

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

October 16, 2018, 7:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 @ 7:00 pm with the following in attendance: Chair, Cheryl Nielsen, Vice Chair, Thomas Lee, Liam Brohan, Keith Horton, and Kelly Higgins. Dan McKinney and Michael Weaver were absent.

Also, in attendance was Robert Smith, Palmer Township Board of Supervisors Member, Joel Dean, Frances Dean, Chuck Romfo, President of the Palmer Township Athletic Association and Dave Dumpel, Member of the Palmer Township Athletic Association Executive Board.

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

Approval of Minutes: Higgins makes a motion to approve the July, 2018 minutes, Lee seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mr. Joel Dean introduced himself and explained he has lived in Palmer Township for 30 years and he was here to give information about Pickleball. We play at the Charles Chrin Community Center, the YMCA and outside at Fairview Park. He thanked the township for lining the Pickleball courts at Fairview. He asked if there were any more tennis courts in the township?
Nielsen – Yes, all over.

Higgins – Who is we?

Dean – Whoever wants to play at Fairview, currently we have about 20 – 25 people. Pickleball courts are much smaller and explained how they go on tennis courts, six Pickleball courts on two Tennis courts.

Nielsen – questioned the net

Higgins – What is Pickleball?

Dean – It is very similar to Tennis, paddle is more like a ping pong paddle.

Brohan – Is Pickleball for the older?

Bulette – In Florida, it is just starting, it is becoming a craze.

Dean – Stated he had asked Dan to put in actual Pickleball courts and he told him to come to a meeting.

Nielsen – Do you play in the daylight?

Dean – Yes and explained all the various places they play

Lee – When you play at Fairview, do you exceed capacity, do people sit?

Dean – It works out because then people get to rest.

Brohan – The township has twelve tennis courts.

Smith – Some need to resurfaced

Brohan – Perfect to redo

Lee – Is it an organized league and if not, do you plan to organize?

Dean – It would help if we had dedicated Pickleball courts.

Lee – Do you know the cost?

Dean – I do not and showed the Board how it works on a tennis court.

Brohan – So you can get two Pickleball courts on one Tennis court?

Nielsen – So it wouldn't be permanent?

Dean - We would like it to be

Brohan – Old Orchard, Palmer Pool

Nielsen – Old Orchard used mostly for Basketball. What about Brentwood and Briarcliff too?

Dean – Where is Briarcliff?

Brohan – Palmer Pool

Lee – You are not asking for anything specific?

Nielsen – Yes, he is wants Pickleball courts.

Dean – It would be nice to have lined Pickleball courts instead of them being shared with Tennis courts.

Smith – I'm sure there is funding out there because it's a healthy activity, might be grants available.

Lee – We could pass up to the Board.

Nielsen – Is it the same surface as Tennis Courts?

Dean – Upper Bucks did a nice job, check out upperbuckspickleball.net, their website to see them. Thank you for your time.

Nielsen – Thank you for coming.

Chuck Romfo, President of the Palmer Township Athletic Association and Dave Dumpel, Palmer Township Athletic Association Executive Board Member introduced themselves.

(From this point on Palmer Township Athletic Association will be referred to as PTAA)

Old Business:

Nielsen – You are here to discuss funding?

Romfo – We would like to discuss the proposal brought to the Board starting in 2019. We have 1600 registrations on average, all registration fees go into the account, \$35.00 to sport, \$10.00 to a capital fund and \$5.00 back to Chrin. It is changing from a tax payer program to a user-based program, raising registration rates for sports that have true league fees to \$75.00, \$35.00 for non-officiated sports. PTAA will be responsible fore all fees, league fees, referees, jerseys, wearable equipment, etc.

Higgins – Is there a document explain this?

Smith – There will be and will go into depth, we have looked at all the needs. AJ, the person who did the Comprehensive Plan suggested to split the PTAA from the township which gives the ability to grow on needs that are coming up so not to use tax dollars. Turf field will be another \$1,000,000 to resurface in 10 years. It all sounds simple but it is not, would like to do change as a resolution, want to protect kids and volunteers as coaches and make sure we know who is paying for what. Everything needs to be defined, it's a ton of information, no room for any gray area, so there is no problem down the line. First thought was to have two Recreation Board members, two Board members and two PTAA members to meet every quarter to discuss needs and the accounts, balance gets carried on.

Higgins – Is it a balance sheet?

Smith – Yes, a way for us to take a look at the maintenance of the fields, to start working on that, had to generate additional revenue to start projects. All T's need to be crossed and I's need to be dotted, to protect everyone. Sports are changing, needs to be crafted on paper.

Romfo – PTAA would be responsible for all consumable, example is uniforms, helmets, goal posts are not consumable.

Nielsen – Why not Baseball field?

Smith – Lining will become difficult as things get going, trying to get a handle on who will take of all of it, best way would be to make a crew, a huge liability goes along with that.

Brohan – Do you know your operation budget?

Romfo - Yes, four years at those rates.

Brohan-Are you worrying how much it will increase in four years?

Romfo – Thinking of expanding to a year-round sport except for football, it's a want and need and can be marketed. Last year we maxed out with Tracy School being down, had to pay Palmer for Saturdays and this year, Palmer School will be down.

Higgins – questioned costs?

Romfo – Third, fourth, eighth and tenth children are free – family discount is 2 to 3 percent of the budget. Right now, we are the only gig that is subsidized by taxpayers and have flat rated and still are the cheapest.

Smith – PTAA gets first use of fields. We definitely want to be done and be ready and not worry in six months that there will be problems.

Romfo – Unveil in Spring 2019

Lee – A better understanding of what you expect from this board, we put it together and send it out, make recommendations and PTAA would come back?

Smith – Agree 100%, it was rolled out wrong, Chris's letter should have been discussed. A lot of time has been spent of figuring out fees.

Lee – Do you have copies of our recommendations?

Romfo – No

Smith – Never saw it from Chris

Lee – Sent letter to Dave Colver

Smith – Dave is not the person, I am, I should have gotten it.

Brohan – What's competitive for \$75.00?

Romfo – Sports that need officials, \$35.00 for younger.

Dumpel – The growing trend is some kind of entry level.

Romfo – All fees now go through Dan; referee fees go to coaches and it is hard to forecast.

Lee – Can you estimate how many will be in the \$75.00 zone?

Romfo – 80 – 20, baseball is impacted by travel, football is impacted by concussion, soccer numbers are not hurting.

Smith – High schools are concerned they are looking to spend on a new football field but they need players.

Romfo – High Schools are reaching out to us now, doing mini camps and coach instruction.

Smith – It's not an easy decision whether to move it or revamp it, travel ball is really growing.

Lee – Are we expecting something from the PTAA?

Smith – Township wish list?

Lee – We can send copies of our original recommendations to Bob, Chuck and Dave.

Smith – We just want to make sure it works as he discussed with Chris, Township Manager.

Dumpel – Referee fees are going up, going to have to do some homework.

Nielsen – Thank you for coming and we look forward to working with you.

Romfo – I don't foresee any road blocks.

Smith – Five-year plan – Ten-year plan, have to figure out not just building it but maintaining it.

Higgins – Have registrations dropped in a year?

Romfo – Four years

Higgins – Approximately 10%

Smith – This is a great township with great facilities.

Turf Field Restrooms – hand out – went over specs

Higgins – noticed there was no cost attached

Smith – I can help, the first, single swelling, \$225,000, one is like a shed

Higgins – Likes the first because of unisex room, first and third have four bathrooms

Nielsen – Bethlehem Township - \$38,000 for a portable bathroom, it can be removed or moved to a different location.

Smith – We talked about that, it's a simple hook up.

Brohan – This facility needs a permanent bathroom, like Riverview.

Higgins – Where would you store it?

Smith – Parking garage.

Lee – These layouts are for information purposes

Smith – Yes, Dan wanted you to see it, hook ups on the east, water, sewage and gas

Discussion incurred on the different layouts.

Lee – We can discuss with Dan and send a recommendation up.

Directors Report:

N/A

New Business:

Nielsen – Brought up changing the time when Dan is not here, how many is there that he can't attend, maybe change the time when he can't make it.

Lee – I think you can send it, it would have to be advertised.

Nielsen – Who is in charge of fields for Fall Baseball? It was awful when I went to Fairview.

Smith – Dan is, it was talked about putting open or closed on the fields.

Egg Hunt:

Nielsen – Last year got a note from the people on Stones Crossing who teach Taekwondo. They want to give us eggs with candy and coupons.

Lee – That would be advertising and would have to be brought to the Board?

Smith – I think it's best the way it is.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 20, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Thomas Lee asks for a motion to adjourn. Rick Bulette seconds the motion to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Brenda Lazarus: Corresponding Secretary