

**NORTHVALE RECREATION MEETING MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 17, 2023**

Present: Brendan Reilly, Matt Connelly, Alexis Connelly, Krissy Mueller, Debbie Smith, Heinz Schroeder

Councilman: Tom Argiro

Others Present: Lisa Nucera, Arielle Starkman, Beatriz Negron, Dave Ernst

Meeting called to order at 7:31 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Approved minutes from November 15, 2022 meeting. Motion made by Krissy Mueller; seconded by Heinz Schroeder. Motion approved.

**FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT:**

We have received an update from the CFO that the total Rec account contains approximately \$120,000 but we need additional information to be able to figure out how it is divided up among the sports. Will continue to work on this.

**BASKETBALL:**

- Comments included that court time is a problem between recreation teams and travel teams. Last week, each team had a quarter of the court for approximately 30-40 minutes. Teams aren't meshing and aren't learning skills. Travel merges with Norwood so the travel team can use Chodae but what about next year?
- Lack of communication to texts/emails etc.
- No trainer showed up for Kindergarten Clinic this past Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Potential gym locations for the future were discussed: Chodae is still a viable option, St. Anthony's, Northern Valley Central? Also, could we utilize the Northvale school gym in November for practice time?
- Other 3 towns locally all have 3 gyms so our kids are falling behind with access to only 1 gym.
- Original mailer was a little deceiving in terms of how much practice/gym time there would be for each team.
- Could we consider starting registration earlier in the future, especially if there are known supply shortages/back-ups for things like uniforms? This would allow more time for these essential items to arrive.
- We could also consider offering an early bird registration discount if we start and end registration earlier in future years.
- Roster sizes: there are 15 boys on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade travel team (combined with Norwood), and no tryouts for travel. This means a good number of the kids on the travel team either don't play or rarely play. Do people assume that travel is a spin-off of rec?
- If we need a certain number of kids to fill a team, it would help to be transparent with communication with parents in that grade to see if we can recruit more kids if need be to create teams with a reasonable amount of kids on each.

- 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls/parents will not be doing travel/rec if things stay the same next year.
- Volunteerism is an issue because we don't have the people to help with coaching or assisting in the background with tasks such as finding gym space, etc. Lisa Nucera and Dave Ernst are both willing to help.
- Uniforms: the new ones this year say "Norwood/Northvale" and likely won't get used again; across sports, we discussed choosing town colors and being consistent as a Rec league for all sports.
- Can we arrange a hand-me-down day with uniforms and equipment, and/or donate old uniforms?

SPIRITWEAR: Look into company in Michigan that already makes Northvale clothing.

#### SKI CLUB:

- Some other towns locally already have ski clubs.
- They visit Mountain Creek, rent busses, and have parent chaperones.
- We are currently in the research stage to determine if we want to further pursue this.

#### SOCCER:

- Indoor soccer season started.
- Difficult time finding volunteer coaches so using trainers to conduct practices/training.
- In the future, open to having coaches conduct practices if they want.
- Discussion re: a need for greater communication between coaches and trainers to allow for the trainers to focus on essential skills, techniques, teamwork that have been made evident at games.
- Open time slot every night for practices from 9-10 PM but none of the grades want to use that.
- Could we consider a coaching incentive for future seasons? Lisa Nucera and Holly Ernst would be willing to help with Community Pass if needed for future years.

#### RIFLE RANGE:

- The program continues to run smoothly, and runs on Monday nights from September through June.
- Signups occur at the beginning of the summer.

#### BASEBALL:

- Making progress on getting the season ready to go.
- Equipment orders are in, and the photographers have been contacted.
- Opening Day is in progress and has been scheduled for April 22<sup>nd</sup>, with a rain date of April 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Will be using SportsTime for uniforms and/or hats.
- Registration will open ASAP and hopefully by the end of the week.
- Marketing: can we consider lawn signs, and/or more Facebook content?
- Brendan Reilly will be the new head commissioner and Matt Connelly will be the assistant commissioner.

#### SOFTBALL:

- There is a league meeting tomorrow (01/18/2023) for the new Kinderkamack League, which includes 15 towns.
- Pre-season clinics will be held at the Vipers Den for girls in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades.
- Krissy is hoping to run something pre-season for 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grades, and the commissioners are also looking into the possibility of pitching and catching clinics.
- It will be a leveled program with a summer All Star Program; this will include A/B/C divisions so the girls are facing similar competition throughout the season.
- 3/4 girls will pitch the whole game (with coaches brought in as relief per the rules).
- John Briguglio will do the field schedule again this year; thank you, John!
- Discussing increasing the price to be able to provide for the clinics etc, although Coach Landeck is not asking to be paid.

#### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

- Reached out to find out how they can assist us. We discussed connections with gym space and banner sponsorship as the best ways in which to do so.

#### SNACK STAND:

- Will we have this open this year?
- Some options include: when you sign up, all parents have to volunteer. You also have the option to donate \$20 if you don't want to volunteer.
- In past years, we have hired high school students to facilitate the snack stand as a service to the community instead of as a fundraiser.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS:

- We agreed to provide a minimum of 1 male and 1 female scholarship for \$500 each.
- We agreed to an application process so that we are informed about the applicants. Sarah will create a draft application and send to the Commissioners for feedback.

Motion to adjourn made by Matt Connelly; seconded by Brendan Reilly. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.