

# PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

December 18, 2018, 7:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 @ 7:00 pm with the following in attendance: Chair, Cheryl Nielsen, Rick Bulette, Liam Brohan, Keith Horton, and Dan McKinney. Thomas Lee, Kelly Higgins and Michael Weaver were absent.

Also, in attendance was Robert Smith, Palmer Township Board of Supervisors Member.

Nielson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:** Discussion about who had the minutes from the last meeting. Keith Horton made a motion to table the minutes until the next meeting, Rick Bulette seconded. Motion carried. Tabled until Kelly Higgins returns.

## **Old Business:**

Brohan – Are we going to make more outdoor Pickleball courts?

McKinney – In the summer, they have Fairview, other options?

## **Directors Report and Continuation of Old Business:**

McKinney mentioned the new carpet in our meeting room and everyone commented.

McKinney – Budget 2019 already set, makes pressure to speed up the Palmer Township Athletic Association (referred to as PTAA going forward), next budget to be done by June or July.

Nielsen – Any news on a new township manger?

Smith – It is down to four – explained where Christman went and explained the factors behind it.

McKinney – Discussion on outside meeting about/with PTAA – eventually has to be put on paper, 1<sup>st</sup> step is the Recreation Board.

Smith – We can add in your comments, has to go to Chuck Bruno and then adopt as an ordinance.

McKinney – referred to handout to simplify

Brohan – Are we responsible for the concession? The PTAA owns the refrigerator and stoves so technically, don't see the PTAA maintaining.

McKinney and Smith – They always have.

Nielsen – PTAA doesn't have utility bills, eventually had to buy it back from the people we donated it to.

Smith – They maintain the concessions, they using it and profiting from it. When we weren't getting revenue, we decided to take care of the building

McKinney – A good point, they would have to have a service-safe license if serving food and would be a good idea.

Brohan – It's strange they are responsible for the appliances

McKinney – If I was them, I would buy what I want and not have us involved. First choice of percentage of time, township would donate all uniforms and equipment to PTAA.

Smith – PTAA paid for last football helmets. Township would provide storage space free of charge and they would pay someone to manage it. Rich Frieler gets paid by the township and they would be responsible for counting and keeping and PTAA would pay for those services.

McKinney – We want to be responsible for what goes on on the fields so we will continue to do it. Commissioners are a good group and a good group to hand it over to. PTAA is to pay for all equipment. It is better for Chuck Romfo to be in charge than the township. We can institute rental fees for tournament usage, something needs to be on paper.

Smith – Discussed lifting residency restriction for all sports.

Smith – All Palmer kids will be first.

Brohan – Is there a percentage of non-residents?

Smith – A lot of Palmer residents played for outside teams. Forks Township changing policy as well.

McKinney – They have a lot of good ideas. Tournament teams, Nazareth takes top ten kids.

Smith – We were approached but couldn't because we run differently.

McKinney – Something that needs attention is the lining of the fields, it needs supervisory capacity for the lining.

Smith – This is how it works: Rich Frieler lines them, but Football and Soccer does it themselves. Interested in getting a striping guy? Fourteen days to make the rotation for cutting the grass and it uses every single employee in Sewer, Parks and Roads. We added three people to the budget this year and are going to try to dedicate a team to cut grass because other things in the township are falling behind.

McKinney – All needs to be on paper and discussed last bullet points in hand out.

Nielsen – Has the PTAA already raised their fees?

Smith – Not yet because not adopted yet.

Horton – What was the initial turnaround?

Smith – To be instituted over a four-year period.

Brohan – Why not do it in two?

McKinney – We don't want to leave them scrambling.

Nielsen – How much do we give the PTAA?

McKinney - \$94,600 goes to PTAA.

Smith – Most money comes from Palmer Days. Another decision that needs to be made is who is going to fund the Home Run Derby?

McKinney – went over budget figures

Nielsen – Can you explain why we are doing it gradually for them to become self-funded over a four-year period?

Smith – They have to make some large purchases.

Nielson – Maybe they will be more conscious? This is going to have to be tweaked once in awhile

Smith – PTAA dove into every sport to determine cost.

Brohan – Who is responsible for background checks on coaches?

Smith – PTAA is and always has, we will never be totally free.

Nielsen – PTAA's basic ideas are good. If they want to lift residency, they should start.

Horton – I am all in favor.

McKinney – They should start this year?

Bulette – Gradually

Smith – Ten percent of registration will be their money, need to decide how to use the 222 funds?

McKinney – Bathrooms need to be done.

Nielsen – Portable would be good.

McKinney – PennDOT finally approved the other entrance to be opened, irrigation and drainage are a problem.

Smith – It has become a touchy situation, we now have to go thru the estate, and there has been so much rain.

McKinney – The project keeps getting pushed back.

Nielsen – Do we want to make a motion to remove 15 percent of their funding?

Brohan – Twenty-five percent.

Nielsen – Explain how the residency vs. non-residency works? Would it apply to baseball?

Smith – Tournament teams are pulling 30-40 percent, the need for this is to be more competitive.

McKinney - I don't think it's a problem to say if you change your residency, you lose twenty-five percent of funding. Ninety thousand that originally went to them remains and doesn't go somewhere else in the budget, if we don't use it, it gets banked in the Recreation Fund.

Bulette – We should start moving in the right direction.

Smith – If we can attract more, then talent can be split up.

McKinney – CBL League – low level – tournament teams increase opportunity.

Smith – We can never satisfy everyone. There are tremendous coaches that are coaching elsewhere, hopefully they will come back.

Nielsen – Motion to start the process in 2019 with twenty-five percent decrease in funding by raising registration fees and lifting residency restrictions.

Smith – I will take back to Chuck Romfo, then back to Recreation Board and then to Board of Supervisors.

Brohan – Can start with Spring sports.

Smith – Explained that this would be driven by registration.

McKinney – Tree Lighting was a success and Miracle League was a huge success. Discussed the programs that happen at the Charles Chrin Community Center. Just one more question? Everyone good with structure?

Smith – It is easier to explain the process if some says they are taxpayers. We are slowly transferring.

McKinney – Have 222 make recommendations for bathrooms, that would be great.

**New Business:**

Horton – Asked about reorganization due to Miracle League obligations, maybe switch nights.

McKinney – Miracle League is Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Spring and Fall.

Smith – We would have to post it at least three times before that change can be made.

Nielsen – We will reorganize at the next meeting. We need one new member. Will get a current list of members and titles from Brenda DeGerolamo.

**Egg Hunt:**

Nielsen – Is there a chance of getting the Miracle League field for the Egg Hunt?

McKinney – Can make that happen and the turf field too.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019 @ 7:00 pm

Liam Brohan asks for a motion to adjourn. Rick Bulette seconds the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Brenda Lazarus: Corresponding Secretary