

NORTHVALE RECREATION MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Present: Kari Sedano, Heinz Schroeder, Dave Uglione, Mike Small, Vinnie Grillo, Jordan Flavell-Boney, Rich Fleury and Amy Ibrahimaj

Others Present: Rich Mager

Motion to open the meeting at 8:08pm made by Dave Uglione, 2nd by Heinz Schroeder.

Kari Sedano made some opening remarks welcoming everyone back from our summer break.

Summer Basketball: Dave Uglione reported that the season went well and Northvale teams did great! We had three teams in the championship with the 5th/6th boys grade level team winning their championship game. One complaint about the rain/weather delays for the championship tournament, but he said it is written in the bylaws that this tournament has to be held outdoors.

Winter Basketball: Dave Uglione said he has to pick a date for signups in October. Kari Sedano mentioned that the gym in the school has new features so there may be more restrictions attached to the use of the gym.

Baseball: Mike Small reported they had one summer all-star team at the 1st/2nd grade level that did well. He would like to see the all-star program continue. He is still looking to expand the schedules/towns in the hopes of adding more games for the regular and post seasons. Adult softball had a great season. Mike has stated he would like to step back from this a little and Kari said she would look to find a replacement.

Rifle: Heinz Schroeder reported that his orientation is done and that they were able to take one more kid so there are eight new and 22 total kids in the program. All is good so far, the older kids have matches coming up.

Softball: Jordan Flavell-Boney reported the season ended well with one of the 3rd/4th girls teams making it to the championship game.

Motion to approve the minutes as written from the June 21, 2016 meeting made by Heinz Schroeder, 2nd by Mike Small, all in favor, minutes approved.

Town Council Update: Mike Small outlined some of the issues brought up:

1. The town auditor/accountants want a different system to pay umpires during the baseball/softball season. Last year one check was given to Marty Mattessich, our ump assigner, and he would write checks out to the individual umpires. The problem was he also umpired himself so would get a check for that and for his assigner fees. After reaching the monetary threshold a 1099 is needed and Marty reached it this year.
2. Mike wants to hand off his portion of the field scheduling to someone else. He does it during baseball/softball season (March – August) and when he talked to the Borough Clerk, Wanda Worner, she said she wants all field schedules to be handled by one person in Recreation.
3. The North Field at the Northvale School is a mess and games need to be moved from there. There seem to be drainage issues and the sod that was put down never took hold. Early estimates to fix it are around \$30,000 and the Board of Education is willing to pay half if the town will cover the other half. It is not yet determined if the town will be able to do this, so this delays any beginning of work to fix the field which then delays when it would be okay to play on. Late October is grass laying season so if it isn't begun by then, it wouldn't begin until maybe spring 2017 or even fall 2017.

Other Business: Amy Ibrahimaj said she was contacted by a photography company looking to take team/individual pictures and has their contact information and packet if anyone is interested. She also reminded everyone to get their calendar updates to Fran Weston asap!!

Motion to take comments from the public made by Heinz Schroeder, 2nd by Mike Small.

Rich Mager began by saying he has been involved in the town and recreation over the last 16 years and commended how things are running now. He was looking to see if recreation would be willing to expand its baseball and basketball programs to include the freshman and sophomore age children in town. He sees it as a way to keep interest in sports and gives those kids cut from high school teams an outlet to play. Other towns have programs that we could model after and have as teams to play against.

Rich also praised Mike Small for a great job in picking up a program that was in shambles, but has a suggestion to hold baseball signups the 1st week back from break in January and begin the program early in April. He complained about the knickerbockers league only taking the top four teams to playoffs, again taking away opportunities to play and the fact that it was decided late in the season instead of before the season began. Mike answered that it was a problem partially because there were not enough teams so they had to combine with other towns late.

Rich also suggested that for the umpires, we could make the check out to cash but have game identifiers in the memo line to better track them. He also thanked everyone for all their hard work in all the sports areas. Dave Uglione said he would look into the Westwood/Washington Township U18 programs to get some ideas and information.

North field issue: Rich Fleury questioned again about the drainage issues and if the \$30,000 estimate covered that at all, which Mike Small said it does not. Mike had the people who worked on field #4 at Hogan's park come and look at the North field and they gave the estimate. Warranties and guarantees all have lapsed. They might look into a turf field if necessary. Rich thinks the rescheduling of games off the field are going okay and NVSC is making it work too. The shortage of small sided fields can be due to the change in age requirements where now U12 and under play on small sided field so only the 7th/8th grade play on the big field at Hogan's.

Discussion about who is responsible for the field, the town or school or combination of both, ensued with the final thoughts being we just need to get the field fixed so it doesn't become an eye sore for the school or town.

Soccer: Rich Fleury reported that all is well but there is an issue of getting enough players in the 7th/8th grade girls level. We took two girls from Norwood for the 5th/6th grade girls team. Kari mentioned that DPW did a great job on lining the fields at Veteran's park and the new goals are great. Rich said he will replace the nets on the small sided goals soon, he has them already, just needs to put them on. NVSC club program donated lights for Hogan's a week early so we could use them for the carnival as well. We have the lights for eight weeks.

Motion to close the meeting at 9:36pm made by Jordan Flavell-Boney, 2nd by Dave Uglione.