

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 20, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held at on Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance: Treasurer Bob Johnson, Secretary Cheryl Nielsen, members Marc Knox, Rick Bulette and Dan McKinney. Vice Chairman Bill Webb arrived later. Also present was Supervisor Liaison Bob Smith and Supervisor Mike Mitchell as well as AA Chairman Joe Olah and Board member Lori Fulmer. Nielsen convened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY** - On motion by Johnson, seconded by Bulette, and agreed by all, the minutes of the February meeting were approved as written.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE** –

Eric Boncher was present seeking approval to again use the Riverview Fields for the Palmer Softball Association. They have 32 co-ed teams this year and 8 men's teams. He reported that this past year they have helped other recreation groups such as the AA with Xmas tree sales and the community weekend. They are paid up to date with their field repair loan and electric bills. Johnson asked about the electric to the field house. He was told it would be done before the rental season starts and the lighting will provide safety for people walking to the parking lot. On motion by Knox, seconded by Johnson, and agreed by all, the Board approved the use of the fields at Riverview Park for the Palmer Softball Association, Monday through Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., starting April 14 and running through November 4, with the fee being waived due to the field repair, park work and lighting bills that they pay. There will be tournaments throughout the summer.

John Dinunzi was present from the Veteran's Senior League to get permission to use the field at Tracy from April 1 through August and asked if the fee could be kept at \$50 per team. They have 7 teams and play Monday through Friday. Knox asked Chuck Romfo, soccer commissioner, when they hold their annual tournament and he reported August 24 and 25. Knox stated to Dinunzi that they would not be able to use the field that Friday. Dinunzi stated they work with the soccer tournament every year and this is fine. Rosters need to be turned in as soon as they are complete. On motion by Knox, seconded by McKinney, and agreed by all, the Board approved the use of the Veteran's field at Tracy and kept the fee of \$50 per team. Fees, application and rosters to be submitted to Diane. Insurance certification has already been received.

Roy Cortez put in an application for the Palmer Veterans Over 65 for using LaBarre Park on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 10:00 a.m. Fee last year was \$50. Nielsen said this is a good group, they park where they are supposed to and walk over to the field and it is great to have a team for this age group. On motion by Johnson, seconded by Knox, and agreed by all, the Board approved the request for the use of LaBarre Park. Fee of \$50 and insurance certification to be forwarded to Diane.

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Donna Meyers was present requesting the use of the volleyball court at Keystone Park again this year for the adult league. There are 29 teams this year and they would like to use it from June 3 to August 23, Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. They start around 6 and are definitely out by 10:00 p.m. They would like to add Thursdays if possible. People are asking for another night. Board did not have a problem with this at all. Last year their fee was \$45 per team. McKinney asked where they play in the winter and Meyers told the Board outside of Palmer. McKinney will be getting in touch with her about playing at our community center. The lighting has improved and the court will be resurfaced this year. On motion by Knox, seconded by Johnson, and agreed by all, the Board approved the request for the adult volleyball league. All fees, rosters and insurance to be submitted.

Lafayette Girls Intramural Softball – A request was received from the Lafayette Girl's softball team to use Fairview Park on Saturday, March 24 and 31. Board did not have a problem with this because we are not sure when our field will be ready. They will work around our softball teams. No fees to be charged since it is just for these two days and the township is working on the field that they usually use. On motion by Johnson, seconded by Bulette, and agreed by all, the Board approved this request.

Baseball – Johnson reported that signups have just finished up and things are getting organized. The numbers have come up which could be due to baseball and softball officials went together to hand out flyers at the schools. Schools are still on hold for allowing flyers to be distributed so we had to get the flyers out another way. Joe Olah reported that the AA had Co-commissioned this sport. Right now there is an issue and asked if the baseball budget could be split for the two levels. It would be a better way to handle the budget. Johnson stated he spoke with Young about this and this will be done for next year.

Olah then spoke of the out of season sports that are run through the Community Center. He questioned why the Center gets the money for these sports. The AA actually runs these sports; their volunteers, uniforms, fields. These sports are run through them. There is still a portion of the registration money that would go to the Community Center. McKinney stated they have an understanding with soccer that the Center gets the \$5 for out of season soccer. They supply a budget for their expenses and it is all worked out. McKinney also noted that the Center does the registration but AA personnel really run it. Johnson noted that we starting to revise the Recreation Plan and all this will be covered in this new plan.

Knox explained what the running of the out of season sports were in the past, when this first starting coming to light. No commissioners involved, there was no use of township owned sports equipment, and whoever wants to use the building/fields would have to come to this Board and ask permission. Someone asked how did it this all get put into the Community Center? Knox stated that the person running this out-of-season program had a parent of a Palmer Township child that was going outside of Palmer to play sports and asked why they couldn't stay in Palmer. AA felt that staying here in Palmer was a good way to have the money stay in our township. McKinney asked why then isn't it run through the AA. Again it was noted that this new Recreation Plan will cover all this, sport season, ages, etc. Olah asked if this could be moved forward or does this have to wait. He stated they are already making sure kids aren't double rostered. Board noted they will have to wait until the plan is revised. There is a lot of

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work that has to be done with this. There has to be a lot of changes that have to be reviewed. Johnson noted the dates in this Plan need to include off season sports and asked Olah and the AA to get these dates to the Recreation Board for review.

Egg Hunt – Nielsen stated that this fun morning will be held on Friday, April 6 at 10:00 a.m. on the Palmer School grounds. Set up starts at 8:00. Help is always needed. She has 5,000 eggs already stuffed and more to do.

Maintenance – Smith reported that there is a lot of work being done at the Palmer Complex. He reported all that is going on at the 2-2-2 committee meeting earlier this evening.

Community Center – McKinney reported that they are in the midst of switching registration programs. They are starting with Camp Palmer and pool registrations. After softball/baseball are complete they will switch over for the next sport. He felt this will be extremely valuable for the AA.

Miracle League – McKinney reported that they agreed on an opening day of September 9<sup>th</sup>. The building and field will be complete. Everyone is looking forward to this.

Pool – registrations being taken at this time.

Old Business –

Anthony Correia was present because he was asked to come back for the spring season request use of fields. They will be on the Mill Race field now. LaCrosse is there and they will work with them on their schedule. They only have four home games. On motion by Knox, seconded by McKinney and agreed by all, the Board voted to approve the request for four games to be played on the Mill Race field conditioned that they work with Doerner from LaCrosse and that of course no one plays on the fields if they are wet.

New Business –

Chuck Romfo was present to introduce a new age group to Palmer soccer program. This would be for 4 and 5 year olds. There is a need for this age group, a lot of interest and it is completely instructional. They would be included with the Forks Township group and they switch weekly between Palmer and Forks. This group will be coached by Easton Area High School players. There are no places in Palmer right now for this age group to play; you either have to go to New Jersey or Bethlehem. It will be completely instructional; no teams. There will be 45 minutes of instruction and 45 minutes of playing. He would like to hold it on Saturday mornings in the fall. Soccer has all the equipment needed so there will not be a burden on the budget. The program that is held at the community center will not conflict with this. McKinney stated they will not be run at the same time, there will not be any soccer held at the Community Center in the fall. He then asked how this Board can allow this age group with soccer but not other sports. Webb stated it is an individual sport decision as well as a league rule. McKinney and Romfo felt it could help both ways, they could get more signups for their programs from the other. Romfo also stated it is a good way to recruit coaches, get the parents onto the field and maybe this will

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encourage them to help out. On motion by Knox, seconded by McKinney, and agreed the Board recommended approval by the Board of Supervisor to allow soccer for 4/5 year olds conditioned that they turn four before August 1 of the current calendar year. Board also noted that the soccer commissioner and liaison must be present at the Board of Supervisors meeting to discuss this.

Wrestling – Webb reported that the season over and they won their division for first time in years. Olah thanked Webb for what was done this year and then reminded him that the money that the wrestling makes through their fundraising and door money should be run through the AA. He stated until recently there hasn't been any put through the AA books. Webb stated he does submit it to the AA and actually has some to turn in Thursday night at the meeting. The fundraiser money and concession money is used towards their picnic.

McKinney stated that he felt this was the most productive meeting he has been involved with which included the AA representatives and would like to see a liaison for the AA here every month. Olah agreed and stated the last 2 years everything has been highly productive. Hope this continues and the Recreation Board agrees. We are here for the kids!!

On motion by Johnson, seconded by Knox, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corr. Secretary