

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee June 19, 2024

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

The committee members present during the meeting were:

Gene Huelster
Frank Fanelli
Nicole Rivera
Rakesh Ramessar
Steven Whaley
Kieran O'Mullane
Kevin Wilson

Also present:

Anthony Plescia, Recreation Director
Lindsay Volpitta, Recreation Secretary

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

Ms. Rivera made a motion to approve the May 15, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

Mr. Plescia reported that the fireworks are ready and confirmed that the ice cream and popcorn vendors will be there as well.

Mr. Whaley and Mr. Wilson asked for updates to the playground completion, basketball court, pavilion, and hiking trail. Ms. Volpitta said she would get an update and report back to the Committee.

Mr. Huelster said he would like to be careful using Open Space grants, as that takes away the Boroughs control, allowing anyone to be able to use Borough facilities and fields.

Soccer Report

Mr. O'Mullane said the soccer registration is open and he will have more concrete numbers at the next meeting. The Soccer Board met last week and they are looking for ways to drive recruitment.

Cheer Report

Ms. Rivera said cheer currently has fifty six (56) participants registered. The Jr. and Sr. squad will combine and cheer for the Sr. football team. New skirts are being ordered for the pee wee team and the choreographer that they are looking at is a local person.

Baseball/Softball Report

Ms. Volpitta read Mr. Rinaldi's report. This was a highly successful baseball and softball season with playoff games extending into the first week of June. There was a great turn out for the end of year celebration. The Board thanks the players, families, volunteers, governing body, DPW, and Mayor Barsa for their support throughout the season.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar said basketball is in it's fifth (5) week with games three (3) nights a week. Ms. Volpitta advised that the governing body approved the plaque and wording for the scoreboard dedication.

By Law Subcommittee

Mr. Wilson informed the Committee that along with Mr. O'Mullane and Mr. Moylan, they reviewed the current Bylaws which were written in 2007 and drafted a new proposed set of Bylaws. Main points of the proposed draft include the Committee members being protected from litigation and the Committee having more input in capital projects. They would also like to see a stipulation added that states if you are playing for a travel or club team you also have to play for the rec team. This is to raise the registration numbers and have teams for all age/grade levels. The field use subcommittee would enforce this stipulation based on the rosters received from teams applying for field use.

Mr. Huelster said he would also like to see the fee exemption for 501(3(C) teams removed from the ordinance.

Mr. Whaley said the Committee should reexamine what recreation is and discuss adding new programs like fishing, video games, cooking.

Mr. Whaley suggested the Borough look into accruing space for a town rec center that could encompass all the current programs and more. Mr. Wilson suggested looking to the Westwood rec center as a guide. Mr. Ramessar suggest looking into the vacant Sanzari building located across the street from Borough Hall.

Mr. Whaley made a motion to recommend to the Mayor and Council that the Recreation Committee be permitted to form an exploratory committee for a rec center. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

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

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

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

Mr. Huelster thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Committee Secretary