

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting January 14th, 2003

Present:J. Drelich
C. Sastri
T. Dean
S. Stewart
J. Maiurano
H. Graves

Also Present: R. Mason
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM

The annual board elections were postponed until the February meeting in hopes of better attendance.

New Members: Harry Graves and Brian Towndrow were present as new Board Members.

December 2002 minutes: J. Maiurano motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by C. Sastri, minutes were accepted. There was discussion concerning poor meeting attendance. It was suggested to send meeting minutes out with a meeting reminder shortly before the next regular meeting, as opposed to just after the recent meeting.

Recreation Programs: Registrations now total 242 with more expected from baseball and softball. The eventual total will be an all time high for the winter recreation season. A start date is still needed for the self-defense classes at Lewis Martial Arts. Gymnastics will start February 22nd. Bowling has started and is being run by two teenage supervisors.

Skating Facility: The rink has opened and has been well attended with the cold weather. Hours are weekdays 4PM – 9PM, weekends and school holidays Noon – 9:00 PM. The facility will also be open for groups on request when possible.

The Label Gallery would like to host the annual skating party again. February 8th will be the target date with the 15th being the alternate date. Help from Board Members is always appreciated.

R. Mason reported the balance for the skate-park is now \$22,529.48. \$5,000 remains pending from Senator Libous and \$5,000 from the Coca-Cola agreement is also pending. No word has been received from the Tony Hawks Foundation application (\$10,000). A non-profit group in Washington DC has contacted the Youth Bureau Office, upon referral from Senator Hillary Clinton as she still would like to help the skaters raise funds. This non-profit has proposed matching funds up to \$20,000 and may also assist in actual ramp assembly on site. R. Mason will be working with this group. An April 2003 park opening is still being pursued.

Four new dasher signs have been placed at the facility. An additional sign is done at Wightman signs and another has just been ordered. Space remains at the facility for many more.

New Business: There was no new business discussed. R. Mason noted that the pagoda decorations set up by the Youth Board for the holidays have been removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be 7:00 PM Tuesday February 11th 2003 at the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting February 11th, 2002

Present: J. Drelich S. Sastri
 B. Towndrow R.A. Mason
 M. Eddy H. Graves

Also Present: R. Mason
 J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

2003 elections: Lacking sufficient numbers of Board Members, the elections were postponed till the March meeting.

January 2003 Minutes: M. Eddy motioned to accept the January minutes, seconded by B. Towndrow. Minutes were accepted.

Recreation Coordinator: 258 registrations have been made for the winter programs making this the highest enrollment to date. Self-defense and gymnastics will start February 22nd. There was enough interest in the self-defense to create a standby list of 20. Possible a third class could be created in the future. J. Wysor reported the junior wrestling is running well. Baseball and softball are also up and running.

Sunday 2/16/03 from 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM, Danielle Henderson will be at the YMCA to assist the Youth Bureau girls softball practice. Danielle was the pitcher for the U.S.A. Women's Olympic team in Australia. Players from the Colgate women's team will also be on hand to assist that day. This program is being jointly supported by the Youth Bureau, Norwich Little League, Fred's Inn and Dicks Sporting Goods.

Skating Facility: The facility has seen the best year yet since the original opening. The rink was open 27 days in January with excellent ice. 150 skaters or more are using the facility during a single weekend day.

Six new dasher boards have been set at the rink since January 1st. No new signs are on order, however there is room for many more.

The Label Gallery Skate Party was well attended with about 300 skaters. The Label Gallery did an excellent job as always with food, music and door prizes.

Plans with the Skate Park are continuing. At present there is \$22,500 available in the dedicated account. \$5,000 has been promised by Senator Libous, which should be received soon. Another \$5,000 is pending with the Coca-Cola agreement. The Bureau Director has been working with KABOOM, a national non-profit in Washington D.C. Kaboom contacted the Youth Bureau by referral from Senator Hillary Clinton. Kaboom has promised to provide \$20,000 in additional funding for the park. They will also travel to Norwich on February 26th to hold public meetings explaining the park building process and to assist the Youth Bureau and teen skaters in park planning. A community Build Day will be held April 26th or May 3rd. The day will call for volunteers (teens and adults) to actually assemble the park. Music and food will be provided. The intention is to make this a community event. Volunteers are needed, especially to assist in supplying food for the day, finding bands or a DJ service and to actually assemble the park. Anyone willing to help should contact the Youth Bureau Office and/or attend a short meeting February 20th, 7:00 PM at the skating facility.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday March 11th, 7:00 PM at City Hall

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting March 11th, 2003

Present: C. Sastri
R. A. Mason
T. Dean
B. Towndrow

J. Mirabito
M. Eddy
G. Clark

Also Present: R. Mason
J. Wysor

Acting Chairman J. Mirabito called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

February Minutes: R.A. Mason motioned to accept the February minutes, B. Towndrow made a second, minutes were accepted.

Recreation Programs: Registrations have totaled 258 for winter 2003 programs. Baseball, softball and bowling have ended. Self-defense and gymnastics started in February and will conclude in April.

The turn out for Danielle Henderson's softball clinic at the YMCA was a good one with over 40 girls participating. Danielle was the pitcher on the U.S.A. Women's team during the 2000 Olympics in Australia. The program was a joint effort between the Youth Bureau, Norwich Little League and YMCA.

Work has begun on the summer 2003 programs. Some program adjustments may be necessary and are being researched by the Recreation Coordinator. Soccer will be one program understudy because of poor enrollment in some age groups. Because of possible pool repairs it remains unknown exactly when and if the Kurt Beyer pool will be available. J. Wysor will be checking into other possibilities for swimming lessons and swim team locations, as well as afternoon open swim. The extent of necessary repairs at Kurt Beyer will not be known until the weather improves.

Skating Facility: The skating rink was open 22 days in February as compared to only 2 days in February 2002. This was the best season for skating since the facility was opened in 1997.

The Skate-Park is continuing and a planned "Build Day" will be held Saturday April 26th. KaBOOM representatives will be there that day with representation from Senator Clinton's Office and professional assistance from HUNA Ramp Company. Volunteers are needed for different committees for the day. The individual committees and their chairpersons are:

Entertainment – Bands, DJ Service	Robert Raphael	334-8602
Food	Tammy Easler	334-6396
Build Volunteers	Matt White	647-9541
Safety	Andy & Sharon White	336-4128

Planning meetings held February 26th at the facility for the public, parents and teens were well attended. A finalized park plan has been developed and was presented to the Board for review.

Two new dasher displays were placed in February – The Parson's Daughter and William Andrews Publishing. No other displays are on order.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday April 8th, 2003

7:00 PM at City Hall.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting April 8th, 2003

**Present: M. Eddy
J. Drelich
B. Towndrow
T. Dean
R. A. Mason**

**Also Present: R. Mason
J. Wysor**

Acting Chairman B. Towndrow call the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

March Minutes: M. Eddy motioned to accept the March minutes, seconded by J. Drelich, minutes were accepted.

Summer 2003 Programs: R. Mason reported that the pool has been inspected for needed repairs. It is yet unknown when the repairs will be made. It is hoped that the pool will be open the week of July 4th whether permanent or temporary repairs are made. This would be a week to ten days later than normal but still sufficient to run summer programs.

J. Wysor stated that letters would be out soon to last years employees to survey their return. New employment applications are being received at the Youth Bureau office for all program positions. J. Wysor has been approached with a proposal to start a new art program for grade school ages during the summer. This will be further researched.

Skating Facility/Skate Park: The park remains closed between seasons. Facility attendant R. Brown has been working inside the building cleaning and switching skates for summer use. A mid to late April reopening is expected.

Work is continuing towards "Build Day" April 26th. Volunteers are still needed to help assemble the equipment and for food donations and workers. Volunteers should contact:

Matt White – assembler volunteers 647-9541
Tammy White – food donations and volunteers 334-6396
Entertainment - Robert Raphael 336-8602

Park equipment delivery date is Thursday April 24th at 9:00 PM. The equipment should be on time as it is being shipped from Pennsylvania. Several volunteers are needed at that time to assist in unloading and inventory.

One new dasher board has been ordered from Wightman Signs.

Having no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday May 13th, 2003 7:00 PM at City Hall.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting May 13th, 2003

Present: J. Drelich

**R.A. Mason R. Mather
J. Maiurano M. Eddy
B. Towndrow G. Clark**

**Also Present: R. Mason
J. Wysor**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by acting Chairperson R. Mather

Board Elections: Having sufficient members present, nominations were made and elections held for 2003 Youth Board Posts. R. Mather – Chairperson, B. Towndrow Vice-Chairperson, R.A. Mason Secretary.

April 2003 minutes: Motion made by J. Drelich to accept the April 8th minutes, seconded by R.A. Mason, minutes were accepted.

Summer Recreation Programs: Summer program registration will be held Tuesday June 10th, 6:00 – 7:00 PM at the High School Cafeteria. This is a change from the gymnasium but should work well. June 10th would normally be the night of the June Youth Board meeting. After discussion the Board elected to move the June meeting date to Tuesday June 17th, 7:00 PM in City Hall.

J. Wysor reported the pool would be open in June for a normal summer opening. The pool may close earlier than normal in August after the “busy” period has ended. Repairs necessary will not be able to be completed prior to the opening, but will instead be made in the late summer/fall. The High School pool is unavailable this year so all activities will be held at Kurt Beyer (lessons and swim team).

Summer programs should run very similar to previous years. A closer look will be taken at the soccer program because of low enrollments, especially in the older group. There may be a scheduling problem with the Gibson Playground times that must be worked out with the school. A program proposal has been made to add an arts program for elementary school ages.

Applications are being received for summer staffing positions. Last year employees have been canvassed and remaining positions will be filled within the next month.

Skate Park: R. Mason reported the new park is up and running. Thanks was extended to the volunteers that worked during one of the worst days possible. Attendance has been good since the opening and many park use licenses have been issued. Licenses are only issued once waivers have been completed. Year permits are \$10 and day permits are \$2. Fees from the licenses will be used to replace the skatelite-pro surface in the future. There were some discipline problems at the new rink that were addressed first thing and there have been none since.

New Business: Reality Check has requested to sponsor a Skate-Party Saturday May 31st at the rink. They will supply a DJ service and activities from 2:00 – 6:00.

Chenango County Drug and Alcohol and The Place will be co-sponsoring a "Safe Summer Day" at the Kurt Beyer Pool Friday June 20th. This is a multi-agency afternoon that has been held for many years at the High School. The Youth Bureau will work with the sponsoring agencies for a successful event.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday June 17th, 2003 7:00 PM at City Hall.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting June 17th, 2003

**Present: R. Mather
B. Towndrow
R.A. Mason**

**Also Present: J. Wysor
R. Mason**

Chairperson Mather called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

May 2003 Minutes: R.A. Mason motioned to accept the May minutes, seconded by B. Towndrow. Minutes accepted as written.

Recreation Programs: J. Wysor stated program sign ups went smoothly. To date there are 223 registrants, about one half the total of a normal summer. One reason for a lower enrollment would be the elimination of gymnastics. This was due to a liability concern from the school district. About 90 registrants would have normally been in the program. There were also conflicts registration night that prohibited some from attending. The fact that morning swim instruction is being held at the Kurt Beyer pool instead of the school has also lowered numbers. Registrations continue to be received at the office and there will be a second session swim instruction that will help increase enrollments.

Soccer has a good signup for the lower age levels. Perry Browne is the more popular playground site with nearly twice as many as Gibson. The Swim Team is still being worked on to see if a season is possible. Contact must be made with the other teams for a season schedule.

Summer staffing has been completed. J. Wysor will be meeting with the recreation staff Saturday 6/21 at 9AM. The Pool Staff has already met.

Kurt Beyer Pool will open Saturday June 21st. Hours will be Noon – 8:00 PM daily.

Summer Trips: Trips have been scheduled to the Great Escape 7/29 and Secret Caverns 7/22. More trips may be scheduled if there is no swim team competition.

Skating Facility: The rink will open for summer hours starting 6/30/01. Hours will be Noon – 9:00 PM daily.

The Reality Check Skate Party was held 6/14/03 1:00 – 4:00 at the facility. The event went without incident.

New Business: Safe Summer Fun Day Celebration will be held Friday 6/20/03 3:30 PM – 7:30 PM at the Kurt Beyer Pool Park. The event will be sponsored by The Place and Chenango County Drug and Alcohol Council. Numerous youth organizations and groups will provide activities during the afternoon.

The Youth Board will observe summer recess and will next meet in September.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday September 9th, 2003 7:00 PM at City Hall.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting September 9th, 2003

Present: J. Drelich

**R. A. Mason
C. Sastri
T. Dean
M. Eddy
J. Maiurano
H. Graves**

Also Present: R. Mason

**J. Wyso
M. Munio
E. Larsen**

Acting Chairperson T. Dean called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2004 Funding allocations: The Bureau has not yet been notified by the State Office of Children and Family Services of how much assistance money will be available for 2004. The total should approximate the \$2170 that was available in 2003. Groups requesting 2004 assistance were at the meeting.

M. Munio from The Gathering Place addressed the Board seeking \$300 for the summer workshop and \$300 for the Christmas workshop. These workshops have been assisted in the past for the same amounts. The Gathering Place works with families and young children to strengthen the parent-child bond. There is a possibility that the Gathering Place will merge with "Mothers & Babies". This is a multi county organization based in Broome County. Any assistance received would be dedicated for service in Norwich. The planned summer workshop in 2003 was not run due to staffing problems at the time. The \$300 reserved remains available.

E. Larsen from The Chenango Blues Association was present and requested \$1000 assistance for the 2004 program. The 2003 festival included four workshops targeting youth and in total attracted approximately 250 teens. Plans for the 2004 festival would again target at risk teens and raise the age to 20 that would be allowed entry free of charge.

T. Revoir from the YMCA sent correspondence seeking assistance for their December Midnight Madness program. Their activity is run between Christmas and New Years four nights from 10:00PM until Midnight. The intention is to provide safe structured off street activity for youth during school break. In 2003 the YMCA was assisted with \$570.

After discussion, J. Drelich motioned to provide assistance as follows:

To The Gathering Place - \$300 for the Summer Workshop and \$300 for the Christmas Workshop, with the condition that the funding be used exclusively in the City of Norwich and not out of the City should the proposed merger occur.

To the Blues Festival - \$1000 for their Blues Festival

To the YMCA – Remaining 2004 funding as available for their Midnight Madness program.

The motion also requested the available \$300 from the Gathering Place 2003 summer workshop be transferred to the YMCA for the 2003 Midnight Madness.

H. Graves made a second to the motion; a vote was taken and passed with no opposition vote.

June Minutes: J. Maiurano motioned to accept the June minutes, C. Sastri seconded the motion a vote was taken and accepted.

Summer Programs: Summer program activity totals were made available to the Board. There were 501 total program participants, approximately the same as in 2002. Soccer numbers were up and compensated for the loss from the non-availability of Gymnastics. Gymnastics was not held due to a liability concern of the school system. J. Wysor will be working to correct that situation for the winter program. There were two complaints received during the summer concerning programs, however neither was received from people with children enrolled in the activities.

Winter 2004 Programs: Planning form winter activities has begun. Gymnastics may return pending solution of the liability concerns with the school. Children's self defense and rock climbing may not be available due to insurance company concerns and unavailability of an instructor at Lewis Martial Arts. A coach for the baseball practice at the YMCA is needed.

Suggestions for winter programming included ice skating instruction and an art program. Other suggestions are welcomed.

Skating Facility: R. Mason reported September hours will be 5:30PM to 9:00PM weekdays and noon – 9:00 weekends because of staff unavailability. Hours should return to 4:00PM – 9:00 PM in October.

There was continued discussion about the attendance at the skate-park. R. Mason stated numbers have picked up some towards the end of August. An open meeting was held in August with skaters to address their concerns at the park. The primary issue was the need to wear all the protective equipment, a Board member talking with skaters on the street received the same concern. The equipment requirement is insurance based and makes sense. There have been no serious injuries at the park since opening. Providing the equipment at the park may be an option, but the City would assume another liability in that case. The park was opened for two weeks at the end of the summer for use free of charge. That helped increase park useage.

There was continued discussion concerning how to attract more skaters and boarders. Since the park will close for the season in October, the Youth Board will study the issue over the winter months.

New Business: R. Mason reported that Board Member Dunkleman has returned from service in Iraq. He is presently in Fort Stewart Georgia and should be in Norwich around the Christmas holidays. Welcome back Jeff ☺.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday October 14th 2003 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room.

**City of Norwich
Youth Board Meeting
October 14th, 2003**

Present: R. A. Mason
H. Graves M. Eddy

Also Present: R. Mason
J. Wysor

Acting Chairperson R.A. Mason called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

September Minutes: M. Eddy motioned to accept the September 9th minutes, H. Graves seconded and the minutes were accepted.

Winter 2004 Programs: J. Wysor stated program signups would be held Wednesday December 10th, 6:00 PM at the High School room #1. Volunteers will be appreciated assisting with the registration.

Junior wrestling will be starting December 15th. Last years staff are being canvassed for their return. Bowling will again be offered. Gymnastics will be returned to the program lineup if a “certified adult” instructor can be located. Baseball and Softball will be run again at the YMCA. A baseball instructor is needed.

H. Graves suggested researching some new programs, to include skiing, which might be supported by “Peaks and Trails” or similar organizations. Discounted instruction and equipment rental might be possible. More information would be needed and funding may be limited. Trips might be possible to nearby ski areas. The ski club at the High School has been discontinued, support for this type of program may be good.

Trips to special events was discussed to not only include sporting events in Binghamton or Colgate, but also theatrical performances at Oneonta (SUCO) by the Orpheus Theatre. M. Eddy will check into the theatre and report back to the Board at the November meeting.

2004 State Funding: R. Mason reported finalized State funding figures have been received. There will be a total reduction in assistance of \$1,632.00 from 2003. Recreation assistance will be decreased \$2,274, Youth Service funding has decreased \$187.00 while Bureau Operations will be increased \$829.00. The decrease should not have a significant impact on normal operations.

2004 Chenango County Youth Awards: The awards will be held December 6th at the Council of the Arts. Suggestions to nominate groups or individuals should be made soon to the Youth Bureau. R. Mason is working on two nominations and will report at the November meeting.

Pagoda Decorating: The Youth Board will again decorate the pagoda in East Park. A preliminary date of Saturday November 29th, 9:00 AM has been set. As always any assistance would be appreciated.

Skating Facility: The facility will close October 15th to allow workers time during decent weather to remove the ramps and jumps to prepare for the fast approaching ice season. The “free” period offered at

the facility did have some success in greater use of the park. The issue remaining to would be boarders is still protective equipment use.

New Business: R. Mason has received information for possible grants to promote youth in gardening activities. Youth might be organized to start projects in a greenhouse or community type gardening. Possibly growing pumpkins for Pumpkin Fest, food for the needy or flowers for the downtown parks. The funding sources will be checked and a report back will be made at the November meeting.

Having no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Because of Veterans Day November 11th, the next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday November 18th, 2003 7:00 PM at the City Hall Meeting Room (3rd Tuesday).

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting December 9th, 2003

Present: J. Drelich
R. A. Mason
C. Sastri
J. Maiurano
M. Eddy
H. Graves

Also Present: R. Mason
J. Wysor
D. Drelich

M. Eddy acting as chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

Winter Recreation Programs: J. Wysor reported junior wrestling would be starting next week. Bowling will begin the first week of January at Plaza Lanes. Baseball and softball also will be starting the first full week of January and will be held at the soccer center on Maple Street. The YMCA was unable to schedule the activity at their facility. Introduction to Dance will be held at The Amber Perkins School of Dance on Birdsell Street. This will be limited to 15 students. Registrations will be accepted for Gymnastics. The search continues for an adult gymnast to run the program to satisfy school system requirements. Gymnastics, if held, will not start until March 6th.

Program sign ups will be held December 10th at the High School. Board members are needed to assist during registration.

YMCA Lifeguard Training: This item was held over from the November meeting. Annually the YMCA runs a lifeguard training program free of charge. In the past state and county funding have supported the program. Funds have been cut and the City has been asked to contribute \$500 to keep the program running. Past records show that many City residents and those from the surrounding townships enroll. After discussion J. Maiurano motioned to support the program as requested. C. Sastri seconded the motion and a vote was taken and passed. Support money will be taken from the Youth Bureau Coca-Cola program fund. The training will take place in May or June of 2004.

Skating Facility: R. Mason reported the ramps and jumps have been removed for the winter and are stored in the parking lot below the facility. All preparations for winter skating have been made inside by the rink attendants. The facility will reopen as soon as conditions permit ice-skating.

There have been concerns over weekend maintenance of the ice. The matter will be addressed at the Common Council work session 12/10/03. If agreed upon, the Director and two teenage workers will do the weekend maintenance. The positions will be paid.

Old Business: M. Eddy reported she had checked into possibilities with the Orpheus Theater to take a group to a performance. The next performance date will not be until May at the SUCO campus. No special (affordable) group rates are available other than school days.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday January 13th 2004, 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room. Business before the Board will include annual Board elections and board evaluation.