

Borough of Norwood Recreation Committee July 19, 2023

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

The committee members present during the meeting were:

Gene Huelster
Rachel Schanck
Reidun Sullivan
Lawrence Rossi
Stephen Whaley
Matt Alberti

Also present:

Councilman Anthony Foschino (Phone)
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. Whaley made a motion to approve the June 21, 2023, meeting minutes. Ms. Schanck seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Directors Report

Mr. Plescia was not in attendance.

Soccer Report

Ms. Sullivan stated that registration for the fall soccer program is currently open. Practices will begin on September 9th. There is expected to be twelve (12) teams, Kindergarten through eighth (8th) grade. The season will go from September into early November. The kindergarten and cub teams will play behind the school, up to sixth (6th) grade will play at Trackside, and seventh (7th) and eighth (8th) will play at Kennedy.

Football Report

Mr. Rossi advised that the football and cheer registration is currently open. There one hundred forty-one (141) children registered between football and cheer. The average is one hundred fifty-two (152) a season. They are projecting to have between sixteen (16) and twenty-two (22) children on the Pee Wee team, sixteen (16) and nineteen (19) children on the Junior team, and twenty-four (24) to twenty-eight (28) on the Senior team. There are four (4) new children registered on the Senior team. The equipment handout and tackle practices are scheduled to start on August 12th. A scrimmage will be held on August 30th. There will be two (2) home games played at Kennedy and two (2) home games played at Northern Valley Old Tappan High School.

Cheer Report

Mr. Rossi gave the cheer report for Ms. Rivera. The order for the new uniforms has been placed, with a turnaround time of ten (10) to twelve (12) weeks. That could result in starting the season with the old uniforms. A deposit has been placed with the choreography teacher and the stunt classes. The clinics will be held on August 29-31. Indoor space at Norwood Public School has been requested in the event there is inclement weather. The cheer coaches ask to move the bleachers further back so the children can cheer in front of the spectators and not off to the side. Mr. Huelster suggested getting rolls of turf to cover the dirt to make it easier for the cheerleaders.

Mr. Huelster asked what cheer flag was. Mr. Rossi replied it's the cheer team that cheers for the flag football team. Mr. Huelster suggested looking into having a girl's flag football team. Mr. Rossi advised that there are girls on the flag football team now, but if the numbers warrant, they can look into a girl's flag team.

Mr. Huelster asked if there was an update on the Harrington Park contribution to the football/cheer program. Mr. Rossi said he was waiting for confirmation to have the flag football held in Harrington Park. Mr. Huelster advised that the football/cheer budget is \$20,000.00 and it is not fair to the Norwood tax payer to have to pay for it in entirety.

Mr. Alberti asked what the ratio of Norwood and Harrington Park children is. Mr. Rossi said the it is 60% Norwood to 40% Harrington Park for the total program and 51% Norwood to 49% Harrington Park for just football.

Baseball/Softball Report

Ms. Schanck stated that she did not receive the baseball report from Mr. Rinaldi. The feedback from the new softball league was mixed. Some felt it was too hard. There is no other option than this League. All towns in Bergen County play in this league. T-ball

changed their schedule to be an hour earlier to help parents make both the t-ball and baseball games and practices.

Councilman Foschino said he was perplexed as to why there was no baseball report if Ms. Schanck is a member of the Baseball/Softball Board. Councilman Foschino also informed the Committee of the MLB event that was held in early July. This event was brought to the Recreation Secretary as a recreation sponsored event, but it was not advertised on the MLB website as a recreation event. Councilman Foschino and Mr. Huelster met to discuss what needed to be done to make sure the event went off without putting the Borough in any liability situations. An email was sent to those involved in organizing the event asking that specific criteria be met. Most of the criteria were met, with the exception of giving the website login information to the recreation secretary and also providing a list of MLB employees that would be onsite during the event. Mr. Huelster advised this should have been brought to the vetting subcommittee like any other application and discussed as a Committee. Mr. Alberti apologized for the mistake of having the Thunder named as part of the event and stated they tried to remove it from the website. One hundred forty (140) children participated in the event, thirty (30) of which were baseball participants from Norwood. Mr. Alberti thanked Santos Baseball for their help with the event. Everyone agreed that this was a great event, and they are happy it went smoothly. In the future, all requests for field use that are not regular games or practices must be brought to the vetting subcommittee for review.

Basketball Report

Mr. Ramessar was not present to give the basketball report. Mr. Huelster noted that this is the third consecutive missed meeting by Mr. Ramessar and ask that he be put on notice at this time. The Recreation Committee By-Laws state, “ The Committee has the power to recommend to the Mayor and Council a replacement for any member who is absent for two or more consecutive meetings”.

DPW Report

Mr. Tracy did not have anything to report at this time.

Spectator Code of Conduct

Ms. Sullivan made a motion to recommend to the Mayor and Council the addition of the Spectator Code of Conduct be included in all registrations for all recreation sponsored sports and a signature be required as part of the registration process. Ms. Schanck seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Batting Cage LED Lights

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Mr. Huelster informed the Committee that a quote has been received to update the batting cage lighting to LED lights. The quote was in the amount of \$4,460.00. Mr. Rossi will be securing a second quote. This is not in the budget for this year but could be listed as a possible Capital project for next year.

Flavor Labs Enrichment Classes

Ms. Volpitta informed the Committee that a representative from Flavor Labs approached her about possibly holding enrichment classes for Norwood children at the community center. They would be charged a discounted rate. The classes could be scheduled as a one time event or as a multi-week course. Pricing information would be provided if the Borough decided to move forward with the classes. Mr. Whaley stated that this is a great idea, to give more non sport opportunities to the Norwood children. Ms. Schanck said this could open the door to other businesses, such as the yoga studio in town, wanting to offer classes.

Ms. Schanck made a motion to recommend to the Mayor and Council to approve the Flavor Labs enrichment classes as part of Norwood Recreation. Mr. Whaley seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously agreed.

Public Comment

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

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

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

Ms. Sullivan noted that for next year when being provided a list of students for the Senior Awards, to make sure they have played for Norwood Recreation and not just the high school.

Mr. Rossi 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, Recreation Secretary