

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee February 11, 2025

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
Steven Whaley
Kevin Wilson
Kieran O'Mullane

Also present:

Council President Foschino
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 appointment Frank Fanelli was sworn in, and a roll call of the Committee was taken.

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

Mr. Whaley made a motion to approve the 2025 meeting dates. Ms. Rivera seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the November 20, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

The contract for the fireworks has been received and it is being reviewed.

Council President Foschino asked how many meetings Mr. Alberti attended in 2024. Ms. Volpitta advised that he only attended the March meeting. Council President Foschino said he would like a letter sent to Mr. Alberti to see if he would like to continue on the Committee.

Soccer Report

Mr. O'Mullane advised that the winter indoor season is a month and a half in. It has been a frustrating season due to gyms closing due to the weather. Mr. O'Mullane would like to start working on gym time for next year as soon as possible. Currently NPS is used from 5:30pm to 8:30pm on Wednesdays. An additional 3-4 hours will be needed. Mr. Fanelli suggested Our Lady of Victory. Council President Foschino asked Ms. Volpitta to compose a letter to Chodae Church if they have a proposed schedule for use of Kennedy Field and if gym time could be negotiated.

Football Report

There was no football report. Mr. Petrone will be appointed the football representative at the next Mayor and Council meeting.

Cheer Report

Ms. Rivera said they have submitted the budget and plan to only ask for funds for the Pee Wee uniforms.

Baseball/Softball Report

Mr. Perez said registration is open. They have contacted Santos Baseball for a quote for the clinics. Opening day is tentatively scheduled for April 26th. Mr. Huelster said the clinics should be scheduled soon. With the current registration numbers there should be one team per level. The 7th -8th team will be combined with Northvale or Harrington Park. Council President Foschino has asked that NPS and NVOT be contacted regarding using our fields without being charged for possible gym time in return. He also said he would like to find out if NPS is charging multiple entities for gym time when there is already a janitor there.

Basketball Report

There was no basketball report.

DPW Director Report

There was no DPW report.

By-Laws Updates

Mr. Whaley made a motion to approve the by-laws and recommend the Mayor and Council approve the revisions. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Wilson said he hopes the new by-laws will allow for the Recreation Committee to be more involved with budgets, public relations, and helping to understand the community needs.

Mr. Huelster thanked Mr. Wilson and the by-laws committee for all the hard work they put into the updates.

Mr. Whaley suggested the Committee develop a 5 year plan for future needs. He also suggested looking into a steel structure similar to what the Old Tappan DPW recently built.

Mr. Wilson said he and Mr. O'Mullane have been talking with 3 or 4 residents about filling the open at large position on the Committee but they have all said they do not want the position because they feel their time will be wasted.

Council President Foschino said he never wants to hear about residents not wanting to volunteer or feeling that their voice isn't heard. He asked Mr. Wilson for the contact information for these residents so he can contact them directly.

Council President Foschino said he feels a decision needs to be made about the future of the swim club. He also suggested that due to the age of the current municipal building looking into a new 3 story municipal building on the existing site.

Winterfest Recap

Mr. Huelster thanked the DPW, Ms. Volpitta, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Whaley for their work on Winterfest. Being able to skate on the ice made this Winterfest the best yet. Hopefully we can expand on Winterfest to make it even better. Mr. Wilson thanked Adrian Burke for providing the chili.

Capital Purchases

Council President Foschino advised the Committee that the gazebo at Kennedy Field as well as improvements to the area in between fields 1-2, including pavers, landscaping and an update to the snack shed will be part of the capital budget discussions. Mr. Plescia suggested adding LED lights at Kennedy to the capital list. Mr. Wilson asked that lighting at Trackside also be considered. Council President Foschino said these matters can be brought to the grant writer.

Little League Participation Discussion

Mr. Huelster informed the Committee that he became aware that Norwood would not be joining the Little League organization. He sees no negative to joining Little League. The cost is minimal and it would generate more interest in the sport.

Mr. Perez said he attended a Zoom meeting for Little League and the Baseball/Softball Board felt they needed more information. A parent went on social media asking for transparency, to which the Baseball/Softball Board responded the best they could. He learned that there was only going to be a 12U baseball team, not teams for all age groups. Mr. Plescia said if you join the charter all teams will be eligible from 8U to 12U, including softball. Mr. Huelster informed Mr. Perez that Little League will be having a Zoom on Thursday and they would like a member of the Baseball/Softball Board to join the meeting and ask any questions.

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

Mr. Huelster thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Committee Secretary