

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION MEETING
September 21, 2010

The regular monthly meeting of the Palmer Township Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. Board members present were Secretary Bill Webb, Treasurer Cheryl Nielsen, Bob Walker, Chris McBairty and Bob Johnson. Secretary Webb opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST – Minutes from the August meeting were approved on motion by Walker, seconded McBairty, and agreed by all.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Held until Treasurer arrives.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE –

Easton Extreme – Field use Request – Brian Trimmer, Ryan Amato, and Billy Hunara were present requesting field use for practice for their newly formed baseball team, Easton Extreme who is in the men’s senior league – 35 to 45. Their season runs from April to October and they are in the process of getting a home field for their team. They would like Fairview field for their home field for their home season. They have a 20 game season; with 10 home games which are played on Sundays but would like one day a week for practice. Board discussed this request stating that there are already 2 teams using this field. Webb stated the fall is out for this year as there are teams using the field and when they are done work is going to begin on the fields. Johnson stated Junior Legion Prep, Connie Mack, Junior Legion and Senior Legion are all going to be playing on this field. Diane will check with Scott Kistler as to when the work is going to begin. Johnson stated that Fridays are the only nights available. As far as their spring request this will be put on hold until the in house team schedules come in. They were told to come back in February to see the schedule for Fairview. They were told that an application needs to be filled out and a fee of \$100 for the fall season be paid along with submitting insurance. On motion by Johnson, seconded by Walker, and agreed by all, the Board approved the use by the Easton Extreme for Fairview field based on availability for the fall, and that all necessary paperwork and fees are submitted.

William Schinstine – 610-703-8399 - request for softball field for practice – Mr. Schinstine was present requesting a softball field for practice. They are part of the Palmer Softball Association. This request needs to be discuss this with Jeff Young. Webb informed Schinstine that there needs to be an application filled out and submitted with a fee of \$100 as well as insurance. Schinstine asked whether they still had to submit insurance since they were affiliated with the Palmer Softball Association. He will have Raven contact Diane with the insurance information. Johnson motioned to allow a field use based on approval by Jeff Young and field availability. Diane will discuss this with Young and inform Schinstine of the decision. McBrairty seconded the motion which was approved by all.

Community Center – McKinney was present and stated they still have not heard from basketball representatives. This is very important and must be done immediately. Johnson will get in touch with Joe Olah and have him contact the basketball commissioners.

McKinney informed the Board that the Community Center would like to start field hockey program in Palmer. There is done thru the AA right now and is constantly getting inquiries about this sport. Smith stated the AA showed interest in starting a league for this. McKinney said they wouldn't follow through with this if the AA is going to. Smith said he didn't think the AA was interested in the younger age group. McKinney noted they would like to get something started for the spring and it would be for the younger age group. Asked if there was a field they could use and he was told Fox Run and Mill Race fields are not heavily used in spring. Forks Township has a league and they started it with a grant. This will be looked into.

Baseball – Johnson reported they are near the end of fall ball. They have five teams. Also, Fall Connie Mack team will start and they have 16 players. Everyone is very excited about this. He informed the Board that there has been a lot of vandalism at fields lately. Smith stated that the football field is going to be done over and that means we will lose 2 ball fields. They discussed places to put in a temporary field.

Johnson then discussed the baseball fields/dug outs. He found out that previously there has been plans drawn up for new dug outs. He would like to proceed with this project and has someone from Home Depot that would donate the material for this project, he just needs to know what is needed. Walker and Smith informed Johnson know what happened in the past that

the Vo-Tech students were going to do some of the work and a concrete company was going to donate the concrete. Johnson stated there are a lot of companies/people that want to donate time and material. Smith asked what fields they may be interested in doing over and he will go to the Supervisors with the proposal. Walker motioned to authorize fields 2-3-7 get the reconditioning and that the information on the project get to Smith for the Board of Supervisors' approval. Motion was seconded by Nielsen and agreed by all.

Johnson stated that people feel it is important to add more leagues in the township. The high school coaches met with Johnson and stated they would like to help all they can with the players. Rich Freiler will be coach of the Junior Legion and Pat O'Connell will be the coach for the Senior Legion.

With the shortage of fields Riverview field may have to be taken for Bushkill Valley League. There has to be discussion on this since the Palmer softball Association has done so much work on those fields and pay the lighting bill. It was brought up that Fairview field may be available. Have to check into this.

Budget – everyone received budgets. The 2011 budgets went up to \$110,000 from \$107,000 in 2010. Nielsen stated she meets with the manager next Monday. Smith informed the Board that it is now mandatory that all football games have an ambulance on site. This will raise that budget. He also stated they will probably have to get new helmets – the gel style. These new helmets are totally different and have many more safety features. They are over \$200 each. Feels the older players should get their helmets replaced first since they have more contact. That would be at least 50 new ones. Nielsen to add these new figures in the proposed budgets.

Maintenance – Smith reported that there is a proposed storage building to be erected at the Palmer complex. They have received some quotes on pole buildings which ran from \$9800 and including extras would be about \$16,000. This new storage building is desperately needed and they could store all the equipment in this such as the smithco, the L screens, gator, and a trailer with lawn mower. This quote was presented to AA and they showed an interest in purchasing this but they don't have the funds. They do have some money from the Beef and Beer but not to cover this expense.

Smith went on to inform the Board that the township wants to make the football field a multi-purpose field. There should be night games for soccer, and Lacrosse and possible field hockey in the future. The only way to get a field in shape for all these sports and keep the grass would be to install an irrigation system. Quotes have been received and if our Public Works personnel did the work and get the field ready for sod the price would be half. The rolls of sod are very large so they would have to rent equipment to roll the sod out. The irrigation system is very expensive and quotes have come in. Smith asked the one company to just give us the plans and the list of materials that are needed and our in-house crews will install. The price is a lot cheaper this way. Using public water, the cost would be very high so we would need to put a well in. There is a possibility that this will be donated. Need to get figures together soon and have to make a decision on all this shortly. Smith did say with irrigation system games can play on the fields 3 – 4 weeks after installation.

Smith wants everyone to remember the lighting for Fairview Park is still on the list of things to get done.

Johnson informed the Board that he met with Eric from the Palmer Softball Association at Riverview Park. People using the fields for other things than ball. They are really messing up the fields. Eric asked if there can there be a sign put up that to use the fields someone must contact the municipal building. Whoever is playing there also does in the rain which damages the fields more. Smith will talk to the Supervisors about this. If a sign can be put up it has to be worded so organized sports need a permit from the municipal building but township kids can play without permission. Also, Diane received a complaint about alcohol in the park/parking lot area. She will contact the police to have them check on this as well as informing Bill Raven and Eric. This is the second complaint that was received over the season and alcohol is not allowed in the parking lot/ball field area.

Wrestling – Webb stated their competition mat are old and they need new one. The company they purchased it from will refurbish it for half the amount of a new mat. They are going to have the work done over the summer for next season.

Cheering – Nielsen reported everything is going well.

Football – Smith reported that everything is going great! Palmer played Forks last weekend and the Varsity game was 20-0!! Fulmer is getting the cleaning of uniforms done with no problems.

Development – there are three plans to review. Weis Market gas pumps being added – On motion by Walker, seconded by Nielsen, and agreed by all, the Board recommended recreation fees be paid in lieu of land. Palmer Trust – apartment complex on Charlotte Avenue – On motion by McBairty, seconded by Johnson, and agreed by all, the Board recommended recreation fees be paid in lieu of land. Office building being proposed on South 27th Street – On motion by Walker, seconded by Nielsen, and agreed by all, the Board recommended recreation fees be paid in lieu of land.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Cheryl reviewed August’s report. She questioned that there have not been any first aid kits purchased yet this year and she thought there was talk on getting them. On motion by Johnson, seconded by McBairty and agreed by all, the treasurer’s report was approved as presented.

New Business – None.

Old Business – None.

On motion by Walker, seconded by McBairty, and agreed by all, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Diane Grube, Corr. Secretary