

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

DECEMBER 19, 2017, 7:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, December 19th @ 7:00 pm with the following in attendance: Vice Chair Thomas Lee, Treasurer, Richard Bulette, Liam Brohan, Michael Weaver and Dan McKinney. Robert Smith was also in attendance.

Lee called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Weaver makes a motion to approve the October 2017 minutes, Brohan motioned and Bulette second to approve motion. Motion carried.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: No new business to discuss.

Public Comment: N/A

Directors Report: Grant Update

McKinney - The story behind the turf field, \$243,800 – Northampton County approved 12/18/17. \$365,000 is the second part and does not have to be submitted until 2019.

Lee – Second grant? Is it earmarked?

Brohan – Timeframe?

McKinney – 2018. Irrigation and drainage system in the spring which puts both fields done in the Spring. Turf field is complete, lights are in, electric in January, it has been complete since August. There have been two soccer groups out to test field.

Brohan – Cameras?

McKinney - Cameras at the Community Center can observe field.

Smith – Bathroom and Concession stand will be built next year and the Board of Supervisors is going to take care of it, an Engineer was consulted, it will be made to look like the Community Center and will start in Spring.

Brohan – Scoreboard?

Smith – 222 money

Brohan – Will it have a sponsor?

Smith – It is hard to get someone without using their products

McKinney – Bleachers are in, southwest corner is ready for scoreboard, lighting can be controlled from cell phone.

Smith – one recommendation from the BOS is that all fields are used by permit only – need signage which would be a good way to enforce it.

McKinney – hopefully there will not be a ton of open time.

Brohan – What do you need?

Smith – Need an ordinance. Some type of wording.

McKinney – It's telling people that they can't use it.

Brohan – What is the process of getting a permit?

McKinney – explained the process

Smith – Need an ordinance stating:

Who

Where

How do you get it

Fee structure

Open field time

Lee – How do you accommodate residents vs. nonresidents:

Smith – Organize

Brohan – What does Cottingham do?

Smith – Permit

McKinney – explained CCCC remote camera system

Brohan – Do the two fields have different rental rules?

McKinney – Different rates

Smith – Need signage at all

Brohan – plan is to come up with a permit ordinance?

Smith – Do homework and check out other municipalities

Brohan – might have something unique here and high demand that needs to be treated differently

Lee – It is a park but not a park and it is on CCCC land – different rules

Smith – include all fields including baseball and football fields

McKinney – All parks have Rules and Regulations but how is it enforced, fields have to be addressed. It is not an ordinance about organized events, it is an ordinance that allows rules to be enforced.

Smith – getting calls to use baseball fields and running tournaments, need a plan for tournaments

McKinney – way we do it now will work.

Smith – Who is going to do maintenance? Renters ?

Lee – no structure format

McKinney – Yes, in general – we make sure there are never conflicts with AA

Smith – google maps is how people find us

McKinney – Don't know if there is going to be one cookie cutter price? Entrance needs to be done on west side of CCCC meeting next year.

Pool Update

McKinney – 358,000 gallons lost, drain fixed, replaced a slide

Brohan – Are there lawyers involved?

Smith – Possibly

McKinney – significant issues – cover supported by water – pool problems, rusting, grass, umbrellas have holes and cranks are broken. The pool was a huge success, raising prices and a new entry system. Need to discuss the rules on the walking path. Noticed that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the people are bringing dogs. Rules are no dogs are allowed in the parks. Should this be revisited?

Brohan – What is the rule on the bike path?

McKinney – Allowed

Lee – Bike Path vs. Walking path? Need to revisit about bikes.

Weaver – Concerns?

Brohan – Should not be allowed on CCCC property

Smith – Is it posted at the CCCC?

Lee – Does the walking path have signage?

Smith – really need a dog park

Weaver – knew we were coming to this again

Brohan – There is plenty of places for a dog, not a dog park

Smith – Walking path, no bikes, parks, no dogs

Brohan – CCCC is a unique facility, unique rules

McKinney – Sounds like this is group that wants a no dog facility and I'm not sure that's realistic.

Lee – It would be good to find out what other municipalities do 95% of the time.

McKinney – Turf field – several things that need to happen, when will we start renting? Palmer Lacrosse wants it to be March 1st.

Smith – as long as Legal has passed everything

McKinney – Legal is all done – the only Palmer AA group that wants it is Lacrosse, Field Hockey doesn't want to use it often, coach wants to use grass.

Smith – Don't understand that, once they leave Palmer, they go to a turf field.

McKinney – They will use it but not to the extent of what we thought. Lacrosse has requests (in hand out)

Weaver – What about the other field?

Brohan – Snow?

McKinney – Not removing snow from field, a soccer team in the Lehigh Valley wants to do tryouts here. Needs a go ahead to start renting and using?

Brohan – AA has first rights

McKinney – Rates? (In handout) Would like preferred customers that we know would not wreck field – ENCO - \$120.00/hr., \$140.00/hr. with lights, General population, \$150.00/hr., \$175.00/hr. with lights

Brohan – Depends on what is available?

McKinney – Suggestion – Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday – Palmer AA, Tuesday and Thursdays – organizations, Sundays, games.

Smith – Asked about open gym times? Floating times for fields?

Lee – Where did you get the \$120.00? Some are \$300/hr.

McKinney – I know what people are willing to pay and what they won't pay, there is a group that would like to get on January 10th.

Smith – need a go from legal to make sure there is no issues with open construction.

Brohan – Is there an insurance waiver needed?

McKinney – Yes, at all fields for outside organizations.

Brohan – Does that prohibit impromptu?

McKinney – we have insurance that covers similar to open gym users.

Smith – Organized teams have to have insurance.

McKinney – commented on issues with AA, meeting with Recreation Board and AA, at one time, Cheryl, Tom and Richard will be involved – nothing until after first of the year

Smith – Nobody interested in changing funding- Budget approved for this year – need a new structure plan – AA needs to rethink and rebrand – things have changed – so some changes are going to be needed, especially how to fund in the future? Find out what's important to everyone? We are gifted here, best fields in the Lehigh Valley.

Lee- Does AA have ideas with rebranding?

Smith – Football is struggling, numbers and enrollment are down, other teams allow players from other places, Palmer does not, maybe add tennis, there are different avenues.

Brohan – We need demographic information

Lee – AA is a separate entity. We cut them a check but maintain their fields and provide gyms for free. They are not part of the township and should do their own thing. Recreation Board is part of the township and meeting should be with township personnel, not AA.

Smith – Township sets the ages and regulations.

Lee- Who sets these? It's not us (Recreation Board).

Lee – Asking about concerns that Smith is addressing, we can sit down with them and the BOS, suggesting they run independent of the township.

Smith – Two options: 1. Money in account to maintain. 2. Fee structure.

Lee – questioning structure or being restructured?

Smith – would need a contract for next 100 years. It is a divided board – dependent or molded?

Lee – we talked about rebranding, if making a change, why not consider something controlled by the township – tax payer's money, make sure we are governing.

Smith – If sports are going to survive, change needs to be done, kept thumb on top of AA and allowed not to branch out, but we need to grow with the times.

Lee – Questioned about AA in the Comprehensive Plan?

Smith – It is a unique partnership.

McKinney – It is two different discussions, 1. Financial and 2. Resistance to suggestions.

Lee – There is some reason for this level of Recreation Board

Smith – Opinions are great but what are other areas doing, we need to back our need for changes. Other municipalities give money to their sports programs, not just us.
McKinney- I know Nazareth basketball gets about 8 grand and pays over 40k a year for gym rentals.

McKinney – Another thing that needs to be addressed is we are down a member according to the by-laws that read that 3 meetings missed, you are out. Vincent has missed almost all meetings in 2017. We need another member, maybe 2. Possibly put in the Palmer Newsletter, if someone's term was up, they would have received notification, the term is 4 years, 2 years Presidents.

Back to Directors Report:

McKinney – Pickleball counts are great – success. I have to give a reorganization to the township after January meeting.

222 Committee Report:

Bullette – with 222 – more talking together – reopen?

Smith – restructure 222 – pulled money for fields

Brohan – Tuskes pulling recreation funds?

Smith – pay recreation in phases

Brohan – estimate?

Smith – fair amount of money

Egg Hunt: N/A

Lee – Let's recap – we need to put together a plan to adopt a formal ordinance for BOS. By next meeting, everyone does research, could be different or the same.

Smith – Ordinance has to address signage too

Weaver – questioned light behind fieldhouse – seems to always be on?

Smith – should be on a timer

Lee – Ordinance has to include all parks

Brohan – Any structured fields, ex: AA uses?

Smith – not opposed to using fields

McKinney – organized events must have permit

Lee – will come up with a recommendation for ordinance and walking path.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Brohan motions to adjourn, Lee and Weaver second motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Brenda Lazarus: Corresponding Secretary