

# Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee March 15, 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  
Rakesh Ramessar  
Lawrence Rossi  
Nicole Rivera  
Matt Alberti

Also present:

Councilman Anthony Foschino  
Robert Tracy, DPW 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, and a roll call of the Committee was taken.

Mr. Rossi made a motion to approve the February 7, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Ramessar seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

The Recreation Director, soccer representative, and Knickerbocker representative were not present to provide reports.

## Football Report

Mr. Rossi thanked the Mayor for acknowledging the Seniors on their championship win and presenting them with certificates. He advised the Committee that the Football Board will be meeting next week to finalize the schedule. Registration will open on May 1<sup>st</sup> and Raiders Night Out will be scheduled for an evening in June.

## Cheer Report

Ms. Rivera advised the Committee that she has contacted a choreography company and is waiting on a quote. She is also waiting on mock-ups of the new cheer uniforms. Mr. Huelster asked if Sukha will be doing the choreography and Ms. Rivera replied she contacted a new company that is strictly cheerleading choreography.

Baseball/Softball Report

Ms. Volpitta read the baseball/softball report for Ms. Schanck. There are one hundred seventy one (171) participants across all levels going into the season. Grade ½ softball has taken on 5 children from Northvale. Grade 7/8 is combining with Northvale and Harrington Park to form two (2) teams. The Knickerbocker baseball team will be combining with Northvale. There was a blind draft held on Monday evening to ensure all teams are equal per grade level and fairly chosen. Opening day is scheduled for April 22, 2023.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar stated that the travel team will begin playoffs with three (3) grade levels advancing. There are three (3) weeks left in the recreation program.

DPW Director Report

Mr. Tracy advised the Committee that the fencing for three (3), which is the softball field directly behind borough hall, is in the process of being replaced. Emerson Fence hopes to start work on the fencing next week and once work has begun, it should take approximately three (3) to four (4) days to complete. The turf blankets on Trackside should be coming off in the up coming weeks and field maintenance will begin on all fields as soon as possible.

Mobile Fingerprint Unit

Ms. Volpitta informed the Committee that the mobile fingerprint unit had to be canceled again due to not meeting the required number of registered applicants. There were only six (6) applicants scheduled and a minimum of fifty (50) are required.

Harrington Park Contribution to Raiders Football & Cheer Program

Councilman Foschino advised the Committee that Borough contacted the Harrington Park CFO regarding the football and cheer budget requests, as well as the cost of field maintenance during the football season and has asked that Harrington Park equally share all related costs with the Borough. The total budget for football, cheer, and field maintenance is \$31,000. The Borough is requesting Harrington Park contribute \$15,500.00. Mr. Rossi advised that he has set up a phone meeting with the Harrington Park CFO tomorrow. Mr. Rossi also advised that the Harrington Park Recreation Committee held a meeting last week and discussed this issue. There are members of the Recreation Committee that are involved in the football and cheer program. They do not feel they have the money in their budget to support the equal distribution of funds. They would like to offset the usage of Kennedy field by holding practices of some grade levels at Pondside Park. They will look into having lights installed at Pondside. Mr. Huelster said the Norwood residents have shouldered this burden for too long and it's

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time for Harrington Park to contribute. Mr. Rossi said the Harrington Park sports do not have a budget through the borough. They use their registration fees to make the needed purchases. Councilman Foschino explained that this is the time to add a line item to the budget to cover new costs. Mr. Alberti suggested the Borough CFO be present on the call between Mr. Rossi and the Harrington Park CFO as well. A call has been scheduled for 11am tomorrow.

#### Raiders Use of the NVOT Football Field

Councilman Foschino inquired of Mr. Rossi if the Raiders have equal use of the NVOT football that the Northvale/Old Tappan team has. Mr. Rossi responded that he is happy with the schedule. In the past, the Raiders have held their summer clinics there and are scheduled to do so again. They would also like to play one (1) or two (2) home games and any scheduled playoff games on the NVOT field. Mr. Rossi has a good relationship with the Athletic Director and feels they will work out a fair agreement.

#### Subcommittee Report

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the Vipers application to use Kennedy Field. Ms. Rivera seconded the application and the Committee unanimously agreed. Mr. Huelster abstained.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the Thunders application to use Kennedy Field. Ms. Rivera seconded the application and the Committee unanimously agreed. Mr. Alberti abstained.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to approve the Santos Baseball application to use Kennedy Field. Ms. Rivera seconded the application and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Ms. Rivera seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously agreed.

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

Councilman Foschino made a motion to close the meeting to the public. Ms. Rivera seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Councilman Foschino made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rivera seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mr. Huelster thanked the Committee and adjourned the meeting.

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Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Volpitta  
Committee Secretary