

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
APRIL 15, 2014 7:30 PM.

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance: Chairman Bill Webb, Vice Chairperson Cheryl Nielsen, members Rick Bulette, Jeff Vincent and Liam Brohan and new member Mike Weaver. Also present was Parks & Recreation Director Dan McKinney and Supervisor Liaison Bob Smith. Webb called the meeting to order.

McKinney stated that the Recreation Board ordinance and the signage recommendations that were discussed the last meeting would go before the Board of Supervisors on April 29th. Question was asked regarding the particulars of the signage ordinance. Smith stated the Supervisors will determine which field(s), how much to charge and when the signs can be displayed if it is approved. He also stated that the sign ordinance will need to be revised as it states now that no advertising is allowed in township parks.

Board members discussed the signage for the use of the multi-purpose field. Smith noted the township will have to approve an ordinance for the “use by permit only”. This ordinance would give the police the approval they would need if there were ever a problem with someone using the field and not being permitted to do so. Supervisors will discuss which fields this ordinance is to cover.

Field request – McKinney reported on the following:

Men’s League – request for the use of LaBarre Park for Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30 to 12:30 p.m. This was approved as there are no conflicts with other leagues playing during the day on this field. Fee was waived for this year but Cortez was told there will be new policies for next year’s use.

ECTB – Request for the use of 2 small fields at the Palmer Complex as well as Fairview Park for this weekend. Board members discussed if there was a conflict with our teams practicing on these fields. Dan to reach out to the baseball commissioner as there may be practice starting. Softball doesn’t start until next

week. There won't be anything at Fairview field yet. McKinney stated this organization is a good revenue stream and they take care of the fields they play on. Vincent stated the AA will be flexible and work around this group. Board discussed where the money that is paid to use these fields would go. Asked why it can't go into Recreation improvement and/or maintenance for fields. McKinney to check with the Township Manager on this.

Catz Baseball Camp – Tom Lisinicchia requested the Palmer Complex again this year for a week, June 23-27 from 9 a.m. to noon for their annual camp. \$10 per player will be donated to the Miracle League. This request was approved.

Palmer's Home Run Derby Day will be held on Saturday, June 14th at the Palmer Athletic Complex.

Sub-Committee Review – Vincent reported on the sub-committee's findings. He, Brohan, McKinney and Smith reviewed the list that was compiled from the township tour. The top three items that should be worked on and/or completed this year are as follows:

A Dog Park is a high priority as there are so many requests for this. Brohan wondered if the public should be asked their feelings on this. The site they recommend is at Riverview Park off the upper bike path and away from the pavilion and range. Fencing and water will be needed but felt with the water lines right in the bathroom building that shouldn't be a problem. McKinney asked how the public should be notified. Smith noted we usually don't go to the public for comment but maybe we could put something on web site and in the newsletter. A suggestion for naming rights could help defray costs for the building of the park. Also have a contest for art work and architectural design from local school students.

Completion of the Community Center – the date that was designated as the completion for the complex is in two years. Vincent stated the dirt should be moved from the east end to the west end of the complex and this will create the space for the proposed legion baseball field. The west end could have 2 soccer fields.

Smith discussed the township's engineering firm and what they will have to do to proceed with this project. Storm water is a big issue. First thing that needs to be done is the Board of Supervisors has to give the okay to the township engineering firm to start. This Board feels a recommendation should be given to the Board of Supervisors to start these two projects.

The Palmer Complex was discussed and with the shape of the field house, equipment room, etc. this is going to be a huge undertaking. With there being a deadline on the Community Center site the athletic complex renovations should be put on hold.

On motion by Vincent, seconded by Nielsen, and agreed by all, the Board recommended the Board of Supervisors approve and complete what was planned and proposed for the Charles Chrin Center which includes the walking paths as well as the engineering work to be done for the proposed dog park.

Smith highlighted what took place at the previous Board of Supervisors' meeting in regards to the installation of the various courts that was proposed. The Township had received a grant for the installation of a portion of a walking path, 3 tennis courts and 2 basketball courts. The County is specific as to what you propose and you can't defer off of the plan. They had already switched the grant approval from the pool renovations to this improvement plan. There were residents who live in the area in attendance and opposed the basketball courts due to the "element" they would attract. Smith stated the Supervisors suggested trying to make these courts multi-fields such as lacrosse, hockey, soccer, etc. The Township Manager has been in touch with the county and they are in agreement with another change since this addition will be used for various sports. Smith stated he was at a convention recently and obtained information from a company that does the various grades, colors, etc. on all types of courts.

Suggestions were given as to having two 2 tennis courts and the multi-use area being larger. It was also noted that Fairview Park tennis courts should be revamped. These courts are in bad shape and hopefully with upgrading them they will be used.

AA report –

Vincent stated the AA wants to know who owns the lock boxes. There are so many keys out for these boxes they want to get away from the key locks and would like to get digital locks instead where the code could be changed when needed. Members agreed with this.

Field improvements - Asked about field 5 and was anything being done with it. McKinney stated there wasn't anything else that needed to be done except infield mix and they will be adding more this year.

Fox Run Soccer Field – Board agreed there really isn't any good soccer field in Palmer. Mill Race is a “swamp” area and Fox Run is not level. The cost to do these fields to make them the way they should be would be astronomical. Hopefully we'll get a good soccer field at the Community Center.

Vincent also noted the AA is in the process of getting an operational budget complete for each sport which will show the cost per child for each sport.

Egg Hunt – Friday, April 18 – 10:00 a.m. Palmer School with four age groups. Need help to set up – start at 8:00. Rain place is at the Community Center.

Director's report –

Miracle League – Opening will be Saturday, May 3. There are over 200 players signed up.

Snack bar at the pool – Tom Lisinicchia will be operating the snack bar this year.

Camp Palmer – Each week is almost to capacity for the season.

Volleyball Club – McKinney reported a Volleyball Club has rented the entire building for this weekend. It is a national event and they bring in their own cleaning service. There will be lots of activity at the center for the weekend.

Meeting place – McKinney asked the Board’s feelings of moving these meetings to the Community Center. Board stated they always wanted to but was told they couldn’t because of the length of the meetings. That isn’t a problem anymore and a legal ad will be placed in the paper stating the next meeting, May 20th and all following meetings will now be held at the Community Center.

Vincent asked about the 2-2-2 Committee. The two members from the Recreation Board stated this has been disbanded. The AA members never showed up but if they would be interested in starting again we should try it. The Committee could meet quarterly and then report back to their significant Boards.

Minutes from March – On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Brohan, and agreed by all, the minutes from the March meeting were approved as written.

On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Bulette, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corresponding Secretary