

Hart High Baseball Dugout Club Meeting Minutes

Date: May 16, 2023
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Coach's Classroom - T209

Attendees:

- Jim Ozella - Head Coach
- Steve Downs - President
- Shawn Damiani - Treasurer
- Koi Howard - Secretary
- Parents of Hart Players

I. Call to Order: Steve called the final meeting of this school year to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes: Jodi moved to approve the minutes from our last meeting, which was seconded by Tom. The members present voted unanimously to approve the minutes as recorded.

III. Committee Business:

a. Moment of Thanks: Steve thanked all of our committee chairs and volunteers who served this year. Special recognition was given to Kim for Canteen, Diana for Apparel, Jeff for Casino Night, Julie for Fundraising, Kerrie for Social Media, and Ben for Website. He expressed our thanks to each of them for going above and beyond the call of duty this year, which garnered a grateful round of applause from the membership.

b. Apparel: Diana reported that she has found a volunteer to step into the role of Apparel Chair. Thanks to Ken Marshall for his willingness to take on that role for the Club next year.

c. Canteen: Kim reported that we made \$2,539 in cash this year from game day sales. That does not include monies made via Square, which is still being sorted. Shawn asked about a specific Square payment that came in for \$48 to which Kim explained that if it was not paid on a game day, it probably belongs in a different category. This prompted a reminder that notes should be made for every payment via Square going forward. She suggested that food prices be raised slightly next year to cover expenses. She also said that according to the sales records, the most successful selling days fell on those when volunteers brought in specialty food items. \$280 was made during the Frosh game when hot dogs and nachos were brought in to be sold. She does need more specific donations of the favorite kinds of sodas next year and also mentioned needing someone to check that the electricity on the fridge is working correctly. Thanks to Mark who volunteered to take a look at the wiring and make sure that everything is in order. Many thanks to Kim for her continued hard work and organization of our canteen.

d. Social Media: Kerrie keeps our social media platforms updated for us. We are on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Our hashtag is #harthighbaseball. Please join in and feel free to share pics and highlights with her from the games to post. Thanks to Kerrie for keeping our social media sites up-to-date.

e. Website: Ben regularly updates our website, including the Club's calendar, though please have your student check Google Classroom for the most current game information. Thanks to Ben for his hard work on the website. Check out the link at <http://harthighbaseball.com/>.

f. Calendar of Events:

- 1. End of Year Banquet - Saturday, May 20**
- 2. Graduation - Tuesday, May 30**
- 3. Cougar Den - First Fall Football Game (TBD)**

IV. Field Renovation Update: Steve thanked Jeff and everyone who volunteered to make it a very successful Casino Night. The success of that event means we have about \$34,000 in our account to help with the field renovation project. Tyler Glasnow graciously donated \$7,500 and the MLB added \$3,000 to that donation. Kimmie reported that the final cost of the field should be approximately \$50,000. She said that there is a grandparent who may be willing to donate the

remainder that we need to cover the cost. Please look for other donors in the event that this donation does not come through or if someone is able to help with any additional expenses that might arise. The \$50,000 estimate includes the infield and 6-feet into the outfield all the way around. Coach would like to add turf in front of the dugouts, batters' box, and a halo around home plate, which should be covered by that fee. Turf Team, which did West Ranch's field, is the company we're using. They are scheduled to begin working on our field around July 10th. Jeff interjected that both the visitor's bullpen and the pitcher's mound are being redone as well. He said that there should be an allotment of dirt coming, possibly from the district, and that Coach had a good idea to repurpose some of the dirt that is taken out to improve the outfield if the district doesn't come through. Construction should take 2-3 weeks with another 6-8 weeks to stay off the area, but the teams can practice in the outfield until October. Steve thanked Chris and Kimmie for their work and Coach O for his patience with the process.

V. Treasurer's Report: Shawn reported that we ended last month with \$23,639. We had \$200 come in for Media Guide, \$332 for Apparel, \$99 for Canteen (though \$48 of that, as mentioned earlier, is likely from Apparel), and \$895 from a donation. Recent expenses included \$12 for the bank, \$59 for web and online services, \$1,826 for banquet costs (like senior bats and their letters that the district does not cover), and \$120 for scouting for the playoffs. That leaves us with \$23,047 as of today. Steve offered some financial insight by telling us that the proposed budget of \$77,000 for this year is the lowest amount since the covid year. To put this in perspective, we only brought in \$54,000 which put us short and caused some stress. There are still some outstanding expenses that will be coming in, plus we would like to give \$2,500 to \$3,000 to the 6 coaches for all the time they give to helping the players. He reminded us that it's up to those of us with younger team members to keep the finances going. Jodi chimed in that the Casino Night was a successful fundraiser that would have carried us across, but that those funds were needed for the field renovation, proving that we have the capability to fundraise for future years. Diana added her thanks, and thanks on behalf of all of the parents, for the outstanding job that Steve and Jodi have done for the program. Hearty applause and cheers of gratitude from the membership followed. Thanks were also offered to Shawn for keeping track of the Club's finances.

VI. Bylaw Proposal: Steve sent out the current bylaws and proposed changes via email to the membership to read and put to a vote. He restated the bylaw changes that were proposed regarding the election of officers to be held in May, at the end of each school year instead of the fiscal year (October 1st to September 30th). An exception for service is the office of Treasurer, which will still be elected with the other board positions, but will include a transition period for the incoming and outgoing Treasurers. This will allow preparation time for budget reports, bank transactions, and tax records, and should ensure a smooth transition for the incoming Treasurer. Another proposal is the addition of a Member-At-Large position to be voted on at the beginning of the school year to serve as a liaison between the parents and the Board. This officer will attend all meetings, including Executive Board meetings. Preferably this will be the parent of a freshman or sophomore who aspires to learn about the workings of the board. Jodi made a motion to call a vote to approve the bylaw changes, seconded by Tracy. Steve asked for a show of hands of those in favor of approving the proposed changes. Koi asked those opposed to raise a hand or speak up to discuss concerns with the proposals. None opposed and all members present were in favor, so the motion to change the bylaws passed unanimously. The bylaws will be amended to reflect the changes and recorded as necessary for our non-profit status. A vote for Member-At-Large will be taken at either the October or November meeting, depending on the timing of the freshmen team roster.

VII. Board Vacancies: Steve announced the current vacancies as he is ending his time as President and Julie has decided not to run again for Vice President. As each position is a year term, nominations can be made for any of the roles on the board. Steve opened the floor for nominations and nominated Jeff for Vice President, who did consent. Tracy nominated Chris Frith-Smith for President; his wife Kimmie consented on his behalf, but assured us of a forthcoming personal consent from him. Sara nominated Koi for Secretary, who gave her consent. Patti nominated Elaine for Member-At-Large, who gave her consent. Tracy nominated Chris McCarty for Treasurer and he confirmed that he would not say no to Tracy; thus, he consented to the nomination. Patti asked Shawn if she would like to serve again as Treasurer; Shawn said that she would consent if needed, but that she is happy to turn over the role to someone else. Koi and Steve agreed that Shawn should remain an excellent advisor if another is voted into the role in which she has graciously served for many years. Jeff asked if there were any bylaw stipulations preventing a member without a student in the baseball program to serve on the board. The bylaws simply state that no two board members can be related by marriage or blood so there is not a constriction of service for past parent members. Jodi told a sweet story about when she was assigned to lead Media Guide. During her very first meeting, John Dow announced that the meeting would not adjourn until a member volunteered for the role, so Jodi stepped in and has done a great job for us since that fateful day. Steve too was called upon to fill John's eventual vacancy as President. Coach O gave us some interesting history on

nominations for past officers of the Club explaining that we haven't always had so many parents willing to step into the Executive Board positions. He said that a few years ago, nominations were made and ballots were put on the table at the banquet for a vote, but not all parents participated. A discussion then ensued about which was preferred for the current nominations: a Google ballot via email or a paper ballot at the banquet. Steve took a vote on this and by a show of hands, the Google email ballot was the consensus. Therefore, a full written slate of consenting nominees will be made quickly and sent out immediately to the membership for a vote by 9:00 a.m. this Saturday. The new Executive Board will be announced at the banquet.

VIII. Coach's Update: Coach O announced that VIBL information and game schedules have been handed out to the players. There will be 5 weeks of camp and games. He asked that players give him a week's notice for absences so that he can plan accordingly. Freshman will start at 8:00 a.m. and the older guys should arrive by 10:00, though they're allowed to start earlier. We're coming into the end of the semester and are down to the wire on grades. These go on their transcripts so Coach asked that parents encourage the students to bring those grades up that need improvement. He offered thanks for a successful Casino Night to all who helped and to former players who supported the event. He singled out Tyler Glasnow as one who has always been a quality kid and has used his position in the MLB to get the Dodgers to support us. He also thanked everyone who has taken up a leadership position. He's not sure how the upcoming vote will turn out, but he's indebted to Shawn who has served as Treasurer for many years. He reiterated that she's been here to support him and the program; she has a busy life and a job in Pasadena so Coach is indebted to her for all of her efforts. He also expressed his thanks to Steve as President and to his wife, Jodi, for their service. He said he appreciates all those who keep the Dugout Club going and feels blessed for the support of the parents, but ultimately, it all goes back to the kids. Coach said that he's here to help them and that the other coaches are too. He reflected that he is blessed with coaches who are dedicated year round. This is a tough time of year as people come in the door and go out the door, but the gate is always open. Coach has told the six graduating seniors that they're always welcome here. After four years, relationships aren't always perfect, but Coach said that he wants every player to know that the gate will stay open to them at Hart. He said that an alum is coming over tomorrow to hit and we're here to keep helping our players progress, even after graduation. The parents gave Coach O a round of applause for his dedication to our boys. We appreciate you, Coach!

IX. New Business: Thanks to our Team Reps for communicating with parents and for organizing team dinners this year: Patti Rhodes (Frosh), Kimmie Frithsmith (JV), and Trisha Cooper (Varsity). The banquet is this weekend and always needs volunteers. Thanks to Patti for organizing the banquet this year. Thanks to Sara for her decorations. Thanks in advance to those who are willing to be there early to help set up. Before adjourning, Steve said that he has enjoyed his time serving and knows he's leaving the Dugout Club in good hands. Thank you, Steve, for being an outstanding President! Thanks to each of you for attending and for your continued support of the Hart Baseball program.

X. Next Meeting Date: October 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

XI. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.