

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
January 16, 2024
7:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center of Palmer Township. The following were in attendance: Chairman Cheryl Nielsen, Vice Chair Thom Lee, Members Dawn Ackerman and Darryl Keckler. Also in attendance was Dan McKinney, Director of Parks and Recreation.

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

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes – November 2023

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of November 2023

Motion: Approve, Moved by Thom Lee, Seconded by Dawn Ackerman.
Passed. 4-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Ackerman, Keckler, Lee, Nielsen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tina, Kevin and Magdalena Walton of 209 Brentwood Avenue attended the meeting. Tina Walton explained that she has been a resident of Palmer Township since 2007 and is heavily involved with the Palmer Township Athletic Association and was the one who submitted the package that was delivered to the Recreation Board anonymously. Nielsen explained that the Recreation Board was not an investigative authority and that the PTAA is independent. Walton commented that it was not according to the PTAA by laws. Nielsen stated that the Palmer Township lawyers want a written statement stating gray areas between the two organizations, the PTAA no longer uses tax money. Walton reiterated that the PTAA by laws state they are under the Recreation Board. Nielsen explained that we can recommend, and I have been part of the township for many of years and it has always been this way. Now that we have the name of who submitted the package, we can send it forward. Lee said that you did the right thing by coming forward and further explained that the PTAA

used to fall under the Recreation Board until about three years ago. As a Recreation Board we are still responsible for the taxpayer's money and sports programs. Township attorneys asked us to put in writing who is responsible for what. We put a Memorandum of Understanding together but it never reached the right place. Nielsen stated that there is going to be a meeting, the Township has changed solicitors, and these new solicitors want this document of responsibility in writing. Walton suggested that there are so many questions, and was told if it is not in writing, it does not exist. Lee also suggested that there is other things in your supporting document, there is quite a lot to read from an accounting standpoint, a legal standpoint and until told otherwise, it still falls under us and you coming forward, I commend you, we can support your next move to the Board of Supervisors. Walton stated that the package was clear information, whether anonymous or not. Nielsen commented that it will be a slap on the hand for tax returns. Walton continued to state that four years in a row it is the same errors, Board members are the same board members since 2022, still the wrong treasurer. McKinney asked Walton if she was still the Girls Field Hockey Commissioner? Walton answered yes. Keckler asked Walton, what is your goal? Walton answered, I really do not know, that the PTAA be held accountable and not to have a hostile environment. Both Keckler and Lee asked for examples? Walton went on to explain, denying coach's requests, cannot get reimbursed for money put out, she continued about the bias of other sports and when questioning it, was told to stay in her own lane. Lee asked if the bias was mostly towards woman and Ackerman explained there is a difference between male and female sports. Walton agreed. Nielsen questioned what kind of fundraisers does Field Hockey do? Walton explained that they do a clothing sale. Lee asked are you forced to fundraise? Walton answered, encouraged. Lee asked if there was a set amount of money that had to be raised? Walton explained that our sport is given a budget and came in 1000.00 under budget but when asked for reimbursement for money put out of pocket, was denied. Lee asked where the bias is, end of season parties submitted for reimbursement and was denied. My real issue is if I have a taxpayer resident that feels threatened, these sports should be fun. Walton stated that there should be no alcohol, no kids should see it and is always in the Press Box. Lee commented that it is a new generation, people do not want to see it and kids do not need to see it. Walton stated that there are people that struggle with addiction. Nielsen stated she has not been to a PTAA meeting in a long time. Thom explained that the bylaws state that a Recreation Board Member should be present. Keckler pointed out that a concerned citizen needs to have a voice and Walton is following that process, she is following the rules. Someone from the PTAA should have to respond, BOS can shoot it back to the Recreation Board. Lee pointed out that if it is dismissed, he has a problem, a concerned citizen needs to be heard. Walton stated that Spring sports are going to be starting up soon so now is the time for an updated document, they have to follow the chain of command and we are the first step. The PTAA minutes are public records after they are approved. Keckler commented that he

thinks we are trying to figure it out and now we can efficiently move forward. Walton expressed that it might be hard for us because we answer to the BOS. Keckler explained that we have tried to get this done for years. Ackerman stated that the main issue is who does what, but something has to be put in writing, too much miscommunication and it becomes cloudy. Nielsen confirmed that she went to PTAA Board meetings because thought it was my role. Ackerman explained that she has done 5013C's with other entities. I do not care what it is, just needs to be clarified. The sole entity not taking money from the township should pay for everything, fields, gyms, etc. McKinney informed that it is in writing, but no one enforces it. If anyone came here, they could read the agreement but again no one enforces it. Nielsen stated that if the PTAA walked the township would be left to run the sports program. Lee confirmed that other kids from different municipalities are playing for Palmer Township. Walton confirmed that in Field Hockey there is no poaching, we absorbed some Wilson and Nazareth because they have no programs, everyone plays. Ackerman stated that Palmer kids go to other townships. Lee questioned if you are a not so good kid, they do not get to play? Kevin Walton, 209 Brentwood explained that there are A and B teams. Keckler explained that his son is on the A team but plays with Forks and Nazareth kids, now some Palmer kids are on the B & C team and as taxpayers they should be playing. McKinney explained that before they only brought kids in to fill teams, four years ago it changed when they went independent from the township. Walton commented that it moves away from a Recreation program. Keckler commented that it is wear and tear on our fields and facilities and should be Palmer kids. Jim Walton stated they he had said in PTAA meetings that Palmer residents are a priority. Walton said it looks like Easton Sports are starting to run again. Lee informed that there was a Wrestling Tournament here on January 7th, 320 children X \$35.00 sponsored by PTAA, \$5.00 adult admission, \$3.00 children admission, concession stand revenue and do not pay for any facility costs. Discussion occurred on Legion Ball. Lee asked Walton if the Recreation Board could contact her? Walton replied yes. Lee expressed if there is any retribution, please let us know. Walton stated that the feeling is they want me out. McKinney stated that Walton is a big advocate for the program. Lee informed that this information was submitted to the Recreation Board.

Darryl Keckler made a recommendation after hearing Public Comment the Recreation Board thinks the Palmer Township Athletic Association should have to respond to the Board of Supervisors on the submission submitted to the Recreation Board.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Dawn Ackerman, Seconded by Thom Lee.
Passed. 4-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Ackerman, Keckler, Lee, Nielsen

Thom Lee made a second recommendation asking for a formal update on the Memorandum of Understanding and asking if more information is needed or are our services no longer needed?

Motion: Approve, Moved by Dawn Ackerman, Seconded by Darryl Keckler. Passed. 4-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Ackerman, Keckler, Lee, Nielsen

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Member INFORMATION

Every January is a Reorganization discussion. Nielsen commented that she took over Liam and this would be her second year. Lee explained the two-year chair but five-year term, suggested going forward maybe making it a one-year term.

Darryl Keckler made a recommendation to keep the Palmer Township Recreation Board as it is organized now. Cheryl Nielsen, President, Thom Lee, Vice President, Darryl Keckler, Secretary for the remaining year, going forward, it will be a one-year term.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Thom Lee, Seconded by Dawn Ackerman. Passed. 4-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Ackerman, Lee, Keckler, Nielsen

4. Old Business INFORMATION

The update on the Pickleball Courts at Fairview is that the curbing is in and now the fence must go in. In April, the topcoat will be put down.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT INFORMATION

McKinney commented on the MOU and as staff we fly in the dark with the PTAA, no formal written document.

6. Egg Hunt INFORMATION

McKinney informed that the Easter Egg Hunt will be on Friday, March 29th, it is early this year. If anyone would like to volunteer to be at the Community center by 8:00am and the Easter Egg Hunt starts at 10:00am. Nielsen commented that the Easter Egg Hunt should be held for age groups that attend Palmer Elementary School for all

grades.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

Darryl Keckler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27pm, the motion was seconded by Thom Lee.

Board Members voting Ayes: Ackerman, Keckler, Lee, Nielsen,
Passed. 4-0.

Next meeting February 20, 2024 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus
Corresponding Secretary