

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting January 11th, 2005

Present: C. Sastri
H. Graves
B. Towndrow

Also: R. Mason
J. Wysor

B. Towndrow called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

2005 Board Elections: Because of a lack of membership present, Board elections for the current year were postponed until the February meeting.

November Minutes: C. Sastri motioned to accept the November minutes, seconded by H. Graves. There were no December minutes as the Board conducted Winter Program Registration at City Hall in lieu of a meeting.

2005 Winter Recreation Programs: J. Wysor reported on the progress of winter program registration. As of 1/11/05 195 registrations had been received. This is slightly below other years, however registrations will continue to be received at program sites. Wrestling, Soccer and Bowling have started, gymnastics and softball/baseball will commence in February. A break down of registrations was provided and will be included with the January minutes.

Staffing for the programs has been completed.

2005 Budget: R. Mason reported the City passed the 2005 budget. This reflects a nearly \$9,200.00 cut from 2004 and about \$20,000.00 over the last three years. To compound the problem the school system continues to charge for program sites because of their contingency budget. Over \$1,300.00 has been paid for winter facilities and over \$3,000.00 was paid for summer site usage. If the school remains on a contingency budget during the summer 2005 season a real problem may develop. No funding for school facility use has been budgeted for.

Starting January 1 the minimum wage was also increased, which will affect most Youth Bureau positions. Thus far, despite additional costs and cuts, most programs have been kept in place, with cuts being made in non-essential areas.

Skating Facility: The skating rink was open three days in December and none so far in January. This is the worst season for ice skating since the facility opened in January 1998.

B. Towndrow stated the "Reality Check" might be interested in hosting a Community Skate Party at the rink. This would target youth ages 13-19 but would be open for anyone to attend. Reality Check would be able to supply a DJ service, food beverage and door prizes. Most likely this would take place (ice permitting) towards the end of January or early February.

B. Towndrow also stated "The Community Kids Club" through The Place might want to sponsor a skate party at the facility. This would target a younger group of skaters (6th – 9th grade). The Community Kids Club might be able to supply food and beverages. Discussion on this subject continued between H. Graves and B. Towndrow concerning possible business sponsorship. B. Towndrow and H. Graves will be continuing this effort. A possible date of Sunday February 6th was selected for an event running 1:00 – 4:00 PM.

B. Towndrow adjourned the meeting at 7:45 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday February 8th, 2005 7:00 PM in the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting February 8th, 2005

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

Also: R. Mason

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

January Minutes: R. A. Mason motioned to accept the January 2005 minutes, seconded by R. Mather, minutes were accepted.

Recreation Programs: R. Mason stated that J. Wysor was absent from the meeting because he was at program sites that were starting this evening. Baseball and softball were both starting at 7:00.

Program registration totals were given as of February 8th. At present 230 registrations had been received which is three less than in 2004. With programs still running this should easily surpass last years total and may rival our second busiest year of 248 in 2002. The totals are encouraging considering increase costs for use of school facilities.

Summer program planning will commence once winter activities end in April. The school budget status for summer will not be known until June. Related expenses there for will likewise not be known.

Skating Facility: The facility opened in mid-January, the latest opening since the skating rink was originally opened. Once opened it remained open nearly every day until the recent warm spell. One day alone saw a total of 111 skaters at the rink.

The Kids Club, sponsored by The Place and Pro-Tel tried to have a community skate party Sunday 2/6/05. The event was postponed until 2/13/05 1:00 – 4:00 PM, because of unusually warm conditions.

Reality check is planning a Teen Skate Party for Friday 2/11/05 4:00 – 7:00. Both events will provide music, beverages, food and door prizes.

There was some discussion concerning an unattended skate park during the summer. H. Graves inquired if there might be at least some hours weekly when the facility could be attended. This would allow people without their own equipment to borrow the rink skates and protective pads. Those without their personal equipment otherwise would not be able to use the facility. This might be a possibility, however a better assessment of the budget situation can be made closer to summer.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday March 8th, 2005 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich

Youth Board Meeting

March 8th, 2005

Present: J. Drelich
B. Towndrow
C. Sastri **M. Eddy**

Also: R. Mason
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

After some discussion the Youth Board decided to postpone Board elections again due to lack of membership present.

Interagency Sports Meeting: R. Mason and J. Wysor attended a joint meeting between various recreation groups and the school system on May 2nd at the High School. This meeting was intended to unite all groups towards a common goal and to hopefully inspire cooperation and share services and facilities. The meeting was productive, but the most influential item effecting almost everything remains the schools contingency budget. The need to pay the school system for facility use has had a detrimental effect on most programs. There will be additional meetings to attempt to resolve issues.

Recreation Programs: J. Wysor updated the Board with current figures for winter program participation. This year remains slightly above average for enrollment totals with 237. Soccer and bowling have ended, wrestling ends with week, baseball/softball in March and gymnastics in April. Gymnastics is the most popular and accounted for almost one half of all winter program participants. Fred & Gerry Barnes are running gymnastics again this year and have done an excellent job.

Planning for summer programs has not yet started, some applications for employment have already been received. Summer trips and/or concerts may depend on what the situation with the school system is at that time.

Skating Facility: The facility was closed March 5th for the season. Ice conditions deteriorated to the point skating was unsafe.

A notebook of photos from the "Kids Club" skate party was provided to the Board for review. H. Graves from Pro-Tel, a co-sponsor of the event, submitted the photographs.

"Reality Check" cancelled their planned event twice because of unsatisfactory conditions. A spring roller blade event may be planned.

R. Mason stated that the ramps and jumps might be placed in the parking lot below the rink and fenced in. The facility will be an unattended park this summer because of budget restraints. Approval for the change must be received from N.Y.S. Parks because of their partial funding for the facility and the City.

New Business: R. Mason reported purchasing a new computer for the Youth Bureau office. The Youth Bureau has always received used equipment and never had anything new. The new computer will be purchased for \$1,195.00 from DELL with Coca-Cola receipts and at no cost to the taxpayer.

R. Mason will be checking again, into the possibility of outdoor movies at the skating facility this summer. A screen and projection system will be needed.

Having no further business, the Youth Board was adjourned at 7:45.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be April 12th, 2005 7:00 PM in the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting September 13th, 2005

Members Present:

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

Also Present:

R. Mason
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by B. Towndrow

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

Board Membership: More Board volunteers are needed to maintain state requirements. Active members were asked to assist in recruiting volunteers.

Summer 2005 Recreation Programs: J. Wysor stated that the summer programs ran well and there were 383 total program registrants. Program totals were given and will be attached as part of the minutes. The playground program run at Guernsey Library was a first time event and was very successful. C. Sastri noted that there was a difference in the program of night and day from the Perry Browne program of last year. J. Wysor noted that the Gibson playground was a smaller group, but also ran well this summer.

Participation in soccer was near normal, however the older group lacked numbers. This age group will have to be looked at next year and possibly combined with another group.

This was a very hot summer and there were few weather related cancellations. All programs seemed to run well and there were no complaints received by J. Wysor or at the Youth Bureau office.

R. Mason noted that because of budget restraints, swim instruction was decreased from six weeks to four. This was a loss of 10 hours of instruction per child. Cost savings efforts helped to complete the season with all programs without additional funds being needed.

Summer bus trips resumed with two being taken, to the Catskill Game Farm and Water Safari. There were 63 persons taking advantage of the trips. Trips were not taken in 2004 because of funding availability.

Skating Facility: The rink was not staffed for the summer, but was available for groups to use upon appointment. No reservations were made however. The skate-park equipment was assembled south of the facility and fenced. It has been noticed by Board Members that this is being used much more than when it was inside the rink and supervised. Protective equipment is not being used at all times, despite being signed as required. R. Mason stated that there have been no complaints received and no injuries reported. The rules and regulations sign was stolen, but has been replaced and secured to prevent theft. The missing sign cost about \$100 and another will be ordered.

R. Mason reported a dasher sign in remembrance of Katie Almeter, Rachel Nargiso and Emily Collins has been placed at the facility. All three were Youth Bureau employees.

R. Mason has been working at the rink preparing for the winter season. A storage problem exists for all the skates. There are over 250 pairs of ice skates and about 100 pairs of roller blades. A storage site for the roller blades is needed and will be sought out by R. Mason.

2006 Youth Bureau Budget: The 2006 Youth Bureau budget is being prepared by R. Mason and will reflect an increase of approximately \$17,000. The increase primarily is due to the 2005 minimum wage increase which was not compensated for when the 2005 budget was adopted and an additional increase due January 1st, 2006. The minimum will have increased from \$5.15 to \$6.75 also effecting other positions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday October 11th, 2005 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room.

TO: Youth Board Members

FROM: R. Mason

SUBJECT: Youth Board Meeting November

DATE: October 12th, 2005

Only one Youth Board Member was present for the October 11th Youth Board meeting, therefore no business was conducted or minutes recorded.

The November regularly scheduled meeting would be on Tuesday the 8th (Election Day). City offices are closed that day. The meeting will be held Thursday November 10th, 7:00 PM which is the next day that the meeting room is available.

Dates to remember: The first week December, probably 12/5 – winter program sign up night at City Hall.

Saturday November 26th, 10:00 AM – Pagoda decorating for The Christmas season.

City of Norwich
Youth Board Meeting
December 13, 2005

Members Present:

H. Graves; M. Eddy; R. A. Mason
Mary Dean (new); Lisa Groeschel (new)

Also Present:

J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by J. Wysor

September minutes: M. Eddy motioned to approve; second R. A. Mason. Carried.

New board members Lisa Groeschel and Mary Frances Dean (youth) were present. Unable to attend were Brian Doliver and Alison Handy (youth).

Winter Programs:

J. Wysor reported that 229 youth have registered for the six programs offered. Numbers break out as follows:

Wrestling – 46 – 32 in K-3rd and 13 in 4th- 6th

Gymnastics – full registration for all three sessions 93 total
9am – 32; 10am – 31 and 11am – 30

Bowling 25 registered; 11 – Tuesdays
15 – Wednesdays (full)

Softball 12 registered; 11 Tuesdays
1 Fridays

Baseball 20 registered; 18 6pm; 2 7pm

Soccer 33 registered; 13 u-9; 17 u-12; 3 u-15

Ice Skating Rink is ready for winter inside + equipment; ice would have been ready for today, however a person or persons “slushed” through ice when soft leaving it very bumpy and unusable.

No new business

Pagoda was decorated on 11/26 and will be “un”decorated on Sat. 1/7 @ 10am. All volunteers are welcome.

A handicapped restroom is in the works for KBP. Bob Mason is diligently at work on this project. It has been approved by the City Parks Commission. Bob is currently looking for funding.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by M. Eddy and 2nd by R. Mason. Carried

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday, January 10, 2006 7pm City Hall