

City of Norwich Youth Board Meeting September 6, 2023

Board Members

Present:	M. Loughren	Absent:	P. Marks
	B. Burton		J. Drelich
	K. Hazen		S. Stewart
	M. Telesky		H. Graves
	J. Hagenbuch		K. Thompson
	Student Rep: A. Telesky		S. Whaley
			J. Eddy
			Student Rep: J. Parker

Also: **A. Testani**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Vice-Chairperson Burton.

Old Business

Motion to approve June's meeting minutes was made by M. Telesky, seconded by J. Hagenbuch, and approved by all.

Ice Rink – the bid to re-pave the ice rink was awarded to Kelly Asphalt. Kelly's quote came in just over \$40K. The grant for improvements to the ice rink was awarded at \$50K. We need to re-bid the painting of the pickleball courts. All work was requested to be done by October 15th.

Alvogen's community day is scheduled for September 15th. They will be painting the boards at the ice rink.

New Business

The budget was reviewed with actuals through the end of August. Actual hours do not reflect the ice rink not opening winter. Three extra positions were added to the summer programs, along with keeping Kurt Beyer Pool open an extra week plus additional time needed at the wrestling program used those hours. All other areas of the budget are tracking as expected.

YBD A. Testani presented the proposed 2024 Youth Bureau budget to the City Council on August 29th. The proposed budget shows an overall increase of 5.8% compared to 2023's budget. Minimum wage, along with increasing the hours at Kurt Beyer Pool and the wrestling program are the driving factors for the increase. The YBD's time is also increasing by 156 hours for added responsibilities for the Parks and Recreation position.

YBD A. Testani gave an overview of the summer programs along with the Kurt Beyer pools. Overall registration for the programs was very successful. We had 410 kids registered in our programs, the most since data is available going back to 2011. Unfortunately, attendance did not reflect the number of registered kids. Overall attendance was approximately 1/3 of the registered kids. The board discussed possible ways to increase that in the future. Like stating if you register a child for a program and they fail to attend, they will be prevented from registering for future programs on the registration form.

We had 312 kids and adults register for our trips. The warning added this year regarding not showing up for a registered trip seemed to work this year. As parents called to say they were unable to make the trip, I was able to fill their spots with families on a waiting list. Attendance on the trips was 77% of the registered participants.

When adding the summer program and trips number to our winter program numbers, the Youth Bureau had 1,020 parents and kids in our programs. Again, the most since records were available going back to 2011, nearly doubling the number of registrations in 2021.

Kurt Beyer Pool was open from June 26th through August 26th, one more week than planned and 3 more weeks than last year. Although opened 3 weeks longer, attendance was down from 2022. This year we had 5,020 visitors at the

pool. Weather and mechanical issues forced us to close completely for 4 days and early another 18 days and most likely caused the lower attendance.

YBD A. Testani presented a survey sent to parents that registered kids in our summer programs. The survey was sent to 179 parents that registered kids in our summer programs, 46 responses received. The main reason for the survey was to determine if the start time, location, and length of programs contributed to the reason attendance was low. Based on the responses received, the start time was just right, (30 – just right, 3 – too early, 9 – too late), the location was perfect (40 – perfect location, 1 – Find a better place, 3 – just okay), and length of the program was just right (38 – just right, 1 – too long, 3 – too short). Based on these responses no changes to the start time, length of the programs or location will be made.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50

The next Youth Board meeting will be Wednesday, October 4th at 6:00 PM at City Court.