

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD

August 21, 2018, 7:00 PM

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, August 21, 2018 @ 7:00 pm with the following in attendance: Chair, Cheryl Nielsen, Vice Chair, Thomas Lee, Liam Brohan, Keith Horton, Kelly Higgins and Dan McKinney. Richard Bulette and Michael Weaver were absent.

Also, in attendance was Robert Smith, Palmer Township Board of Supervisors Member

Nielson called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Lee makes a motion to approve the July, 2018 minutes, Higgins seconds the motion. Motion carried.

Everyone welcomes Keith Horton to the Recreation Board.

Old Business:

Bob Smith, Palmer Township Board Member opened up a discussion stating that he is working on getting a list from the Palmer Township Athletic Association

Nielsen – explained the letter was about the Palmer Township Athletic Association being self-funded, (referred to from this point on as PTAA)

Smith – they won't be giving any money back – will propose a raise in registration fee per sport, the fee will gear towards the sport

Brohan – oversight will be?

Smith – pages of stuff that will come to the Recreation Board – probably will take a meeting to present and then meet again. PTAA will take care of equipment, fees, etc. Township will take care of fields, physically the nuts and bolts will belong to the Township.

Nielsen – Who pays for striping?

Smith – Football, Soccer, Lacrosse do their own, we pay to do baseball

McKinney – We pay for the paint.

Smith – Leagues are changing – football is okay, large younger group and baseball is okay

Lee – I attended a pep rally, some older kids that I did not recognize. Are they Palmer residents?

Nielsen – Who is the Coach?

Smith – Mark Cosover

McKinney – confirmed

Smith – I am trying to define that fine line; the Recreation Board will be the ones to make decisions about the fields. We will definitely need more help, talking about putting a four-man crew together just to do fields. Palmer Township will still sponsor the Egg Hunt and Home Run Derby. 222 Fund will go away, it will be absorbed into fields, transition will be over four years, 222 already approved the scoreboard

Brohan – Why four years?

Smith – To make sure that they are on their feet and everything is done by ordinance

Lee – Just to understand – the recommendation we made was taken?

Smith – We will make sure that your recommendations are incorporated.

Lee – I am still trying to understand, that you Bob, are working with the Board of Supervisors and the Athletic Association? Should we not be involved?

Smith – Fee structure has to be what you are charging, not fundraising, football helmets last time were \$22,000, they have to make sure the fee structure can cover it.

Lee – Do they still have \$250,000?

McKinney – 220 ish?

Nielsen – Scholarships?

Horton – What is registration fees?

McKinney - \$50.00

Horton – Are we low?

Nielsen – They are subsidized by us.

Smith – Most organizations have different fees for different sports.

McKinney -confirmed

Lee – What do you see as our role in all this? They came to us.

Smith – wanting to be on the record that he didn't know about any of this until Christopher Christman proposed this as "this is what we are thinking", worst thing that could happen is not to have it on paper, and to have any gray areas. Next move is up to the PTAA.

Lee – If they don't do anything, will it continue "as is"?

Smith – well, a date will have to be determined? What brought this on was the Comprehensive Plan, it was brought to our attention that eventually it will not be able to be sustained.

McKinney- The township will take care of the facilities, PTAA will take care of the sport. It is kind of cut and dry

Lee – stating "For the Record" – that the recommendation that we made about the refunding will not be adopted?

Smith – Not until all the facts are in, working on 501C, they have come light years and they are open for change, we are shuffling and low on resources

Higgins – When you say low on resources, do you mean people?

Smith – Yes, trying to figure out alternatives.

McKinney – At this time of year, everybody realizes that we are shorthanded.

Lee – I am recommending that you make a request if you want something from this Board, we have some good brains. We have not heard anything but that you are working on it. They have nothing to lose if they don't make changes, it just continues the way it is.

Smith – It is a change they want to make too. Once we have a list, we will know better what will be divided.

McKinney – I think they can handle it.

Higgins – Do you have a budget forecast?

Smith – Every department submits their own budget. What happens to drive the big changes, is what deficiencies we have? We know exactly what the flat line is and Chris has allocated a percentage, it's the things you can't predict.

Higgins – Do you do an audit?

Smith – Palmer Accounting Associates does both the Township and Athletic Association audits. He went on to explain the Audit process.

Lee – For the record, we have not been approached to review the funding and honestly thought it was a done deal when approached in February.

Smith – I was not happy, wish Chris had discussed it first, did not think the Board of Supervisors meeting was the place to bring it up. There will be people that will not want it.

Directors Report:

McKinney – followed the agenda by discussing the Pool. Was happy with the outcome, 180 vs 160 range. 222 funds will be absorbed and discussed the scoreboard, approximately 50K.

Palmer fieldhouse needs improvements. Spoke about the Turf Field Restrooms

Brohan – Please go back to the scoreboard?

Higgins – Does the Turf field support two games across it?

McKinney – More games, short sides

Brohan – Official games?

McKinney – Twelve and under

Brohan – For official, it has to go lengthwise? Suggested portable scoreboards for short side games

McKinney – Most soccer facilities do not use scoreboards

Smith – PTAA has portable scoreboards

Brohan – You would think teams would want it

McKinney – Should decide what to invest in like the bathrooms? Originally it was Concession and Bathrooms.

Lee – You don't normally see a concession stand at a turf field because it ends up on the field.

McKinney – These days there are food trucks. I will get pricing on bathrooms for turf fields.

Just a note, Miracle League's Opening Day will be September 8th. Turf rentals made \$18,000, budgeted \$40,000, think it will be close as Fall rental season comes. The Western field is finally getting graded.

Brohan – What's the story on the exit over there?

McKinney – That exit is state mandated, now HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit) is getting jammed up because new rules since we applied, so we need a new permit.

Brohan – Is the Western field open?

McKinney – Spring 2019, letting it sit over the winter. Our camp program was a huge success, everyone did a great job with it, I would like to single out Jacquelyn Tornabene and how efficiently she ran the camp, it showed revenue.

There was a discussion on not wanting to lose her and that she's not paid nearly enough for what she does. Higgins said that should be looked into, Smith stated that wasn't him.

McKinney – Did an update on Fairview softball field because Mike Weaver mentioned around the plate was all dug out, Scott Kistler, Director of Public Works looked at it and reported that he feels nothing is needed at this time. The shed at LaBarre will be addressed at budget time. 50K was allocated for a rubber surface for the playground but don't feel it is feasible. Also looking at a shed at the Turf field.

New Business:

Smith – Can we discuss the Palmer Fieldhouse? We did a band-aid job to clean it, wash it and paint it, it's finished, but this is one of the projects this board needs to look at so maybe it's something to start thinking about. Maybe two story and bring wrestling in, football and lacrosse already there, high enough ceilings for cheering and batting cages. We are going to replace doors at the refreshment stand and discussed how the press box can no longer be used. Smith continued that he will try to get more budget stuff to the Recreation Board.

McKinney – Enclosed a balance sheet for review

Higgins – questioned why it was not earning?

Smith – explained it can only be a CD, discussion on maintenance budget continued

Egg Hunt:

N/A

Public Comment

N/A

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Nielsen – stated she will not be at the next meeting due to traveling

McKinney – stated that he has Miracle League game the night of the next meeting

Higgins – stated she might not be at the next meeting

McKinney – said that this would have to be addressed

Nielsen – stated that when there is Miracle League games, maybe start the meetings later?

Liam Brohan asks for a motion to adjourn. Keith Horton seconds the motion to adjourn.
Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Brenda Lazarus: Corresponding Secretary