

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
May 17, 2022
7:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Liam Brohan – Chairman, Vice-Chair Cheryl Nielsen, Darryl Keckler, and Thom Lee. Also, in attendance was Dan McKinney, Director of Parks and Recreation and Residents of Palmer Township and members of the Palmer Township Athletic Association

Liam Brohan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm and welcomed the audience to the meeting.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes – April 2022.

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of April 2022.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Thom Lee, Seconded by Darryl Keckler
Passed. 4-0.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
INFORMATION

Brohan commented that we recognize that mostly everyone here represents the Palmer Township Athletic Association. Dave Dumpel, President of the Palmer Township Athletic Association, 4 Hermitage Avenue, states we are here about the third option on the agenda and went on to explain that the old scoreboard went down and they are in the need of a new one. In lieu of the project of repairing the old one we bought a new one. He discussed the new scoreboard and showed everyone pictures and explained that they wanted to go with a video board but got a message board, cannot interrupt those messages for touchdowns, first down etc. but can put pictures of the kids up and definitely adds to the experience for the kids playing football. He further explained that is why they are here, we are asking the township to cover the installation of the new scoreboard, it will allow Palmer to host championship games and be able to display the team names. Brohan asked if he had numbers for the cost of the installation? Dumpel proceeded that all the

companies that they spoke to recommend getting our own installation. Lee asked, "Do you think you could cover 62,000 believing that this would be part of the Youth Center project?" Dumpel responded that the quote is for \$42,000 because recommending for us to have it installed, could not get permits, and takes time. Lee asked what is the estimated savings? Dumpel responded 50%. Brohan reiterated that everyone is here because they want the scoreboard to be installed? Lee stated that this would be capital equipment and then asked would it be owned by or the Palmer AA? 25,000 grant and 45,000 investment? Brohan asked if the township installs, who will maintain it? Dumpel stated that they would. Lee questioned that these resources and projects to do, maybe you could work with us? Dumpel expressed that there needs to be better dialogue to know what capital development is, is it picnic tables and/or larger items. McKinney stated that this has been a 12-year discussion. Dumpel stated that he would certainly sit with Thom Lee but this is a time restraint. Brohan questioned the timing. Dumpel stated that the scoreboard would be delivered July 15 and they need it by August 15. Lee questioned again that they are thinking the estimated cost would be 20 to 25 thousand? Dumpel confirmed and stated it would take about a week to install. Nielsen questioned that the company who sold it gave you the time frame to install? Brohan commented that this is a great project and great organization. Nielson asked if Lacrosse could use the scoreboards as well when installed and does this become property of the township because technically we installed it and will insure it under the township? Brohan questioned or AA? Victor Scomillio, 370 Wedgewood Drive, asked if we were using rec funds or township money? McKinney answered it would be the money that was put aside for the Athletic Association. Chuck Romfro, former president of the Palmer Athletic Association commented that Tom Adams, Palmer Township Engineer, said the timeframe is feasible. Lee asked if they had run the cost by him? Bob Smith, 2670 Northampton Street, questioned if it ran on by data lines or cloud? Lee answered all Bluetooth. Scomillio stated that he is the Chair of the Youth Center project that is being developed and the past president of Kiwanis. The Youth Center has one story for the field house and a two-story top floor community room. From inception it has been a 501C to build itself until we hit the perfect storm, speed, prices have risen, improvement to existing facilities, upgrade water and sewer lines, holding tank for sewage, need new tank, cost for the gas line from 22 to field house, off to concession stand, had a budget for 200,000, have 3,000 left. Brohan stated let's just be clear that we are focusing on the outside, inside is behind because of Covid and will be completed, 150,000, BIP 100,000, LVH 200,000 and others. 50,000 Northampton County grant has been submitted to Lisa Boscola. How short for the inside to be completed? Scomillio answered by 400,000-500,000, doing whatever to keep cost down. I am here to talk about the outside, asking the Recreation Board to donate to complete. The building is fantastic, this building alone is fantastic, church groups, senior groups, scouts, end line is for utilities, but we could probably do without fencing but if we are going to do it, do it right. I am here to recommend that we add funds for this project. Brohan stated that I can speak for the board, we all want it done, we will meet to discuss the legality and proper way. Scomillio expressed that these services is for the whole area not just the project. Lee stated understood from the Recreation Board and hopefully have enough support here. Scomillio stated that recreation has evolved and expanded behind the elementary level. Brohan acknowledged the critical timeline. Scomillio stated just like the AA,

August 1st is the deadline we would like it to be boots on the ground generating funds, start seeing published links to our website and I will do my best to get private funding. Lee if not finished is there a backup plan? Scomillio stated that he would like to put the rumor mill to rest. Can a 501C3 take money from another 501C3 and they certainly can, there is nothing improper, trying to alleviate the taxpayer. Asphalt is now through the roof. Lee restated 350,000 for utilities and 400,000 internally. Do you need one for the other to be completed? Scomillio answered they are independent. People want to donate to success, waiting for private donors. Dumpel commented that it puts us in a predicament. Smith stated no power, no lights for practice, electric water, cannot see in the building, temporary generator. Scomillio expressed whole new service. McKinney asked how long will it take to be done? Romfo stated this is the main goal, we communicated negative impact, we start basically August 1st and we are here to communicate the concern of the Athletic Association, part of the communication is to express the usage of the field. Dumpel confirmed that they can live without the building. Romfo confirmed that their back up plan was to go back to the township and ask where are you putting us? Scomillio asked when the recommendation is being made and could we let them know that this is the largest group since Pickleball that has attended and if that could be reflected. Smith stated that six months ago everyone knew who I was, I am a member of Kiwanis, BIP member, PTAA member and now a citizen. 350,000 is a wish list of everyone, macadam back in place, utilities have to be done, I'm here to beg, I can remember sitting in a basement saying there would be no Community Center, no turf field, Miracle League totally funded by non-profit, sports and recreation is a big part of Palmer Township, 72 or 73 years old this year. Just another project we can make happen. Brohan expressed that the Recreation Board's goal is to make it happen. McKinney questioned, does Tom Adams know what is needed to complete? Romfo answered he has the checklist. The original goal at the grand opening ceremony has now succumbed to delays and now the secondary impact is the use of the field. Jesse Bush, 7 Kendon Drive, Palmer Athletic Football Commissioner, expressed he was looking over at the field house yesterday and asked if there was any plan to move the field south? Smith answered that it will remain and it will be brought up to elevation. Romfo asked that the fencing be defined, a temporary one is a band aid. Scomillio expressed that when we talk about fencing, we are talking about netting too. Dumpel stated that we are asking to get that as well as quickly as possible. Lee reiterated that we are a recommendation board, the Board of Supervisors makes decisions, we are all recreation people too, but should have a secondary plan, suggest a group from the Recreation Board, Youth Center, Athletic Association and go in front of the Board of Supervisors and state what you need. McKinney asked if there was nowhere else to play football? Debra Werkheiser, 12 Devon Drive, will it be on the agenda at the next BOS meeting? Lee explained that we will discuss tonight, and the recommendation could be done tonight and then goes to Jeff Young, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors who takes it to the BOS. Brohan stated that we understand the ask and we will do our best. The audience left the room, and the Recreation Board discussed their request.

Recommendation #1

The Recreation Board unanimously recommends that Palmer Township fund the install of the scoreboard that Palmer Township Athletic Association has acquired for the football field from the Recreation Capital Improvement Fund.

Motion: Darryl Keckler, Seconded by Thom Lee.
Passed. 4-0.

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

Recommendation #2

The Recreation Board officially recommends that the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors fund the incremental cost of the outside of the Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center (fieldhouse) site utilities to total \$350,000 – \$28,000 for the scoreboard = \$322,000.

Motion: Darryl Keckler, Seconded by Thom Lee.
Passed. 4-0.

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

3. OLD BUSINESS INFORMATION

Discussion occurred about the Fairview Pickleball Courts. Brohan asked if it has been recommended to turn Fairview into one tennis and six pickleball courts. McKinney explained that he was still waiting for the updated proposal because everything is going up in price. Lee expressed that there was double the people here tonight, a recommendation went to the BOS months ago. Brohan stated that we need to get it in the budget for September to make it a go. Nielsen questioned if anything has been done about the cracks at Mill Race, everyone stated not yet.

4. Director's Report INFORMATION

McKinney discussed pool and camp. 175 Seniors that the BOS decided are free. Brohan asked if that will restrict other memberships? McKinney responded that it would not but could restrict the numbers going into the pool. Camp Palmer is full, downsized this year from 130 to 65 campers.

New Business

INFORMATION

None

5. ADJOURNMENT

Thom Lee made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 8:37 pm, the motion was seconded by Darryl Keckler.

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

Next meeting June 21, 2022 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus
Corresponding Secretary