

Hart High Baseball Dugout Club Meeting Minutes

Date: January 16, 2024
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Coach's Classroom - T209

Attendees:

- Jim Ozella - Head Coach
- Chris Frithsmith - President
- Mike Verdi - Vice President
- Chris McCarty - Treasurer
- Koi Howard - Secretary
- Elaine Edey - Member-At-Large
- Parents of Hart Players

- I. Call to Order:** Chris called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He gave a special welcome and thank you to Elaine for joining as our new Member-At-Large per Mike's stepping down and her being the next in line from the vote by the membership.
- II. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from our last meeting were approved.
- III. Team Reps & Communication:** Chris asked that we confirm our team reps, particularly as Elaine needs to hand that position to someone else in light of her duties on the board and as canteen lead. Thank you to Trisha Cooper who graciously offered to be the new team rep for Varsity. Dio is doing well as the team rep for Junior Varsity. She said that she does have a couple of questions regarding the communication features on the Band app. Chris assured her that we could find a separate time with Tracy to discuss those. Tracy reported that she's happy to help and that we still have 12 families needing to sign up on the app. She said that this will be our main form of communication so please make sure at least one parent is signed on. She requested that for any parent who has a different last name than their child to make a note of that so she can be sure to place everyone in the right team group. She has put the game schedules up and has created albums for photos and videos. Feel free to upload any pics to your son's team folder. This will make the year-end video easier for whoever edits that for us. She also reminded us to make sure that notifications are turned on which can be done in your phone's settings. Manny is the team rep for Frosh, but he was unable to be here this evening. Thank you to our team reps and to Tracy for keeping parents updated.
- IV. Committee Business:**
- a. Apparel:** Ken reported that he has all the coaches' apparel, except for fitted hats. He brought those tonight so he will leave them with Coach. He also brought all apparel ordered online from the store in November, minus the fitted hats, so please pick up those from him at the end of the meeting. Chris said that Frosh and JV have been given their new jerseys. Varsity has received the new spring jerseys too, though we're still waiting on pants. Thanks so much to Ken for his work on apparel for our coaches and players.
 - b. Facility:** Chris reported that the field has been over-seeded after the grass was burned. He said that it should be nice and green in the next month or so. The cost for that service was about \$2,700. He also purchased a real golf greens mower for \$1,400. So far, the coaches have been cutting the infield grass with the new mower. He let us know that the sponsor banners are hung but they are smaller than expected. Coach O suggested bringing them closer to the snack bar area since they are too difficult to read in the outfield position. Thanks to Chris for making sure that our facilities are well-maintained.
 - c. Events:** Chris reminded us that Meet The Coaches is coming up on January 30th. He asked Tom if anything is needed since they are hosting at their house. Tom requested some volunteers to help move furniture back in place at the end of the evening. Tom also explained the parking situation and will place balloons as markers so we can see where to park. Thanks very much to the Meadows for hosting this event. Chris added that the Alumni Game will be held on Sunday, February 4th. He reported that some high-level players will be joining us for this event. Coach O joked that it's fun to hear how sore the players usually are the next day. He said that Mike Montgomery reached out to him, so any Cubs fans should come out. Tyler Glasnow will not be here because it falls on the same

day as Mookie's Bowl-A-Thon. Tyler has promised to come out on a different day to greet the team and have a fun day with the players. Coach told us that the Wall of Fame players being honored are Paul Richan, Jack Ralston, and Cole Roederer. Patti asked that available volunteers please come early to help with things like check-in, set-up, decorating, and barbecuing, and to stay afterwards for break-down. Tracy said that she can help with sign-ups on the Band app. Mike let us know that he's arranged for donations of hamburgers and hotdogs for the lunches. Chris said that he's met with John Dow to finalize the order of events and arrange a photographer. Tom will also be taking photos. Ken said that he will be there to sell apparel. Chris M is ordering shirts to give to the alums. Thanks to all who are organizing this wonderful event that has become a great tradition for our program and community.

- d. **Canteen:** Elaine reported that she is getting in touch with the Frosh and JV team reps to help man the canteen, especially on days when she's at away games. She also encouraged voluntary donations of water and sodas, but reiterated that it's not mandatory. She did say that we now have Square devices for both android and iphone so people can pay that way, or with the Zelle code that is on a laminated sheet. She would like to figure out sign-ups on the Band app. Tracy offered to help with that. Coach O said that for the upcoming weekend home games we'll need to feed the visiting teams, their coaches, and the umpires. Coach will get more concrete numbers from the teams for those orders. Elaine suggested ordering pizzas since they are a bit easier to serve. We also need to keep checking our stock for the start of season home games. Again, your donations are always welcome. Thanks to Mike for helping secure food and drink donations and to Elaine for doing such a great job with our canteen.
- e. **Media:** Ben was unable to attend this evening so Sarah reported that he is working on the website transition that is taking longer than expected. Kerrie keeps us updated on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Our hashtag is #harthighbaseball. She asked about posting the Disney fundraiser on our sites. Chris M said that she can post the links to Paypal or Zelle for payments. Remember to tag and share pics, highlights, and articles with her to post. Thanks to Kerrie and Ben for administering our media sites. Website address: <http://harthighbaseball.com/>.
- f. **Audiovisual:** Tom reported that he took plenty of senior photos that will be used for the banners. He plans to emulate the style of last year's banners, unless someone has another idea. He offered to pick a couple of shots and have the senior parents choose one. Chris complimented him on the choices he made for the Media Guide cover. We are all grateful to Tom for his wonderful photos of our sons that will be special keepsakes for our families.
- g. **Game Day:** Keith reported that we need volunteers to do iScore and live streaming for the spring season games. Chris said that we have an ipad for each team available and can train volunteers to use those. Chris has asked Mike H to help with iScore for Varsity. He said that JV is covered, but if a Frosh parent can help with that, please reach out to him. Mike V offered to help or find a parent who is willing to step up. Keith asked for volunteers to be announcers and run the scoreboard as well. Elizabeth said that Eddie has announced in the past and can help out there. Keith mentioned that the music can be simply a playlist from a phone. Coach joked that players' playlists need to be checked out first to make sure the lyrics are appropriate. Genelle has offered to run the live stream camera for Varsity. We don't have cameras for the other teams, but if a parent would like to coordinate something they can speak with Chris or Keith about that. Thanks so much to Keith for organizing all of the game day responsibilities.
- h. **Fundraising:** Chris let us know that the Media Guide sponsorships have ended, but sponsors who would like to purchase website and social media presence or banner space on the field can still reach out to us. That is an FYI for anyone who knows a company that might be willing to donate to the program. Tracy reported that most families have received their Disney raffle tickets and that the fundraiser is going well. Please pick those up tonight if you don't have your tickets. People are posting it on social media which is helpful. She said to remember that tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Please write the buyer's name and number on the ticket front and your player's name on the back. She's working on a prize for the players' raffle. They will get an entry for the first 20 tickets sold and then one each for every single ticket sold above that. Try to sell as many as you can since it's a great deal with no blackout dates on this family four-pack. She also brought up that these sales are pure profit for the program. Thank you to the Kollasch family for donating such a great prize and to Tracy for leading this fundraiser. Turn in your family's money to Chris M in cash, through Zelle or Paypal, or check made out to the Dugout Club. Mike V reported that he will run the Super Bowl Squares for \$100 per box. Chris said that we discussed this at our last executive board meeting and we have decided that this is voluntary for those who wish to participate. Reach out to Mike if you'd like to buy in for this separate fundraiser. Thanks to Mike for his willingness to organize that and to everyone who is participating in our fundraisers. We truly appreciate your help.

V. Treasurer's Report: Chris M passed around copies of his current financial summary and said that we are about three and a half months into our fiscal year that started on October 1st. His report highlighted the 94% participation rate in fundraising by the 50 players in the program. Participation includes registrations, sponsorships, ads, and the Friends and Family email. So far, we have had over 200 donors to the program, which is phenomenal. We've also had 79 media sponsor ads this year, which is a great number. He's happy with the broad base of support that has been generated and thanked us for our efforts to find contributors. He reported that our cash on hand is about \$53,000 right now. The summary shows that the highest expenses are for baseball and field costs which amount to about \$20,000. There are line items in his report of income received that includes \$24,337 from the media ads and sponsorships. He pointed out that the projected expenditures for the rest of the year may amount to about \$53,000, with expenses like the transportation bill and the Boys and Girls Club summer event costs, so we foresee a balanced budget but need to keep fundraising. Chris M shared that sponsors can still approach us to purchase banner placements and social media presence. He appreciates the support that we're garnering through friends, family, and sponsors. Thanks to Chris M for his continued dedication to our club's finances and his well-written summaries.

VI. Coach's Update: Coach O thanked us for being here and supporting the program. He reported that during the winter break we had an average of 30-35 players working out when the field was open. He's been encouraging the boys to stay in shape during the break to improve their strength and conditioning. He said that he and the coaches are here to help them and liked the turn-out. He also reported that 44 of the players have over a 3.0 GPA and about 25 of those have earned a 4.0. He thinks that's outstanding and reflects our talks with the players about being good student-athletes. He congratulated both players and parents for keeping academics an important part of the process. He stressed that this needs to be a four-year effort. With his AP History classes he checks the students' grades as they start, but after being in his class he sees improvement because he demands high standards. Coach feels that students can rise to the occasion and achieve a higher standard with encouragement. He feels blessed to have such outstanding student-athletes and appreciates our efforts as parents to support them. He said that the younger players are now included in the gym class for this second semester, which means they get to work out with the older guys. He likes the great tradition at Hart of watching the older players pass down wisdom to the younger players. He gave an example of four pitchers throwing to our four catchers in the bullpen and giving advice to the younger ones. Troy especially is vocal with the younger guys on ways they can improve their skills. It's nice to see that tradition of training being passed down among them. He said that when he first started, James Shields was the guy, and behind him was Michael Montgomery, and behind him was Tyler Glasnow, and behind him were Paul Richan and Jack Ralston. This pattern has gone on through the years even in families like Chris, Matt, Pat, and Nick Valeka and is happening with the Jeffers family. He called it a beautiful thing to watch the concern the older guys have for the younger ones. Coach said the Alumni Game highlights that kind of camaraderie when the players from years ago get together. Many of them are now dads and it's fun to see them with their own kids on the field. He thanked us for our efforts to be in the stands at the games and understands that this can be a challenge for working parents. He offered his appreciation to us for all that we do as parents to be there for the players. Thanks so much to Coach O from all of us for the wisdom and guidance he gives to our sons.

VII. Calendar of Events:

- 1. Varsity's San Diego Overnight: Game - Saturday, March 2nd**
- 2. Senior Day - Thursday, April 25th**
- 3. Graduation - Tuesday, May 28th**
- 4. Dugout Club Meetings - Tuesdays: February 13th (with a possible change to the 6th)**
March 12th, April 9th, & May 14th

VIII. New Business: Thanks to Shelly for bringing in her son's senior photo for parents to see as we begin discussions about gifts. Our last home game will be Senior Day to honor the graduating players and their parents. Coach said that it will be on Thursday, April 25th. Remember to turn in raffle tickets and money by Friday, February 2nd, before the Alumni Game. Thanks again to Michelle and Tracy for arranging the Disneyland fundraiser. Thanks to Ken for bringing apparel orders that can be picked up tonight. Thanks to each of you for attending this evening and for supporting Hart Baseball.

IX. Next Meeting Date: February 13, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. (unless it is moved to the 6th; notices will go out to confirm)

X. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.