

Palmer Township Recreation Board
May 21, 2013 – 7:30 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance: Chairman Bill Webb, Dan McKinney, Jeff Young, Vice Chairperson Cheryl Nielsen and Treasurer Rick Bulette. Also present were Supervisor Bob Smith and Township Manager Chris Christman.

Minutes of the April Meeting – On motion by Young, seconded by Bulette, and agreed by all, the minutes of the April meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's report – Bulette reviewed the report. Everything is in order with comparison to the township printout. He asked if the Board would want to see the balance for the 2-2-2 account also. Board agreed they would want to see both balances on the report. That would be the 2-2-2 Account as well as the Recreation Improvements Account. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Young, and agreed by all, the report was approved as submitted.

Palmer Veteran's – Webb reviewed a request for use of fields at Keystone for a girls' tournament. No one was present to answer questions. Does the Palmer Veteran's insurance cover this tournament? They pay a fee for their use; what would the fee be for this group? McKinney will get in touch with the representative and get information. It was also mentioned that this tournament should be policed to make sure our rules are followed such as parking on grass, alcohol in park. Since the tournament is requested for this weekend and there is time restraints, Young motioned to allow McKinney to contact the representative and make the decision if it is allowed or not. They have to have insurance and pay the fee of \$50 per field/per day since this is our policy as of now. Motion was seconded by Nielsen and agreed by all. Young also stated that if this is approved the principal at Tracy School, Bob Steckel, should be notified. He likes to know what and who is playing on the Tracy field.

Township Manager Chris Christman discussed with the Board his and the Board of Supervisors' decision to appoint Dan McKinney as Director of Parks and Recreation. Christman pointed out that the Athletic Association operates/runs the sports for Palmer Township. They supply the commissioners for the sports as well as the coaches, and they do a very good job with this. Palmer Township owns the facilities and schedules the use of our fields, buildings, maintenance of all as well as our programs. He stated that policies are going to be made and will be required to be followed. There is such a lack of policy and this will change. He noted recently the issue with baseball. The AA should have handled this problem. They should be in charge of handling the angry parents, coaches. This is not a Recreation Board or Board of Supervisors problem. The Director of Parks & Recreation will be responsible for township parks as far as any sporting event in them, the running of the township pool, use and maintenance of all township fields, and will work with Scott Kistler and Tom Adams. Everyone's work/wish lists must go through the Director. If this Board has any concerns it goes through the chain of command; McKinney to Christman to Board of Supervisors, but the Director is first to see if he can resolve the issue/concern. These policies need to be developed for everyone involved. There is a lot of lost opportunity for revenue at the Community Center for example, four players using a full-court basketball court. This is not going to happen in the future. Scheduling of courts/fields will go through the director and he will review them and make the decision of when they are allowed to be used.

Young stated that he welcomes this change and noted that historically this Board has felt underused and now they will have something to fall back on. We absolutely need policies to follow. A lot of the issues are at the AA level. All commissioners need to be taught through the AA and policies have to be handed to old and new commissioners/coaches. Policies will stipulate number of teams that are allowed for a particular sport. Recreation Board should have a say on sports since the township funds them. McKinney will have to prepare budgets for all sports based on discussion with commissioners. He will then bring them to the Recreation Board for input. There has to be control on these issues. This Board is an advisory board which the Supervisors appreciate their input. The township supplies the money so we are the ones that will control the fields/courts/scheduling of the sports on our facilities

Bob Smith stated that the Recreation Board really never had a say on what went on. There were no written policies so we went by what was done in the past. Everyone needs direction/guidance. We also need more realistic budgets and need to know what a sport really costs to run.

Webb asked if the shift of the purchase orders goes to McKinney now and Christman stated yes, everything goes through the Director now. He feels it is good to keep the treasurer's report as the Recreation Board has done but the purchasing process goes through the Director. This could prevent someone wanting to purchase something at the end of the year because there is money in that line item but it really isn't needed. Another good reason for scheduling of fields through the Director is someone may come in the day after our meeting and now has to wait a full month before we meet again. Once policies are made he makes decisions based on these policies. Webb also asked if making it mandatory that an AA member must attend recreation board meetings could be in a policy. They really should attend these meeting. Could there be ramifications? This is something that could be discussed and put in policy booklet. There are three members of this Board on three Palmer AA Board. Should this continue? Christman didn't think so since everything goes through the Director now. Can policy booklet be done in phases or does it have to be done all at once? Christman stated that as they are developed they go into the policy book. McKinney feels it is a good idea to start now, to let the Supervisors know this is starting and this Board is in agreement with this.

Bulette felt that having a Director is a good idea and something that is needed. It is tough to make decision with no policies to follow.

Nielsen felt a recreation department will organize the sports/scheduling and this so important. She felt Dan will do a fine job; she is very impressed with how he runs the community center. She said this years ago that the township needed someone to oversee this department.

It was mentioned that with these new policies the AA could very well find they could make some changes of their own. Starting new with new rules is good.

Webb asked if the AA is aware of these new changes/policies. Christman stated they had a meeting with a few members of the AA Board and they were told about it. McKinney stated he will approach them as well as commissioners. He is here to work with them, to help them with their organization, not hinder.

Christman stated he and the Supervisors felt this is a good thing and wanted to say thank you to all the volunteers that are on our boards and let them know that they provide a purpose to this township.

The equipment management was discussed. There needs to be changes with this also which will be done through a policy also.

Young brought up the 2-2-2 committee and noted that the AA was under the impression that this was disbanded. Christman stated it as not and feels everyone should get together and start discussing things. Asked if the money for this account should just be put together with the Recreation Improvements Account and Christman stated not necessarily, this money came from youth registrations and should be used towards that.

Young asked when the bike path is going to open. Was told as soon as the Public Works has time to do the work needed on the sides.

Fee for use of fields was quickly discussed - What are our expenses to maintain fields in comparison to \$50 per field? This is to be reviewed.

Christman informed the Board that as of now Dan McKinney is officially off the Recreation Board. Board members asked if there could be a policy on attendance. If you are on the Board you must attend a percentage of meetings or you will be removed from that Board. Christman does have a policy on this and will distribute the Recreation Board policy to everyone.

Smith reported that Bob Johnson asked to step down from this Board effective immediately. He will send in his resignation. Smith will also contact Marc Knox to see what his intentions are for this Board.

Nielsen read a thank you from Jerry Hudgins from LaCrosse reporting what they did on their LAX food drive last weekend. They went over and above what they did last year and then thanked the Board and township for all their help throughout the year.

Adult Recreation – Nielsen stated that last month the Board made a decision that the team that plays at LaBarre Park during the day did not have to pay for the field use since they do not charge teams to play. She then stated that she felt they should have charged this team \$50 for each team, which is one, that uses the field. This team was charged last year. She then made a motion to charge \$50 for the team. Young seconded the vote which was approved by all.

McKinney stated there is going to be a basketball league starting at Fairview in mid-June. It will be a men's league as well as a co-ed league.

McKinney also discussed the Palmer Softball Association. This organization is making money with their team fees and tournaments. This is one organization that will have to give us specific date and times as to when they are going to use our fields. They just have a blanket approval throughout the summer and fall. Also fees will be increased. McKinney will discuss this with Eric Boncher in the near future.

Miracle League – McKinney reported that they have 200 players signed up. He also informed the Board that the League voted down to all Palmer kids to play on the field when they are not using it.

Pool – McKinney reported that the pool is filled but it is in dire need of renovations. Hopefully we can get some grants in the near future to help us.

Softball – Young reported there is no senior team, not enough signed up.

Baseball – Webb informed the Board that the AA is highly upset that Recreation Board took kids from Easton on a team. They noted they would not have even entertained it. This is something that has to be straightened out now and a policy will be made for this. Webb told the complainant to attend the meeting but no one

came. Procedure to stop this was discussed and Smith read a signed release that they were to follow. They have not followed these rules so the Board agreed that they are to be terminated from the team immediately. We allowed them to play but they had to follow rules. Decision had to be made if it was to be put back on the commissioner for him to get it straightened. Board decided to have a Recreation Board member to take care of this. On motion by Young, seconded by Nielsen, and agreed by all the Board agreed to have Bill Webb deal with this issue, that the Bushkill Valley Americans are not adhering to the signed policy that the players from Easton were to follow and that he has the ultimate decision of either terminating them immediately, giving them one more game to straighten out or get another coach. Board noted this is an AA issue and they should have made the decision.

On motion by Young, seconded by Bulette and agreed by all the meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corr. Sec.