

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BORD MEETING  
OCTOBER 16, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 with the following in attendance – Chairman Jeff Young, Vice Chairman Bill Webb, Treasurer Bob Johnson, members Cheryl Nielsen, Marc Knox, Dan McKinney, Rick Bulette and Supervisor Liaison Bob Smith. Chairman Young opened the meeting at 7:30.

Approval of minutes from August – On motion by Bulette, seconded by Nielsen and agreed by all, the Board approved the minutes as written.

Ratify decision made on Lafayette Girls' Softball – Young stated that last year Lafayette Girls' Softball used field 6 but they can't use it this year since field hockey is using it. They asked to use Fairview or LaBarre this year. On motion by Nielsen, seconded by Webb and agreed by all, the Board ratified their decision to approve the use of Fairview field for Lafayette Girls' Softball and waiving the fees for them.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Hold until later.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE – Nothing.

Adult Recreation – Bulette stated he visited the Softball Association on Saturday at Riverview Park. The games he saw were very spirited, and they were a little rowdy but all-in-all everything went well. There were no problems and no alcoholic beverages on the grounds.

Volleyball - Young asked if the courts were blacktopped and Diane stated no, there wasn't enough time this year but they will be done beginning of next season.

Baseball – Young reported that the Connie Mack is still going on for the next three weekends. Soccer will be using the lights at Fairview so all sports should be done with our fields by November 12<sup>th</sup>. Township will close up fields then.

Basketball – McKinney reported that they are taking registrations now and Laura was given the schedule for the season.

Softball – Young informed all that he has resigned as softball commissioner and can't thank the township guys enough for everything they did. They did a fantastic job this past season.

Wrestling – Webb noted that signups are going on and practice starts on November 1.

Football – Smith reported that they played on the new field and had a good time. He checked it the next day and there were no signs of anyone playing on it. It held up good.

Miracle League – McKinney reported that they had a great start to their season. They had 118 players and they play for 2 more weeks before they close for the winter. They feel their numbers could double for next year.

Pool – McKinney reported that the pool is closed for the season. They are looking to bring in an

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elite swim team as a rental. This would generate a lot of revenue for us. He has some more ideas that he would like to go over for next year.

Treasurer's Report – Johnson stated there were no changes from the township report. On motion by Bulette, seconded by Webb, and agreed by all, the report was approved.

Budget – Young reported he had the budget meeting with the township manager and Dan McKinney. He received the budgets from sports commissioners later than he wanted. We ask for them by September 1st. Someone suggested asking for them by the end of July; nothing is going to change from the time they end meeting for the summer till they start. These budgets definitely have to be received earlier.

Young reviewed all the budgets that were received. He noted what was approved for the 2012 budget; what was determined what was going to be spent for 2012; what was requested for 2013 and what they decided in the budget meeting. Copies of all this will be distributed to all.

Smith asked if anyone asked about an equipment manager in their budgets. Young stated no, there wasn't anything and also noted that he felt this system is non-functioning and it needs to be worked on. He noted softball does their own.

Young stated he received budget requests that he couldn't justify with the township manager. The commissioners need to know what they have to do to prepare a budget and that we need a more detailed budget.

Young noted that during the year we had two commissioners for baseball, a lower age and an upper age group. He wrote out all the purchase orders and kept track of which level spent what.

Football – Fulmer put in his budget for uniform cleaning which was taken out because there will be a washer and dryer installed for this purpose.

At this time there was lengthy discussion on tournament teams. Some commissioners put tournaments in their budgets. This would be for post tournaments and/or end of season tournaments. Members felt if we include it for one, we have to include it in all sports.

LaCrosse added in an end of season tournament for boys/girls. This is for all players to attend, it's not a team that is picked. This is the same with soccer, it is for all players. Maybe have a cap for fees. If a commissioner wants to have a tournament teams they are responsible for anything over the cap. Young discussed that we are to provide recreation and not have the money/budgets spread thin throughout these tournament teams. Feels this would harm our programs. We are using taxpayers' dollars for sports. How can we use this money for tournament teams? Smith stated if a coach decides to form a team with township kids and travel and not use any township money they should still be able to use township fields. Some members' feelings are if a coach takes some of our players during our season, for whichever sport, and makes a tournament team then they cannot use our fields.

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Years ago tournament teams paid for themselves; everything from equipment to uniforms. It was then decided that these tournament teams could not use township equipment; now the commissioners put the expenses in their budgets. There is no easy answer for this but we have to keep in mind that this is taxpayer's money. Why should a resident pay for a tournament team when they are already paying for general recreation. Webb suggested we don't budget for tournament teams but allow these teams to use township fields as long as it is all kids that were on our rosters, and the parents need to pay if they want their children to play on these special teams.

Some of the sports numbers are down because kids are playing other sports. This happens. Numbers are up and down all the time for various sports. Young noted we have to make a decision on this; either a cap for tournament teams for each sport and anything over will be the responsible of the parent to pay or eliminate it all together from all sports. Knox feels this should be tabled and this definitely has to be researched for next meeting.

Johnson motioned to eliminate post season tournament money from all budgets; that all post season tournaments are to be organized and run thru the AA and that each request for field use and equipment use must come through the Recreation Board for approval and that all players must be participants in our program. Webb seconded this motion. Young questioned these how teams are going to be picked. Members stated since the AA will run them that will be up to them. Young noted that he had a conversation with the township manager and he has a problem with our equipment being used out of season. Wear and tear on the equipment and then we are responsible to replace it. This has to be discussed further. Board would welcome Chris to a meeting to discuss some of these issues.

Young then called for a vote which was approved by all. Young then stated that Joe Olah was supposed to be here tonight to discuss this.

It was noted than any organized teams wanting to use township fields have to come to this Board for permission. Application needs to be filled out, fees paid and insurance submitted. Teams cannot just use our fields.

Young noted he was going to contact the manager about the eliminating of the tournament fees in the various budgets and ask him if he could put this money in a capital equipment fund for future use for recreation.

Young reviewed the list of what was made up when we did a township tour. There were a few things that he added and if anyone thinks of anything else to please get to him as soon as possible because this is going to be incorporated into the new Recreation Plan that will be done next year.  
New Business –

Baseball Tournament – Board has a request from ECTB, Inc. to hold a youth baseball tournament the weekend of October 27 and 28 at Fairview and Riverview fields. Young stated they cannot use Fairview as it is being used for the next three weekends and then the township closes up the parks. Diane to check with Eric Boncher from the Softball Association to see if Riverview is available. Board feel there is a need to revise the fee schedule; something with different levels of requests. Webb will work on this. Young motioned to grant permission for the use of Riverview

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fields if available for \$50 per field per day and that they submit needed insurance. Webb seconded this motion and it was approved by six, Nielsen voting nay.

Extend park reservations into the end of October. Grube had some requests for park reservations into October. Parks Department didn't have a problem with this. On motion by Knox, seconded by Johnson, and agreed by all, the Board voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they allow rental of pavilions through the end of October starting in 2013.

McKinney asked if we have any policy booklet for all the policies that are set by the Recreation Board. Young stated no we don't; that everything is done by motions. If someone wanted to review something specific they would have to search through the minutes of the Recreation Board. McKinney is going to work on a policy booklet.

Young noted he had a request for the use of Fairview from ENCO soccer. It was good money but we can't accommodate them because our in-house teams are using the field. Maybe next year. This is not the first request from them so they will probably ask again.

Off season sports – Young felt Olah was going to come tonight to discuss this. He felt we don't need to address this again as we have discussed it in the past and made a decision. Why change if it is working now. It was stated that the AA feels these off season sports are using AA coaches so they should get the money that is collected for this. McKinney feels we need to make a decision on where this money does goes. He explained how he handles the money that is collected. Smith was reviewing the recreation plan. He felt everything that they are discussing is in this plan. Members should review it.

Young called for a motion to adjourn. On motion by Johnson, seconded by Knox and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corr. Secretary