

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
April 15, 2025
7:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Vice-Chair Dawn Ackerman, Cheryl Nielsen, and Thom Lee. Also, in attendance was Dan McKinney, Director of Parks and Recreation and Charles Bellis, Member of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors.

Dawn Ackerman called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes – February 2025.

INFORMATION

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

Motion: Approve, Moved by Cheryl Nielsen, Seconded by Thom Lee.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Bellis thanked the Recreation Board for coming in front of the Board of Supervisors and he agrees with all that was presented.

3. NEW BUSINESS

NONE

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Trees

INFORMATION

Bellis mentioned the tree discussion as in previous meetings and suggested to keep pursuing. Nielsen stated that there was a rumor that BOS told Public Works to plant trees and Old Orchard was not Shade Tree Commission. Ackerman stated that there are trees under electrical lines and in five years it will be a problem, Bellis confirmed the same thing at Fox Run. Ackerman expressed that we are taking recreation away from kids, Nielsen concurred about bikes and sledding. McKinney stated that you do not plant trees in open

park space. Ackerman commented that no one asks for input and Fox Run is going to be a problem. Bellis explained the township's Arbor Day celebration and stated we are not anti-trees. Ackerman asked what is the big push for trees? McKinney stated we are now a Tree City USA and stated that there is no process. Lee commented that he does not understand the BOS saying plant all these trees when it infringes on Recreation, and we should be in that process. McKinney praised Ackerman and Keckler for making a great presentation at the BOS meeting and Bellis agreed, stating that it needs to be kept on the radar.

B. Dog Policy
INFORMATION

Ackerman reiterated that they went over the Dog Policy at the BOS meeting and explained that the Recreation Board recommended a dog leash policy. Dawn Burke, 1415 Stones Crossing Road, commented that dogs run all over Mill Race Park. Discussion occurred. Lee suggested that the BOS might be asking for language. Nielsen concurred like signage in the Parks that dogs must be on a leash. Bellis stated he will discuss it at the next BOS meeting and informed the Recreation Board that dog waste receptacles are at both ends of the bike path.

C. Board of Supervisors Meeting April 7, 2025
INFORMATION

Ackerman explained the three items that he and Keckler presented at the BOS meeting on April 7, 2025. They were trees, dog policy in parks and adaptive equipment. On adaptive equipment, it needs pricing and a plan to start with one piece. Bellis stated that McKinney would need to make a budget plan. McKinney explained that the Rec development fund is depleted and would need some kind of plan. Ackerman explained that it is not just for disabled people and would need to be fenced in. but the discussion would need to be kept going. Nielsen stated that consistency is crucial. Ackerman suggested bi-monthly while the subject is on the table. Lee informed that it needs agenda item stating details.

Jason Delpoito entered the meeting at 7:50 representing the Palmer Township Athletic Association.

D. Bushkill Greenway
INFORMATION

Nielsen informed that they had the first meeting, they want a free-flowing creek the way it was originally and someday like shad to come up. Bellis stated that Ken Stocker knows more about Bushkill Creek than anyone. McKinney suggested getting him to speak. Nielsen confirmed that there will be another meeting.

5. Director's Report
INFORMATION
NONE

6. Egg Hunt

INFORMATION

McKinney advised that the Easter Egg Hunt is this Friday, 4/18, it sneaks up on us. Nielsen put on the record two complaints about the ages for the kids and do not delay the bigger group from starting due to people speaking.

7. Around the Room

INFORMATION

Lee stated zero money in the Recreation Fund. McKinney, yes maybe not exactly zero. Lee asked if it was allocated to the Palmer Township Kiwanis Youth Center to finish it? Bellis confirmed funds were used to finish the outside, inside was money donated from Lisa Boscola, twice. There is not a commercial kitchen. BYOB discussed and building usage. Ackerman states that the things that were suggested have not even been considered so what is the purpose of the building? Lee commented that it is a glorified fieldhouse. Nielsen stated that the old fieldhouse needed to be replaced. McKinney reiterated that it is still not completely outfitted. Ackerman questioned esports? Nielsen commented manpower is needed. Lee thought that McKinney had budgeted for 2025. Bellis stated it is way underfunded, a political nightmare, pricing before cover. The Recreation Board decided to have their next meeting at the Palmer Township Kiwanis Youth Center, will post at the township about change of venue.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Thom Lee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 pm, the motion was seconded by Cheryl Nielsen.

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

Next meeting May 20, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus
Corresponding Secretary