

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION MEETING
February 21, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held at on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance: Chairman Jeff Young, Vice Chairman Bill Webb, Treasurer Bob Johnson, Secretary Cheryl Nielsen, members Rick Bulette and Dan McKinney. Marc Knox was not present. Also present was Supervisor Liaison Bob Smith. Young called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY - On motion by Webb, seconded by Nielsen, and agreed by all, the minutes of the January meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Johnson reported that there were no changes to the report that was sent from the township. On motion by McKinney, seconded by Webb, and agreed by all, the treasurer's report was approved as received.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE –

Bethel Memorial Baptist Church – Easter Sunrise Service – Sunday, April 8th – Fairview Park – Young read a letter in regards to the Easter sunrise Service. This is an event that they hold at Fairview Park every year. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Webb, and agreed by all, the Board approved the church's request for the use of Fairview Park for Easter Sunrise Service.

Firecracker Run – Wednesday, July 4th – starts at 8 a.m. at Fairview Park – 4 mile run – Young read a request from the Family Y requesting the use of Fairview Park, the bike path and the pavilion for their annual Firecracker Run on July 4th – Their insurance has been submitted and they will contact the Police Department as well as Suburban EMS. They had 290 runners last year. The pavilion was reserved. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Webb, and agreed by the Board approved the request from the Family Y for their annual run.

Palmer Veteran's League – Jim Nolasco and John Kerbaugh were present for permission to use the Keystone and Tracy fields again this year from Mondays through Fridays, April 1 to August 31 – 5:30 to dusk. Their insurance was already submitted to the township. Young asked if the railroad ties were removed and no one knew yet. Nolasco stated he met with Scott and Bobby at the end of the season to discuss work that should be done prior to their season. Nolasco received a call from Diane stating there is no money in the budget this year for field repairs and if they wanted infield mix they would have to purchase it themselves. He noted they have a water problem as well as the grass infield problem. The issue would be taking the grass out would create more dust and that would be a problem with the neighbors. He assured the Board that the man that drags the fields wets them down and really how much more dust could there be since there isn't much grass now. He asked if it was okay if they did the work themselves. Bob Smith and Young stated he should talk to Tom Adams about this. Board felt it was a good idea as well as a safety issue. Fee would stay at the \$75 per team and they have 9 teams in

their league. The Fridays would be open and they do not have tournaments anymore. They asked for Fridays just in case they need a makeup day. On motion by Webb, seconded by Nielsen and agreed by five, Johnson abstained as he had just arrived, the Board approved the use of the fields for the Palmer Veteran's League as discussed.

Bethel Memorial Baptist Church – Asst. Pastor Daniel Cook – Softball Field Request – Reverend Cook was in attendance asking for a field, one day a week, Monday thru Thursday from 6:30 to 8:00. Their games start the end of April and run through the July 4th week. Young noted they tried to get a field for them last year but it didn't work out. He will try to work out a time at LaBarre Park for them. Young will have his schedule by mid March and get in touch with him. Young asked who lined the fields and what bases did he use. Young can supply the bases for them. This is their church parishioners from ages 15 to whoever wants to play. They play other church groups and it wouldn't be every week because they go to the different fields. The fee was discussed and it was decided that they should pay a \$75 fee for the use of the fields. Cook thanked everyone and will wait to hear from Young.

Baseball – Johnson reported that sign ups are going on now but it is very slow. Registration has been extended and Junior Legion put on hold. They are allowed to freeze their position for one year without a penalty. Coaching staff is being worked on. Dave Messinger is getting organized for the season. He commended Mallory for the great job she is doing as far as the communications for the sign ups. Everyone is questioning the status of the flyers in the school. Nielsen is still working on this; she hasn't heard anything yet.

Egg Hunt – Egg Hunt is being held on Friday, April 6th, 10:00 a.m. at Palmer School. Rain place is the community center. Set up starts at 8:30 and help is needed. Nielsen sent a letter to Just Born and received an answer that they will be donating candy for our egg hunt. She ordered enough candy for 600 plus the extra we get from Just Born. The age group that usually used the football field will be moved due to the construction.

Maintenance – Smith reported that he, Tom Adams and Chris Christman met with Turf USA at the Palmer Complex to see what their suggestions/proposal would be for the football field. There will be test digs on football field. He noted there isn't as much top soil as they thought. He noted that 4 to 6 weeks after the sod is set it can be played on. The new storage shed will be installed next week and will be placed next to the end of the one building.

Softball – Young reported that sign ups are also going on and very slow. Hopefully the school district will allow the flyers to be passed out through the schools. He noted they would be using just Fairview this year. Labarre field is used for league and practice.

Wrestling – Webb reported that the season is over and they won their division this year. Equipment is in the process of being returned.

LaCrosse – Webb reported that sign ups are going on and they will start on March 1st.

Field Hockey – Bulette reported that things are moving along. He has spoken to Todd and everything is going well.

Community Center – McKinney reported that the circus is coming to town on March 25th and it will be indoors this year. The Cats show is April 25th and another one in December and a Great Dane show in June. He noted these are good money makers for the township.

Pool – McKinney noted the extended getting out the registration until March 1st to see if they can get the new system up and running. If not they will do it with the old one for this year.

Miracle League – McKinney reported it is official that the Cal Ripkin Foundation is involved with the Miracle League now. They donated \$50,000 and have been taking over some of the fundraising and other duties. Everyone wants to know when the construction is going to start. He stated they hope to have an answer on Thursday. This field will be totally fenced in and reported that the Foundation is going to construct 50 fields across the country and we are the first one.

New Business –

Young brought up the Palmer Parks and Recreation Plan. This is something that needs to be updated next year. He feels this plan should incorporate the workings of the Community Center as far as recreation is concerned and should also include all policies/procedures/age groups for each sport and the sport seasons. Everyone agrees that this is the best place to have everything. Have one document/plan that includes everything the township needs to have on recreation.

The Board then discussed a request that is coming next month from the soccer commissioner to start soccer at ages 4 and 5. They do have 6 year olds now. McKinney informed the Board that he was contacted by Joe Olah and they feel that that this should be added to the program that Palmer runs and not a program through the Community Center.

McKinney stated there has always been a 4-5 age group soccer league held at the Community Center and they have expanded this program to include 6 and 7 year olds. But everyone has to realize that many of the kids are not from Palmer. This is a good program for the kids as well as the Community Center. The fee is \$90 per child which is a good money maker also. They probably have 120 signups for next year. There has been some confusion for Palmer people because they see that there is a soccer program year round and think it is through the AA. McKinney did state they do hold their program during the palmer soccer season and stated this may have to be changed. Of course then what happens to the players that are not Palmer residents? Johnson has a problem with “competition” during in-season sports. He felt the program did not have to be dropped, just done have it during the same season with the same ages. McKinney has

absolutely no plans for “competition” with the Palmer sports. This is something that will have to be discussed with Chuck Romfo during the March meeting. A representative of the AA should be attending these meeting to answer questions. Someone should definitely be here next month to review this issue. It has to be determined what is an “organized” sport for Palmer as well as the age groups and the sports season. This is something that the 2-2-2 committee needs to work on. This committee needs to get together. The Recreation Board representatives to the AA will present the guidelines to the AA on Thursday night and let them know that this committee will be meeting at 6:30 on the day of the Recreation Board meetings. Once the sport season is ended the program should be under the Community Center’s jurisdiction. This is not just a soccer situation. It could run with each sport. Smith had many comments and questions as well.

Dave Dumpel was present, not realizing Romfo will be at the March meeting so he did get into some discussion and noted that the U6 program is definitely needed somewhere.

The Recreation Board needs to get the Parks and Recreation Plan complete and get it approved by the Board of Supervisors. The AA can give some input on this but it is a Recreation Board project.

Young noted there were many issues/comments to think about for the next meeting.

On motion by Johnson, seconded by Bulette, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corr. Sec.