

City of Norwich Youth Board Minutes January 11th, 2000

Members Present:

C. Sastri
J. Drelich
E. Andrews
J. Dunkleman
H. Cole
M. Eddy

Also:

R. Mason

The meeting was called to order by J. Dunkleman at 6:01 PM

December 1999 minutes: The minutes from the December meeting were accepted with the correction of M. Eddy not being in attendance.

Board Elections: As not many members were in attendance, the Board elections were not held. Elections will be held at the February meeting.

Recreation Report: R. Mason reported 154 youths enrolled in programs. 47 in wrestling, bowling 25, gymnastics 60, soccer 2, baseball 20. The soccer program will not be held due to lack of participants. The new program, baseball is being held at the new soccer center. It appears to be a good project and Mickey James is running it as a volunteer. The Bureau is sponsoring the program by paying for facility rental.

Additional staff may still be needed for programs. One for gymnastics, 1 for bowling and a rink attendant. J. Wysor is working on the program staffing. Gymnastics will begin in mid-February.

Directors Update: To update the Board of what has been happening in the office R. Mason reported all 99 state claims have been completed with the exception of the 4th quarter Bureau operations claim. Contracts for the townships are out and three have been returned. Claims for contracted programs have been completed for 1999 and applications for 2000 contracts have been submitted. The end of the year is the busiest for paperwork.

Skating Facility: Because of the warm temperatures and rain there is no ice. The plastic has been laid by DPW around the edges. DPW has done quite a bit of work in preparation all that is needed is cooperation from Mother Nature. R. Mason, J. Drelich and J. Dunkleman will go to Hamilton as the skate shop there is liquidating. Needed for the rink are larger sized skates.

E. Andrews inquired about jumps, rails etc. for skate boarders at the rink. She stated there is a definite need and interest by the youth for this sort of activity. H. Cole stated that there are some articles that have been built around town by private individuals. All that is needed is a place to use them. R. Mason stated he would check into liability aspects and what might be needed to set things up at the skating facility. He will report back at the February meeting.

No dasher board signs have been delivered as yet. Wightman signs is working on them, some since August.. Any new orders will be directed to another business. It is hoped that when some are placed, orders will increase.

Board Evaluation: The annual Board Self Evaluation was completed as required by the State. R. Mason will report the results in February.

Coke Machine Receipts: R. Mason reported approximately \$2000 has been received since the start of machine placement.

Youth Awards: J. Dunkleman was presented with the award originally given at the County Youth Awards ceremony in December. Jeff was in Korea at the time and has returned home on temporary leave. The Board was appreciative of his efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday February 8th, 6:00 PM at City Hall

There was no February 2000 Board Meeting. The Meeting was canceled.

City of Norwich Youth Board Minutes March 14th, 2000

Members Present:

S. Sastri
B. McGuire
J. Drelich
M. Jeffrey
M. Eddy

Also Present:

R. Mason
B. Wagner
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM

Visitors: Bill Wagner was present from The Place, to present to the Board plans for a Local Youth Music Showcase to take place this summer. The Place plans to have concerts in East Park Thursday evenings from 6:00PM till 10:00. The concerts will be comprised of three youth bands each night plus a professional band. The bands will be judged and will later play at the County Fair. The overall winners will then play at the Chenango County Blues Festival. The Place has received funding from the Council of the Arts to support the program. It is hoped that the concerts will promote a profession in music by the participating bands. The Place would like to have the concerts Thursday evenings because the businesses are open later and more persons might be attracted to the park and downtown.

Normally the Youth Bureau supports Thursday summer bands in the park. R. Mason noted that because of funding, the Bureau would have four bands during the summer, actually having concerts for about half of the summer. Working with The Place in scheduling, concerts could be held every Thursday night, with a start of late June and an ending in late August.

B. McGuire made a motion to accept the Places proposal which received a second. Members voted and passed the motion. R. Mason will work with The Place in coordinating activities and the County for the use of East Park.

Recreation Coordinator: J. Wysor advised the Board there was no winter soccer this season because of low registration and the new indoor soccer center. Wrestling has finished and the 20th annual tournament was held this passed weekend. Baseball went very well for a first year program and would most likely be repeated next year. The coach Mickey James had donated his time so there was no cost to the Bureau in that respect. J. Wysor has been approached for Bureau support of an indoor lacrosse program next year at the indoor center. The coach would donate his time if assistance could be received in center rental. Gymnastics is now in the second week and will run into April. The Bowling program will be concluding this week.

Summer program letters will be mailed soon for returning program and pool people. After a return deadline has been reached positions remaining vacant will be filled with new persons.

January Minutes: J. Drelich made a motion to accept the January Board minutes, a second was made by M. Jeffrey a vote was taken and minutes accepted. R. Mason noted the February 2000 meeting was canceled thus no minutes.

Skate Party: R. Mason noted that because of the spring melt the skate party to be sponsored by the Small Business Alliance was canceled. Plans remain to sponsor an end of summer party at the skating facility with music, food and prizes. Volunteers will be needed for the event, information will be forwarded at a later date.

Skating Facility: J. Drelich noted that the facility was very well attended while the conditions permitted. Most likely this was the best ice and skating season we have yet had at the new facility.

Board Elections/Membership: Again because of low membership present at the meeting elections were not held and were postponed until April.

R. Mason advised the Board Rachel Mather of Waite Street had received appointment to the Board as a Youth Member. The Board still needs volunteers to serve. Attempts to recruit new members by advertisement has not been successful. The Board is limited by requirements to have members reside within the City. J. Drelich noted he might have some volunteers who reside outside. R. Mason said that some persons have been appointed as advisory members in the past from outside the City. The Youth Bureau contracts with the five surrounding townships, possibly with that in mind we could recruit members from those townships.

Dasher Advertisements: Seven boards have been sold and placed at the facility. One has been received and will be put up soon. Others remain on order (7). Calls are being received for more advertisements and spaces are available.

Board Goals for 2000 and beyond: Discussion concerning the Board and Youth Bureau expansion into other areas, such as youth employment, teen pregnancy prevention, drug and alcohol abuse and anti smoking. After lengthy discussion some members felt there were many groups addressing these concerns and that involvement by this Board might duplicate efforts, get the Bureau involved in more than it could handle and “turn the youth off” with repeated pressures. Board members did agree however that a place was needed for the youth, especially teens to be able to gather without being chased out. A place where they might gather, listen to music, play table games, video games and talk.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday April 11th, 2000 6:00 PM at City Hall.

City of Norwich Youth Board April 11th, 2000

Members present:

C. Sastri
J. Drelich
E. Andrews
M. Eddy

Also Present:

R. Mason
J. Wysor

As insufficient members were present to conduct regular business, Official minutes were not recorded. Members present discussed the following:

A breakdown of 2000 winter programs was presented by J. Wysor. A copy of that report is attached. Participation was down slightly, primarily in the gymnastics program. What was lost with the deletion of the soccer program was recovered with the addition of baseball.

J. Wysor reported mailings have been made to summer 1999 employees for return to the 2000 summer programs. A deadline of response has been set for April 30th. After that date vacant positions will be filled with new applications.

Due to construction at the High School pool this summer, morning swim instruction will be moved to the Kurt Beyer pool. This action was also necessary two years ago. The swim team practices and meets will likewise be held at Kurt Beyer. The Recreation Coordinator, Pool Director, Team Coach and Bureau Director have already met to iron out a schedule which will conflict the least with regular pool operations.

New lane lines for swim meets will be needed. The remaining summer programs are expected to run as in past years. An alternate site for the Perry Browne Playground program is being researched because of school construction. The Gibson program will be held as usual.

Program sign ups for 2000 summer activities will be held at the High School gym June 7th, 6:00 PM till 7:30 PM. Board members are asked to assist in the registration as in past years.

Meeting Times and Board Membership: Members present discussed a possible change in meeting days or times to hopefully have more members in attendance. Any suggestions should be made to the Bureau Office prior to the next regular meeting (May 9th 6:00 PM) so it might be discussed then. Also anyone who would be willing to serve on the Board is encouraged to volunteer. The Board has 15 official members with only 7 regular attendees. Some of the remaining 8 members have not attended a meeting in a year or more. The City is required to have at least 15 members.

Skating Facility: R. Mason reported that the Colgate Roller Hockey Team has requested to practice at the facility two days a week (Fridays 3-5 and Tuesdays 7-9). This should not interfere with normal rink hours as they will be completed in early May. In return for use the team will make a donation to the facility and/or donate hockey equipment.

Dasher adds continue to be received with 10 or more on current order.

Members in attendance adjourned at 7:05 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday May 9th, 6:00 PM. Business needing discussion at that meeting will be Official acceptance of minutes from the March Board Meeting and voting on the year 2000 Board positions.

City of Norwich Youth Board Minutes

May 9th, 2000

Members present:

J. Drelich, M. Eddy, M. Jeffrey, H. Cole, R. Mather

Also Present:

R. Mason

J. Drelich called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM

Past Minutes: M. Eddy motioned to accept the March and April minutes. A second was made and motioned carried.

Summer Programs: R. Mason reported summer programs should be the same as previous years with Gymnastics, Soccer, Tennis, Playground, Swim Lessons and Swim Team.. The Swim Team will also include a new USA swim team allowing older youths to compete at a higher level. Coach K. Diefenbacher is putting the USA team together. Swim lessons, and Team meets and practices will be held at the Kurt Beyer pool because of construction and repairs at the High School. New lane lines are being purchased by the Youth Bureau for the swim meets and practices. A schedule has been worked out between pool supervisor Choe, Coach Diefenbacher and Recreation Coordinator Wysor for the pool. Hours for adult lap swims will remain.

R. Mason noted that program sign ups will be Wednesday June 7th, 6:00 to 7:30 PM at the High School gym. Assistance from Board members at sign ups will be needed as 500 people or more may be present.

Summer Youth Jobs: Approximately half of the prior years staff are returning, the remaining vacancies must be filled. Openings remain in all programs with the Pool staff needing approximately 50% replacement. Applications can be made at the Youth Bureau Office or City Human Resources Office. R. Mason also noted the City has summer vacancies at the Highway/Parks Department.

Summer Trips: Trips being planned thus far include The Enchanted Forest and return Trip to THE MOST in Syracuse. The MOST may have the traveling dinosaurs this summer and a new IMAX movie. Board members discussed possible destinations for other trips, including zoos, Howe's Caverns and Cooperstown.

Summer Concerts: County approval has been received for the use of East Park for the last Thursday in June, and Thursdays in July and August. The Place will hold the July concerts and Youth Bureau in August. The Board discussed the possibility of holding the first concert at Kurt Beyer pool as a summer kickoff. Band suggestions were received including the Nick Andrews Band. R. Mason will check into possibilities and coordinate the activity with the Recreation coordinator and Pool Supervisor.

New Business: R. Mason reported traveling to Cortland with Mayor Raphael to see their skate park. Their park was professionally constructed by a Colorado builder. The park gets heavy use and has helped solve their downtown complaints that are similar to those in Norwich. The park provides ramps and jumps for roller blades, skate boards and BMX style bicycles.

Locally a group has moved their home made ramps to the lower parking lot at the skating facility. The situation has been researched and skaters advised the ramps must be removed. These ramps are poorly constructed, are deteriorating and have nails protruding. The Board understands the youth need an approved location for jumps in a supervised environment. H. Cole provided the Board with some jump plans obtained from the internet. R. Mason will research the possibility of obtaining some portable ramps and placing them inside the existing skating facility with designated times for the activity. A report will be made back to the Board at the June meeting.

Adjournment: Having no further business, the Board adjourned at 6:50 PM. **The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday June 13th, 6:00 PM at City Hall. The Board will recess for the summer months of July and August**

City of Norwich Youth Board Minutes June 14th, 2000

Members Present:

J. Drelich

M. Jeffrey

R. Mather

Also Present:

R. Mason

May Minutes: As insufficient members were present to conduct formal business. The May minutes were not accepted.

The members present discussed informally the following:

Summer Programs: As of the date of the meeting, 300 youth were enrolled in 2000 summer programs. The numbers are down more than half of prior years totals. Reasons for the decline in enrollment remain unknown. Advertisement was conducted as in previous years. The date of sign ups did conflict with a dance recital which drew many persons. The unusually bad spring weather may also have been a factor in a lack of interest. After discussion it was decided to advertise again in the Pennysaver and with school flyers. Registration can be made at the Youth Bureau Office at any time.

Facilities: Preparation of the Kurt Beyer Pool was delayed because of the bad spring weather. The Parks Department has done very good work with the limited good weather. The Pool is expected to open June 16th for limited hours, with normal hours starting June 24th. Normal hours will be 12:00 Noon to 8:00 PM.

The Skating Facility will resume summer hours July 1st. Hours will then be 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM. An adult hockey league will start using the facility Wednesdays 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM.

Summer Trips: Trips planned at this time include The Enchanted Forest July 18th at a cost of \$20.00 and the Burnett Park Zoo in Syracuse at a cost of \$5.00. The members present discussed various destinations for trips. Other trips scheduled will be advertised.

Concerts: Concerts planned will be The Nick Andrews Band, June 27th at the Kurt Beyer Pool for a summer kick off. August concerts will include Starlight Sounds in East Park on August 3rd and 17th and Sliders in East Park on August 10th. Other concerts may be planned during August. The Place will be sponsoring the July concerts in East Park.

Skate Park: R. Mason visited the Watertown Skate Park. This facility is located on City property and has various ramps and jumps similar to those in Cortland. The jumps were made by a local metal fabricator and half the cost of those in Cortland that were professionally built by Skate Parks International, Colorado. The Watertown park is open at all times and is not fenced or supervised. This is a skate at your own risk facility and no releases are obtained by the City. There have been no reported injuries and no lawsuits to date. This park has been in operation almost two years.

Pictures of both facilities are in the Youth Bureau Office.

The Youth Board will be in recess during July and August. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday September 12th, 2000, 6:00 PM at City Hall. Summer hours for the Youth Bureau Office are extended to 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

City of Norwich Youth Board Minutes September 19th, 2000

Members Present:

**C. Sastri
J. Drelich
K. Law**

Also Present:

**J. Wysor
R. Mason
A. Criscitello**

**H. Cole
M. Eddy
M. Jeffrey**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM

May and June Minutes: As no official business was conducted at the June meeting, the minutes from the May and June meeting were accepted by the Board. The board was in recess for July and August thus there were no minutes.

Summer recreation Programs: J. Wysor did another excellent job running the summer programs. All went well without problems. Participation numbers were low this year. Registration night yielded only 300 registrants where there had been nearly twice that number in years past. The programs were advertised by R. Mason twice this year and after the second advertisement nearly 300 additional registrations were done directly through the Youth Bureau office. The Board discussed the lower number of youth in the summer programs. Possibly related to the lower numbers was the moving of swim instruction mornings to the Kurt Beyer pool because of repairs at the High School pool and the moving of the playground program from Perry Browne to the Middle School. The board discussed other programs outside the Youth Bureau and noted that the declining numbers have been seen with other organizations.

Participant numbers for 2000 and past years was distributed to the Board with registrant numbers from the surrounding towns.

Summer Trips and Park Concerts: Trips this summer included The Enchanted Forest, Burnet Park Zoo, Secret Caverns and The Great Escape. A trip for the staff members and guests was offered by the Bureau at the conclusion of the recreation programs. This was a first time event and was successful. In all the trips were well attended and without incident.

Five summer concerts were sponsored, one at the pool and four in the park. In conjunction with the concerts sponsored by The Place, there was activity in East Park all summer. Attempts will be made to coordinate the effort next year.

Skate Park Progress: R. Mason reported he had been to Cortland and Watertown examining their facilities and showed pictures to the Board. Research thus far indicates the facility should have steel structures and not wood and be fenced for proper control and supervision. The Watertown facility cost approximately half what the Cortland park did, primarily because of the use of a local steel fabricator. Correspondence has been sent to Sherburne Steel Sales regarding

their capabilities in constructing ramps and jumps. No reply has been received as yet. Research will continue into possibilities.

Skating Facility: Additional signs from advertisers were placed over the summer and more remain on order. The delay in placing them remains with the sign maker who does so without profit. Bob Wightman makes the signs when his other workload permits.

Improvements at the facility have been made with articles from the old police station. Shelving has been added for skates which cleared up the office and garage storage problem. The television monitor and camera was removed from the holding cells and installed at the rink for attendant observation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Winter Programs: Indoor soccer will most likely be dropped again this year because of the new indoor soccer facility. Boys baseball will be planned with Girls softball which will be a first time program. Gymnastics, wrestling and bowling will probably be held again. Registration should be held in early December with programs starting in January. Assistance from Board members with the registration will be appreciated.

The Board welcomed Anthony Criscitello to the meeting as a prospective youth member. More members are needed, including adults. Persons interested should be encouraged to attend the next meeting.

October Meeting: The Board discussed the October meeting and would like to hold it at the skating facility. Youth organizations requesting financial assistance for 2001 will be asked to attend to present their programs to the Board for consideration. Financial support given is reimbursed by New York State.

Skate party 2001: The Small Business Alliance headed by The Label Gallery would like to sponsor a skate party at the skating facility in January. A tentative date of January 28th has been set. R. Mason has been in contact with the BC Icemen who may send their team mascot to the skate party. Actual players may attend to promote the facility and their team as available.

R. Mason reported that efforts are underway with The Place, YMCA and Youth Bureau to coordinate a bus trip to a BC Icemen game. Sponsors will be obtained to pay for the tickets so the event may be offered for free to area youth. 150 tickets should be available. Chaperones will be needed for the trip.

Halloween Parade/Christmas Parade: R. Mason would like to see the Youth Bureau have an entry in the Halloween and or Christmas parade. It is unknown when the Bureau may have had one in the past. The matter will be researched and the Board advised of possibilities at the October meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday October 10, 2000, 6:00 PM at the Borden Avenue Skating Facility.

City of Norwich Youth Board Minutes October 10th, 2000

Members Present:

C. Sastri

J. Drelich

K. Law

Also Present:

R. Mason

J. Wysor

E. Larsen

T. Revoir

P. Snell

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM

Recreation Coordinator: J. Wysor reported the winter programs remained in the planning stages. Soccer will not be offered this year. Junior wrestling and gymnastics will be repeated with gymnastics starting later than the other programs because of facility availability. Boys baseball will be offered at the soccer center and most likely girls softball. Bowling should also be repeated and a person to run the program is needed. **Program sign ups will be held Monday December 4th, 2000 6:00 PM in room 1 of the High School.** Registration should only take a short time and assistance from Board Members will be appreciated.

2001 Funding Assistance: Eric Larsen representing the Blues Festival addressed the board requesting assistance again for the 2001 program. The program targets teens and will offer workshops as well as an evening in the park with a nationally known artist. The program may be expanded to run for the entire week. Teens should be learning, become involved and not simply entertained. During the 2000 program about 100 youth participated. Assistance in the amount of \$1000 was requested.

Tom Revoir and Penny Snell presented their 2001 proposal to the Board for consideration. The YMCA would like to repeat their Midnight Madness during the week between Christmas and New Years again in 2001. The program has started at 9:00 in the past and run till mid-night, however they would like to expand the program and start at 7:00 with "Family Madness" between 7:00 and 9:00. This will offer programs promoting family unity. The teen hours would commence again at 9:00. Seven to nine programs would be offered for families and ten to twelve for the teens. Assistance requested was \$1000.

R. Mason noted that the assistance money was state reimbursed. As yet the State has not advised of the money available for 2001. Assistance available in 2000 was \$2363 and the total should approximate that amount. Other groups were aware of funding consideration by the Board but did not appear at the meeting to present their proposals and seek assistance.

After discussion the Board voted to assist both groups with \$1000. Remaining funds not applied for may be retained or offered to the County Youth Board for disbursement.

September Board Minutes: The September 19th minutes from the Youth Board were accepted.

Skate Park Update: R. Mason reported he has received a proposal back from Steel Sales in Sherburne to build some ramps and jumps. The estimate includes a slider \$325, Fly Box \$4600 and Trick Pipe \$3500. The equipment would be custom made from steel. The jumps would make a nice start to a park and other equipment could be added. Possibilities for the park will be researched further.

Dasher Signs: Four signs remain on order. Wightman signs has been contacted and has promised them soon. Some signs have been on order since March which has caused some problems for the Bureau Director with possible advertisers. Signs from another maker may cost the advertiser twice the amount. Wightman is not making a profit on them at this time.

Coca Cola Machines: R. Mason reported there was no vandalism to the machines this summer. Another machine was placed in the new police station, bringing the number to 7. The machine at Kurt Beyer has been removed for the winter. Machine revenues thus far in 2000 is \$1207.18.

Halloween Parade: R. Mason would like Youth Bureau participation in the parade. A simple float will be prepared for the event. A person or persons will be needed to dress up and ride to throw candy to the spectators. R. Mason will prepare the float. The parade will be held 10/28/00 at 11:00 AM.

Having no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday November 14th, 6:00 PM at City Hall.

City of Norwich

Youth Board Minutes

November 14th, 2000

Members Present:

M. Eddy
M. Jeffrey
J. Drelich

Also Present:

R. Mason
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

The acceptance of the October minutes was delayed until December when more members might be present.

The Board discussed the recent loss of three program employees, Rachel Nargiso, Katie Almeter and Emily Collins. The Youth Bureau, and Board members present have made contributions to the scholarship fund established at the High School. Any members who might wish to join the board with a contribution are asked to do so through the Youth Bureau Office soon, so the donations might be made together. To date \$205.00 has been collected. There will be a joint memorial service Saturday 11/18/00 3:00 PM at the Council of the Arts.

Recreation Programs: J. Wysor reported registration will be held December 4th, 6:00 to 7:00 PM at the High School room #1. Assistance from Board members will be needed. All programs have been arranged. Dates and times for the boys baseball and girls softball need to be finalized with the soccer center.

Parades: R. Mason reported the Youth Bureau placed second in the Halloween parade. He would like to have an entry in the Christmas Parade, however time might not allow for an entry to be constructed. Anyone with an idea is asked to contact him at the office. Volunteers to work would also be appreciated.

Skating Facility: The facility has closed until conditions permit ice skating. The rink has been resurfaced and the outside edge coated with a light colored concrete mixture to help reflect sunlight. Preparation inside the facility with skate changes and sharpening will take place. The doors on the dashers needing repair and adjustment will be taken care of by J. Drelich and R. Mason.

Plans for the Skate Party sponsored by the Label Gallery continue for the end of January. A local business sponsored bus trip to a BC Icemen game should follow that date.

Coca Cola Contract: R. Mason has been working with Coca Cola in researching a contract. None exists at this time. A contract may provide the City with "up front" money for program assistance or repair of facilities.

Park Pagoda: The Youth Bureau will decorate the pagoda in East Side Park again this year. Anyone wishing to assist is asked to help on Saturday November 25th at 9:00 AM.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday December 11th, 6:00 PM at City Hall.