

**PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD**  
**January 21, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**  
**GENERAL MEETING**

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The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Chairman Thom Lee, Members Richard Bulette, Cheryl Nielsen and Dan McKinney. Also, in attendance were Robert Williams, Palmer Township Manager and Robert Smith, Palmer Township Board of Supervisors Member.

**1. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approval of Minutes – December 17, 2019.

INFORMATION

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of August 20, 2019

The approval of minutes was put on hold until they were presented.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Cheryl Nielsen, Seconded by Thom Lee.  
Passed. 3-0.

Board Members voting Ayes: Bulette, Lee, Nielsen

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Palmer Township Field House Project

INFORMATION

Smith volunteered to touch base on this subject. The township is in dire need of something to replace old field house, maybe two floors, one for sports, and meeting rooms and another one for Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts. Kiwanis was nice enough to approve a concept and donated \$100,000 and Businesses In Palmer (BIP) approved the concept and donated \$100,000. Dave Colver will be the general contractor, everything done privately with same footprint. The goal is two years to be completed. Smith suggested that a committee be established with Recreation Board, Palmer Township Athletic Association (PTAA) and the Board of Supervisors. Lee questioned the total of the project, approximated \$2,000,000 and Smith responded by saying that everyone will try to stay under that. Williams stated that Home Depot will be at the next BIP meeting and hopefully will help with

the bathrooms/kitchen.

Lee asked Smith and Williams if there were any recommendations that they would need? Smith answered, not at this time, end of the year will be busy. Old field house was done by volunteers and over the years it has worked. Smith just wanted to acknowledge the Recreation Board in stating that this township in reference to Recreation is second to none.

Discussion of the Miracle League Field and ownership occurred.

Williams wanted to add that the township is committed, and it will happen.

## B. Palmer Township Cage Clear Out

### INFORMATION

McKinney explained about the cage that stored the sports equipment in the basement of the Municipal Building.

### DISCUSSION

Williams commented that things were moving quickly in the basement of the Municipal Building, the PTAA kept equipment in a cage downstairs in the Municipal Building. Williams explained that all township meetings are held in the Library, sometimes held at the Community Center. Library is no longer safe, need some levels of security so going to build new meeting room in basement. All equipment has been relocated to the Field House with the help of Smith and Scott Kistler, Director of Public Works, it will be going to the Pole Barn and then to the new field house. McKinney stated that the wrestling mats were being stored at the Community Center. New mats were purchased for Wrestling and the cost split between the PTAA and the Community Center, some of the old mats will be kept.

Lee asked a similar question, anything you need from the Recreation Board? Smith answered, final paperwork and then it will be done.

McKinney informed that the uniform handout will be at the Community Center. Smith commented that equipment had to be removed because of it being too old, can't be recertified, anyways changing requirements. McKinney gave kudos to Chuck Romfo, President of the Palmer Township Athletic Association for moving forward quickly. Smith agreed with McKinney stating that the PTAA had just come out of the Christmas Tree Sale and moved right after to start the moving process. Williams that everything is going well.

Smith stated he asked the Board to recognize Rich Freiler, he has been working for the Township for 20 years on the fields.

### **3. Director's Report** **INFORMATION**

McKinney acknowledged that the Bathroom at the Turf field is progressing, and Smith stated should be completed in the Spring. Turf field rentals are starting and there is always someone on it. It has been locked down for the winter and rented in the Fall and Spring every day.

McKinney then discussed the Sod Field and explained that a fence and netting is going around the field, lacrosse balls are heavy, and this work is going out for bid. Lee questioned if is ready for use? McKinney stated it is ready to go and LaCrosse wants it five days a week, adding a bathroom and need storage.

McKinney reported that there has been discussion about sidewalks and regulations for the Bethman Entrance. Bethman is a PennDOT road and must do things their way. We wrote letters to Senators and they wrote letters to PennDOT, all answered "No".

McKinney discussed the pickleball courts at Mill Race. The pickleball players showed up at the last Board of Supervisors meeting and the Board approved to add them at Mill Race. Smith suggested maybe lighting those courts and is waiting an estimate. Lee questioned waiting for the estimate for lighting and resurfacing and McKinney explained resurfacing has already been approved. Nielsen asked with five courts, would they not want fencing? McKinney answered that that is still in question. He explained he spoke to Chris, the pickleball spokeswoman and her comment that lights would be great but take the money and build more Pickleball courts. There is more space to be used there. McKinney explained about our pickleball clinics, where people can come and learn how to plan and that it is well attended.

### **4. Egg Hunt** **INFORMATION**

Nielsen stated that there will be Egg Filling on February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Community Center.

McKinney made the comment that he is getting conflicting ideas and concerns from his bosses. Williams stated their will be new changes. McKinney questioned, "how many eggs are put out at the Easter Egg Hunt?" Nielsen replied 9000, about 2400 per age group, 250 eggs in a plastic bag to be put out and spread apart. The youngest have eggs with nothing in them, the other four age groups, 2000 an age group. McKinney explained our thoughts,

having a rain date on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and it has already been published in the newsletter, the inside of the Community is not ideal for an Easter Egg Hunt. McKinney continued to explain to split the egg hunt up into two different fields with two different times and have the Easter Bunny involved, maybe on the Fire Truck. Smith questioned the candy? McKinney went on to further explain to have prefilled eggs and let everyone take home, no more candy lines. Smith expressed that we would have to have candy to be given out, Dave Colver will not go for that and cannot eliminate the prize candy. McKinney expressed that he is not a fan of singling children out and giving them prizes. Smith stated that some things must stay the same. Williams intervened with there must be some level of tradition that has to remain. Smith sternly stated that it can be broken into two fields, but candy remains and that's how we are doing it. Williams directed to Nielsen that she is only one person and needs help, okay? Nielsen answered that Keckler some good suggestions in one of the Recreation Board meetings about getting some college groups to help. Smith wanted it noted that it was the first time at the Community Center so it's a process. Williams stated that McKinney is in charge and we need a podium and a microphone, maybe out front. McKinney said it makes sense to do it in the fields. Williams stated it must be organized and structured, there needs to be an agenda, police presence, and need to incorporate the Fire Department. Nielsen explained again how the eggs are filled and put into bags because easier to spread out.

Lee commented that Dan is in charge, just tell him what to do!

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **INFORMATION**

McKinney stated that Reorganization is always done in January. We are removing Keith Horton and Kelly Higgins from the Recreation Board, other than that, nothing changes.

Williams thanked the Community Center and explained they stole yet another employee to work at the Municipal Building. He joked that the Community Center trains them and then they take him.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Cheryl Nielsen made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 8:15 pm., the motion was seconded by Richard Bulette.

Board Members voting Ayes: Bulette, Lee, Nielsen,  
Passed. 3-0.

Next meeting February 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus  
Corresponding Secretary