

February 15, 2011  
Palmer Township Recreation Board

The regular meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance: Chairman Jeff Young, Vice Chairman Bill Webb, Secretary Cheryl Nielsen and arriving later during the meeting Treasurer Bob Johnson.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER (No January meeting)** On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Webb and agreed by all, the minutes of the December meeting were approved as written. Young noted that in the December minutes the Board approved that the adult soccer league would not be allowed to use the field anymore and it had been previously approved for April through July of 2011. This is due to over usage of the field as well as beer cans being found at the park. They will be notified of the Board's decision on this.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Nielsen reported on her year-end report and stated that they did not go over budget. Some figures do not match but there is a slight difference. On motion by Webb, seconded by Nielsen, and agreed by all the year-end report was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE** –

**Easton Extreme** – Bill Hunara and Ryan Amato were present looking for a field for their team. They are a part of the men's senior baseball league and play games on Sundays except holidays or rain outs. Their season runs from April 10 thru the second week in August. They would need practice time. Webb stated they already have 4 teams on Fairview until the high school field is ready at the end of June. Legion plays whenever they have to. They are scheduled for 4 days a week which includes weekends. They start on July 9. Everyone needs Fairview to practice, there isn't any other place to go. A suggestion would be for Easton Extreme to play away until the field becomes available. They play 16 games with 8 home games. Young stated that this is a good reason for this legion field to stay as well as getting another one. Webb noted he would like them to be able to play but must stress that the fields are for the Palmer leagues and they will have to work around that schedule. There is no guarantee that a Sunday may not have to be used for a game. Smith to find out who the head person will be to schedule this field and that will be the contact person for the Easton Extreme league. On motion by Webb, seconded by Nielsen and agreed by all, the Board voted to approve the use of Fairview legion field for April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8 and 15 conditioned that none of the Palmer teams need to use the field and that insurance is submitted. Practices are hit or miss.

**Palmer Veteran's Softball Association** – (50 and over) - John Dinunzi was present with their application for use of Tracy School field. Their season runs from April 1 thru August 31, Monday through Fridays. Young asked everyone to give him the number of people of that participating in their leagues for 2011. The Recreation Board needs this info for a recreation plan they will be reviewing. Dinunzi asked if the fees would

stay the same - \$50 per team. Members told him yes. He also asked them to have someone check on some railroad ties that are along the first base side. This will be reported to Scott Kistler. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Webb and agreed by all the Board voted to approve the use of the Tracy Field for the Palmer Veteran's Softball Association and keep the fee the same as last year.

Palmer Veteran's Softball - (35 and over) - John Kerbaugh and Jim Nolasco were present with their application for field use for Keystone and Tracy fields for their season which runs from April 1 thru August 31, Monday through Fridays. They were told about a soccer tournament that is in that area the end of August. Kerbaugh stated they don't play on weekends and they are aware of this. They don't have a problem with soccer. \$50 per team fees. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Webb, and agreed by all, the Board approved the use of the fields for the Palmer Veteran's Softball League and keep the fee the same as last year.

Palmer Volleyball League – Donna Meyers was present with her application for volleyball court use. Their season runs from June 1 to August 22; Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Young asked if there was ever anything done with the courts and Donna stated no but they did get new nets last year. This court really needs work. Hopefully this can be put in the budget for next year. Fee last year was \$45 per team. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Webb, and agreed by all, the Board approved the use of the volleyball courts for the league with the fee staying the same as last year.

Lehigh Valley Magic Soccer Club- Greg Macchia – Macchia was present looking for a soccer field for their club. They use the Chrin property off of William Penn Highway and they are going to be losing that sometime this year. Young explained that Mill Race field is not being used due to the damage and the soccer and lacrosse have been moved to another field. He stated there is nothing out there. We are in need of baseball fields and our football field is being reconstructed. The fields at our community center are not available yet. Young apologized but noted there just isn't any. He suggested checking with Lower Nazareth.

Joe Olah and Jim McDonald of the Palmer Township Athletic Association were present to discuss the cut off dates for sports. Olah stated the AA would like input from Board. There are some sports that are played out of the regular season. Can we extend the regular season to include the off season period. Why can't we incorporate this into our sports program? We know we can't get rid of the dates because they the official dates for the season but maybe extend them. It would be great to try this out. Start with baseball. We had fall baseball the past few years and it was done through the community center which circumvented dates that were imposed. Olah felt he would like the coaches to know that the AA is backing them and it's not the community center that, that the township/AA/Recreation Board is behind the coaches. Also there were kids that want to play a sport that they like to play, all year long. Young stated our programs are the base sport only. Feels they all need to be looked at and he feels this is part of the program issue. It would have to be understood that the program issue is to be decided with the Recreation Board. Johnson asked if they were looking for a trial sport. Olah stated fall baseball/softball or spring soccer. There is

also summer basketball. Johnson stated that fees would have to be raised since the money to run these off season sports is not included in the normal budget. Olah stated the AA would back this but they want to run it. Olah thinks it's a great thing for the AA to run and would cover whatever was needed.

Young felt this really needs to be discussed. If the township would endorse fall baseball would that mean that football and baseball would be competing to draw for each sport? This is actually happening now. No one agrees that a child can do 2 sports during the same season. This has to be approved by Recreation Board and Olah would like the AA to approve this also. The township facilities and program are set by Township/Recreation Board and the AA is the operator of the sports. Young stated he would like to discuss this further. Johnson made a motion for Palmer Recreation Board to support fall baseball through the Community Center but the AA will handle additional fees. Webb stated he would like to discuss this and come back next month. There are pros and cons that need to be discuss. He feels it is a good idea but would like to discuss this. Nielsen felt the same, she would like to discuss further. Young stated the motion died for lack of a second. Olah felt the same, take the time to discuss this. There is time. Spring soccer is run under the league so this will be tried out for spring soccer. Smith felt there should be an opportunity for everyone and this was a good idea. The Recreation Board will discuss this and will report back in March or April.

Baseball – Johnson reported that sign ups underway. There will be four teams: Sr. Legion, Jr. Legion Connie Mack and Jr. Legion Prep. Johnson asked the feelings of the Board n being allowed to take a few players from another community's teams if a team was short. Commissioner and Johnson were discussing this and they said a waiver could be signed. Young stated last year a team needed someone and they never filled the slot. Young doesn't feel this should be done. There are rules that you have to try out for your community. Johnson told the commissioner that no palmer kids will be cut – everyone has the opportunity to play a sport in Palmer. Young feels we are going down the wrong road with this. Bob Smith stated that there are kids that want to play and if there isn't enough to make a team there has to be a place to pull them from. They are not from

Palmer; parents don't pay taxes to Palmer; this could be a problem. Johnson stated they just want to make sure there is a place for all players to play. Wait to see what the final numbers are.

Johnson stated they had paid fees for Sr. Legion. If we drop out we will never be allowed to join the league again. We paid for 3 years. We also got back into Connie Mack.

Field hockey – Is there any interest in this from the township's perspective. There is a lot of interest from the public. It would be a fall sport and the fields are small; the equipment cost is low. Everyone was interested. Board felt this was something that should be pursued. Set ages – 2-3-4 grades.

Adult Recreation – Johnson stated Eric from the Palmer Softball Association Eric is things ready and will be in next month. The league would like to do some renovations to building.

Baseball – There is going to be a coaches meeting Sunday.

Basketball – Season is winding down. Doing good.

Egg Hunt – The candy has been ordered and there was extra ordered. If there is any leftover it will be sold at pool. Date is April 22 at 10:00 a.m. at Palmer School; rain place – the Community Center – same time and date.

Maintenance – Smith reviewed the Recreation Development Fund information that Tom Adams made up. He also went over a proposed plan for the football field and field house. Showed the various fields for football, field hockey, soccer, lacrosse. He stated that Fairview Park lights have been delivered.

Softball – Young informed everyone that they will be holding a coaches clinic. Easton coaches will be there.

Wrestling – Webb reported that the program ended last week. A new wrestling mat has been ordered. The price was better ordering this new mat than getting one refurbished. Also there needs to be a system to hang mats at community center. That is what they were going to get but the money that was put in the budget for the mat rack is being used for a new mat.

Playground – The Board of Supervisors wants a recommendation from the Recreation Board of the status of this summer recreation program. Nielsen felt that the program is not covered by the community and feels it should still go on. Palmer camp is a huge success but these are two different types of programs. Johnson asked what about mornings only? We may have problems getting counselors. College kids need full time jobs and they won't work for 3 hours a day. Nielsen stated this was a good idea for mornings but getting workers is a problem. Nielsen stated she hates to see the program die – it's a neighborhood program where the kids can walk/bike to park. They can't do that to the community center. There were other discussion and Young asked for a motion. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Webb, and agreed by 3, Johnson voting no, the Recreation Board recommended to the Board of Supervisors that the program stay as it is and we will look into it in the future again.

Community Center – Jill was present and was asked how zumba is doing. She noted it is doing great!! She noted they had met with the AA BOD with their concerns of gym usage, getting their time in, fees, center doing registrations, questioned registrations. This is great for security for the AA and the community center workers as well as accountability for the money that is taken in. She felt their concern was that they wanted their money sooner than they are getting it. The problem is that the sign up period gets extended and that delays the payment to the AA.

Young informed the Board members that he would like each of them to reach out to their commissioners for the sports they deal with at the youth level and go over the purchase order procedure and to instruct them that if there are any problems with the recreation areas and/or facilities in Palmer Township that require involvement of township personnel, they are to notify you and you will in turn notify the township to get whatever repairs/fixes. This will alleviate confusion with township personnel.

Any changes to this policy we have been following would have to be approved by the Recreation Board and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for approval if necessary.

On motion by Webb, seconded by Nielsen and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corr. Sec.