

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting January 13th, 2004

Present: J. Drelich

R.A. Mason

C. Sastri

H. Graves

B. Towndrow

Also: R. Mason

D. Drelich

J. Wysor

B. Towndrow, acting as chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

New Membership: Mayor Raphael has appointed Randy Strobel to the Board.

2004 Board Elections: When the meeting started only three voting members were present. Board elections were delayed until the February meeting.

December 2003 Minutes: H. Graves motioned to accept the December 2003 minutes, seconded by J. Drelich. Motion passed.

Recreation Programs: J. Wysor reported all programs with the exception of Gymnastics were up and running. Total enrollment as of 1/13/04 was 183. It appears that an instructor has been located for gymnastics that will satisfy the school requirements. Fred Barnes has agreed to run the program. Mr. Barnes has past experience with the Arizona State University gymnastics team. Our program is scheduled to begin March 6th. Two additional assistants are needed and J. Wysor will be recruiting.

Skating Facility: There were only two days in December suitable for skating. The facility reopened January 10th and has been open daily since. The present cold weather appears to be with us for awhile so the rink will remain open. Conditions are good at this time.

Robert Grobel, one of the facility attendants has been admitted to Hamilton Hospital. Mr. Grobel works at the facility half of the Saturday hours and all Sunday hours. Other coverage is not available for these days and hours with present employees. Another attendant available for weekend work might be needed.

Pagoda Decorations: The park pagoda has had the decorations removed by the Youth Bureau.

New Business: Summer 2003 was the first summer in many years in which the Youth Bureau did not sponsor summer park concerts on Thursday evenings. This was due to budget constraints. R. Mason has recently received contact from two bands that may donate their talents for summer concerts. There was discussion on the matter and a consensus that if sponsored a better location might be the skating facility. This may inspire expanded use of the park.

Another suggestion received was to sponsor outside movies at the facility during the summer months. A large screen would be needed and a projection device. R. Mason will check into equipment availability.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday February 10^h, 2004 7:00 PM in the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting March 9th, 2004

Present: J. Drelich H. Graves
 D. Drelich T. Dean
 R. A. Mason R. Strobel B. Towndrow

Also: R. Mason
 J. Wysor
 P. Killean

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

New Members: Randy Strobel and Dan Drelich were introduced as new members to the Board. Patrick Killean was present and wished to become a member of the board.

2004 Board Elections: A motion was made by R. A. Mason nominating B. Towndrow for Board Chairperson, a second was made by J. Drelich. A motion was also made by T. Dean nominating D. Drelich as chairperson and seconded by B. Towndrow and later withdrawn. B. Towndrow accepted to chairperson position, D. Drelich accepted the vice chair position. R. A. Mason will act as recording secretary for 2004.

January 2004 Minutes: R. A. Mason motioned to accept the January 13th, 2004 minutes as written. T. Dean seconded the motion and all were in favor. There were no February minutes as no meeting was held.

Recreation Programs: J. Wysor reported that all programs had ended with the exception of gymnastics, which commenced March 6th. Winter programs were well attended and experienced no negative incidents. The baseball and softball showed greater participation by the younger age groups. The temperature situation was improved in the soccer center with the addition of plastic over the windows and additional heaters. The junior wrestling season ended with the traditional tournament in which nearly 200 youths participated.

Gymnastics has got off to a very good start and was well run on the first Saturday. The Youth Bureau has been fortunate to locate Mr. Fred Barnes as a program instructor. Mr. Barnes has experience with the University of Arizona gymnastics team. He was assisted with the program opening by his wife and three youth bureau gymnastic assistants.

Skating Facility: The ice season came to an end with an early melt at the end of February. The rink was open 21 days in January with 897 skaters and 21 days in February with 749 skaters. The facility will likely remain closed until conditions permit opening of the Skate Park in April. Ramps and jumps will have to be reinstalled.

R. Mason has been in contact with John's Shoe Shop in Hamilton. John's donated more than \$1,000.00 in skating equipment in December and may be willing to make a further contribution.

We may be able to show movies at the rink on occasion during the summer. R. Mason may have access to a projector, which can be borrowed to see if this will be a popular activity before investing nearly \$2,500 for equipment. A temporary screen may be hung on the cable at mid rink currently in place for the divider netting.

A band has been located that will be willing to donate an evening of entertainment at the rink. More volunteer bands are needed to play there or at the swimming pool. Funds are not available this year for paid bands. T. Dean noted that he might have connections to bands willing to play.

Having no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday April 13th, 2004 7:00 PM at the City Hall Meeting Room.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting April 13th, 2004

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

Also: R. Mason
J. Wysor

Chairperson Towndrow called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

March 2004 Minutes: J. Drelich motioned to accept the March 9th minutes, seconded by T. Dean, all were in favor.

Recreation Coordinator: J. Wysor reported that the only winter program running was gymnastics, with one week remaining. The program has run very well thanks to the efforts of instructor Fred Barnes and the assistance of his wife. Instructors must be located to run the summer program, as the Barnes may not be available.

Summer program planning is underway. Last summer employees have been canvassed for return and most have elected to do so. Applications are being accepted for new hires and should be turned in at the Youth Bureau office. Vacancies will be filled after May 1st.

Skating Facility: The ramps and jumps have been put back in the rink by DPW. The facility will open 4/17/04 for the summer, weather permitting.

Old Business: Rink Concerts and Movies: R. Mason has located a projector to show movies however a suitable screen needs to be found. Once weather permits a test will be done at the rink to see if the idea is at all possible.

T. Dean has located a band willing to play. "Haggard" with Chase Dragoon. He will be contacted further for specific dates.

New Business: Pool Lift for Kurt Beyer: R. Mason has been seeking funding assistance to purchase a handicapped accessible lift. A unit has been located through the Adolph Kiefer company that is suitable. Purchase price would be \$3,200.00, however Kiefer has offered a 30 percent discount. A \$400 donation has been received from Webb & Son's with another \$500.00 promised by the American Legion Post 189, Norwich. Applications for funding assistance have also been made to several other local foundations. Remaining costs will be paid from accumulated Coca-Cola receipts. If additional funds are received the "totally portable" unit can be purchased for an additional \$1,200.00. The portable unit would not require bolting to the pool deck and could be used anywhere at the facility. The purchase will be made in conjunction with the pool repair project scheduled for this spring. Repairs at the pool should be complete by July 1st.

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

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday May 11th, 2004 7:00 PM at City Hall.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting May 11th, 2004

Present: M. Eddy
H. Graves
C. Sastri

Also: R. Mason
J. Wysor
Chad Hovey

C. Sastri called the meeting to order at 7:11PM as acting Chairperson.

Guest: Chad Hovey from the High School Art Department addressed the Board concerning murals. He has been working with art students with creating murals and would like to paint some at the skating facility. The group creates murals for non-profit groups and has funding available through The Place. There would be no cost to the City. Mr. Hovey would like to create the artwork soon as the school year is nearing an end. Numerous proposed themes have been created by students and were presented to the Board. After discussion H. Graves motioned to proceed with the plan and to have R. Mason work with Mr. Hovey and the students. Motioned was seconded by M. Eddy. Most themes were skate or skate board related. The group may develop other themes dealing with ice-skating and hockey. Seven to eight murals may be done at the rink and it was suggested to alternate them in with existing advertisers when possible. Each mural would occupy one dasher board space, of which there are plenty available.

Summer Recreation Programs: J. Wysor reported all program facility requests submitted to the school have been approved. **Program sign up night will be Wednesday June 2nd, 6:00 PM at the High School cafeteria. Board members will be needed for approximately one hour to assist.** Swim lessons and swim team practice will be held at the High School pool, as well as the two scheduled home swim meets. Gibson playground will run 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM while Perry Browne will run Noon – 4:00 PM.

J. Wysor and Noreen Wessels (Pool Director) have reviewed lifeguard applications and will conduct interviews. Most guards are returning leaving only three vacancies, one of which will be filled by an end of season guard from last year.

The remaining vacant recreation positions will be filled soon by J. Wysor. Most staff from last year will be returning leaving only a few open positions.

Skating Facility: R. Mason reported the rink is open and attendance has been mixed. One day there were sixteen skaters and another day none. Reasons for fluctuation in use remains unknown.

R. Mason is still working on a suitable screen idea to show evening movies at the facility.

Pool Lift: \$1650.00 in donations for the lift has been received. The portable kit for the lift lists for \$1,200 but Kiefer has offered to reduce the price to \$868.00. R. Mason has ordered the unit with portable kit. The unit will now be able to be used at any location around the pool and will not need permanent anchoring. The lift could also be used at other facilities during the off season.

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

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday June 8th, 2004 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room. The Board will recess during July and August.

*****Summer program signups Wed. June 2nd, 6:00 PM at the High School Cafeteria.
Board Members will be needed *****

City of Norwich Youth Board June 9th, 2004

Present: C. Sastri, T. Dean, H. Graves

Also Present: R. Mason

T. Dean called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM

May Minutes: C. Sastri motioned to accept the May minutes seconded by H. Graves, meeting minutes were accepted.

Summer Recreation Programs: R. Mason reported 260 registrations have been received and more continue to come in at the office. Programs commence 6/28 and more registrants can sign up directly at the program sites.

The municipal pool is scheduled to open July 1st, one week later than normal. Pool restoration should be completed on time according to engineers.

Seasonal soda machines have been returned to the parks. The machine at Kurt Beyer has been destroyed once and replaced by Coca-Cola. Following that event the new machine was tipped over with minimal damage. Coca-Cola will bolt the machine to the filter house to avoid further vandalism. Another incident may require removal of the unit.

There was discussion concerning programs that might get old youths involved in summer activities. Most programs target youth up to age 12 or 13. Suggestions included a tennis tournament, open pool party and more bus trips. R. Mason will be checking into possibilities.

Summer Program Monitoring: Part of the Youth Board's summer duties includes visiting program sites and viewing programs in progress. Board members were asked to visit any one or more sites during the summer and completing a program monitoring paper, which would later be turned into the Youth Bureau Office. Program monitoring helps improve programs and is a requirement for state financial assistance. Program monitoring forms will be sent to all Board Members with a program schedule.

Skating Facility: The skating rink and skateboard park will open for summer hours June 28th (Noon – 9:00 PM daily). There is a facility attendant position available.

Protective equipment has been purchased for the skateboard park (16 sets of pads and helmets). The equipment will be loaned to skaters to help increase activity at the rink. Many would be skaters were turned away in the past for lack of this equipment. Funds for the purchase came from Coca-Cola receipts.

A Summer Skate Party has been scheduled for July 13th, 7:00 – 9:00 PM. Music will be provided by "Hot Wax". Food and door prizes will hopefully be available.

The High School art department under the direction of Mr. Hovey has completed dasher board murals. More murals may be done in the fall with an ice skating and ice hockey theme.

New Business: R. Mason stated the pool lift has been ordered with the portable kit. The unit will be able to be used anywhere at the pool without need for permanent bolting. R. Mason has been in contact with Jamie Mullen from the YMCA. The YMCA might use the lift during the winter months.

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

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Bureau will be Tuesday September 14th, 7:00 PM in the City Hall meeting room (Summer Board Recess July and August).

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting September 14th, 2004

Members Present:

B. Towndrow
J. Drelich
R.A. Mason
C. Sastri
M. Eddy

Also Present:

R. Mason
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M.

June Minutes: M. Eddy motioned to accept the June minutes, seconded by C. Sastri, minutes were accepted.

Summer 2004 Recreation Programs: J. Wysor stated that the summer programs ran well despite the poor weather. There were 369 program participants, which was slightly lower than normal. The weather may have been a factor. Playground programs and soccer had better than average enrollment, while tennis was slightly down. Because of the poor weather with many cancellations, soccer and tennis were run an extra week.

C. Sastri commented that Amanda Thompson and Eric Diefenbacher did an excellent job running the swim team. All swimmers got to compete despite individual ability and that is what the program is intended to be like.

Because of the school system being on a contingency budget, up front money of \$3,000.00 was required by the school to use facilities. This has not happened in the past and the funds were not in the Youth Bureau budget. Transfers were made and summer trips and concerts were eliminated. The swim team and swim lessons were moved to the Kurt Beyer pool as soon as possible. Winter recreation programs may be in jeopardy because of the schools requirement to pay for facility use. J. Wysor will be researching possibilities and what associated costs may be. Just because an alternate site may be found does not necessarily mean it would be suitable.

Skating Facility: The rink was open daily through the summer 12:00 noon – 9:00 PM weather permitting. Protective equipment now supplied by the Youth Bureau has helped to increase numbers using the skate-park.

A skateboard party was held in July with more than 50 skateboarders attending. The Youth Bureau supplied free food, drinks and door prizes. “Hot Wax” DJ Service donated their service in exchange for a dasher board placement. The only negative about the skateboard party was a noise complaint received from a neighbor. Other concerts may be donated by “Hot Wax” to the Youth Bureau or to “Norwich Cares” through the Youth Bureau.

Dasher mural paintings were completed by Mr. Hovey and the High School art department. Other murals may be done this fall with a winter theme.

Fall hours resumed at the skating facility with the start of school. Noon-9:00 weekends and vacation days 5:00 – 9:00 PM school days.

An opening for rink attendant has been filled, a substitute position remains open. The facility may be run unattended in 2005 for the spring, summer and winter months because of budget reductions.

New Business: The pool lift was put into operation at Kurt Beyer for the summer and a dedication plaque attached to recognize the various groups that supported the project. The YMCA has declined use of the lift during the winter months, however the High School may borrow it. Use during the winter by another agency would help keep the lift in working order and not in cold storage. This was a community effort and should be available for all.

The Youth Bureau budget for 2005 is an ongoing process and reductions have been made. Ideas for new programs are needed from Board Members.

New Board members, youth as well as adults are needed.

Guernsey Memorial Library is having a children's "Book Fest" October 9th from 11:00 till 1:00 PM. Area youth agencies have been asked to set up a literacy craft table. The Youth Bureau will be assisting the children in making bookworms. Volunteer board members are needed that day, those interested should contact the Youth Bureau office.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday October 12th, 2004 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting October 12th, 2004

Members Present:

J. Drelich
C. Sastri
B. Towndrow
H. Graves

Also Present:

R. Mason

The meeting was called to order at 7:05.

September minutes: J. Drelich motioned to accept the September minutes, seconded by C. Sastri, minutes approved.

Winter 2004 Programs: Work on the winter programs is continuing. The problem remains the school and the contingency budget. Some money is available, but programs may be shortened. Junior wrestling will probably start in January as opposed to December in recent years. Gymnastics will start in February depending upon when the school gymnastics season ends. Total cost for these programs should be about \$1,800.00. Instructors will be an additional expense.

Winter baseball and softball should be held at the YMCA. This will be about half the cost of renting the soccer center.

R. Mason is working with Mike Koperda at the soccer center to start a youth soccer program for grade school ages (age 10 and under). This program "MAY" be of limited expense because the center wants to involve younger kids.

Arrangements for winter bowling will be made after other programs are finalized to determine what financing is available. H. Graves inquired if it would be possible to charge a partial fee for some programs where there would be the normal expectation to pay a fee. Bowling was an example given where possibly \$2.00 could be charged to help in offsetting the fee. This might be possible, however where a fee is charged, a claim for State reimbursement cannot be made. There are enough other programs where reimbursement can be made.

B. Towndrow stated that Kelly Collins-Colosi works with the Service Learning kids at the High School. She might be able to arrange to have some of the Service Learning kids work the bowling program. This will be checked out.

Skating Facility: The facility will be closing soon (10/18/04). Ramps and jumps will again be removed in preparation for the winter season.

The facility may be an unattended skate park next summer.

The storage problem at the facility needs a solution – too many skates.

Youth Service Money: Claims have been filed for the Blues Festival (\$1000) and The Gathering Place summer workshop (\$250). The Gathering Place Christmas Workshop (\$250) and YMCA Midnight Madness (\$388) will be filed after they are run in December. Youth Service money for 2005 will remain at the County level.

New Business: Book Fest at the Library 10/9 was held with the Youth Bureau making BOOKWORMS with the assistance of board member B. Towndrow.

Park Pagoda decorating will be Saturday 11/27/04 10:00 AM. Volunteers needed for about one hour of work.

More Board members are needed. We have lost several youth members that have gone to college and have other board members just never attend.

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 November 9th, 2004 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting November 9th, 2004

Members Present:

B. Towndrow J. Drelich H. Graves
C. Sastri M. Eddy

Also Present:

R. Mason

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

October Minutes: J. Drelich motioned to accept the October 12th minutes, Seconded by C. Sastri, minutes accepted. A correction to the October minutes is to include H. Graves as present, which was omitted from the original minutes.

Winter Programs 2004: Winter program planning remains in progress. Program development has been especially difficult this year with the school being on the contingency budget and the City still in the process of developing the 2005 budget. Resources for the Youth Bureau for 2005 may be decreased by approximately \$20,000 from 2004. J. Wysor has been working out 2005 winter program details.

Program sign up night has yet to be determined, but will most likely be during the first week of December. Sign ups will probably be held at City Hall this year to avoid facility rental at the High School.

The Youth Bureau can run a soccer program at the soccer center for ages U-10 during December and January on Saturdays. This program will not conflict with YMCA programs during this time period.

There will be no introduction to dance program this winter. Funding assistance may be available during 2006 through The Council of the Arts.

Youth Bureau 2005 Budget: The budget process is continuing and a finalized City budget is not expected until December. Cuts in the Youth Bureau will probably include staffing at the skating facility during the non-winter months, elimination of summer gymnastics, paid winter bowling staff, weekend ice maintenance at the skating facility, a reduction of summer pool hours (one hour daily) and swim instruction being reduced to four weeks from the current six. Bureau office reductions will be in the supplies area. Contracted Services (aid to other agencies) has been eliminated for 2005.

Skating Facility: The rink closed during October and will be prepared for the ice season. Skating equipment is being switched over and will include the sharpening of the 150+ pairs of skates. The ramps and jumps are being removed by DPW and will be stored below the facility in the parking lot.

2005 Youth Awards: The Youth Awards ceremony at the Council of the Arts has been cancelled by the Chenango County Youth Bureau because of the lack of nominations.

New Business: The Youth Bureau will again decorate the East Park Pagoda for the Christmas season on Saturday November 27th 10:00 AM. Volunteers are needed for about one hour.

Information has been received that prior board member Harold Cole is now serving in Iraq. R. Mason will obtain a mailing address in order seasonal well wishes or a package might be sent from the Board.

A Department of State grant application for \$1,500.00 in support of the handicapped pool lift has been received and will be applied for by R. Mason.

New Youth Board members are needed, youth and/or adult.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be held Tuesday December 14th, 2004 7:00 PM at the City Hall Meeting Room.