

Norwich Recreation Advisory Board

April 19, 2023, 6pm

Rose City Senior Center

8 Mahan Drive

Minutes

Attendance: Jeff Brown, Peter Camp, Grant Neuendorf Erin Haggan, Kara Kochanski

Call to order Jeff Brown 6:00pm- Second Kara Kochanski

Approval of Minutes Jeff Brown -Second Peter Camp

Program/Facilities Update

- All playgrounds have had new engineered wood chips added for safety.
- The concern about the large space at the top of the bleachers at Dickenman has been addressed.
- Over 1500 feet of rotten guardrails have been replaced at Ouellette Park.
- More supports were added at the Stanton tennis courts to prevent balls from rolling under the fence.
- 8 trees in decline were removed from the Lake Street park, as well as 3 trees from Elizabeth Street playground.
- The fence capping has been completed at Dickenman, and a windscreen/sun blocker has arrived and will be put up in the outfield tomorrow.
- We are waiting to hear back from the contractor for the Armstrong Courts to determine when they will resume the last stages of that project.
- The bid for the adjacent parking lot construction will go out this week.
- The Lake Street Basketball Courts have been bid and are being awarded. Work should begin in about a month.
- The Park Master Plan project was awarded to FHI Studio, and we had our first meeting with them, and Department Heads.
- May 30th-Chris Herren @ Kelly Middle School 7pm-Register Online-FREE

Survey Data/Results

- For what Team/League/Sport are you completing this Form? 7 responses
 - IDCS
 - Norwich Youth Lacrosse
 - Norwich Free Academy

- Norwich Little League
 - Norwich Technical High School
 - Basketball
 - Norwich PAL
- How old are the players/participants on your Team? (range is fine) 7 responses
 - 8-14
 - 5-14
 - 14-18
 - 4-16
 - 14-18
 - 11-17
 - 4-14
- During what months do you need space to practice? 7 responses
 - September- October, March-June
 - Sept1-Oct30 (for fall practices) March15-June30 (regular season)
 - Sept. through Nov. and Mar. through June
 - April-June
 - Depends on the season. Only Fontaine Field track is used.
 - April, May, June, July
 - Norwich PAL runs sports programs all year
- What type of space do you need to compete? 7 responses
 - Soccer field & Track Full Field (Full soccer field) Ouellette Main Field, McKeon Park Main Field, Ouellette Mini
 - Fields for younger kids
 - Same as practice: Fields space: Soccer, lacrosse, baseball, softball. Courts: Tennis
 - Baseball field
 - NA
 - Gym with basketball court
 - soccer fields (regulation and smaller spaces for younger players); baseball fields for all ages (T Ball size through regulation size); basketball courts (full size)
- What other program details are important to note? 7 responses
 - Our school does not have any space to play or practice for sports!!!
 - We require field painting. We require storage of our goals (we keep them locked up against the fence at Ouellette). We are currently looking into purchasing a conex box to store all of our equipment (goals, helmets, etc.) We would like to have a conversation about installing a storage container

at Ouellette park to figure out placement, and providing a crushed rock foundation for the storage container to sit on.

- We would utilize a pool if there was one, we currently travel out of town with our Fall and Winter Swim Teams
 - none
 - Only the Outdoor Track team in the spring uses Norwich Rec facilities.
 - We are currently in our spring AAU team season. Which will start in April and run for about 20wks. This includes tryouts, practices, and games.
 - Our program costs are minimal and we offer scholarships to allow families of all income levels to participate
- What would you like from Human Services, Youth, Family, Recreation Division in order to make this the best season yet? Think space, advertising, any support...7 responses
 - To know that we can have the space needed for our students to be able to participate in sports!!
 - Advertising. We've been working with Bob Kilpatrick and providing free lacrosse clinics a couple times a year, but more advertising would be great. Also somehow being able to get into the school system and teach/coach lacrosse to promote lacrosse in our schools. I am a certified level2 coach with US Lacrosse and have a background check. Been coaching for 6 years. If you know of have a contact that you can help me get in touch with to achieve this goal - I would greatly appreciate it.
 - Seriously consider upgrading grass surfaces and plan for Turf wherever possible.
 - Despite improvements witnessed on some fields in the past few years, the lack of grass on some of the fields is a matter of safety.
 - Make field booking process easy and streamline communication
 - NA
 - We would like support in terms of space, advertising, volunteers, cost and supplies advertising, volunteers, field maintenance

VI. Public Comment-none

VII. Adjournment 6:50pm Jeff Brown- Second Peter Camp