

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee March 18, 2026

The Public Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Borough of Norwood was held in the council chambers on Norwood Borough Hall on the above date.

The committee members present during the meeting were:

Rakesh Ramessar
Kieran O'Mullane
Stephen Whaley
Kevin Wilson
Frank Fanelli
Ariel Perez

Also present:

Anthony Plescia, Recreation Director
Lindsay Volpitta, Recreation Secretary

Mr. O'Mullane called the meeting to order and asked the Committee members to stand for the flag salute. The statement of compliance was read.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the January 14, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

Mr. Plescia said Closter will be looking to use the fields at Kennedy for the upcoming baseball season. There are two 7th/8th grade boys that need to be placed on a baseball team. They played with Closter last year but do not want to play with them this year due to many forfeited games which resulted in them not having playing time.

Soccer Report

Mr. O'Mullane said the indoor season wraps up this weekend. Four of the seven teams have made it to the semifinals. It was a difficult season due to gym closures because of weather. The use of Impact Zone was a massive help this year. Mr. Fanelli asked if the gym at St. Joe's in Demarest or OLV in Harrington Park is available. Mr. Wilson said St. Anthony's in Northvale is also a good choice. Mr. Whaley said to reach out to them to see if there is the possibility of using the gym.

Football Report

No Report

Cheer Report

No cheer report.

Baseball/Softball Report

Mr. Perez said 142 children registered to play baseball and softball this season. Opening day is scheduled for April 4th. There are 4 t-ball teams, 2 teams 1st/2nd baseball and softball teams, 1 3rd/4th baseball and softball team, and 1 5th/6th baseball team. The girls in 5th/6th and 7th/8th will be playing with Northvale. There are two 7th/8th boys that are in need of a baseball team. They were going to play on the Harrington Park team but they are no longer needed. They played with Closter last year and do not want to play with them again because most of the games were forfeited and due to that they did not have much playing time. The game schedule and uniforms come out next Wednesday. The girls have been doing an 8 week clinic at the Fieldhouse and the boys are doing an 8 week clinic at Santos Baseball. There was a coaches meeting last Thursday with 24 coaches in attendance. One parent questioned who to contact about field maintenance. There was going to be 2 3rd/4th grade baseball teams but one of the coaches said his child didn't want to play and backed out. Another parent backed out when they learned that person would not be coaching. This led the Board to create one team of 16 children.

Mr. Whaley said in the past they had divided the teams into A, B, and C and scheduled two teams for each game. They all practice together and they will be getting to play as much as possible.

Mr. Perez said that multiple parents have asked about a summer baseball league. There are enough interested children to field a team.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar said the season ends on the 28th. They did not have as many children register as last year. There were 7 teams. They have been having an open gym from 2pm-4pm every sat at NPS. The summer league registration will open the end of April or early May.

DPW Director Report

There was no DPW report.

Field Use Subcommittee

Mr. Whaley said that committee looked at two new applications as previous applications were grandfathered in from years past. Play at the plate is adult league and the Yard Goats which is a youth baseball team. The Play at the Plate is asking for over 40 dates of field usage and does not have any local players. The Yard Goats is

coached by a Norwood father and has Norwood children on the team. They have a reasonable request, only looking for dates until the end of May. Field use will be divided up equally between all outside teams.

Flag Football

Ms. Volpitta gave an update on residents who reached out with interest in joining a flag football league. Mr. Wilson suggested pointing them towards the Flag Football League and having the children join as single players to be drafted onto a team.

Recreation Budgets

Ms. Volpitta advised that she received budgets from soccer and baseball/softball but has not received a basketball budget request. Mr. Ramessar said he will reach out to Mr. Musial and advise him.

Capital Purchases

Ms. Volpitta informed the Committee that the Mayor and Council were given the list of ideas for capital purchases.

Recreation Committee Sponsored Events

Mr. Plescia asked if an egg hunt was scheduled. Ms. Volpitta said the Fire Department will be holding the egg hunt on March 29th at 2pm.

Mr. O'Mullane asked for volunteers for the 5K subcommittee. Mr. Whaley said he would volunteer but is aware that Mr. Lee, who was not present at the meeting, also expressed interest. Mr. O'Mullane will be the third member.

Mr. Whaley asked for an update on what the town has planned for the pond this year as it could be used for outdoor recreation events. The Committee members asked if the pond will be stocked with fish, dredged to make it deeper, clean up the eroding shoreline and if the snapping turtles will be removed.

Mr. Whaley made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

There was no one on Zoom who wished to speak.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Whaley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Perez seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. O'Mullane thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Committee Secretary