

**NORTHVALE RECREATION MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 18, 2018**

**Present:** John Briguglio, Heinz Schroeder, Brandon Giordano, Ken DeGennaro, Nicole Cowley, Jordan Flavell-Boney, Vinnie Grillo and Amy Ibrahimaj

**Council Liaison:** Tom Argiro

**Others Present:** Pat Marana, Briant Bodrato, Billy Guyt, Enzo and Lori DiMaria, Krissy Mueller, Rich Gutschmidt and Leigh Meola

Motion to open the meeting at 8:01 pm made by John Briguglio, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brandon Giordano.

Motion to approve the minutes as written for the November 27, 2018 meeting made by Ken DeGennaro, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nicole Cowley, all in favor, minutes approved.

**Basketball:** Brandon Giordano reported that games begin in three weeks. BSAC agreed to giving some gym time for skill practices, there was a good turnout of 26 kids. He is looking to incorporate next season at a cost.

**Soccer:** Ken DeGennaro reported that winter sign ups had strong numbers. The season will start after the new year with 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade already begun. He will reach out to the school about procedures to protect the new gym floor.

**Baseball/Softball:** John Briguglio and Nicole Cowley both reported nothing is going on yet. They are planning on sign ups in February and still hoping to do some fundraisers for the season. Nicole and Amy Ibrahimaj will go and clean out the snack bars at Hogan's Park and Veteran's Park before the seasons begin.

**Jr. Marksmanship:** Heinz Schroeder reported they held a fun shoot to commemorate the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the season where they gave out awards and patches. They will resume the first Monday in January and continue through June.

**Other Business:** The Friends of the Library fundraiser went well and Rich and Lisa Fleury represented the Recreation Department as Nicole Cowley had a family emergency and bowed out last minute. Big thank you to both of them for helping out and doing so well!

Tom Argiro introduced our newly elected Mayor, Pat Marana, and representatives from the DPW, Briant Bodrato and Billy Guyt. Discussion about the conditions of the soccer fields at Veteran's Park were brought up by Ken DeGennaro, mainly the crab grass and dirt patches that made playing more difficult. Pat mentioned that lack of funds from referendums not being passed only allowed for an irrigation system to be put in place at Hogan's Park and not Veteran's Park which is part of the problem.

Briant and Billy mentioned that the DPW is also short staffed and asked that communication for our needs of the field conditions be given as early as possible to allow them to get it all done. The baseball fields at Hogan's Park, especially fields 1 & 4 need help and talks of adding clay or even using tarps followed.

Pat also introduced Leigh Meola who heads up the Beautification Committee and talked more about what can be done to improve the fields and parks, possibly having an informal committee with Recreation members on it and trying to go after grants.

The back field at Veteran's Park needs to be changed to a skin field for softball or incorporated back into the soccer field area. Not much can be done there as CSX owns the land around the railroad tracks and won't

allow us do anything without their approval. We also need to figure out exactly who is responsible for the soccer field at the school and get that one back to playable conditions to be used this upcoming season.

Enzo DiMaria is heading up the Adult Softball league this year and wanted to address two items (see attached) 1. To have a separate commissioner/position within Recreation for Adult Softball and 2. The future of the league with possible expansion into the surrounding towns. Amy Ibrahimaj explained to Enzo that when we voted on issue #1 before the feeling within Recreation was that we are a “children’s” recreation organization and didn’t want to have any official positions specific to “adult” activities. She further explained that Adult Basketball has been running under the Basketball commissioner for years and recreation feels Adult Softball should remain under the Baseball commissioner as it has been as well.

Enzo explained some of his frustrations were having to communicate through the baseball commissioner to get things done which took time and not having reports in a timely manner created a lot of confusion as to who had signed up and paid or not. Amy said moving forward he can be in direct contact with Alma Giordano to send out notifications about registration and when to open community pass, and she can give him the reports he needs for rosters. Amy will send an email to Alma giving this permission and Enzo moving forward can cc either the baseball commissioners or Amy on the emails he sends to keep us in the loop.

Everyone seemed okay with issue #2 and expanding the league to include the other towns. Amy will speak with the borough about getting a separate line item on our reports to show the money coming in from Adult Softball and put Enzo in touch with them about getting referee checks and equipment bought from the funds they generate. She also suggested that Enzo send her an email/flier with the Adult Softball information that she can forward to the other towns’ heads of recreations to help bolster sign ups. Hopefully these changes will allow Adult Softball to run more smoothly within the Recreation Department and have a successful season.

Motion to close the meeting at 9:04pm made by Heinz Schroeder, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jordan Flavell-Boney.