

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee January 14, 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
Fernando Petrone
Frank Fanelli
Mayank Rastogi

Also present:

Councilman Anthony Foschino
Lindsay Volpitta, Recreation Secretary

Councilman Foschino called the meeting to order and asked the Committee members to stand for the flag salute. The statement of compliance was read and the Mayoral appointments of Stephen Whaley and Kevin Wilson were sworn in.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to nominate Mr. O'Mullane for the position of Chairman. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to nominate Mr. Whaley for the position of Vice Chairman. Mr. O'Mullane seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Mr. Whaley made a motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

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

Councilman Foschino advised that the Borough received a grant for the walking path which would go from the dog park to Broadway, eventually adding a crosswalk and continuing through Northwoods.

The pond needs some repairs as it is collecting silt. The mosquito eating fish are in the pond and cannot be there with the silt. Along with the repair, there is talk about adding a waterfall feature.

Councilman Foschino advised all sports to submit their budgets timely by February 1st.

Mr. Plescia asked if there is a grant to update the Kennedy Field lighting to LED lights. Councilman Foschino advised Ms. Volpitta to contact the grant write to inquire.

Councilman Foschino said he was told by the DPW Director that fields 1 & 2 need repairs.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the October 15, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

Mr. Plescia said the fireworks will be similar to last year but he is not sure which company will be used.

Soccer Report

Mr. O'Mullane advised that the fall season has concluded and three out of eight teams made the finals. The 5th/6th grade boys won the championship. The winter season has started with extra practice time at Impact Zone. Next winter the program might be extended to first and second grade and will need more hours at practice facilities.

Football Report

Mr. Petrone said they had a successful season. All levels made it to the playoffs. All games were close and all players had positive attitudes. The next league meeting is January 28th. Mr. Plescia said he received phone calls that residents were upset about the dinner because it was not like past Raiders dinners.

Cheer Report

No cheer report.

Baseball/Softball Report

Mr. Perez said as of November 13th the Board advertised for more Board members and have three new members. Registration for the spring season will be open tomorrow until February 22nd. The umpire fees will be the same as last year. April 4th is scheduled for opening day. The registration fees will go up \$10.00.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar said the season has started. There are not as many teams as in the past. They need more gym time but are managing.

DPW Director Report

There was no DPW report.

Field Use Subcommittee

Mr. Whaley explained that the committee reviews the field use application and makes recommendations to the Recreation Committee if the application should be granted.

The Committee is made up of Steve Whaley, Frank Fanelli, and Tony Perez.

Girls Flag Football

Mr. Wilson provided information on the Pascack Flag Football League. Registrations start April 1st. If there is no town team the child can get drafted to a team. Another option is to enter as a full team. This is for both girls and boys. Games are mostly on Sunday mornings. Mr. Wilson suggested putting a survey on Facebook to see interest. An information flyer can be sent to the school to be sent out in a PTO blast.

Recreation Committee Budget

Mr. Wilson asked for clarification on the Recreation Committee budget. Ms. Volpitta explained that the budget is made up of all the sports, along with the Seniors Club and summer camp. There is a line item in the budget that funds the Winterfest, annual insurance, and other necessities. There is only a few thousand dollars in that line item.

Recreation Budgets

Mr. Wilson asked that all budgets submitted by the sports be shared with the Committee members and to be discussed at the following meeting.

Capital Purchases

Mr. Wilson suggested making capital purchases a standard part of the Recreation Committee agenda. A running list will be kept of all capital project ideas, with the first idea being a pavilion at Kennedy Field. Once a capital list has been established by the Borough departments, Ms. Volpitta will share with the Committee anything that could involve recreation.

Recreation Committee Sponsored Events

Mr. Whaley would like to see recreation be more than just youth sports. He would like to see the community center utilized more. He suggested advertising to see if there are residents that would like to volunteer their time teaching a class. There would be activities and classes for all age levels. Other suggestions were to use the pond for

fishing, a town super bowl party in the community center, movie nights on Kennedy Field and in the community center, and a summer concert series. Mr. O'Mullane suggested bringing back the 5K. Mr. Whaley said a subcommittee, including town volunteers, would need to be established. All Committee members were on board with these ideas.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Committee Secretary