

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee January 17, 2024

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
Frank Fanelli
Nicole Rivera
Rakesh Ramessar
Steven Whaley
Kevin Wilson
Kieran O'Mullane
Pete Rinaldi
Peter Moylan
Lou Macchiaroli

Also present:

Robert Tracy, DPW Director
Lindsay Volpitta, Recreation Secretary

Ms. Volpitta called the meeting to order and asked the Committee members to stand for the flag salute. The statement of compliance was read. The mayoral appointments of Rakesh Ramessar, Kieran O'Mullane, Pete Rinaldi, Lou Macchiaroli, and Peter Moylan were sworn in for a three (3) year term, and a roll call of the Board was taken.

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

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

Mr. Whaley made a motion to approve the 2024 meeting dates. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

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Mr. Huelster thanked the Committee and recreation staff for all they do. He also thanked outgoing Committee member, Rachel Schanck, for her dedicated service.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the December 20, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Soccer Report

Mr. O'Mullane advised the Committee that the soccer season is underway and there are roughly eighty (80) participants over eight (8) teams. Participation is down from the fall program but that is to be expected. There is no 5th/6th girls team. There were three (3) girls from that level wanting to play, and two were placed on the 5th/6th boys team.

Mr. Huelster asked if there was enough indoor practice time for the soccer program. Mr. O'Mullane noted time has been reserved at the school and the cages but they could always use more. Mr. Huelster asked Ms. Volpitta to contact Chodae Church about gym time.

Football Report

Mr. Macchiaroli stated the football/cheer budget has been submitted. There was no other business to report on at this time.

Cheer Report

Ms. Rivera said cheer has asked for new Pee Wee uniforms and raincoats for all squads in the budget. She would also like to discuss with the Football Board charging a uniform deposit fee as in the past and she had questions about coaching. She asked if it was possible to secure time at the Harrington Park School gym next season. Ms. Volpitta said she will contact the school. Mr. Fanelli advised to also check Our lady of Victory church for gym time as well. Ms. Rivera said she was able to hold one (1) practice at Impact Zone, free of charge.

Mr. Huelster does not feel it is fair to be charged for gym time at the school. He feels the Borough contributes in many ways and that this issue needs to be discussed further. Mr. Fanelli stated the freshman baseball team uses Kennedy Field every year without being charged by the town.

Baseball/Softball Report

Mr. Rinaldi informed the Committee that registration will open next week. Fees will be \$175.00 for grades 3-8, \$150.00 for grades 1-2, and t-ball will be significantly less. The Board cleaned out the equipment shed and found old equipment and banners they were able to dispose of to make more room. They also now have a better idea of what is

needed for the upcoming season. The Board is considering going to a recyclable uniform that can be reused year after year. There would be a stock of extra uniforms which would help with late registrations. The Board is going to be giving guidance to the volunteer coaches on the requirements of fingerprinting, concussion training, and the Rutgers certification class. Opening day could be scheduled the week after spring break on April 6th or 7th. There will be no games that day to allow for full participation in the parade and the days events.

Mr. Huelster reminded the Committee that the Norwood Charitable Foundation is available to help Norwood residents who are unable to afford the recreation registration fees.

Mr. Whaley suggested having the registration fees for all recreation programs be as low as possible to encourage families to join. A higher registration fee could make families shy away.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar said basketball is in full swing. The travel teams will play their third and fourth games this week. As in years past gym time is an issue. The high school has no available gym time. The 7th and 8th grade boys secured time at the Northern Valley Central gym and they are using the public school and Chodae church as much as they can.

Mr. Moylan added that registration numbers, especially for the girls, are low. There are no girls travel teams. He also informed the Committee that the cost of the jerseys is included in the registration fees. The jerseys are reversible, and each side has an American flag. Sporttime did not charge for the American flag, as it was seen as a patriotic gesture. Lastly, he reminded the Committee that there is also an adult basketball team through recreation. The team has won the Division 2 championship the past two (2) years in a row, which has now brought them into the top division.

DPW Director Report

Director Tracy congratulated the new and returning Committee members. He advised that there are tow (2) turf blankets on Trackside and he is in the process of trying to have turf blankets put on Kennedy Field. Kennedy Field is the current location for the emergency medical helicopter to land and it is a process to have the landing location changed.

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Mr. Wilson asked if the DPW would be able to provide enough electric, without using generators for the Winter Festival. Director Tracy said they will most likely have to use generators but they are quiet and can be placed far enough away where they will not be heard.

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

There was no one on Zoom who wished to speak.

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

Mr. Ramessar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Moylan seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Huelster thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Committee Secretary