

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

March 15th, 2016 7:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, March 15th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance: Vice Chair Cheryl Nielsen, Members Thomas Lee, Jeff Vincent, & Liam Brohan. Also in attendance were Township Supervisor Bob Smith and Director of Parks and Recreation Dan McKinney.

Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Approval of minutes – Nielsen makes a motion to approve February 2016 minutes, Brohan and Vincent second to approve motion. Motion carried.

Public comment- n/a

Directors Report:

- Park Rules – McKinney – Rules went to the BOS a few weeks ago and there were some concerns, and I made changes based on that discussion. Brought them back to last night's meeting with the changes, and they had a couple more corrections. Some of the changes, a major one being more clarity around Penn Pump Park and with who, what, when and how many people are permitted to be there. Gatherings over 10 people need a permit. Trying to enforce some control at the park. Vincent – this is good for the police, if they go down there and see that they have no permit they can break it up. Nielsen – can I have 8 people and bring beer? Brohan – No, you cannot because the permit is what gives permission for the consumption of alcohol. Smith – You must have the permit to do so. Vincent – Change No. 10 to “with a permit”. Nielsen – Can I have alcohol for the 2nd permit? Smith – Yes, because the permit allows so. Only permit holders can partake in the consumption of alcohol. McKinney – I will make the change to the wording and add the “with permit” terminology.
- Nielsen – so you need a permit any day of the week if you have more than 10 people. Like in the middle of February for hot chocolate. McKinney – Yes, if we want to enforce it that way. Smith – This gives the police departments some “teeth” to back up the fact that people need a permit to be at the park. Otherwise they have to leave.
 - Smith – Did you include no littering? McKinney – I will make sure to add that. Smith – People can be fined for leaving cans or garbage at the parks. There is a \$200 fee for littering.
 - Brohan – Can swimming happen at Riverview? Smith – There isn't really a way to get into the river there. Or out.

- Smith – Noise ordinance, still working on how to work out the details and the levels and what to not exceed. The Police Chief is working on this detail. McKinney – We will need to finish this for current renters.
- Smith – How do we feel about a large event with a permit, is there going to be an insurance rider to go with the rental? Vincent – Have we talked to Chuck? Smith – Yes we are liable if something happens, who determines what is responsible drinking. Why should the township absorb when something like this happens. People can add a 1-day event insurance rider through their policy. Vincent – Can the township raise the cost and have a rider to cover the insurance. We should be making renters responsible for their own insurance covered. Smith – No charge to call your homeowners policy for a 1-day event to your insurance. McKinney – There would have to be limits of liability insurance. Nielsen – If we rent a field do you have to pay for a rider? Brohan – Is this about the alcohol? McKinney – All renters of fields do currently have to provide us with insurance.
- Vincent – If we want to be by the letter of the law, do we need to get into a liquor license? Smith – We have to approve liquor licenses and there isn't something like that.
- Lee – I think people see Pennsylvania as a free place to do things so they come here and take advantage. Smith – I think if we start demanding insurance people will be up in arms. Lee – Eventually we'll have to ban the allowance of alcohol at ANY of the parks like NYC and NJ have done.
- Smith – Is there anything else that needed to be changed? McKinney – littering, change what they can bring into the water and what they can't. Smith – People were taking the picnic tables and putting them in the creek, and sitting on them. We solved that issued by chaining all the picnic tables down. Lee – Only approved safety water vehicles allowed in the river. Do you think there will be another event like last summer? Smith – We'll have to see, its going to be interesting to see what happens. Think the attraction was the water and the dam, but now that it's not allowed so it should help in deterring people from wanting to come.
- Vincent – Do we have postings for signage at the parks? McKinney – Yes they have been ordered. Smith – Rentals will be posted, rules will be posted, and we'll have someone going around checking permits at each location. Lee – Will he have any ID, McKinney yes he'll have a uniform and training.
- Brohan – Who do you contact about issues on the bike path? Call Tom Adams, at the municipal building. Smith – Bike path is not a dog path, no pets allowed at Palmer Parks. Going to place pick up after your dog signs.

If everyone is okay we'll try and give this the final try to adopt these rules at the next meeting.

- Pool Development – McKinney – We have some numbers and information. Last time we talked about making a double slide, we can't do 2 full slides in the space we were looking at. The price is over \$200K to do so. We'd have to change the whole layout and build below the pool.
- Lee – Reasoning for the double slide not being doable? McKinney – It's a spatial and engineering issue. The 2 slides can be done if they are small. Nielsen – is there a ladder for kids to get out of the pool from using the slides. Smith – they'd add 2 ladders, one on each side for them to get out.
- Vincent – Couldn't we do the diving board and then a small slide? Brohan – 1 very high single or a lower double, are those the two options? Smith – It's the number of steps, there isn't space for all of that.
- Brohan – What are the age groups for this, Smith it's going to be for older kids to teens.
- Lee – Physically not enough room for 2 big slides plus the extra cost. Smith – correct, we'd have to change the whole layout of the island, and the major issue is the steps to go up the slides. There isn't enough room in the pocket.
- Brohan – Is a guard required at the top of the slide, not “required” but we will have supervision for either slide.
- McKinney – This layout will allow the pool to be open earlier.
- Vincent – How long are swim teams currently there. McKinney – 2 teams from 6:30am – Noon, with a couple groups in that timeframe. Smith – let's look at the slides. McKinney – factor in the option of the climbing wall (3 panels high, 3 panels wide, \$22K) Option was a climbing wall and a diving board on the other side. The other side will have other water features, and the features advance as you move along the pool for different ages. Brohan – Are the options locked down? McKinney – We just need to decide what we are doing where, the one currently in is the single high. You can do the low double, not the large double. Brohan – Is she steering us towards the climbing wall, McKinney – Yes she's saying it's the latest thing to have. Has to be diving board and slide or diving board and climbing wall. Those are the options.
- Lee – Makes a motion to recommend the high slide, the diving board, and the rock wall, pending research. Nielsen and Vincent 2nd the motion to make a recommendation.
- Vincent – What about pool flow, how will this work with all the different features, are there any hazard issues of concern? McKinney – These people we are working with know what they are talking about. The flow will be better than it is currently. What will lines be like for these features? Smith – Think it's a

good idea pending going to see a pool with the climbing wall and see what it's like. Vincent – Why can't we relocate the large slide? McKinney – There's no space to fit it with the pump house and other issues.

- Nielsen – What do we fill the pool with? Smith – The fire hydrants

- Firearm Shows – April 9th & 10th, going to be a huge event, 300 tables of vendors. 120 people just as vendors. BOS approved use of field for parking. They'll be providing attendants for parking.
- Tennis Courts – All the trees have been cut down! It looks great, and you can envision what it will look like. The courts were just resurfaced 3 years ago. Now that there won't be pine needles. Next step for this group would be to get an acrylic coating company to look at the court.
- NPDES Permit **Update** – McKinney – Tom Adams was very optimistic, they feel they are ahead of the game and we'll have the permit at the beginning of August at the latest. The idea would be to do all of the excavation as it relates to the walking path and the pad for where the turf field will go. End phase 1 get reimbursement for phase 1 and be able to proceed to phase 2 being the turf field. Once the permit is approved then there will have to be thoughts about the turf field and going out for bidding, it will all happen quickly. Vincent – phase 1 has to be complete by the end of this year. Lee – phase 1 break ground late august early September. McKinney – when they get to a certain point in the permit process, we can start some work without having the actual permit. Later in the year a lot of things will start happening. A lot of community backlash with the turf field over at Bethlehem. We should spend the extra money for the other fill for safety and to prevent the backlash. We have a few different people interested in taking on this project, using the safe material. Good news.
- Baseball fields – Smith – met and starting on wrapping up loose ends on the ball park. In the next couple of weeks we are going to decide on whether it's usable or not. If not we'll have to use the school for a few weeks, the ground is really too soft to play on. Going to try and compact it very soon. Nielsen – not using the baseball field after the season this year? Smith – correct they will be starting work on it. Still trying to get the meeting with the Mayor for Hackett's park, and helping with the maintenance on the park. It's a great field, and want to ask if he'll give it back. We have to decide if we want that park.

2-2-2 Committee Report – No report.

Egg Hunt – Eggs are being filled ready for the hunt on Friday March 25th. We can use help around 8am, putting the eggs out.

Recreation Development Fund - \$

New Business – N/A

Old Business – N/A

Next meeting Tuesday April 19th at 7:00pm.

Nielsen motions to adjourn, Vincent & Brohan and second motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Ariel Kollar, Corresponding Secretary