

Palmer Recreation Board Meeting
May 15, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board meeting was held on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 7:37 with the following in attendance: Chairman Jeff Young, Vice Chairman Bill Webb, members Rick Bulette, Dan McKinney AND Bob Johnson. Also present was Supervisor Bob Smith.

Minutes from the previous meeting – On motion by Webb, seconded by Johnson, and agreed by all, the minutes of the April meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report – Hold until next month.

Adult Recreation – Johnson stated a letter went out to all adult leagues. He spoke with Eric from the Palmer Softball Association and they understand the letter but reiterates that they did not mess up the fields and they have spoken with all their teams that play at Riverview Park in their league.

Young stated he visited Keystone Field because the league was thinking they would have to cancel their season. He stated the field just needs a good rolling to even out the dirt. It isn't that bad. He explained to the Board what the township and league did to the field this year. He thought rolling it would be a great idea and they would be able to use it right afterwards.

Baseball – Young reported that the 9-12 age group is doing okay; there was a little difficulty getting coaches. This is a difficult season for the 13-14 age group. Johnson stated he may have to extend the season due to make up games and the season started late due to registrations. Board felt it may be a good idea to make a deadline and stick with it. This would have helped with the number problems we are dealing with now and will help in the future.

Young informed everyone that the Home Run Derby is scheduled for June 9th at the Palmer Athletic Complex. All levels will play. Walgreen's is donating the hot dogs and rolls and Wawa is donating the drinks. We are in need PA system; McKinney stated they have one which can be borrowed. Tents are needed also. Smith let them know there are tents available and also feels they will need a generator. He will get one from the police department. Games will be played on fields 1, 2 and 3. McKinney asked if a representative from the Miracle League can have a presence and Young stated definitely.

Johnson noted they have installed concrete in the batting cages for the pitching machine. Feels a little bit of fill is needed. He asked about the nets/poles. The nets seem too small for the poles. They need either new poles or new nets. They have to figure out which one and put it in for purchasing next year. Young stated it's the same at Fairview Park.

Basketball – McKinney is the liaison and got the payments for the coaches straightened out, and thanked Webb for helping with this. He spoke with Joe Olah about scheduling for the season for next year. He would like to reserve from December 1st to March 31st Monday through Friday for both gyms. He understands he has to review these dates. Young did it before with Barry Fulmer and is willing to help. This should be done early, like in the summer so it's not so stressful when trying to book the time slots. Get this done early. Board member asked if Palmer was pulling out of the CBL and going into a Bethlehem League? This has been talked about. This will be up to the Athletic Association.

Egg Hunt – was great. Had just enough candy.

Maintenance – Young stated there was a question raised by the AA as to why they are paying the propane gas bill at the refreshment stand since all sports make money on this. Why isn't it split up between all. It is an expensive bill. Board discussed this. Smith stated it can't be turned off during the winter months because of the equipment that is stored there. The equipment has to get that out of there and stored in one secured place, then maybe the gas can be turned off to prevent these large bills.

Softball – Young reported it is going fine.

Football – Registration is going on now.

Soccer – Knox will be lead for this sport effective tonight. Johnson will be secondary. Johnson stated signups are going on. McKinney stated they have a few glitches in sign up system but it will be ironed out for the next sign ups.

Lacrosse – Young informed the Board as to the problem Lacrosse caused at the Mill Race fields for this weekend. They cannot assume that they have use of anything without asking. If they don't ask they don't get the field/pavilion. This has to be told to the commissioner and he must inform all his coaches.

Development – A sketch of two T-ball fields at Woodridge Falls development was presented to the Board for review. Board feels we have enough t-ball fields and would like to see a sketch of one baseball field with 70' bases with 225' radius. This would be for 11 and 12 year olds.

Community Center – McKinney reported that there are a few glitches with the new registration system. They are all working together to get this fixed. Mallory is getting baseball and softball registrations together. They were the last sport on the old system.

Camp Palmer – This runs for 11 weeks during the summer and four of those weeks are full with a waiting list. There is a 100 person maximum allowed for each week. McKinney also noted that they have a badminton court net on the west end which was approved by Supervisors.

Miracle League – McKinney reported that the opening day is slated for Sunday, September 9th. There is still a lot that is needed and volunteers are needed for various jobs. He stated they would like to utilize the existing softball/baseball teams to be buddies for the Miracle League players. There is a coaches meeting scheduled for Monday at 6:30 for anyone who wants to coach.

Pool – McKinney reported that the numbers are way down. Feels this may be due to the pool needing a new makeover, like some water features and it definitely needs upgrading. Also part of the numbers could be due to the fact that Camp Palmer participants use the pool and the price of going to the pool is included in with the Camp Palmer fee so parents don't have to purchase passes for the kids.

Old Business -

Uniform and Equipment Usage Policy – Board reviewed the proposed policy for tournament teams using township equipment and uniforms. Young commented that up to a little bit ago no one could use any equipment or uniforms outside of their season. For baseball tournaments everyone has to be able to try out to be able to use our uniforms; for wrestling the tournaments were the during season so the uniforms were used; for fall ball only the bags were used and for softball the shirts were used at the end of the season. The fall ball league gave the shirts for the teams.

Discussion then centered on tournament team that they would be a Palmer team using Palmer uniforms and playing on Palmer field s but they would not be Palmer coach's so there wouldn't be any background checks. How is this going to be permitted? Young stated maybe the usage of the equipment and fields and the names of the coaches need to be approved by the Palmer Township Recreation Board. Everyone felt this was a good idea. Proposed usage policy is as follows:

Palmer Township
Uniform and Equipment Usage Policy

Palmer Township provides recreation opportunities in many areas and has made a significant investment in both uniforms and equipment for the participants in these sports and activities. This policy is intended to clarify usage of said items. Equipment and uniforms are provided for participants to use for the activities of their sport. Over time there have been many requests to

use these items outside of regularly scheduled activities. The following policies are meant as guidelines for usage of township equipment and uniforms in these circumstances.

1. Usage and coaches must be approved by the Palmer Township Recreation Board at its regular monthly meeting of the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.
2. Usage will only be allowed if either all participants in a particular age group are included or roster slots are filled through an open tryout.
3. Equipment may only be used during non-traditional season dates or for any activity not part of the league scheduled contests with approval of the Palmer Township Recreation Board.

On motion by Johnson, seconded by McKinney, and agreed by all, the Palmer Township Recreation Board recommended final approval of this usage policy by the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors.

2-2-2 Committee meetings – The committee needs to firm up when the meetings are going to be held. Smith said he would get in touch with everyone to see when they wanted the next one. Feels we should wait until after baseball season since everyone is so busy with that and the construction at the Palmer Complex.

New Business -

Young discussed with the Board the problem of an outside team on township field during our softball/baseball season. There was an all-star team trying to use our field without permission and during our season. Some of the players on that team are not playing in the township program. Young feels that this should not be allowed. Someone who is hurting the township program should not be allowed to use our fields and especially during our season. There was lengthy discussion on this topic and some Board members felt that maybe the township should develop an “A” and a “B” team which would be upper level players to give these players are higher level to play in. We have to have opportunities for kids to play in higher levels in Palmer or they will go elsewhere. Our baseball program needs to be re-evaluated. Board members did agreed that no one should be able to use our fields during our season and if they want them out of season they are to come before the Recreation Board for approval and will have to show insurance and pay the fees.

On motion by Johnson, seconded by McKinney, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corr. Sec.