

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting January 10th, 2006

**Present: C. Sastri, R. A. Mason
H. Graves, J. Drelich**

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

The meeting came to order at 7:05 PM

2006 Board Elections: 2006 Board Officers - H. Graves (Chair), J. Drelich (V.Chair), R.A. Mason (Sec).

December Minutes: R. A. Mason motioned to accept the December minutes, seconded by J. Drelich.

2006 Winter Recreation Programs: J. Wysor reported on the progress of winter program registration. As of 1/10/06 275 registrations had been received, which is the second highest year since 2003. 2006 is on track to perhaps be the busiest year. (2006-275, 2005-252, 2004-233, 2003-280, 2002-248, 2001-225, 2000-172).

Gymnastics is the largest program, but there is enough staffing to supervise 4 stations and also allows program supervisor Barnes to work with a group of more advanced students.

Bowling is being supervised by R. Mason as no one was located to run the program.

Wrestling was described as standing room only. It has been a long time since there was participation like we have at present.

Soccer is being run by the Soccer Center. C. Sastri has observed the program and stated it is being run well and the supervisor (Kike Koperda) is very good with the youth.

Baseball and Softball practices will not start until February.

Skating Facility: This has been the worst season for ice skating since the original facility was built, due to warm weather. There was one day in December and one in January thus far that was sufficient for skating. On January 2nd the facility was only open for 3 hours, but there were 65 skaters during that time.

New Business: H. Graves has found some material from "Writer's Almanac" which is broadcast on WSKG. He believed it was relevant to the skating facility and wanted to independently work on framing and posting similar items at the facility. This selection was a poem titled "Ice". He believed that small things such as that could expose youth (and parents) to things beyond just physical activity. After some discussion it was decided to proceed with that effort.

R. Mason updated the Board on efforts to install a handicapped accessible restroom at Kurt Beyer Pool.

The Board discussed the possibility of sponsoring a "Community Skate Party" this year. Past events have been sponsored by The Place, Professional Teleconcepts and The Label Gallery. All have been well attended. Typically a D.J. Service is obtained, hot dogs, hot chocolate and popcorn are provided and door prizes given out. Total cost may be only several hundred dollars. After discussion it was decided to plan an event for Jan 29th, with an alternate date of Feb 12th. H. Graves will attempt to locate a sponsor.

J. Drelich motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by R. A. Mason at 7:42 pm.

**The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday February 11th, 2006
7:00 PM in the City Hall meeting room.**

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting February 14th, 2006

Present: L. Groeschel
J. Drelich
C. Sastri
H. Graves

Also: R. Mason
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Recreation Programs: J. Wysor updated the Youth Board on current program registrations. 2006 is now the highest winter program with a total of 297 registered youth.

Bowling has ended because the budget for that program has been expended. Trophies were awarded this year for the first time and proved very popular with the youth.

Gymnastics registrations are up; however attendance lately has been declining, possibly because of conflicts with other activities. This program was started in January, where as in other years it did not start until February. This will be reviewed by the instructors at the end and possible recommendations made for next year.

Wrestling may be the largest program ever and there have been requests to start earlier next year (late November or early December) so the wrestlers will be prepared to compete in some tournaments. The tournaments are not connected directly to the Youth Bureau, but are independent. There was some discussion from the Board that our purpose is not to create a highly competitive structure, but to provide fun activities and get the youth out of the house and away from the computer, TV etc. The Youth Bureau programs are not intended to be feeder programs for high school sports, but rather as an introduction to spark some interest.

Baseball is off to a good start and instructor Turnbull has recruited some help. Softball has also started.

Skating Facility: 2006 continues to be one of the warmest on record and as a result the poorest for skating. The rink has been open only 3 days for limited hours, but has been well used during those times. Even with a last minute opening, skaters appear without the opening being advertised.

The Community Skate Party has been cancelled twice and no future date has been set. H. Graves will be able to obtain some assistance for refreshments and can also assist in advertising should conditions improve. R. Mason can arrange for a DJ service. It should not take long to set something up if things improve.

Handicapped Restroom Kurt Beyer Pool: R. Mason stated efforts are continuing and plans are being drawn by Delaware Engineering. Funding sources are still being researched, however nothing "for sure" has been found. After an estimate has been obtained from the engineer we will have a better idea which direction to take. This does not need to be a refined project, just something simple to suit the purpose. The facility is normally only open several months during the year. At present it is not accessible for those in need, even though there is a handicapped pool lift now available. Pool patrons who have used the lift to enter the pool have later had to leave the facility because there was not access to the restrooms.

R. Mason reported that there is some money available from what was saved by coca-cola machine revenues. The Board discussed those funds and was concerned if it was the responsibility of the Youth Bureau and Youth Board to raise funds for youth activities and then direct them into building remodeling or maintenance.

New Business: R. Mason stated that applications for summer positions would be accepted soon. Last years staff will be canvassed first and then vacancies are filled. Applications are available at the Youth Bureau Office. H. Graves and C. Sastri will assist in advertising for summer employment.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42PM

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday March 14th, 2006 7:00 PM in the City Hall meeting room.

TO: All Youth Board Members

SUBJECT: March Youth Board Meeting

FROM: R. Mason
Youth Bureau Office

There are no recorded minutes for the March Youth Board meeting as only two members were present and no business was conducted.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday April 11th, 2006 at 7:00 PM in the City Hall meeting room.

Thank you,



City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting April 11th, 2006

Present: H. Graves
L. Groeschel
C. Sastri
M. Eddy
H. Cole

Also: R. Mason

Chairperson Graves called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM

February 2006 Minutes: Accepted as written (there were no March minutes – No meeting was held).

Recreation Coordinator: J. Wysor was absent due to a prior commitment. R. Mason stated that the winter 2006 season was the busiest on record. There were a total of 324 registrations which was 44 more from the previous high of 280 recorded in 2003. Program expansion seems to be going well despite no increases in actual program operating budgets. H. Graves asked if “as the Director” R. Mason was satisfied with the operation of the Youth Bureau and he replied that he was.

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 facility was only open 3 days for ice skating and was not open after January 27th. Conditions during the winter were not favorable for ice. H. Cole asked if new hockey goals/netting could be obtained because of the present ones deteriorated condition. R. Mason will proceed with replacements.

R. Mason stated he and Alderman Maiurano met with a representative from “CIMCO” in Syracuse about a roof and refrigeration system at the skating facility. Initial estimates from CIMCO would total two to two and a half million dollars.

The skate-board park has been opened for spring use. The park is being used regularly as noted by several Board members. The reason for the increased use of the park is believed to be that the park is now unattended and although protective equipment is required, the rule is not enforced because of the lack of an attendant. The Board discussed possibilities of having a roller blade or skate-park party during the summer. R. Mason stated that one held prior was attended by approximately 50 skaters, but there were numerous complaints made about the music from the DJ service. A party could be held without a DJ or possibly in combination with outside evening rink movies as discussed several years ago.

L. Groeschel stated that her husband “Mark” may be interested in starting a summer street hockey league. Mark will make some contacts of interested parties and contact R. Mason. The Board noted that “if” held, appropriate age groups would have to be established.

Handicapped accessible restroom at Kurt Beyer: There has been no further progress towards establishing the restroom at Kurt Beyer Pool. R. Mason stated that we are still awaiting building plans from the engineer before proceeding further. The City has hired a community development person who is researching grant opportunities for this project.

New Business: H. Graves was interested in finding out if winter ski trips would be possible. He suggested working with the YMCA and/or school Ski-Club to take trips to nearby ski resorts. These trips are popular in other communities, but have fallen off locally. H. Graves suggested a meeting between a Youth Board Committee and School/YMCA officials to see what might be possible. Contacts would be Tom Revoir at the YMCA, Sue Rosa at the High School and Doreen Rowe of Peaks and Trails. R. Mason had a concern about chaperoning ski trips.

Having no further business the meeting was closed at 7:56 PM.

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday May 9th, 2006 7:00 PM in the City Hall meeting room.

**City of Norwich
Youth Board Meeting
June 13th, 2006**

There were insufficient members present to conduct official business. Those that were present discussed the following:

**Present: H. Graves
C. Sastri**

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

225 summer registrations have been received and more are being received daily. During an average summer there would be about 450 registrants. Second session swim lessons will add greatly to the total.

The Guernsey playground program has filled and Gibson has 3 vacancies. Swim level II at 9:30 has also filled. Vacancies remain in the other programs.

The Guernsey program will also provide access to a Theatre program being held at Guernsey Library. Funding for this was obtained by the Library through the Council of the Arts. Practices will be held two days a week during normal playground hours. Parents had the opportunity to sign their children up for this activity at registration night. It was limited to 15 and filled quickly. The play will be "The Lorax" by Dr. Suess.

The Rogers Environmental Center will also be presenting a short (1/2 hour) program of "The Lorax" to the playground site in early July.

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County has been in contact with the Youth Bureau and will be presenting a weekly short activity to each playground site. They will all be nature/conservation orientated and will include hands on activities.

Summer trips will include the New York State Museum July 23rd (cost \$3.00) and The Great Escape August 1st (cost \$20.50).

The handicapped accessible restroom at Kurt Beyer Pool was approved by City Council and is presently under construction.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Bureau will be Tuesday September 12th, following the summer recess.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting September 12th, 2006

Members Present:

H. Graves, C. Sastri
L. Groeschel

Also Present:

R. Mason
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by H. Graves

June Minutes: Accepted by the Board as written.

Summer 2006 Recreation Programs: J. Wysor stated that the summer programs ran well and there were 401 total program registrants. This total was slightly higher than in the past few years. Program totals were given and will be attached as part of the minutes. The playground program run at Guernsey Library was once again successful however there was a conflict of space with the theatre program. A closer look at the two programs may be needed if they are to be repeated in 2007. The Guernsey site may not be available next summer. The Gibson site had a slightly larger enrollment, but both groups averaged about 25 children a day. Both sites had weekly programs presented by the Cooperative Extension concentrating on environmental issues, which proved to be successful.

H. Graves inquired as to which programs were the strongest and weakest. J. Wysor responded that Playground continues to be a good activity and well attended while soccer sometimes lacks in numbers. Further evaluation of soccer is needed and modifications made to increase participation. Establishment of the Chenango Charges may have had an impact on the soccer program in recent years.

The recreation staff this year consisted of a good group and there were no significant problems.

C. Sastri inquired if school construction in 2007 would affect programming. Since most of the work is scheduled for the Middle School no immediate problems are seen. A closer look at the situation will be made in the spring. H. Graves asked if programs could be held outside the school setting. J. Wysor stated that in some situations that had been done in the past.

R. Mason reported that Kurt Beyer opened for use at the end of July. The school system was more than cooperative in allowing the use of the High School pool for all water activities. As a result only two weeks of open swim was lost because of the June flooding. Kurt Beyer staff went beyond the normal call of duty when they shoveled mud from the pool house and did a thorough cleaning.

Only one summer trip was taken to The Great Escape. The trip scheduled for the New York State Museum in Albany was cancelled because of a lack of enrollment. H. Graves suggested consideration for a trip to the State Fair. The Fair has a variety of attractions and exhibits of interest to the youth. There was further discussion by Board members about a State Fair with other members stating concerns with supervision. No action was taken.

Skating Facility: The rink was open for the summer but was not staffed. Use of the skate park appeared to be good. A skateboard competition has been scheduled for September 16th. R. Mason has been working with a group of skaters interested in putting the event on. The competition will be hosted by the Youth Bureau, but actually run by the skaters. Prizes, food and music will be supplied by the Youth Bureau with assistance from Professional Teleconcepts.

New Business: R. Mason reported the handicapped pool lift has been taken to the YMCA for their use during the winter. This is a unit which cost \$3,500 and the use will be good for it as opposed to being stored in freezing conditions at Kurt Beyer.

The school system has offered use of the High School pool to the Youth Bureau for fall and winter activities. J. Wysor is arranging for programming which is likely to be held on weekday evenings. There will be no charge for use of the pool except if used on the weekend. The Board discussed possible activities to be held including recreational swim, lap swim and swim instruction. Lifeguards will be needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday October 10th, 2006 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting October 10th, 2006

Members Present:

R. A. Mason,
L. Groeschel H. Graves

Also Present:

R. Mason
J. Wysor, B. Winans

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

Guests: Chris Marchant, Doug Marchant, Chad Youngblood, Andrew Csukardi, Van Hopson were present representing BMX style bicyclists concerning the skate park. The bikers were requesting consideration in adding a roof over the park and additional ramps and jumps. R. Mason explained that a roof for the facility had been researched but the cost would probably be prohibitive. Additional equipment may be a possibility however no City funds would be available. The existing equipment cost about \$52,000 which came from non-city sources. Before efforts towards new equipment could be made the city insurance carrier would have to approve bike use at the park. The existing equipment can not be moved because of the weight involved and being that the park is “certified” by HUNA WOODWARD, the manufacturer as to approved set up. After discussion the bikers agreed to meet further with R. Mason to research types of equipment desired and what steps would be necessary to proceed.

September Minutes: The September 2006 minutes were accepted as written.

Winter 2006 Recreation Programs: J. Wysor stated that the winter programs would be similar to prior years including junior wrestling, gymnastics, girl’s football, boy’s baseball and bowling. Wrestling would probably start in December with all others starting after January 1st. New program instructors will probably be needed to fill vacancies in bowling and wrestling.

Program signups will be held the first week of December. Help from Board members will be needed.

Skating Facility: The facility has been prepared for winter use. All equipment and ice skates are ready for the ice season. Two facility attendants will be needed. Typically hours of operation are 4:00pm – 9:00pm weekdays and Noon to 9:00pm weekends and school holidays. Saturdays the rink may open for ice hockey only between 9:00am and Noon.

The skate park will remain open for use until weather conditions deteriorate making park use unsafe.

High School Pool Use: The High School Pool will be open for public use starting Wednesday 10/11/06. The pool will be operated by the Youth Bureau and open Wednesdays and Thursdays 7:00pm – 9:00pm without charge to the public. This is the first time the Youth Bureau has operated the pool during the fall and winter months. Cooperation between the City and the School District has been excellent in this matter. H. Graves stated he would contact the Evening Sun to have the pool opening noted in the Community Events section of the newspaper.

Pagoda Decorating: R. Mason reported the Christmas Committee had again requested Youth Bureau involvement in decorating the East Park Pagoda for the Christmas season. The Christmas Parade will be held November 25th and the tree lighting ceremony will be held November 30th. The Board decided to meet to decorate the pagoda on Saturday November 25th at 9:00am.

Board Member B. Towndrow: R. Mason stated he had met with Brian Towndrow’s mother. Brian is now stationed in Kuwait and will soon be in Baghdad. Brian is assigned to a “clean up” squad and disposes of unexploded ordinance and mines. R. Mason has an email address for Brian and once an APO address is obtained a package will be sent in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday November 14th, 2006 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting November 14th, 2006

Members Present:

J. Drelich
H. Graves

Also Present:

R. Mason
J. Wysor

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by H. Graves

October Minutes: Due to lack of a quorum, the October minutes will need to be accepted and approved at the December meeting.

Winter 2007 Recreation Programs: J. Wysor stated that the program planning is continuing. Wrestling will start in mid-December with Tim Scheer being the program instructor. Other wrestling assistants will be contacted. The Soccer Center has offered to host the girl's softball practices at one half the cost of what the YMCA would charge. A volunteer has offered to run the softball program and the assistants from last year will most likely return. This will be held Tuesday evenings for two hours instead of Tuesdays and Fridays for an hour each. Baseball and soccer will again be held at the soccer center.

J. Wysor will be contacting the prior gymnastics staff for their return. Plaza Lanes has offered a reduction of nearly \$1.50 per participant for after school bowling. This will be held Tuesdays and Wednesdays. A program instructor is needed.

Program registration night will be Wednesday December 6th, 6:00 PM at the Youth Bureau Office in City Hall.

The evening swim at the High School is being attended. The numbers of participants is not overwhelming, but it is going well. All staffing requirements requested by the school district have been met. A new facility use request will be needed if we continue the evening swim after January 1st.

Skating Facility: The rink building is ready for ice skating, most of the ice skates need sharpening. There was discussion about weekend ice maintenance this year. R. Mason related to the Board the actual costs to the City if public works employees are used weekends. The ice may have to be maintained once again by volunteers.

There has been no response from the City's insurance carrier regarding adding ramps to the skate park and "officially" allowing use by BMX bicyclists, despite repeated contacts by the Youth Bureau office.

2006 Youth Bureau Budget: The 2007 Youth Bureau budget has been prepared by R. Mason and will reflect a decrease of nearly \$2000 from 2006. The City has yet to adopt the 2007 budget. State assistance has likewise been cut by approximately \$187.00.

Pagoda Decorating: Board members are needed to help decorate the pagoda in East Park on Saturday 11/25/06 10:00 AM. H. Graves may decorate the pagoda railings on Thursday morning 11/23/06.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 PM. The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday December 12th, 2006 7:00 PM at the City Hall meeting room.

City of Norwich

Youth Board Meeting

December 13, 2006

Members Present:

H. Graves
J. Drelich

Also Present:

R. Mason
J. Wysor
T. Bresina

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by H. Graves

November minutes were accepted as written

Winter Programs: J. Wysor reported that 249 youth have registered for the six programs offered. Numbers break out as follows:

Wrestling 61	Softball 8	Baseball 15	Bowling 8
Gymnastics 95	Standby Gymnastics 13		Soccer 46

As compared to prior years registrations are on track and more will be received once programs commence. Registrations have been growing over the years, which is a good thing.

2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
249	324	252	233	280	248	225	172	200	185

Soccer and wrestling have already started; the remaining programs will start after January 1st.

Evening swimming will be discontinued at the High School pool after December. Budget restrictions will not permit it and the number swimmers using the pool cannot justify the expense.

H. Graves commented that registration night was set up well and ran smoothly.

Skating Facility: R. Mason stated the rink is ready to go for ice skating, pending the arrival of the ice. All ice skates have been sharpened and the building is prepared. At present there are no rink attendants. These positions need to be filled. Persons age 18 or older are needed.

Meeting Change: R. Mason stated that it is becoming increasingly difficult to attend the Youth Board meeting as well as City Council work sessions, as they are held at the same time. It also prohibits Council members from attending Youth Board meetings if they should desire. After discussion the board members present motioned to change monthly meetings to the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm. Because this would involve a change to the bylaws, the motion was tabled until the January meeting for vote. If passed the meeting change would take effect in February.

2007 Budget Changes: Because of changes in the adopted 2007 City general fund budget, R. Mason outlined some of the changes in the Youth Bureau for the coming year. Most programs will continue to operate and adjustments will be made as needed.

1 lifeguard eliminated, 2 water safety instructors eliminated, bowling funding eliminated, summer bus trips eliminated.

Plaza Lanes has offered to work with the Youth Bureau to keep the bowling program in operation.

The Board discussed additional income such as the dasher boards and coca-cola revenues.

Park Pagoda: The pagoda was decorated on 11/25 and will be “un”decorated on Sat. 1/6 @ 10am. All volunteers are welcome.

Bicycles at the Skateboard Park: R. Mason has heard back from the City’s insurance carrier that officially allowing bicycles in the park and adding more ramps and jumps would not be in the best interest of the City. This does not mean that it is impossible however. Additional costs for insurance would be an additional burden not appropriate at this time.

H. Graves asked about dirt style tracks or jumps for the bikers. R. Mason stated that this would not be possible and would be a greater risk/hazard than the established park.

Board Membership: H. Graves stated that additional board members are needed, especially those actually representing the youth. All board members can assist in recruiting.

New program consideration: T. Bresina mentioned that there was a Civilian Marksmanship program available in other communities. This may include actual rifle shooting, or more often air rifle shooting. It is at times cosponsored by Legions and insurance costs are generally minimal or picked up by local Legion Posts. The Board discussed this possibility as well as archery competition. These options will be researched prior to the next board meeting. H. Graves will contact Mike Mayhood at Mayhood’s Sport Shop.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm

The next regular meeting of the City of Norwich Youth Board will be Tuesday, January 9th, 2007, 7:00pm at City Hall