

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
June 18, 2019
7:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Chairman Thom Lee, Vice-Chairman Liam Brohan, Members Richard Bulette, Cheryl Nielsen and Dan McKinney. Also, in attendance was Palmer Township Board of Supervisor Robert Smith and Palmer Township Manager Robert Williams.

Robert Williams expressed that he was excited to be working for Palmer and intends to be active. He stated that if there is anything we needed, he would be there to help.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of Minutes – April 16, 2019.

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of April 16, 2019.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Rick Bulete, Seconded by Cheryl Nielsen with noting that Dan McKinney cannot be counted as voting. Passed. 4-0.

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

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Palmer Township Athletic Association Review and Final Recommendations

INFORMATION

Lee asked Bob Smith to come up with a final review. At the last meeting when Chuck Romfo and Bob Smith were there, they took back to their meeting and they had some concerns. Lee met with Bob Smith and Chuck Romfo to go over details and would be happy to discuss points so we can make a proposal to the Board of Supervisors.

DISCUSSION

Nielsen opened up the discussion by asking if the three year transition is good and the fees that were proposed for lining the fields is good. Will the fees be overseen and it is bad if they need extra fees for whatever. Brohan was concerned with no oversight with fees at all. Lee stated that the Recreation Board will have some say on raising fees. PTAA said No, they don't want to be governed by the Recreation Board but suggested meeting quarterly to talk about issues. Smith intervened with a total NO, we talked about different ideas. Lee conveyed some thoughts, PTAA will become a separate entity from the township, can raise fees to raise people out. McKinney explained that Nazareth is \$150.00 registration fee, surrounding townships pay more because not funded by local government. We guess that PTAA's bank account is nice now but will it dwindle? Brohan suggested we use gym time as leverage and questioned if the PTAA has a 501C for nonprofit organizations. Smith explained that they applied and it is out of their hands, McKinney stated it takes a year or more. Lee also explained that once they have 501C status, they will have to be accountable. Lee explained that we recommended that the PTAA run raising fees by the Recreation Board and they firmly said NO, maybe while be funded by the township, it should go through a review process for the next three years. Nielson expressed her concern with they can't go crazy raising fees. Bulette stated that they probably want more than two percent even though they are still using our facilities and fields, so should be reviewed. The 222 group that existed did the work and good work. Two Rec, Two PTAA, 2 BOS, and have an open dialogue. Lee questioned the PTAA on how the Recreation Board would fit in the protocol of the PTAA and the BOS? Liam questioned what oversight will be put into place and Nielsen asked \$50.00 one year, \$75.00 the next year and continually go up year after year? Smith explained they will raise fees to \$75.00 that have league fees and umpires and dropped fee to \$35.00 for sports that don't require anything. Brohan asked if they can pre-notify of raising rates, not approval, just notify. Nielsen asked Williams what his thoughts were? Williams stated that they will be forced to run as a business, not a profit business, they will create their own portfolio, residents are their customers, time to get off their gravy train. I wouldn't spend too much time on all this, come the next budget, we are cutting 25% of their funding. Everyone has valid concerns, the PTAA has agreed, make a motion. Nielsen stated 33%. Smith reiterated originally it was a 4 year transition, suggested two years and they proposed three years and PTAA is fine with that. Lee felt we skipped over field lining, Smith said we kept it genera, they can take it over. Smith explained that we pay Rich Freiler for baseball and softball, football, lacrosse and soccer

does their own. McKinney stated that the PTAA is not going to use volunteers, they are going to hire someone. Lee stated that the PTAA said they have no problem lining, as long as the township provides the paint. McKinney explained that he gives the PTAA the time slots and they schedule, especially with the turf field. Smith stated that Scott and Bob have to be informed when seasons go into effect. Lee stated that the PTAA agreed to give start and ending dates to seasons and brought up two more items, going a bit further with registration fees, the original read that the PTAA kept 100% of fees starting in 2023, the PTAA wants it changed to keeping 100% for 2020 season. Liam asked what the BOS felt about keeping their money while being funded and Smith explained that if we don't, they will have to raise fees more. Lee explained that whatever we recommend, the BOS takes it further, again, what does everyone think about keeping 100%? Nielson still thinks that we should meet in case they are struggling and we might have to step in to buy football helmets? Smith said we can meet quarterly and if it is not working, we would need a heads up so the kids are not affected. Once the budget is approved, lump sum check is issued. Williams stated as the new guy coming in, it's like sending a child to college, we have to work out agreement, and move forward. We will be a safety net and communication is key. Lee brought up another concern, about playing other township's kids and Smith explained that the PTAA agreed to make it so that Palmer kids play first, they will fill teams with Palmer kids first. Williams explained that they will now be competitive and it will all work it out. Williams also stated for the record and to keep it contained, as you know a horrible incident happened in Virginia. Townships are concerned with lack of security, most fortified building is Public Works. We met with other local governments and discussed moving our meeting area and fortify our building, library is not suited, pre 911, headquarters are vacant and are talking about using the basement where the cages are, if that's the case, the cages will be relocated, we won't just throw them out, we will find storage because the original recommendation states that we will store the equipment. We are building three pole barns and did not want us to sign an agreement knowing this might happen, maybe rewrite taking the cages out. Nielsen made a motion that we accept the changes after tweaking the PTAA Independence in 2020 from township funding.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Cheryl Nielsen, Seconded by Liam Brohan.
Passed 4-0.

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

Lee stated that he will rewrite the document with the changes and send it to the Board of Supervisors.

3. Director's Report INFORMATION

Dan McKinney gave the report that Pool has opened when it's not raining, registration is down 25%, but we don't have the swim team money yet. Williams asked what the problem was Monday and McKinney replied that the chem unit was down, computer error and it is getting resolved. Camp started on June 17th and because of so much rain, they were unable to go to the pool. A couple of weeks are down with attendance. This is Miracle League's last week and there were 322 participants this season. He also reported that the Turf Field has collected \$24,700 and an additional \$15,000 owed over the summer. It is hosting a summer program for Lacrosse. McKinney reported that the sod field looks great, having some sprinkler issues and will probably bring online in 2020 because it is a good idea to keep off until next year. It should get Lacrosse out of Mill Race. Williams suggested that if the basin is collecting water, use that to water the field. If a drought occurs, use the well water that was built, we are then recycling water, water in four zones, water itself at night, it's a science and we are learning. McKinney brought up the subject of the number of members on the Recreation Board and that it is always a constant struggle to get everyone there. He stated that there is seven people on the Recreation Board and proposes that we go down to five members, it's always been a battle and wanted to put that out for public consumption. Liam Brohan suggested making a formal recommendation to make the Recreation Board five members, down from seven.

4. 222 Report INFORMATION

The money from the 222 is going towards a much needed bathroom.

5. Egg Hunt Review INFORMATION

Nielsen explained that she talked to the church that houses the scouts and asked if they could help fill up eggs, put out eggs and hand out prizes and she hopes to make it an ongoing thing. Scouts have to perform community service. McKinney suggested that maybe bring in the Community Center people to be involved. Smith suggested that maybe the candy should be sent to the Community Center. Williams stated that this was his first egg hunt and the township is going to jump in and help with this transition, first, the fire department getting involved with the Easter Bunny and also have adequate police presence. Dan is going to take an active role, this is a township event and is going to bring everyone together.

6. New Business

INFORMATION

Nielsen proposed that the fee for the Ambassador Club be lowered and discussion on the fees and what the Charles Chrin Community Center provides took place.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Nielsen made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 8:38 pm., the motion was seconded by Liam Brohan.

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

Next meeting July 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus
Corresponding Secretary