

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
January 17, 2023
7:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 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 Angelo Stambolis. Also in attendance was Dan McKinney, Director of Parks and Recreation and Jeffrey Young, member of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors.

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

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes – December 2022

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of December 20, 2022

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

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Young thanked Lee for talking to Michael Brett, Chairman of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors to keep liaisons for all the different boards. Young explained that he is no longer the Chairman of the BOS, he gave it up. Nielsen welcomed Young as our liaison.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. New Member

INFORMATION

Every January is a Reorganization discussion.

Cheryl Nielsen 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, all for a two year term.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Thom Lee, Seconded by Angelo Stambolis. Passed. 4-1.

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

4. Old Business **INFORMATION**

Lee stated that one of the things we should do is give an adequate description to our newest member about our relationship with the Palmer Township Athletic Association over the past couple of years. We go directly to the AA to discuss things and then goes to the BOS. Lee explained that he had an informal meeting with Dave Dumpel, President of the AA and he surprised me by stating that they had their own liaison to the BOS. Young stated that was not the case. Lee stated that our impression was that they had to go through the Recreation Board. McKinney commented that it is still confusing after fifteen years and it would benefit everyone to have a clear identification. Young explained that the AA wants access to the fields as much as they want. He stated he met with them about the Youth Center to make sure they were reaching out to their members for funding. McKinney stated that they held a tournament at the Community Center taking in \$5000 and the township gets \$250.00, maybe defined somewhere but no one knows. Nielsen stated it feels like the old way. McKinney explained that he wants to see the AA succeed but things need to be defined and put on paper. Young suggested that maybe a sit down with the AA like when the Youth Center was started. McKinney stated one more point, I don't live in Palmer and this came from the outside. Young asked now that they are getting the fees you want them to pay? McKinney stated that there has to be some kind of identification, so everyone is on the same page. Ackerman stated that she sat on the AA Board and understands that they are on their own now but the township owns the building and it is a very gray area and something needs to be written down to use as a basis, the bottom of the Youth Center is for the AA to use but not written down something should be in writing to protect both, friendly agreed upon for clarification. Lee stated that when the transition happened, there were agreements, field lining, etc. but think it has gotten diffused and asked McKinney if he was getting bills? McKinney answered that he just got a bill for paint because they ran out, the AA coaches line the fields and take care of the nets. Young stated that they use a field liner to line the softball fields. Lee asked McKinney if the schedule a tournament, do they schedule through the Community Center and does it offset your income? McKinney responded that they go through us to schedule the building and the fields but now they are adding things like a flag football team and spring soccer, if it's outside the regular season, off season, they used to pay. Ackerman asked what is expected of the township, what are they responsible for? Again sat on the AA Board for two years and still asking the same questions, there is a need for a clear definition. Lee stated he can reach out to Dave Dumpel and have an informal meeting. Young stated that he needs to be a part of that meeting because of the BOS. Lee asked two AA members and 2 Recreation Board members? Ackerman

stated just a friendly conversation for clarification. Lee stated that because they are a separate entity, who is responsible for what. Are they running independently to Young and he is going to the BOS? Nielsen stated we want to keep them happy, they do a great job. McKinney concurred a tremendous job. Ackerman collaborated they get 1500 – 1700 registrants a year, it is where you meet people before they get to school. Nielsen commented that we have all went through it at different levels with a great outcome and should reach out to AA for a friendly discussion of needs. Lee stated that he was going to look for past discussions and notes of past times and Nielsen stated that she would look to. Lee stated that it all has to be agreed upon and everyone on the same page, just because it is in the minutes doesn't mean it was taken to the BOS.

B. Recreation Board Agenda

INFORMATION

McKinney state that the agenda should come from the Recreation Board. Nielsen stated that if items need to be discussed they would ask for it to be put on the agenda.

C. YC Update

INFORMATION

Lee explained that the meeting for this month was moved to January 25th and they asked me in the last meeting to replace Liam Brohan from the Recreation Board. Young explained that Liam can resign. Lee explained that he asked Vic if there was anything he needed from the Recreation Board and he responded no. Young explained that they are 246,000 short but they got some grants. Lee asked with it is fully up and running, what are the expectations for the Youth Center, will it fall under the Recreation Board and the Community Center? Young answered with yes and yes. Kiwanis wants certain things. McKinney stated that everyone really needs to talk, it needs a floor that will and can be multipurpose. In the beginning the Kiwanis was very adamant that it has to be non-traditional sports. Young explained that he doesn't know what restrictions will be put on the Youth Center. Lee stated no restrictions just want it to be utilized, the Recreation Board want to see it utilized. Young stated that it will be interesting to see how the BOS will react when it needs to be finished, if it gets close, it will get momentum.

5. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

INFORMATION

McKinney announced it coming to camp time. We have a new camp director, Elia Lee, bus prices are outrageous and we would like to open to returning campers before the general public. Pool renewals will go out in February. Basketball has condensed their season a little, they used to play until the end of March, CBL plays long. We have talked to some different organizations about the Youth Center, Chess Wizards, self-defense, cycling, fencing and will need more staff. Lee asked additional funding? Young explained that there needs to be tables and chairs. Lehigh Valley Health Network issued a grant for the bottom. Ackerman stated in her opinion it should be geared towards middle school aged kids, 6th through 9th, the at-risk youth,

constantly bored, too old to go to Camp Palmer but too young to stay at home by themselves. This is the age group to target, maybe a after school program even with a bus stop with good role models so they can learn to make good choices. Nielsen commented that depends on how it is set up. McKinney stated that discussion will be when the township takes it over.

6. Egg Hunt INFORMATION

McKinney stated that this is a busy time of year, and we want to make sure everyone is on board for the Egg Hunt and be part of it to help. Ackerman asked if it is a traditional egg hunt because she knows some other places have like a Bunny Trail? Lee stated that maybe to change it up, we need a male role? Ackerman asked if we need volunteers because a lot of students need service hours if they don't pass Keystone. McKinney stated still early and we can talk about it more at the next meeting.

7. ADJOURNMENT.

Angelo Stambolis made a motion to convene the meeting at 8:01pm, the motion was seconded by Dawn Ackerman.

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

Next meeting February 21, 2023 at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus
Corresponding Secretary