

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee October 30, 2023

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:

Stephen Whaley
Rachel Schanck
Reidun Sullivan
Kevin Wilson
Ken Stewart
Nicole Rivera
Rakesh Ramessar

Also present:

Anthony Plescia, Recreation Director
Robert Tracy, DPW Director
Eric Schuck, Assistant DPW Director
Lindsay Volpitta, Recreation Secretary

Mr. Whaley 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.

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to approve the July 19, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Schanck seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

Mr. Plescia advised the Committee that the flag football team was currently undefeated. He also asked that the turf blankets that were used at Trackside last year be considered for use at Kennedy Field this coming winter.

Mr. Tracy advised Mr. Plescia that the turf blankets were originally on Kennedy Field and they had to be removed because Kennedy Field is the designated landing zone for the medical helicopter and the helicopter would not be able to land if the turf blankets were on the field.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Plescia if he was aware of any major projects in the near future. Mr. Plescia said he was not aware of any projects. Mr. Tracy advised the Committee that the fences at fields one (1) and two (2) would be replaced shortly and new padding will be ordered for the backstops. The Norwood baseball and softball logo will be on the padding. The bleachers at the Knickerbocker field will also be replaced due to not being in compliance with safety regulations.

Soccer Report

Ms. Sullivan said there were one hundred ninety (190) participants this soccer season. The weather made it challenging to hold games on the weekends.

Football Report

Mr. Rossi was not present to give the football report.

Cheer Report

Ms. Rivera said there were seventy (70) participants in the cheer program. The new uniforms arrived in time for cheer pictures and the Norwood Day performance. The Pee Wee's, Juniors, and Seniors had a showcase where they all did well. There is one (1) more football game remaining and in three (3) weeks the Juniors and Seniors will go to a competition.

Baseball/Softball Report

Ms. Schanck informed the Committee that the Baseball/Softball were making changes to the bylaws. Also, Greg Schanck resigned from the Board.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar stated that registration is open for the winter basketball season. They will have a team for every grade level. There will be two teams, 7th and 8th grade boys, competing in travel tournaments.

DPW Report

Mr. Schuck informed the Committee that the fencing behind Trackside will be repaired with a stronger gauge fence to better stand up to the elements. Mr. Wilson asked if it would be possible to add fencing behind the goals so the balls do not continuously fly behind the goal and over the fence. Mr. Schuck said he would look into adding netting to those areas.

5K

Mr. Whaley informed the Committee that the 5K that was scheduled for the morning of Norwood Day in September was canceled. He would like to set up a subcommittee to look into possibly scheduling the 5K in the spring. Within that subcommittee, he would like to see roles assigned to volunteers such as sponsorship, and marketing and design. Mr. Whaley would like to bring community volunteers into the subcommittee to help with the planning of the 5K. This would be a community event with food, prizes, and music. Mr. Wilson suggested joining with another town. Mr. Whaley felt it would be better to keep the 5K solely in Norwood, as the running of the event isn't that hard, it's more the marketing and sponsorship area that needs volunteers. Ms. Sullivan suggested contacting the high school cross county team to help with the volunteering. Mr. Plescia suggested reaching out to the graphic arts program at the high school for help with the t-shirt design. Ms. Schanck suggested having a contest for the children of Norwood to design the T-shirt. Mr. Whaley said he would like to get the subcommittee together and begin planning at the end of December or in early January for an event at the end of March or early April.

Board Minutes

Ms. Volpitta advised the Committee that it would be beneficial to the Committee if the individual sports Boards forwarded a copy of their minutes to the Committee for review. An email can be sent to each Board advising them to do so.

Public Comment

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

Mr. Wilson informed the Committee of a clean up event the Northern Valley Greenway was holding at the tracks on November 4th. He also brought to the Committee's attention the idea of a multi-town turf field that could be funded by grants. This could be added to an upcoming agenda for discussion at a later meeting.

Mr. Whaley asked if the basketball courts had been resurfaced. Mr. Tracy informed the Committee that they were, and the contractor will be back in the spring to put on another coat of blue. Mr. Whaley asked about the cost of the resurfacing. Mr. Schuck stated that the contractor will not have the maintenance bond released until the Borough Engineer is satisfied with the work. Once the bond is released there is a two (2) year warranty.

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Ms. Schanck made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Ms. Rivera seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

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

Mr. Whaley thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta
Committee Secretary