

**PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD**  
**November 18, 2025**  
**7:00 PM**  
**GENERAL MEETING**

---

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Chairwoman Dawn Ackerman, Vice-Chair Thom Lee, Dylan Blodgett, and Cheryl Nielsen. Also in attendance was Dan McKinney, Palmer Township Director of Parks, and Recreation.

Dawn Ackerman called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

**1. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approval of Minutes – June 2025

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of June 2025.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Cheryl Nielsen, Seconded by Thom Lee.  
Passed. 4-0.

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

Ackerman welcomed newly appointed Recreation Board member Dylan Blodgett and asked if there was anything he wanted to share? Blodgett commented that he as lived in Palmer Township since 2009 and his wife has lived here her whole life. Nielsen asked if he was involved in sports in the township and Blodgett answered, both his wife and he coached soccer and were the commissioners for a bit and reminisced that his son started for Lee at the Community Center Jr. Panthers. The board welcomed Dylan and said they were glad he was here.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

NONE

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Shade Tree Commission

INFORMATION

Sandi Bush and Shannon Wieckiniski attended from the Shade Tree Commission following up on previous discussions. They both wished everyone a Happy

Thanksgiving and extended their appreciation for what the Recreation Board does. They came tonight to talk about parks and the Bare Root Tree grant, third time, and heard the concerns about trees in open spaces. An example of the grant was handed out and was exp the grant use. They want to move the grant to street trees, they know there is interest from residents, it is a process, must build a queue and it takes about six months. They are seeking support from the Recreation Board for the transition to street trees. Lee questioned transitioning from parks to street? Wisniewski gave out a pamphlet with parking lot areas. Tree grants are not financial, it is trees, dormant trees, fifteen to 18 feet. The Shade Tree Commission is asking for support and guidance for planting in the Spring of 2026, March, in the Fall of 2026, November. Lee asked if they needed a formal recommendation. Wisniewski stated exactly right. Lee asked if they needed approval for township property. Bush explained shortly after granted, they must let them know where planting. Blodgett thought the Board of Supervisor was accused of earlier plantings. McKinney explained that we have been through this to keep trees out of open space. Nielsen asked how tall these trees would be? Wisniewski stated 30 to 80 feet tall, our job is to identify height, weight, and location. Ackerman asked if the township becomes responsible for these trees. Bush stated that Scott Kistler has been very supportive. Keystone Park was discussed. McKinney asked how far apart they place and Wisniewski answered fifty feet on center. The Recreation Board expressed their concern about sports games while these trees are growing. Wisniewski explained the concept behind the placement. Ackerman shared recommendations. Discussion occurred about different parks and different locations. Lee made a formal recommendation:

Thom Lee made a motion to recommend and endorse the Shade Tree Commission proposal to consider planting bare root trees at locations, Keystone and Newburg, quantity to be determined.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Thom Lee, Seconded by Cheryl Nielsen. Passed. 4-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Ackerman, Blodgett, Lee, Nielson

## B. Tuskes Subdivision

### INFORMATION

Ackerman asked for any comments. McKinney commented open spaces or recreation fees. The Recreation Board discussed and examined the map layout.

Thom Lee made a motion to accept Recreation fees in lieu of open space.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Thom Lee, Seconded by Cheryl Nielsen. Passed. 4-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Ackerman, Blodgett, Lee, Nielson

### C. Sod Field/Football Field

#### INFORMATION

Blodgett brought up concerns about the bare spots on the sod field at the Community Center because spring sports are coming up and understands that funds are in short supply. McKinney explained that the irrigation system does not always work correctly but is doing better. There is no current plan, football field is first on the list. Lee asked would it make a difference if we give it a year off. McKinney explained that it does not need a year off, good shape compared to others. He discussed maybe ages be moved around, rotate, Hummer Turf contracte4d by the township to consult on fields, Public Works has a lot on their plates and fields are a part of it. Blodgett asked if there are any little things that the Palmer Township Athletic Association can do to help. Nielsen commented that it is nice that you noticed and offered.

### D. Inclusive Playground

#### INFORMATION

Nielsen expressed that she was looking at the BOS agenda and was wondering if they will remove the current playground and replace it with a new inclusive playground. McKinney answered probably, remember the Recreation Board brought this to the BOS attention, hired an engineer and now chasing grants, which is where it is. Examples of grants attached and explained grant use.

## 4. Director's Report

#### INFORMATION

Financial situation is not good, not spending money, just the needed basics, we are being very conservative. We are trying to do our part here at the Community Center. Three new supervisors, Barron Vanderburg, to replace Zeke and two new people. Tree Lighting is Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 6:15pm.

## 5. New Business

#### INFORMATION

None

## 6. Around the Room

Ackerman expressed her concern about these trees, concerned it will eventually cost the township to maintain and upkeep. Nielsen advised that her phone number changed and shared a newspaper article that Weller ground to be new police station, discussion occurred. Lee asked if we could advertise in the Palmer Newsletter for a 5<sup>th</sup> Recreation Board Member, explaining Municipal Building usually seeks new members but will find out.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Nielsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm, the motion was seconded by Dylan Blodgett.

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

Passed. 4-0.

Next meeting December 16, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus  
Corresponding Secretary