

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
September 19, 2023
7:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Chairman Cheryl Nielson, Vice-Chairman Thom Lee and Darryl Keckler. Also in attendance was Dan McKinney, Palmer Township Director of Parks and Recreation, Palmer Township and Jeffrey Young, Palmer Township Board of Supervisors Member.

Cheryl Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes – September 2023

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of September 19, 2023.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Thom Lee, Seconded by Darryl Keckler.
Passed. 3-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Keckler, Lee, Nielsen.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

INFORMATION

Deb Ackerman of 4 Courtney Court, Palmer Township attended the Recreation Board meeting to discuss adaptive equipment in our Palmer Parks, like swings and merry go rounds with wheelchair access. Ackerman explained that she has a son that is an athlete with severe disabilities. She explained her credentials that she was a starter of Challenger Baseball League in the eighties and coached Challenger baseball, she has been a Miracle League coach for ten years. She stated many times she has looked at the Miracle League field and realized there is not enough inclusion. At her son's group home, they are putting in a swing, in some parks there has been adaptive cork or foam put down for sensory. There have been many calls for adaptive swings, she attended Palmer Days and talked to the Planning Committee, and they stated that they receive all sorts of things but no adaptive equipment. Deb Ackerman stated she is here tonight at this Recreation Board Meeting to start

the process; I don't know how many parks are in the township but spoke to Susan Wilde and said we could bring them the plans and they would look into it. There are two foundations that can possibly be talked to for help. Fairview is already established to meet the needs; it can be attached to the new swing segment that was installed approximately ten years ago. Adaptive swings are cushioned for safety issues, wing looks like an adult car seat. Merry go round has ramps for one seat and then ramps come up to create other seats. Lee asked if there was any directive from the Planning Director? McKinney stated that there is a new philosophy, can now consult with an ADA consultant, Mikey Ricciato foundation has a project in the works, somewhere around Route 191, it's a \$2 million dollar project. McKinney noticed that after Miracle League games that some of the participants come down to the Community Center playground, the Miracle League field is ADA but not specialized. Lee questioned whether Pen Argyl is being utilized. Ackerman answered that it was more sensory, sliding boards lower, no swings. Young explained that this is budget time, the easiest time to get it known, for McKinney to get it in the budget but not sure putting it at the end of the existing swing set at Fairview is the best. McKinney stated that maybe at the CCCC because it already attracts Miracle League kids. Keckler questioned whether it is adaptive to a regular swing set? Ackerman explained yes and how it works. McKinney questioned whether she had funding? Lee explained to Ackerman the Recreation Board's responsibility as a recommendation board, explained the process. If you provide funding options or costs, it will make it easier for us. Nielsen elaborated to include to explain what would be beneficial for Palmer residents. Young went onto explain the Miracle League start, this group has been missed. Lee stated the more information you can provide is better. Young explained the BIP (Business in Palmer), and it does projects in Palmer Township for the community. Ackerman exited the meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS

INFORMATION

A. PTAA

Young explained the lease agreements that are being compiled by Palmer Township. Palmer and the PTAA copies are attached. Under four, six and Seven will be eliminated. Discussion occurred on the Youth Capital Fund, the leases and money being brought in at the Community Center. Discussion occurred of profit and loss. McKinney stated that he is just trying to balance the budget. Young responded that he doesn't care if the Community Center makes money or meets its budget. Lee stated that this list of items needs to be discussed and everything should be clearly documented. It should be done right, not fast. Questions came up about non-resident players and how that is handled. Lee continued that for the most part, a document has been given, it should be discussed, and a formal recommendation should be made after sitting down with the PTAA. Lee

also stated that he would get a copy to Ackerman and Stambolis, make notes and clean it up from the Recreation Board, then meet with the PTAA.

B. Youth Center Update

McKinney offered to take everyone next door to see the floor that was installed in Community Room B, which is the floor he would like to have installed on the second floor of the Youth Center. McKinney demonstrated the floor, everyone approved.

C. Fairview Pickleball Project

McKinney stated it is moving right along, should be completed mid-October.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

INFORMATION

McKinney shared that the summer was busy. At the pool, Shannon Hogan is a tremendous person and did a tremendous job. It loses money. \$80,000 on repairs but there is a great atmosphere there, not having non-residents buying day passes has improved the pool 200%. Camp was great, profit with that, every week full, had a waiting list every week. Elia Lee did a fantastic role and did tremendous stuff, great counselors and the pool was a great part of camp.

5. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Darryl Keckler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm, the motion was seconded by Thom Lee.

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

Next meeting October 17, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus
Corresponding Secretary