

Hart High Baseball Dugout Club Meeting Minutes

Date: February 15, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Coach's Classroom - T209

Attendees:

- Jim Ozella - Head Coach
- Steve Downs - President
- Julie Meinecke - Vice President
- Koi Howard - Secretary
- Parents of Hart Players

I. Call to Order: Steve called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Minutes from the last meeting were approved by Elizabeth and seconded by Patti.

II. Committee Business:

- a. **Fundraising:** Julie reported that the Yard Sign fundraiser made \$450 and is back online for 2 weeks for final orders. The Cornhole Tournament will take place on Sunday, April 12th at Lucky Luke Brewery in Valencia. She would like each team to donate a basket and let her know the approximate value of the items for the raffle. We'll also get money from the lunch trucks and drinks purchases. She will send out a Scoreholio app link soon. Feel free to invite others to join in. Thank you, Julie, for organizing this fun fundraiser. Steve added a big thank you to Julie, Jeff and Paul for setting up Super Bowl Squares which raised \$6,000 for the Club. Julie thanked the parents for participating and said it was really a team effort that made it a success.
- b. **Apparel:** Diana was unable to be here this evening, but beanie orders can be picked up by the students in her room. Coach joked that it's too warm out there for them to which Steve added that the beanies really came in handy while watching the last game in freezing weather. :) Many thanks to Diana for her time and dedication and to the Frithsmiths for taking over the responsibility of apparel next year.
- c. **Canteen:** Kim reported that the Sign-Up Genius for shifts is up and that Varsity parents have filled up their spots. JV and Frosh team parents need to fill their available volunteer dates please. A JV parent piped up that they always manage to keep the canteen running during games, even when no one has signed up for the shift. Steve commented that JV likes to live on the edge! Manning the canteen is helpful and easy, with clear instructions posted on the fridge. Students can earn service hours for their volunteer time. Thanks to Jeff for putting in shelves; it is a comfy spot to be when it's cold. He also took over the canteen during the Alumni Game that made \$1,200 that day. Change is an issue as we are usually running short on \$1 and \$5 bills, especially now that we're able to use digital payments, so check that if you're working. Donation needs are cases of Diet Coke, Diet Dr. Pepper, Sprite and blue Gatorade. Thanks to Kim for her hard work and organization of the canteen.
- d. **Social Media:** Kerrie keeps our social media platforms updated. We are on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. Our hashtag is #harthighbaseball. Please join in and feel free to share pics and highlights from the games to post. Thanks to Kerrie for keeping us up-to-date via social media.
- e. **Website:** Ben is trying to integrate our social media and send out links. He has updated the Club's Google calendar to include fundraising events, game information, addresses and maps, which have been extremely helpful for parents. Player profiles and a digital version of the Media Guide have been added to the site as well. Thanks to Ben for his wonderful work on the website. Check out the link at <http://harthighbaseball.com/>.
- f. **Calendar of Events:**
 1. **San Diego: Varsity Weekend Games** - Saturday & Sunday, March 4 & 5
 2. **Cornhole Tournament** - Sunday, March 12 (Lucky Luke Brewery)
 3. **Firehouse Subs Restaurant Fundraiser** - date in March TBD

4. Bingo/Silent Auction - Saturday, April 15 (Boys and Girls Club)

5. Dugout Club Meetings - March 16; April 11; and May 16

- III. Treasurer's Report:** Shawn is sitting in traffic, so she sent Steve her report. \$3,300 came in for the Media Guide; a large portion of that was donated through the matching-funds program by Chris and Kimmie's company. Thank you to them for such a generous amount. \$2,988 has come in for apparel. Approximately \$732 has come in for the canteen, though Kim mentioned that when taking digital money, please appropriate it as canteen profits so it's clear in reporting. When using the square add the word "canteen" on the notes section. Jodi had Diana indicate which money was brought in for apparel at the Alumni Game. These are all good reminders to clarify which category income should be designated to when volunteering. Income for this reporting period adds up to \$6,320. Expenses include \$7 for bank charges, \$6,575 in field and equipment costs, \$250 for tournament fees and \$400 for umpire payments for a total of \$7,232. Our balance is now \$26,845. We should always keep in mind that our annual operating budget is roughly \$75,000 so the goal is to raise that amount or more each year through our fundraising efforts. Kimmie asked about budget needs and projections, which Steve said that he is happy to provide to anyone. Parents can always reach out to Shawn for specific costs and financial reports. Thanks to Shawn for keeping track of our Club's finances.
- IV. Parent Discussion:** Coach O was asked about needs for improving the field and he explained that the district doesn't provide the funds necessary. That leaves the Dugout Club and the community to foot most of the bills for our program. This has been an ongoing battle; he and Craig Williams were in a meeting this morning regarding all of this and he is used to their saying "no" to our requests. Small needs that we could focus on would be the turf, especially in front of the dugouts, on-deck and in the bullpen areas, but Coach isn't comfortable asking for money from parents. He mentioned that the backstop fencing is original and should be updated, but the district hasn't even poured money into modernizing the library, so our field isn't as high on the list of improvements needed for the school in general. This is a district issue that is a constant struggle. Steve interjected that Craig wrote an amazing letter on behalf of our program which he is allowed to share; Coach said he did an even more amazing job addressing the district in today's meeting. A parent mentioned that our field needs lights and that many schools have better fields and equipment. There seems to be an equity argument that some schools in the district are receiving more than others. Club parents offered to visit a school board meeting to add our concerns to the public record. Parents asked about company donations and adding a thank you on our website. Tom also suggested tallying up specific needs so that we can start with some smaller improvements that we can fund. Coach said that is a possibility, though he reiterated that he doesn't like asking families to pay extra for those things. Steve said that those items could be discussed and that this was a good note to segway into Coach's report.
- V. Coach's Update:** Coach O let us know that the Santa Margarita game has been moved to Thursday, March 2nd, at Saddleback Junior College at 6:00. There will be no bus for this game so parents need to drive. The Easton Tournament games will be Varsity at home while JV is at Birmingham. Freshman play Agoura on Friday at Agoura; they should be in the winner's bracket so more games will be announced. Coach wants to thank everybody who was involved in making the Alumni Game such a success. Non-stop positive comments are coming in from the alumni players who came and we had over 40 of them attend. The '99 group was overwhelmed and appreciated the efforts to put on such a memorable event. After being an assistant coach at COC, Coach O took over from Bud in 2000, so a few of them played for him here. He said that guys like Ryan Haag, Brandon, Freddie, Justin Wiley, and Jaimie Shields (a big leaguer who must have thanked him 10 times) thought it was a special day. Coach got to talk with Robert Reeves who is now coaching as well. One player who signed in hadn't been back to the school in 20 years, which shows how much this meant to him. It's nice to see a lot of them come back now on a consistent basis to get together again. Coach mentioned that it was also a great day for families and fun to see the younger kids play on the field afterward. We got a lot of positive attention in the media too. John Dow went above and beyond the call of duty for this. Coach thanked all of us for our efforts to make it such a great day. The boys are doing well weight-lifting on opposite mornings of game days. Please have them check Google Classroom for announcements and schedules. He emphasized that they could do a better job communicating with us parents so remind your student(s) to tell you about any updates. Coach gave us a heads up that the schedule is not getting any easier, but that the boys are playing some really good teams which is how they get better. 5-week progress reports are out and only a few had to run, so they're doing well on their schoolwork. Coach thanked all of us and we are certainly grateful to him for all that he does.
- VI. New Business:** There is still a need for help with the year-end video. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Steve. Thanks to Tom and Reina who are taking fabulous photos to add to it. Thanks to our Team Reps for

communicating with parents and for organizing team dinners: Patti Rhodes (Frosh), Kimmie Frithsmith (JV) and Trisha Cooper (Varsity). Thanks to you for attending and for your continued support of the Hart Baseball program.

VII. Next Meeting Date: March 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.