Borough of Norwood
Recreation Committee
November 27, 2023

The Public Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Borough of Norwood was held via Zoom on the above date.

The committee members present during the meeting were:
Gene Huelster
Stephen Whaley
Rachel Schanck
Kevin Wilson
Nicole Rivera
Frank Fanelli
Larry Rossi

Also present:
Councilman Anthony Foschino
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, and a roll call of the Committee was taken.

Mr. Whaley made a motion to approve the October 30, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Schanck seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed. Mr. Huelster and Mr. Rossi abstained.

Directors Report
Mr. Plescia was not present to give the Directors Report.

Soccer Report
Ms. Volpitta read the soccer report on behalf of Ms. Sullivan. Only one team the 3rd/4th grade boys, advanced and lost in the finals. About one hundred seventy (170) children participated in the program. In the new year the focus is on bringing new volunteers to the Soccer Board. Registration for the indoor winter program is ongoing.

Football Report

Mr. Rossi advised the Committee that the football season has ended. The end of year dinner was held and Mr. Rossi thanked Mayor Barsa for attending and supporting the program. There were five (5) Raiders that participated in the 8th grade All Star game.

Mr. Rossi informed the Committee that he will no longer be the Raiders Board President and Fernando Petrone will be taking his place.

Cheer Report

Ms. Rivera thanked all who helped make the cheer program a success this year. A possible item for the budget will be to order raincoats for the cheerleaders. The Pee Wee coaches expressed interest in having the Pee Wee squad have the same new uniforms as the older squads. Ms. Rivera also stated she received pushback during the season from coaches and parents. The coaches, and some parents, did not feel it was appropriate for the squads to go to competitions. They felt this was a recreation team and not a competition team. Mr. Whaley suggested having an offshoot of the recreation squad and forming a competition team for those that wanted to pursue that aspect.

Baseball/Softball Report

Ms. Schanck informed the Committee that the By-Laws have been submitted to the state and she believes they were approved. Ms. Schanck also thanked the American Legion of their generous donation of $400.00 to the program. Mr. Wilson suggested scheduling an equipment return. Ms. Schanck said she has asked the Board to schedule a date but has not received a response. Regarding the By-Laws, Mr. Huelster stated that the Baseball/Softball Board overstepped their bounds by not following protocol. Proper procedure would have the Recreation Committee review the By-Laws and make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council who would have the final approval. Ms. Schanck said that she advised the Board of the necessary procedures but was told they are an individual Board and do not need the approval of the governing body. Mr. Huelster advised the Committee that a meeting is in the process of being scheduled with the CFO and moving forward all sports registration fees will be collected by the Borough. All sports will still be able to have a booster club to fundraise, but all registration fees and payments will be made through the Borough. Councilman Foschino stated that all sports are under the Borough's insurance, use Borough facilities, and the Borough DPW maintains the facilities. There needs to be accountability in the programs and accountability for the taxpayers. Regarding the By-Laws, Councilman Foschino stated that should something go wrong it would fall on the Recreation Committee and governing body, therefore, they should give final approval after review by the Borough attorney.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar was not present to give the Basketball Report.

DPW Report
There was no one present from the DPW to give the department report.

Winterfest
Mr. Whaley suggested forming a subcommittee for Winterfest. He would like to expand on what was done last year. The cookie contest would be brought back, and a chili cookoff would be added on. The date of January 27, 2024, was chosen for the event, from 4pm to 8pm, with a rain date of February 3, 2024.

Capital Projects
Councilman Foschino advised that the fences on fields one (1) and two (2) and being replaced. The Borough is also looking to remove the pavers that are in place by the snack shed to allow for a larger patio area between fields one (1) and two (2) that would also incorporate a pavilion. The Borough is also looking into extending the walking path to the dog park/swim club parking lot, into the woods, and then out to Broadway and ending on Hemlock Court in Northwoods. Lastly, Councilman Foschino informed the Committee members that the Borough is in discussion with the swim club to have use of the building and grounds during the swim club's off season.

Budget Proposals
Ms. Volpitta advised the Committee that the budget requests for 2024 for each sport are due by Friday, January 5, 2024.

Greenway Update
Ms. Volpitta stated that Councilman Kim reported that Greenway Project has hired a consultant to help promote and bring attention to the project. Mr. Wilson said he has put the members of the Greenway Project in touch with attorneys who would work with them pro bono.

Community Center Update
Ms. Volpitta told the Committee that there is now an 80 inch television in the community center and it can be used for indoor movie nights during the colder months. The Borough is looking into having a Netfilx subscription for such events.

Recreation Teams Playing Time
Ms. Volpitta advised the Committee that there have been complaints that not all children are receiving the same amount of practice or game time in recreation sports. It was the consensus of the Committee that each coach should be responsible for the decisions on whom to play and for how long due to the fact that there are different situations that arise during each practice and/or game.

Trackside Lights

Mr. Wilson suggested asking the Council to have permanent lights installed at Trackside. This would help with scheduling games and makeup games.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to ask the Council to budget for permanent lights at Trackside in 2024. Ms. Schanck seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously approved.

Public Comment

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

There was no one on Zoom who wished to speak.

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

Ms. Schanck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fanelli seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Huelster thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Committee Secretary