

Palmer Township Recreation Board
September 20, 2011 – 7:30 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held at on Tuesday, September 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance: Vice Chairman Bill Webb, Treasurer Bob Johnson, members Cheryl Nielsen, Rick Bulette and Dan McKinney. Young was present as per speaker phone towards the end of the meeting. Webb called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE - On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Bulette, and agreed by all, the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Request to Use Mill Race Field – Representatives from the soccer league, Lehigh Valley Old-Timers were present with a request to use Mill Race field for their season which runs from Now Until November and then again from March through June. Board felt they should handle one season at a time. They will consider the fall season first and then they should come back in February for the spring season. They are requesting the use of the field on Saturdays starting at 3:30 or 4:30. There won't be any conflict with the township teams. They do not have many home games. Season starts now, as soon as they get permission and runs until November 12th. Their spring season starts the end of March until the end of June. A copy of their undated insurance is needed. Fee of \$250 was submitted along with their application. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Bulette, and agreed by all, the Board agreed to allow the soccer league to use Mill Race field until mid November with them coming back for the spring season and that their schedule does not interfere with the township program.

ADULT RECREATION – Grube reported that volleyball was over and their financial report was handed in. The league is asking that the courts be done over as they are in bad shape. The Board agreed stating this should be in the budget to get repaired.

BASKETBALL – Webb reported that they have the schedule from Jill for practices for November and December and he will get in touch with Laura to get other times assigned. Signups are underway.

MAINTENANCE – Bob Smith stated this Board really has to get together to see what is needed with the township grounds/parks. We need to get things accomplished. There are too many things that get started and never get finished or they never even get started and this is with the money in the budget. We have to get our set. Diane will get it together. Everything needs to be looked at. The plans for the football field never got anywhere. There is no planning to get things done. We discuss it and then it never gets done. We have to be a proactive Board and follow through with projects. Johnson stated he is concerned that some projects aren't getting done. The AA wants to contribute to some of these projects but they won't if people are dragging their feet and nothing gets done. The 2-2-2 committee needs to get recreated. Diane will work on this also. The Board needs to pick a project and allocate some money each year until there is enough to do the project. It was asked how the money is divided for the registration fees that are collected and McKinney informed the Board that the AA gets \$35 and \$10 to youth recreation or field maintenance and \$5 to the Center. This money is going in to a separate fund that the manager has control of, not into the general fund. This money gets set aside until it is earmarked for a particular project.

McKinney asked where the budget is for field repair. What happens if there is a large problem at a field, lights burn out, large sinkholes, anything, where does the money come from to repair this? There isn't a line item for this. Board feels the township needs to allocate money for field repair maintenance. There used to be a maintenance line item which was deleted; we need this back.

WRESTLING – sign ups are getting started. There is a problem with the School District with getting our flyers into the classrooms. Webb is working on this. Hopefully he'll have an answer very soon.

FOOTBALL – Smith reported that the helmet purchase that was made really worked out well. Now they have dates on them of when they will expire which is a few years from now. The price was very steep but well worth it. The season just started but is going well.

PLAYGROUND – Nielsen reported that it was successful except for heat but stated she didn't know if the number of registrations warranted this program to continue. Are there any other ideas for what we could do for children in the summer? Maybe hold the program two days a week and only in 2 of the parks; Fairview and Stephens which are the busiest. So everyone that signed up, no matter where they lived, would have to go to either of these two parks. The one problem would be the instructors who will be looking for seasonal full-time jobs and children that couldn't walk or ride their bikes to these parks. Nielsen will get some ideas and bring them back to Board. McKinney stated that if this program continues there needs to be tightened up more for safety for the kids. He will forward paperwork that they use for the Camp Palmer to Nielsen which states that they are not responsible for any child until a parent/guardian actually brings in the child and signs them into the center. The only problem with that is that there are some kids that walk or bike to the local park program. This is a safety issue and will need to be discussed if this program continues.

COMMUNITY CENTER – McKinney informed the Board that they are in dire need of an updated registration system. What they have now is so obsolete. He wondered if the AA should pay a part of it since the majority of use for it is for them or does it all have to come upon the Center. Johnson feels there should be some input from others if the AA is going to contribute towards it and also stated the Center is getting paid to collect this registration money. Johnson also stated that information is not readily available when needed and that just one person can get the information. This needs to be changed. A new system could have different levels for people to use this. He asked if a Recreation Board member and an AA member could be involved this. McKinney stated it is just in the discussion stage but he'll check to see what the Township wants to do with this. Johnson would like to be involved if possible.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Johnson distributed the township report. Money for the new field hockey sport will have to come from other sports. Johnson noted some will come from baseball as well as softball and playground. Board members asked where the money went for the registration fees for the playground. This was collected at the Community Center and Diane will check to see. (There was \$2,550 collected for registration fees and will be transferred from the Community Center into the revenue for the playground). On motion by Bulette, seconded by Nielsen, and agreed by all, the Board approved the report as submitted.

BASEBALL – Johnson reported that fall ball is going on now. There have been a lot of rain outs but they are getting through. They have 75 players signed up – 5 teams.

BUDGET – Board asked if the AA could get the budgets to them earlier, like in July. They do not have meeting in July or August so nothing can change from June on. They should be able to do this that way this Board has more time to review them. Young stated this would give him more time to review them before he had his budget meeting with the township manager.

LACROSSE – Dan McKinney was appointed as temporary liaison until Knox returns. The Board needs all information on the tournaments and also Doerner will have to come to the next meeting to discuss issues. Board felt that any sport that has tournament teams in budget must come before this Board to discuss this.

SOFTBALL – Young was asked from some tournament teams to use our fields. There are three teams, Waves, Forks and Legends. U16, U12, U14. Forks has expanded and has a shortage of fields. Young asked if there is something that could be done for practice if the fields are available. These are the teams that our kids play on to get to the high school level. The fee now is \$50 per field per day and if they want to practice twice a week this is a lot of money for the parents to have to pay out for practice. Board asked if we have different fees for practice or games. No, there is only one fee for whoever wants to use the field for whatever reason. Board discussed different ideas. What about if a team with no Palmer kids pays a higher fee compared to teams with more than one Palmer player? Lights not included but we could have a higher fee if they want to use lights. This probably won't happen since it is expensive to use the lights. Fall ball is using the lights now and they are going to reimburse the township for the use of them. This league plays from September until the end of October. Eight weeks. Board does not have a problem with the fall ball using the fields. There needs to be a procedure for these fields as to who can use them and what fee will be charged. Board agreed that the fall ball teams can use Fairview field, LaBarre and Field #2 at the Palmer Complex this year with no fee charged and they will get a procedure together for next year. All teams must go through Jeff Young. They already have an on-line field schedule and it runs great. Everyone gets an email with schedule as well as any changes. Only coaches can go on-line and use them and make changes.

No further business to come before the Board on motion by Johnson, seconded by Nielsen, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corr. Secretary