

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

July 17, 2018, 7:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2018 @ 7:00 pm with the following in attendance: Chair, Cheryl Nielsen, Thomas Lee (Vice Chair) Richard Bulette, Liam Brohan, Michael Weaver, Dan McKinney and Kelly Higgins. Keith Horton was absent.

Also, in attendance were Diane Halasz and Ken Starace, both Palmer Township Residents, Earth Stewards of Palmer, they are volunteers who specialize in trails and parks. Ken is also the Vice Chair of the Palmer Township Environmental Steering Committee.

Nielson called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Nielsen welcomed our new board members, Kelly Higgins and Keith Horton to the Recreation Board.

Approval of Minutes: Brohan makes a motion to approve the April, 2018 minutes, Bulette seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Discussed the agenda handout, #4, Memo to Township Manager, review and updates
Nielsen – sent email to Dave Colver – Colver stated he is working on a proposal
Lee – asked Cheryl about the follow up to Dan
Nielsen – read what Dave has sent back – discussed 2-year plan with the AA – 2 years at 50 percent. Nielsen explained to the new members, the AA's treasury and we proposed for them to become self-sufficient in two years – AA wanted four years
Lee – Do we need a formal request to ask for a formal update?
Nielsen – asked Lee if he would like to propose that?
Lee – Absolutely – formal feedback would be appreciated
McKinney – I think it's going in the right direction – maybe we should talk directly to the AA
Brohan – Why would there be a delay? Are there any repercussions of going on their own?
Lee – The Board of Supervisors approached us – legal matters that prompted the approach – maybe separate funds – maybe funds that are collected could be shared
McKinney – money should be given back
Brohan – paying refs?
Higgins – fields rentals?
McKinney – the relationship between players and facilities will not change

Thomas Lee makes a motion to formally request an update on the funding of the AA to the Board of Supervisors. After three months from the start of the transition, maybe request a meeting with the AA?

Higgins – if they self-sustain, who will monitor?

Nielsen – If they are coming up with new fees, they should still review it with us

Weaver seconds the motion – all agreed – motion carried

Discussion of fees continued.

Discussed updates to the field

McKinney – explained the pervious areas

Brohan – asked about the feedback on the turf field

McKinney – explained the rentals

Higgins – asked about the field lights

McKinney – stated they are off at 10:00pm

Higgins – disagreed

Nielsen – questioned Title Basin?

McKinney – explained county conservationist and that we have no control

Directors Report:

McKinney – stated that the people that took over the Concession Stand are working out well – Pool memberships are around 630 – in general – everything has been good and the new membership system great. We are halfway through Camp Palmer – our staff does a great job. Jackie Tornabene runs a great program and does a fantastic job. Miracle League opening day is August 25th, thanks for everyone here helping, it was a huge help – attached is the Fall schedule if interested in doing it again, explained the Miracle League Halloween event. He explained the renting and earnings of the turf field, explained the rental time in the high rentable season

New Business:

Weaver – recommended that there be repairs to the Pitchers Mound and Home Plate at Fairview? Last year we discussed a shed at LaBarre

Brohan – has Riverview been paved yet?

McKinney – was told it would be done this year

Weaver – AA said they would fund the shed

McKinney – township does not provide lime

Egg Hunt:

Nielson – asked if she could get a copy of Keystone’s bill?

McKinney – said we will make that happen

Public Comment: Diane Halasz and Ken Starace introduced themselves and that they represented two groups. They are responsible for running Earth Day and the Children’s Environmental Education. They introduce themselves to organizations and explain that they keep communities and environments clean. They get out on a regular basis to keep parks and paths clean. They recognize that tires and electronics are being dumped. They try to collect the tires. Their question to the Recreation Board is “Does the Recreation Board have policies about clean up when we rent because they are distressed about how things are left after the weekends and the cleanup that is needed?”

Lee – asked for clarification of the difference between the two groups and how and who they report to?

Starace – explained that they help with the Household Hazardous Waste Event and are trying to plan an recycling event for 2019. They work on programs for awareness to keep Palmer beautiful.

McKinney – introduced himself as the Director of Parks and Recreation and applauded the groups effort. He explained that they rarely rent for tournaments but the AA is a different subject and continued to explain the organization. In general, I give Public Works a good grade, every morning the Parks are cleaned. Almost every park is rented, May through September. I share your frustrations that people don’t walk from here to there to throw something away and if there was real trouble, he would receive pictures and be told. A couple of weeks ago, I saw pictures of Riverview with a narrative that was actually accurate. We have had good progress, especially at Riverview in the past three years. He stated that they were always welcome at the Palmer Camp that is held at the Community Center to educate and always welcome to post something at the Community Center or use our rooms. He explained Anthony’s position for the Parks. We know it is not a perfect world but always open for suggestions.

Starace – After thanking Dan, he explained that they are looking for next year to concentrate from Aldi’s and the small section of the bike trail. He explained the difference of township roads and county roads.

Halasz – Asked the definition of passive recreation?

Nielsen – explained that when things are willed to us

Halasz – handed out definition of passive recreation

Nielson – read out loud – an open area where the area is purified by the plants

Halasz – we don’t see sculpture parks but we do see bluebird boxes

Brohan – Easton just did it

Halasz – behind the Municipal Building would be nice to look at insects and have nature walks

Nielsen – For years, we have asked?

Halasz – Consider the neighbors and what they would see, nobody wants to define passive recreation

McKinney – you would need three Board of Supervisors to agree

Lee – explained we had the opportunity and resources and was shot down.

Halasz and Starace thanked the Board for listening and their prospective.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 21, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Thomas Lee asks for a motion to adjourn. Bulette seconds the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Brenda Lazarus: Corresponding Secretary