

**City of Norwich
Youth Board Meeting
March 4, 2026**

Board Members:

Present: K. Hazen, K. Thompson, S. Houston, L. Powell-Owens, M. Loughren, B. Burton, Student Rep: J. Parker

Absent: H. Graves, J. Eddy, J. Brown, P. Marks, S. Vesely, J. Colley

Also Present: A. Testani, D. Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

B. Burton made a motion to accept the minutes for February, seconded by J. Parker. Approved by all.

Old Business:

Anthony Testani presented the final numbers for the Winter Programs. We received 269 registrations this year, up eighteen registrations from last year, with 216 individuals registered.

With warmer temperatures, we have closed the ice rink for the season. Opening January 19th, it was open for 29 days this year.

YBD Testani shared with the Board a conceptual drawing of the improvements at Bruchhausen Park. Most of the improvements to the park will be on the Division St side. New playground equipment, and an improved multi-sports court, new benches, tables, and updated walkway are part of the plan.

Registration for the girls wrestling program opened this week. The program is open to girls ages 9 to 18. The program starts March 17th in the High School wrestling room. Practice will be 3 days a week. To date we have thirteen registered girls.

YBD Testani met with Mary Beth Miller, from the Chenango Arts Council, and Esperanza Roncero, a local artist about our Summer Arts program. Esperanza will teach a ceramics class using clay at the Arts Council facility. A. Testani is also going to meet with Ashe Martin to plan her class. Ashe taught the mosaic art class last year and has something different planned for this year.

New Business:

The city will be applying for a grant for improvements to the playground equipment at Weiler Park. The state announced the application dates for the NYS Plays grant. The grant is for expanding, renovating or the construction of playground equipment. The City Council will vote to hire Labella Associates to prepare the grant application on behalf of the city, along with voting on a resolution to submit the application at the next Council meeting.

Anthony Testani has reached out to both Nate Gross and Serenity Hobbies about being part of the Summer Programs again this year. Both said they would like to offer programs again this summer. A. Testani will submit a grant application to the RC Smith Foundation requesting funding once all the programs have been confirmed.

The Board also discussed the potential need for new space for the Pee Wee Wrestling program. It may be difficult to schedule time at the High School wrestling room, if a girls varsity program is added. It was suggested that we start looking for a used mat to purchase along with options to hold our practices. The Town of

North Norwich's gym along with Perry Browne's and Gibson's gym were suggested as potential sites to hold wrestling if we can find a mat.

Our next meeting will be April 1st at 6:00 PM.

Budget:

YBD A. Testani provided an update on the budget. The winter programs through February are 430 below plan, with all programs finished except wrestling. Most of the hours are due to the ice rink being open for only 29 days.

B. Burton made a motion to adjourn at 6:30, seconded by M. Loughren. Approved by all.