

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee January 10, 2023

The Public Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Borough of Norwood was held in Council Chambers, located at 455 Broadway, and also on Zoom, on the above date.

The committee members present during the meeting were:

Gene Huelster
Frank Fanelli
Nicole Rivera
Rakesh Ramessar
Reidun Sullivan
Lawrence Rossi
Rachel Schanck
Steven Whaley
Kevin Wilson

Also present:

Anthony Plescia, Recreation Director
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 Gene Huelster, Lawrence Rossi, Nicole Rivera, Stephen Whaley, and Kevin Wilson were sworn in for a three (3) year term, and a roll call of the Board was taken.

Mr. Wilson made a motion to nominate Mr. Huelster 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. Huelster seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed on a roll call vote.

Ms. Schanck made a motion to approve the 2023 meeting dates. Ms. Sullivan 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, John Rivera, for his dedicated service.

Ms. Schanck made a motion to approve the December 6, 2022, meeting minutes. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Director's Report

Mr. Plescia congratulated the Norwood Raiders and the NVOT football team on their 2022 championship wins. He also advised that he gave Ms. Volpitta a check from the Norwood Baseball & Softball Association for \$12,226.00 to give to the borough.

Soccer Report

Ms. Sullivan said indoor soccer began last week and they have very good numbers, especially in the younger grades. She noted that it has been very hard to get parent volunteers at all levels and feels that it is important to try to recruit parents of younger children to volunteer.

Football Report

Mr. Rossi stated the Raiders championship team will be honored by Mayor Barsa on February 22nd. There will be a league meeting towards the end of January, and they should receive a schedule update at that time. There will be a Raiders Board meeting at the end of March.

Cheer Report

Mr. Rivera said she was excited to be a part of the Committee and to take over the cheer program. She hopes to recruit more girls, especially from Harrington Park and update the uniforms.

Baseball/Softball Report

A new Baseball/Softball Board has been elected.

Baseball – Pete Rinaldi

Softball – Rachel Schanck

Treasurer – January Bourke

Registration/Uniforms – Jin Bae

T-Ball – Heather Garcia

The prior bank account was dissolved and January JonesBourke, who has a background in finance, will be opening a new account and following the correct procedures. Ms. Schanck feels that the check that Mr. Plescia gave the borough should go to the Baseball/Softball Board. Ms. Volpitta will speak with the CFO and determine where the check should be. The softball league has officially joined the Kinderkamack League.

There is a \$40.00 fee for each team to join the league. Opening day is scheduled for April 15, 2023. Playoffs will begin at the end of May.

Ms. Schanck will be scheduling clinics for the softball team. Each team will have ten (10) clinics prior to the start of the season. There are four (4) clinics scheduled for the 5th & 6th grade with Coach Landeck.

Knickerbocker Report

Mr. Wilson advised the Committee that registration will be opening in the coming weeks. He is hoping to have one (1) team but will combine with another town if necessary. Over the past three seasons, they have averaged five (5) – six (6) players from town.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar said basketball began this past Saturday, and travel began three (3) weeks ago. They currently use the gyms at Northern Valley Central and Norwood Public School. At practice on Saturday, a child fell and broke his elbow. The injury was reported to the Borough and they are waiting to hear back from the insurance company to see how they should proceed.

DPW Director Report

Director Tracy advised the Committee that two (2) banners have been hung congratulating the Raiders and NVOT football teams.

Old Business

Harrington Park's contribution to the football program has been tabled until the February meeting.

New Business

Ms. Volpitta advised the Committee that a mobile fingerprint unit is scheduled to come to the borough on February 15th, from 9am-4:30pm. The borough must guarantee at least fifty (50) applicants, but no more than seventy-two (72) applicants on that date. Once the registration link has been received, Ms. Volpitta will forward it to the Recreation Committee and post on borough social media pages. Each applicant is responsible for payment at the time of their appointment. The borough will reimburse those who are actively volunteering in recreation programs.

Mr. Wilson suggested looking into where the Rutgers certification classes are being held and possibly coordinating with the northern valley towns to hold a certificate class in

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Norwood. Mr. Plescia asked if a Committee member could be trained by Rutgers to be a certified trainer for their class. Ms. Volpitta said she will contact Rutgers to discuss both possibilities.

Mr. Huelster instated new subcommittees:

Facilities – Mr. Wilson

Events – Mr. Whaley

By Laws – Mr. Alberti

Girls Flag Football – Mr. Huelster

Ms. Schanck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Huelster thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta, Committee Secretary