

**PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD**  
**April 16, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**  
**GENERAL MEETING**

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The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Chair Cheryl Nielsen, Vice-Chair Thom Lee, Darryl Keckler and Angelo Stambolis. Also, in attendance was Dan McKinney, Director of Parks and Recreation and Charles Bellis, Member of the Palmer Township Board of Supervisors.

Cheryl Nielsen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**1. CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approval of Minutes – February 2024.

**INFORMATION**

The Board needs to approve/disapprove the minutes of February 2024.

Motion: Approve, Moved by Thom Lee, Seconded by Angelo Stambolis.

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

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

Cheryl Nielsen introduced Charles (Zeke) Bellis to the Recreation Board as our newly elected Board of Supervisors member.

Charles Bellis stated that he was the newly elected township supervisor, and he made a pact by June to visit all sub committees such as Planning, Shade Tree, Recreation Board etc. He stated he cannot direct, but sub committees can. He stated that Jeff Young, another Board of Supervisors member sent him to talk about the PTAA document and to let the Recreation Board know that it is being worked on and will come back to the Rec Board, might not agree 100% but at least 95%. Bellis continued with giving some of his history with the Recreation Board and Egg Hunts, has worked with many groups. He insisted that the Recreation Board has power, if someone comes in requesting something, always get a second opinion, gave some history of the walking path and warehouses. Bellis advised the Recreation Board not to fight with the Palmer Township Athletic Association and talked about when he was the head of Palmer Football Program. There are things the Recreation Board can do,

discussed Shafer Park, Old Orchard Park, part of the bike path, kids have moved out of the area, but parents are still here, maybe a chipped walking path. Stambolis stated that he is very much interested in Parks. McKinney explained that there is a comprehensive plan for the Parks, a big plan, huge financial commitment. I might be a supervisor, but I represent the taxpayers. Let us launch our new Pickleball courts with food trucks, music, I can't do it, but the Recreation Board can. You can use the ideas and make them happen. Active Transportation has much to do with Recreation, bathrooms, recreation, job to challenge staff. Nielsen stated she takes her grandchildren to Old Orchard Park and there are a lot of young families. Bellis commented that parks are not used unless it is an organized sport or event. I am a life member of the PTAA, recreation is the life blood of any township, if I can help you, I will. Nielsen explained that Young had texted her to let her know they are working on the MOU with the PTAA. Bellis stated that he is working on the Youth Center by getting people together, he explained he visited the new field house and press box and stated to Nielsen, remember when we used to drink in there all the time but when he saw them drinking in the new press box, he said this isn't cool. Stambolis agreed. Nielsen thanked Bellis for coming and sharing. Lee explained that the Recreation Board responsibility is parks and discussed the lady that came before the Recreation Board with her concerns about the PTAA. Bellis commented that it should have been settled before coming to the Board of Supervisors, these things must stop. Lee explained that we were told to stand down. Nielsen explained that we are a recommendation board. Bellis questioned, stand down? Lee explained the history behind Tina Walton. Keckler commented that we are rubber stamp for anybody to get what they want. Bellis explained that in the past the PTAA rule was that a Recreation Board member had to attend a PTAA meeting. Lee asked for a better understanding, what is our responsibility related to the PTAA, which is it? Nielsen commented that the reason for a Recreation Board is to get fees from developers. McKinney responded that he is not sure that is the case anymore. Bellis reiterated that the MOU is coming and explained history again. Nielsen states it is our opinion, the PTAA opinion, the BOS brings it together. Keckler reiterated that no one wants to go up against the PTAA, but other people live in the township too. After the PTAA became independent, they came to the Rec Board and asked for a scoreboard, and we recommended it to the BOS, but they made the decision. Keckler stated real value, weaning them off township money. Keckler commented that we are never going to hurt them, just a small portion to maintain the outside. Nielsen stated just asking to pay for what it cost to run. Keckler reiterated that we are not sure if we will like the MOU or not like it, just something to go by. McKinney informed that that Forks Township gets \$45.00 a registrant to offset township costs associated with their Athletic Association. Bellis stated we are not Forks. Lee commented that there was and is no income coming from the PTAA. Bellis stated we are not giving them anything. The Recreation Board jointly stated we give them fields, maintenance, etc. Keckler reiterated that portions of the tournaments should be invested back into the community. The Charles Chrin Community Center stands wear and tear. Keckler explained that revenue turning events for kids, Palmer great, invest in the kids, football and cheering, great facilities in Palmer, just asking to reinvest. Nielsen stated at least pay for toilet paper. Keckler conversed that this has been all put in writing. McKinney reiterated that this conversation has been going on for seven years. Keckler stated again we put all of this in writing. McKinney believes that everyone has the same goal, for the betterment

of the kids. Kecker wanted to reiterate that the only thing this Recreation Board has been used for with the PTAA is to come get something they want, they will fill a room, state their request and then clear the room.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Adaptive Playground Equipment**

##### **INFORMATION**

Deb Ackerman, 4 Courtney Court, attended the meeting because she thought Kent Baird of Planning was speaking tonight McKinney discussed and explained the Miracle League and after Ackerman's presentation at the last meeting that he met with Kent and there is a space at Fairview for one two pieces of equipment. Ackerman explained about the park in Hellertown, they just put a park in by the ball field and that is her long-range goal. McKinney suggested that Baird is the grant guy and is going to present his proposal at the next meeting, it will take a while. Keckler confirmed that the space is identified, perfect for us to get the wheels going. Lee stated now we need to get the grant identified. Keckler commented, let's just do it. Bellis discussed that this is also included in Active Transportation but should ask Kent.

#### **B. Recreation Capital Reserve Fund**

##### **INFORMATION**

McKinney explained the depletion of Recreation fees pre-Youth Center and Pickleball courts, explained Turf Field money is set aside, the Turf field is six years old and having issues with sink holes. Lee question no money in Recreation funds? McKinney explained history and Keckler stated that there is only so much development left to collect from. Bellis again stated to tell Kent what we want, he is the grant guy. McKinney stated that grants are a 50% match for the most part.

#### **C. Pickleball Courts**

##### **INFORMATION**

McKinney explained that the topcoat will go on weather permitting.

#### **D. Youth Center Update**

##### **INFORMATION**

Flooring ordered, in May the Multipurpose Room at the Community Center will be done. Bellis asked what the Recreation Board's feeling of the Youth Center. Lee confirmed that we were told non-traditional sports dictated by Kiwanis.

### **4. Director's Report**

##### **INFORMATION**

None

### **5. Egg Hunt**

##### **INFORMATION**

None

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

Thom Lee made a motion to reconvene the meeting at 8:25 pm, the motion was seconded by Darryl Keckler.

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

Next meeting May 21, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus  
Corresponding Secretary