

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee May 21, 2025

The Public Meeting of the Recreation Committee of the Borough of Norwood was held in council chambers at the Norwood Borough Hall on the above date.

The committee members present during the meeting were:

Gene Huelster
Steven Whaley
Frank Fanelli
Fernando Petrone
Kevin Wilson
Ariel Perez
Nicole Rivera

Also present:

Lindsay Volpitta, Recreation Secretary
Rob Tracy, DPW Director

Mr. Huelster called the meeting to order and asked the Committee members to stand for the flag salute. The statement of compliance was read and a roll call of the Committee was taken.

Mr. Whaley made a motion to approve the April 16, 2025, meeting minutes. Mr. Petrone seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

No Director's Report

Soccer Report

No Soccer Report

Football Report

Mr. Petrone said registration is still open and will close around June 1st. First grade flag has 15 players, 10 of which are kindergarten. Second grade flag has 5 players. Pee Wee's have 9 players, 6 Harrington Park, 3 Norwood. Junior level has 8 players, 4 Harrington Park, 4 Norwood. Seniors have 9 signed up and 1 in progress, 4 Harrington Park and 5 Norwood. Mr. Huelster advised Mr. Petrone to be ready to join with a neighboring

town. Mr. Petrone said he is already in talk with the northern valley team. That would allow for A and B teams. The northern valley has agreed to accept the Norwood registration rate, which is \$75.00 less per player. The league is encouraging the Norwood Raiders joining with the northern valley team. Mr. Whaley suggested combining all levels with the northern valley.

Cheer Report

Ms. Rivera is unsure who to contact at the northern valley for cheer information. She has not been pushing registration because she does not have answers for this season. Mr. Huelster suggested discussing this at the league meeting. Mr. Petrone advised that cheer is not discussed at the football league meeting.

Baseball/Softball Report

Mr. Perez said the season is going very well. There was one week of bad weather. The Board is working on scholarships for the NVOT graduates. There will be an opening/closing ceremony on June 14th. Mr. Perez asked if the fields have been closed because of the weather. Mr. Tracy advised that the fields are closed to maintain the condition but also due to safety concerns for the children. Mr. Huelster said everyone should back the DPW Director and his decision to close the fields.

Basketball Report

No Basketball Report

DPW Director Report

Mr. Tracy said the water heater in the snack shed has been replaced. He is also in the process of checking the rain sensor at Trackside to make sure it is working properly. Mr. Tracy said possibly next year to upgrade the Trackside field. Mr. Wilson said if the football teams combine the football field can be used for soccer games and practices.

By-Laws Update

Mr. Wilson informed the Committee that members of the Committee attended the Mayor and Council meeting on May 15th to answer questions about the by-laws. The one major issue was the rule that if you played club or travel you must play rec. The Borough attorney advised that the clause is unenforceable. The Borough attorney will come back with comments on that clause. The main point of the by-law change was for the Recreation Committee to be more involved in capital projects and budgeting. He feels the governing body supported the overall updates. Mr. Wilson also informed the Committee that all sport budgets will be submitted by November and discussed with the Recreation Committee in December before being turned over to the CFO. Mr. Wilson suggested having a central hub for all recreation documents that can be shared between the Recreation Committee members. Lastly, Mr. Wilson gave an update on the pickleball courts. Due to using open space the pickleball courts can be opened to all Bergen County residents. He suggested using an app to schedule the court time. Mr.

Whaley is concerned about the scheduling of the pickleball courts and the amount of time residents will be using them. Mr. Huelster suggested that the swim club send a notice to all NY State residents that they are not permitted to use the pickleball courts. Mr. Whaley suggested placing a sign at the pickleball court advising the courts are only for Bergen County residents.

Mr. Whaley 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 attendance who wished to speak.

Mr. Fanelli made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Mr. Whaley 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