

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee September 18, 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
Peter Moylan

Also present:

Councilman Anthony Foschino
Robert Tracy, DPW Director
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.

Mr. Whaley made a motion to approve the June 19, 2024, meeting minutes. Ms. Rivera seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

Mr. Plescia said he was approached by a lacrosse league, that all seven (7) towns play in, asking for help securing field time at the high schools. The league is being charged about \$9300.00 for field time at the high schools. If the seven (7) towns were to list the number of participants from the individual towns they would be covered under the JIF policy for that municipality and receive a discounted rate from the schools. There are twenty (20) Norwood children that play for this league. Mr. Plescia stated he already discussed this with Mayor Barsa who is in favor of helping.

Soccer Report

Mr. O'Mullane stated that the fall soccer season started two (2) weeks ago. There are about one hundred seventy-five (175) kids enrolled in the program. There were one hundred eighty (180) enrolled last year. Enrollment in the older grades are lower due to the travel teams. They were unable to field a 7th/8th grade boys team. The 7th/8th grade girls team is combined with Northvale.

Cheer Report

Ms. Rivera said there are seventy-nine (79) total children registered for cheer. The junior and senior squads were combined due to there not being a junior football team. The flag team, kindergarten through second grade, was also combined. Mr. Moylan said he watched the half-time routine and it was the best it has ever been.

Baseball/Softball Report

Mr. Rinaldi, the Baseball/Softball Board representative, recently resigned from the Recreation Committee. Mayor Barsa will be appointing a new Committee member from the Baseball/Softball Board.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar said registration for the winter season will open soon. The Basketball Board will have a table at town day. As in years past, gym time is a concern. They are requesting use of the gym at Northern Valley Central on Wednesdays and Sundays from 5pm to 8:30pm for the month of October. They would also like to request time at NPS and Chodae Church. Mr. Ramessar will supply Ms. Volpitta with the dates and times they will need.

Mr. Plescia asked if He advised in the past the freshman baseball team played at Kennedy Field for no charge and the school did not charge indoor soccer to play there.

Mr. Whaley thanked Mr. Ramessar for the dedication of the scoreboard to Tom Musial. He said it was a great turn out and a very nice ceremony.

DPW

Mr. Tracy advised that thirty-one (31) lights at Kennedy field have been charged and the remaining lights will be changed after the electrician performs maintenance.

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By Law Subcommittee

Ms. Volpitta informed the Committee that the bylaws are with the Borough attorney and she hopes to have his comments by the October meeting.

Rec Center Exploratory Subcommittee

Mr. Whaley asked what the purpose of the subcommittee would be. Ms. Volpitta advised their purpose is to devise a plan of what they are looking for in the rec center and to go from there. Mr. Huelster said the subcommittee should reach out to each individual sport to see what their needs and wants are.

Mr. Plescia said he has plans of a rec center that was discussed many years ago. The plans include two (2) basketball courts, a tennis court, and an upstairs mezzanine that would be a computer room.

Mr. Huelster said the subcommittee might want to consider an ice rink, which could possibly be used for a profit. They also need to discuss partnering up with another town.

Councilman Foschino said the governing body has been looking at many different areas to help with the Borough's affordable housing obligation and many of those areas are wetlands.

Mr. Moyland suggested going to look at rec centers in other towns such as Cresskill and Westwood.

Councilman Foschino noted that the Norwood Public School owns about thirteen (13) acres on land on Broadway and asked Ms. Volpitta to speak to the construction to find what, if any, part of that is wetlands.

Mr. Moylan asked if it would be possible to use the swim club and build onto that, making it a super complex.

Councilman Foschino asked Ms. Volpitta to find out the total number of swim club members and how many of those members are Norwood residents.

Mr. Wilson asked how much of the swim club property is buildable. Councilman Foschino advised that the wetlands begin to the north of the dog park and east of the parking lot.

Public Comment

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

There was no one in the public who wished to speak.

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