Jim Wadleigh*

Not Attending : *Dave Baker*

Guests: *Jen Carroll, Dave Clarke*

Meeting was initiated at 7:00 PM.

TOPS Soccer

Jen Carroll presented an overview of TOPS soccer to the board. TOPS Soccer is a program from US Youth Soccer and stands for “The Outreach Program for Soccer”. It is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl, who has a mental or physical disability. Jen started TOPS in 2004. They currently have 24 registrants with special needs and they provide soccer from K-12th grade. Also part of the program is peer mentors. Without TOPS, these kids wouldn’t have the opportunity to play soccer. TOPS is an exciting program that is growing around the country. There are almost 20 CT clubs that offer TOPS. Our TOPS program runs in the fall and spring on Saturdays at Rotary Park from 2:30-3:30 PM. They have 2 fields so they split up the kids by abilities and play scrimmages with the assistance of mentors on one field. They have “played” games against GHS Varsity boys and had other visitors. Jen encouraged board members to stop by to see the team.

GHS High School Scholarship

Jen Carroll also provided an update on the H.S. Scholarship that Hartwell gives out. Her daughter was one of three winners last year and it was an exciting surprise for them. The application went out to several local high schools including GHS, Mercy, Xavier, Northwest Catholic and East Catholic. There were 18 applications for the scholarship. The scholarship Committee was Joan Norman, Jen Carroll and Maureen DeSena and no one really knew any of the candidates. We created a grid and individually ranked the applicants for their soccer experience (playing, coaching, refereeing), academics, and community service. There were 2 very strong boy candidates who had amazing resumes. On the girls side there were no real standouts but the winner had clearly spent a good amount of time on the writing component and had strong community service accomplishments. Jen stressed that we were glad we could get more of an “unsung” candidate who deserved it not necessarily b/c they **played** soccer but because they were well rounded in other ways. The awards will go to David Rifkin, Patrick Schroeder, and Shannon Miller. The scholarship committee had some suggestions for next year to modify the application to make sure that people accurately capture their Hartwell experience best. There were some candidates who didn’t necessarily “sell” themselves too well. Jen has offered to help with the scholarship next year as well. Andy Pinkowski asked to see the highlights of the winners and suggested we write up the information. Jen didn’t think summarizing them would give you the best sense of their

accomplishments and suggested we send the applications around electronically. Jen Carroll will send applications to Joan Norman and Joan will send to the board.

Administration

March meeting minutes were approved. Just to clarify, Erik followed up that Rotary fields would **not** be given over to Youth Football (this was mentioned in minutes).

Magnet School Field/Lights

Mary Kay announced that Hartwell still intends to put lights at the Magnet School however the project cannot be formally approved until September. The project leader feels that it will go through easily but because the project is already behind, it will be better received in September as it's a lower priority than finishing the school. They do believe it will be done in time for Hartwell to have a PR event in fall 2012.

High School Athletic Field Projects

Mary Kay updated that Rich Fresk and Trish Witkin are still working on a proposal for a project at the High School. When they have something to share they will share with Hartwell. Mary Kay told them that Hartwell doesn't want to drive any of the projects but would consider contributing to the project if appropriate.

Memorial Day Parade

Mary Kay asked for volunteers to run the Hartwell representation of the Memorial Day parade. There were not any takers.

Applefest Weekend

Mary Kay asked for volunteers to take the point on the Applefest Booth at the Applefest weekend on October 13/14th. Betty Davis offered to take the point.

Wellness Festival

There was a Wellness Festival last weekend behind the Riverfront C.C. As a result they moved the Pre-K sessions there so they would be visible. Mary Kay noted that a lot of people there were not aware of Hartwell's offerings. There were a lot of people with strollers and many didn't know what programs we offered. It was suggested that we create a brochure that could be dropped off at key locations around town giving the Hartwell highlights. We could have them at the community center, library, inserted with the "welcome to town" packages that go out, lawn signs, etc. While we can't distribute in the public schools, we could look at distributing at the pre-schools. Consensus was that we need to ramp up the marketing of Hartwell and look at new avenues. Brochure idea was well received by everyone. Betty will get that on her radar screen.

Director of Volunteers

Mary Kay asked the board to vote on accepting Tim Gourley to fill the Director of Volunteering Board Position. Everyone present voted yes with the exception of Matt who abstained because he didn't know him and didn't get a chance to talk with him. Mary Kay stressed that Tim can help the board members get a support structure in place to back fill many of the roles the board does. It was suggested that each board member come up with their volunteer needs to provide Tim with

some tasks. Tim may ultimately break up some of these roles into smaller roles or committees to make them more manageable. It was asked if Tim was aware of the specifics of the job and both Andy (who recruited him) and Mary Kay stated “definitely”. Tim was voted in and it is effective immediately – Mary Kay will follow up with him. Mary Kay also mentioned that Chris Motl is willing to help out Mike Newhouse with Travel.

Recreation Soccer

Mary Kay mentioned that we need to find a way to balance rec teams better but she wanted to table this discussion until we had more time. There are issues with very unbalanced teams.

Warm-Up Tournament

Andy gave a brief overview of the tournament and started by announcing “our tournament fees can go up next year because everyone wants to come to our tournament”. Overall it went really well and we got a lot of kudos from other towns. Andy has a lot of ideas for next year. He would start by looking at the fields and possibly not using some of them (e.g. Irish, Nayaug, Hebron or Veteran’s). We could cut down the number of teams to do this.

Some of the highlights were.... The team picture photographer pulled out at the last minute. Next year we will go with someone local. There was one issue at the Irish Home where a team wanted a game score negated due to the incorrect game length. Andy didn’t grant the request but it ended smoothly with the coach. There were some ref issues on day 1 and because Kevin Suarez was out of state, the tournament directors had to deal with issues. Day 2 was smoother with refs because Kevin handled the issues. Andy would recommend using Kevin again.

Andy is planning a post-mortem meeting to discuss the tournament with the tournament committee, gather feedback and suggestions for next year, and to give out the volunteer jackets. After that there would be a post-tournament celebration to thank the volunteers.

Mike Newhouse inquired as to why there was no news coverage of the tournament. Consensus was we should be contacting news stations and getting free coverage. Erik said they do this for New Britain Parks & Rec and they often come. Erik will provide Betty Davis with contact names for news.

Andy will provide tournament numbers at the next board meeting.

Travel

Mike Newhouse provided a travel update. During a conference call last week, the board voted to raise travel fees to \$285 for next season. It was suggested that we advertise for Travel Registration via Citizen, Reminder, Lawn signs and e-mail to club members. The Travel Document is currently being revised. Mary Kay asked that it be circulated to the board for input. Joan mentioned that there are some uniform issues that need to be resolved and will contact Laura Hecker for input.

Erik and Mike are working on a new player evaluation form – there will be no more Zoomreports. They are having an informal coaches meeting at Hannafin’s Pub on May 20th to discuss the new evaluation form.

The Coach Registration system is completed and just needs to be turned on. Sandy said she would do that in the next day and then a note can go out to current coaches. It was suggested that

the note go to all club members as well as 2nd grade parents. Mike and Joan will work on sending out the note as soon as the Coach Registration system is turned on. Once the Coach registration is up and running they will begin doing interviews.

Erik discussed that at Try-outs, he and Mike would like to talk to the parents for about 10 minutes at the 1st try-out for each age group. They would go over info that is currently in the FAQ.

We discussed having a separate Manager's Meeting in August. Betty Davis forwarded Mary Kay a sample template for managers to track expenses. Andy and Mary Kay felt strongly that we need to make sure we get a better sense of what teams are collecting for dues so we had a good idea of the **total** cost of travel for families. Team dues are used for patches, ref fees beyond 4-5 home games, parties, coach gifts, tournaments outside of Hartwell, gifts for players, etc. Mike will own this issue for the fall. One of the things we need to look at is if we are giving too much money to teams for ref fees. There are rumors of teams having a lot of excess funds at end of year.

Dave Clarke

Dave Clarke has recently joined the Travel Committee as a coach consultant and he joined the board meeting so board members could hear from him. Dave is the head woman's coach at Quinnipiac College; he coaches GU15 CFC ECNL team, member of the national staff, and works for CJSA teaching courses. He previously taught physical education K-12 in Glastonbury and has been in Glastonbury with his family since 1992. He joined Hartwell's Travel committee to act as a consultant that we can bounce ideas off.

Dave discussed a bit how the licensing for coaches is undergoing a change and the license courses will be changing. He discussed the pros & cons of academy style training for K-2. He also discussed the importance of learning the life skill of playing on a team and enjoying it, even if the players are unlikely to play after 8th grade.

Dave stressed we should set a foundation for what we want Hartwell's goals to be. We should define them and work toward them and leave the legacy of these goals by passing them on to the next board.

Miscellaneous

Betty noted that she has a possible date of May 19th to meet with Joe Finnochiaro and hand out the shirts Hartwell purchased for the Girls Varsity Soccer Team.

Mary Kay announced that Doug Werner, who recently resigned from the Travel Committee, wrote a book and will be going on a book tour shortly. The book "Abbie Gets Fit" is about his own personal journey to help his young daughter get more fit after she failed to pass a fitness test in gym class. Mary Kay passed around an autographed version and would like to potentially sell or advertise the book on the Hartwell website.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM. The Next Board meeting is Monday, June 11th.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Norman

Secretary