

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting September 7, 2022

Board Members

Present: M. Telesky
P. Marks
B. Burton
J. Hagenbuch
H. Graves
S. Whaley
K. Thompson
M. Loughren
A. Telesky

Absent:
J. Drelich
K. Hazen
J. Eddy
S. Stewart

Also: A. Testani

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by vice-chairperson B. Burton.

Old Business

Motion to approve June Meeting minutes was made by M. Telesky, seconded by S. Whaley. Motion was approved by all.

Updated by-laws were sent to board members in May for review. Motion to accept the new by-laws was made by M. Telesky, seconded by P. Marks. No discussion regarding the changes. The new by-laws were approved by all.

New Business: Matt Gladstone presented to the board the idea for a pump track at Kurt Beyer. A pump track is a series of berms and rollers that when ridden correctly require no pedaling but a pumping motion to circle the track. Matt stated Kurt Beyer was selected for its proximity to the trails on West Hill, the low cost in preparing the site, and that kids ride bikes to Kurt Beyer in the summer, which may generate more interest in the sport. The cost of the track would be \$10,000 to \$30,000. Matt will be seeking private founding. Currently all Matt is asking for was our support of the track. After some discussion on the location, a motion was made by K. Thompson to support going forward with the pump track, the motion was seconded by M. Telesky. All voted in favor of supporting the pump track.

August budget numbers were presented to the board. We are currently running under plan. This is due to the delay in opening Kurt Beyer pool, along with other summer programs running under plan.

The 2023 budget was presented to the board. We are looking at a 9.1% increase from 2022's budget. This is due to an increase in the hourly rates for lifeguards and summer help. The lifeguard's minimum rate is budgeted for \$15.00 an hour, up from \$13.20. Also, minimum wage for the other programs is increased to \$13.90, a 5.3% increase.

Alvogen is having its annual Community Give Back Day on September 16th. A group of their volunteers will be painting the inside of the ice rink building.

H. Graves presented a postmortem on the first Car Clinic offered in June. It was felt that that we should continue the event, adding a syllabus to teach from. This would be covering topics that kids might not know to ask about.

Stephanie Stewart resigned as the recreation coordinator at the end of August. A. Testani presented to the board he would like to fill the position with a college student, making the position seasonal internship. The position would

start June 1st running through the end of August. A. Testani felt the work necessary in the winter months he could manage on his own, with the help of the winter program instructors.

Director's Activities: A. Testani gave a report on the summer's rec programs, trips, and Kurt Beyer Pool. Registrations were the highest since 2015 for both the rec programs and trips, with 619 registrations. All rec programs were moved to the afternoon to run concurrently with the NCSD's stay and play program. The hope was this would allow more kids to participate in the rec programs. Unfortunately, only four kids from the stay and play took the bus to the rec programs. It was suggested that a survey be conducted this winter to see if moving back to the morning would increase participation or leaving in the afternoon would be the best option.

While registration for the summer trips was at the highest level since 2015, the number of no shows for the trips was very disappointing. It was discussed restricting future trips for those that signup for a trip then do not show-up without any advance notice. We also discussed increasing the minimum age of kids to 5 years old to ride the bus. This was due to the need for anyone under the age of five to be in a car seat.

While Kurt Beyer pool was only open 40 days this summer, attendance was up from last year. We had 5,341 swimmers use the pool this year, up from 5,090 last year. The new handicap chair lift was delivered in August but will not be installed until next spring.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:55.

The next Youth Board meeting will be Wednesday October 12 at 6:30 pm in the City Hall meeting room.