

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee May 27, 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
Fernando Petrone
Stephen Whaley
Kevin Wilson
Ariel Perez
Ray Lee

Also present:

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.

Ms. Volpitta swore in Mr. Lee.

Mr. Petrone will contact Ms. Maccharoli and speak with her regarding meeting attendance.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the March 18, 2026, meeting minutes. Mr. Petrone seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

No report

Soccer Report

Mr. O'Mullane said the fall soccer program has two leagues that are run out of NPS. They would scrimmage against each other in the first and second grade level, with kindergarten coming in later. This fall the first and second graders will be playing against other towns. All games will be held at Stone Point Park in Old Tappan. Due to the kindergarten flag football practices being held at 9am, the kindergarten will practice at 8am or 10am. The hope for indoor winter practices is to have time for first and second

graders. That would be a total of 12 hours of practice time a week. Mr. O'Mullane asked if the Soccer Board could fundraise to pay for indoor practice space. Mr. Whaley suggested expanding the batting cage and making it big enough for all sports to use. Mr. Petrone suggested holding all soccer practices at Kennedy Field and building an indoor space on Trackside.

Football Report

Mr. Petrone informed the Committee registration is open for the 2026 season. Eligibility for a senior player has changed, after 6th grade you can only play for two more years so no one can reclass. Also a child cannot turn 15 years old during the season. Pee Wee games are going to follow the same rules as the older leagues. It is preferred to have a trainer rather than an EMT at games. Jr. games will now be played on a full field. Bergenfield has joined the league and there are now 12 teams. Games can now be played early or late in the day. The officials have increased their rates. There was discussion about playoffs being held in a neutral site but teams are not in favor of that, they prefer home field advantage. Padded practices can now start the first week of August. Weigh ins are before Labor Day and will be held in Cresskill. The start of the season will be September 14th, with a possibility of the seasoning opening on a Monday. The last game of the season has a conflict with Halloween. Playoff will be held for three weeks in November. Current registration numbers have Pee Wee's with 10 players, the Jr's with 14 players and the Sr's. with 12 players.

Cheer Report

No cheer report.

Baseball/Softball Report

Mr. Perez said the season is going really well. One team was moved to an A and B team due to the amount of children. This allows all children to play a full game. The teams are finishing the last few makeup games. The end of year party will be on June 13th from 12pm-3pm. Only issue this year was umpire availability. Mr. Wilson suggested having a backup signer. Mr. Perez thanked the DPW and said they did a great job with the fields. The snack shed has been open and is doing well.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar said registration for summer basketball is open and the outdoor clinics are in effect. The NVOT girls basketball team will be holding camps at the high school over the summer.

5K

Mr. Whaley said the subcommittee met and agreed that the 5K will not be held the same day as Norwood Day. The plan is to contact other towns to make sure there is no overlap of dates. Currently, the subcommittee is looking at the first Sunday in October. Mr. Whaley said they have the planning broken up into different categories and are

looking for community volunteers to help with the planning. Mr. Lee said most runners already have their plan for the year and feels there is not enough time to have the 5K this year.

Volleyball

Ms. Volpitta informed the Committee that residents have reached out asking about volleyball. Mr. Whaley said the first step is to see if other towns have a volleyball league. He also advised the Committee NVOT holds volleyball clinics. Ms. Volpitta asked for the information so it can be shared with the residents.

Resident Use of the Fields and Facilities

Mr. O'Mullane said a resident contacted him asking if they can use the fields for pickup soccer games. They are not an organized league but looking to use it the same time each week on a regular basis. Ms. Volpitta advised that they cannot reserve the field if it is just for pickup games but can use it if it is available. If they would like to reserve the field they will need to file an application and go through the procedure.

Recreation Committee Sponsored Events

Mr. O'Mullane suggested holding a World Cup event for the community, showing a USA game in the soccer field on a big screen. Ms. Volpitta informed the Committee that the Administrator was advised that without written permission from FIFA we cannot promote the event using "FIFA" or "World Cup". Mr. Wilson suggested calling it a soccer registration event and to show the game. Ms. Volpitta will look into purchasing a screen and projector. Mr. O'Mullane said the USA game will be on June 19th at 3pm.

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

Mr. Wilson commented that capital projects should be prioritized.

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Committee Secretary

