

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

November 17th, 2015 7:30 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, November 17th, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. with the following in attendance: Vice Chairperson Cheryl Nielsen, Members Rick Bulette, Thom Lee & Mike Weaver. Also in attendance were Township Supervisor Bob Smith and Director of Parks and Recreation Dan McKinney.

Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.

Nielsen makes a motion to approve October minutes – Bulette & Lee second motion to approve. Motion carried.

Public Comment & Correspondence – N/A

Directors Report – McKinney hands the floor for discussion to Township Supervisor Bob Smith for updates on Fairview Park.

Smith – Fairview baseball improvements, the park is looking good, the turf is now in; Township has fixed the area around the turf and put stone around dugouts; they are almost completed aside from the underside. All the electric is roughed in with the exception of the lights being physically in, sprinkling system is installed and the control boxes will be done in the spring.

The fences at the dugout areas currently have the poles in. Broke down into small incidentals, benches, bat racks, helmet racks, benches in dugouts (some kind of composite bench because cleats tend to be on the benches, getting prices for that now) Centerfield is only 360ft, discussions about raising center field fence about 6 – 10ft more, in case someone hits a homerun to center field. We'd like to make it more like 388ft to be closer to a perfect full size field. Raising the center section only, will put the black material on it because batters and catchers can't see the ball leave the pitchers hands; this is scheduled to go on the fence.

Putting a heavier mat on the fences behind home plate so that it doesn't get beat up from balls hitting it. We are going to post the field with new signage to help keep the field looking good. Our goal is to run our programs there and attract good baseball. The sod work looks good, and it was a great price. Its right around \$140,000 invested into the project. 2-2-2 has helped by putting \$20,000 in for the sod and irrigation system, which really helped. In the spring we should plan to have a final walk over.

The Palmer AA has volunteered to buy a new water fountain and new flagpole. Will be buying covers for pitchers mount and home plate, and tarps for the field. There is now an

electrical connection there. Nielsen asks if they improved the warm up section for players, and are they going to put a bullpen there for players? Smith – Yes, home and visiting teams will have to share this area due to the space there. Planning to macadam the parking lot all the way into the fence and adding a pad for bleachers, this will also help to provide additional seating. We will be taking the ones from Keystone Park.

A.) Tennis Court improvements at Fairview Park – McKinney – Currently working with a guy out of Lancaster, he was able to pull up the park on Google maps and just from that said it will be approx \$45,000 to put in an acrylic coating over our current courts. The sleeves for the posts will need some work as well, our guys can do this. When we get to this next spring the first move needs to be to cut down the trees. The courts are always covered in pine needles and unplayable. Once that happens they will be putting new LED lights in the basketball courts, and fixing the tennis court lighting.

Nielsen states that it would bring a nice group of people there. McKinney adds that we'd be able to program the courts, from kids up to seniors. It does need some fence work and other things. We could do this under \$70,000 and there is \$22,000 in the budget for lighting the tennis courts states Smith. Tom Adams is getting a quote for LED lights. This is a good thing with things being updated at Fairview Park. Lighting will not bother residences near by.

Palmer Point Apartments – Cindy Carman (Planning Director) project. Expected to have 312 dwelling units. They would like to install 8 ft of concrete for a bike path, and connect it to the existing paths in Palmer. Looking for the Recreation Board to approve the plan to connect the bike path instead of building sidewalks. Smith says that this would be an adjustment to the form of recreation they are putting in. Generating \$1400/acre in Recreation fees. Lee makes a motion for the recommendation for the recreation board to recommend the approval of the Hartley Avenue complex bike path; Bulette seconds the motion to approve this idea. Nielsen all in favor, motion to make recommendation for approval carried.

Pool Updates – Have been talking to Wade Associates (company that specifically works with pools) The Palmer Pool is a big asset to this community, especially for Camp Palmer. Smith adds that every year we collect taxes in this township, millage is broken up into designated areas; 1.47% of the total millage automatically goes to recreation, that amount is just under a million dollars of our taxable revenues. \$1.5-\$1.6 million dollar project to bring the pool back up to where it needs to be, the pool was given to us by the Lions Club. Smith also adds that we didn't think it would make it as long as it has. We need to attract children and families to the pool, we lost a lot this year because of Nazareth and they have the appealing water features.

We are going to roll over bonds to fund the pool project. Some of the proposed things are a water slide, possibly 2, some other water features, a zero entry area, and general updates. Our big decision was that we don't want to close the pool during summer months; it risks everyone leaving and then us trying to re-advertise to get them to come back. We will start the project in phases, attack as aggressively as we can in the spring and potentially open a week or two later, open for the summer, close when school starts and come back in fall to work on the rest and hopefully finish then. That's the current plan.

McKinney states that we need to replace the outside structure of the pool and that everything will be removed. We need to make sure we do this right from the start, our pool is much bigger than the Nazareth pool, theirs is 25 meters ours is 50. We have good leadership at the pool; it can be a great thing. Smith adds kudos to the BOS for this project. Everything but the tub of the pool will be removed, and the paint needs to be removed and the whole thing repainted. Lee asks if the reason for the stages is for the summer customers? Smith and McKinney both agree on it being for members and their kids, and especially summer camp.

We don't want to have multiple swim teams either, there are a lot factors and 2 phases are helpful to keep this. Once this is done I think we will get a lot of members who will want to come back each year. Smith says we want to make it user friendly and make it appealing to kids. Smith also says it will go into some type of bid for the project.

We have also been looking at the larger projects we need to address in the Township, the community center will now be completed, parking lots, retention pond, and the other entrance.

Smith adds in that the current budget there is \$44,000 for basketball improvements and a new tot lot at Wolf's Run. We allotted \$2,000 for Riverview for this year however next year the board needs to look at a face-lift for bathrooms and other areas. Also in the bond is money for the CCCC to finish the parking lots, retention pond, walking path, and second entrance. Smith adds we put in an additional \$55,000 for the walking path so that it goes from the community center to the fields. Also \$8,000 for pads for the bleachers at the fields, which we'll also have to discuss more details on bleachers.

Fairview – \$5,000 in budget to finish electrical updates for the softball fields. Also added additional \$40,000 to redo the bathrooms at Fairview. Concession stand will be converted into family bathrooms, and then once complete we will jump over to work on the old bathrooms.

Fox Run \$13,500 for the bathrooms and \$16,000 are already in the escrows account also for storage area. Nielsen asked if it's getting a flush toilet? Smith says yes.

Township will be adding some handicap accessible areas on the bike path, with the matching grant of \$120,000. And \$12,200 for split rail fences along the dam at Penn Pump to keep people from getting in the river.

Mill Race – \$11,000 for the electric in the pavilion and a water fountain.

Schaffer - \$2,400 to add a retaining wall and a fence.

This is all that is currently set aside for park projects at this time.

McKinney adds that some if not more of these items were in last years budget to make sure these projects are getting done; Will work more with Scott Kistler to get as many of these projects done as possible.

2-2-2 agreed to spend \$8,000 for a drainage system in field 1. It floods so badly at 1st base and around the benches. Hope to get that done before baseball season.

Smith also includes that there is \$30,000 for the infield mix, will be able to touch up a lot of the fields and get them back in better shape.

Time Change for this meeting? – McKinney - Do we want to change the time of this meeting? 6:30-7:00pm? Lee would like to make a motion to change the meeting to 7:00pm – Bulette seconds, Nielsen all in favor, motion carried to change the Recreation Board meeting time to 7:00pm.

Palmer Tree Lighting – Event will be on Saturday December 12th at 6:15, Palmer Elementary singing, moon bounces, smore's stations, Balloons the clown, photo booth, and Santa on the Palmer Fire Trucks.

McKinney adds that we have talked about getting a full time guy for the purpose of park rentals, in the summer he will check on parks. Approved for 2016. It will give us a presence in the parks. Also buying signage for the parks that will hold the rules and rentals. He will check permits in accordance with booked rentals and make sure those are the people who should be there.

CCCC Site Review – McKinney says we are still waiting on this permit, and it's hard to get a date, it's not concrete. Once we get it back the first thing that will happen is the walking path. This all has to be wrapped up by 2017. Weaver asks if the entrance is being finished. Smith answers that yes the entrance will be done. McKinney adds that we do need a second entrance here, especially when we have big events.

2-2-2 committee report – Smith includes that they met last night; there is about \$59,000 in that account. They approved the fixing of field 1 and hold on spending out of the account until the turf field gets started. There will be bathrooms, concession stand, and

lights that will be needed. The Palmer AA is paying for the mat lift. Bulette stated they said they will have an engineer check it out. Spending about \$1.3 million on recreation, we are fortunate to have this in our recreation programs, no budgets were cut, and they all went through. Have done a good job at keeping numbers in check.

Egg Hunt Update – Nielsen informs that the candy is ordered and egg hunt information is handed in for the next newsletter. Will be getting a team together soon to discuss details for the event.

Recreation Development Fund - \$925, 491.25

New Business – N/A

Old Business – Smith acknowledges that Nielsen received an award at the BIP meeting for her years of service to the Township, 25 years, since 1991.

Next meeting Tuesday December 15th, 2015 at 7:00pm.

Nielsen motions to adjourn, Bulette and Weaver second. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Ariel Kollar, Corresponding Secretary