

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

August 18th, 2015 7:30 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 18th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance: Vice Chairperson Cheryl Nielsen, Members Thomas Lee, Jeff Vincent, Rick Bulette, Mike Weaver, and Liam Brohan. Also in attendance was Director of Parks and Recreation Dan McKinney.

Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Nielsen, approval of minutes – Lee & Vincent second motion approval.

Public Comment & Correspondence – N/A

Directors Report – McKinney states since the last meeting, the dugouts at Fairview have been started. Bulette – They are well done and look good. McKinney – There is electric, a water line, and an ability to put fans in. Resurfacing the infield, will be putting an irrigation system in (\$120,000K), putting a bullpen in. Fixed the children's area, swings and playground. Vincent \$17,500 coming from 2-2-2, and the rest from the Recreation board, (\$100K), the water line needs to be redone.

Vincent – Speaking with Bob Smith, next year the left field wants to be addressed, and extend the fence and a warning track. Would like to then make it the premier legion field in the area. It's nice to see some 2-2-2 money being put to use. Bob Smith and the 2-2-2 committee were involved; with input from Township engineer Tom Adams.

McKinney – In regards to the tennis courts at Fairview, there has been movement on the BOS end, the BOS are going to cut the trees down 12 trees. When that is complete this group can then come up with a plan and what we want to do with the tennis courts. The area doesn't present well, light boxes need to be redone, the fences need repair, and lighting needs to be updated. Lights are being replaced in the basketball court with LEDs and then those are being moved to the tennis courts. Eventually resurfacing, maybe make it multifunctional surface. Brohan – Is there demand for the tennis courts? If they weren't covered in pine needles, they could then be programmed. If it were nice and secure people would probably play more. McKinney - 4-5 years ago the Township ran a tennis program, and eventually because of lack of up-keep people just stopped coming. It would get a lot of use and could be really nice. Vincent – It's 3 full tennis courts.

Penn Pump Park – McKinney – Thought that the township did a number of things to get a handle on the situation, the last few weekends have been much better, turning away 100's of cars. Brings some things into play, Penn Pump park is going to change in means of how it's run.

Brohan – People were staking their spaces out by 7 and 8am. It's just a matter of time before people get hurt; it's really an overcrowding issue. The EAHS senior picnic had to be moved because of it. McKinney – The Park is not made to hold 500-600 people; there are only about 30 some parking spaces. There is going to be new ordinance made about how the parks function. One idea is that Palmer needs someone to monitor the parks, and actually goes to check on the parks and permit holders, and make sure they are following policies. I have someone who would be great for the position. Also changing pricing for renting parks. There used to not be any rules for renting parks, so we created some as a place to start. Maybe at our next meeting we can add information and tighten up the policies. The current rules are not adopted by the Township. When people rent a park currently, they sign a document saying they are accountable for the rules and policies. These need to be an ordinance. We can get into refining the policies.

Nielsen – What if we make January/February available only to residents to rent parks first, and double prices for non-residents. McKinney – There should be a type of board at each park where the permits are posted and the rentals for each day. Lee – It avoids confrontation to multiple groups being there, and if a group of people just shows up, at least someone can enforce the people renting the facility. Someone with a parks and recreation shirt will go far with control at the parks.

Brohan – The BOS, closed the park this year, but what is their plan for next year? We can put something together, and present to the BOS. It can also turn into a sub-committee. Rec board knows the issues and this is what we are proposing. Vincent – I think that there should be contact numbers available for the day of. People run softball tournaments at Keystone and open the concession stand and we know nothing about it.

Palmer PD has been really efficient at Penn Pump, keeping people from coming in and parking. Brohan – the locals are the ones who suffer with the no swimming or admittance to the park. McKinney – No swimming at the falls, but swimming will be allowed again eventually. The signage at our parks is horrible, it either doesn't exist or you can't read them, some are big, small, or illegible. We need to come up with one uniform sign for all the

parks, signage is part of the problem at the parks. This is an opportunity to make changes. Vincent – The police everyday open and close the bathrooms at the parks daily. The burden of those actions should be on the parks and recreation department, not the police.

Brohan – Is the budget and the headcount there for this position? As far as budget goes? You need full time people, not tons of part time people.

Brohan – Every summer Penn Pump Park has been packed. McKinney – we should be looked at for putting this stuff together. Nielsen – Why doesn't everyone take a look, make notes and see what changes/additions we can make.

CCCC Site Review – McKinney – no update, still waiting on the permit.

2-2-2-Committee Report – Vincent – Dugouts, there was \$17,500 for the cost of the infield. \$53,000, leaves \$30,000 towards other projects. The whole process, the 2-2-2 has been dead for years, and now it's really picked up again and this is the first big project to come out of it. It's a good testament of the communication being a positive impact, making things happen and more things in the future.

Pool Updates – McKinney – It's been a good year, the complaints have been down drastically this year. Had a really great letter about how the pool has been this year, and it's been pleasant. The pool manager is exactly who you want running the pool, he's really nice. It needs \$1,000,000 in repairs, when Nazareth updates their pool, we could be in trouble. Water features and repairs can help us. Each year the memberships have gone down, family membership passes are down, daily passes are up.

Nielsen – Would that be done and not jeopardize the operating season. Can't be done for next year. Another demand on money. Nielsen – how was the new swim team? McKinney – they worked out really well. No issues this year, fewer issues in 6 years. The new pool manager has a lot of good ideas.

Recreation Development Fund - \$999,356.04

2-2-2 Committee - \$53,158.77, - \$16K and \$6,800 going back in.

New Business – Old Business – Vincent – mentioned putting in a larger play park in for kids, Quakertown has an area with a walking path, and a small area that was for fitness. Do we have anything like that in Palmer Township? That would be something good to look into then. Brohan – discussion on a full time parks person. Options of someone who can monitor parks on

weekends. Nielsen – it would be cost effective to have someone to take care of this.

Vincent – NC has the money towards the walking path, phase 1 has to be complete in 2016, McKinney - all needs to be done by 2017. Should we look into other options? McKinney – the hold up is the permit.

We would like an update from BOS on the status of the field and if the permit has been filed, the status of the walking path. There is a lot of money in jeopardy that we can lose, and we would hate to see that happen.

Nielsen motions to adjourn. Vincent & Bulette second motion. Meeting adjourned 8:30p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday September 15th, 2015 at 7:30pm.

Ariel Kollar, Corresponding Secretary