

PALMER TOWNSHIP RECREATION BOARD
August 20, 2024
7:00 PM
GENERAL MEETING

The Palmer Township Recreation Board held a General meeting on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Charles Chrin Community Center. The following were in attendance: Chair Cheryl Nielsen, Darryl Keckler, Thom Lee and Angelo Stambolis.

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

1. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approval of Minutes – June 2024.

INFORMATION

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

Motion: Approve, Moved by Darryl Keckler, Seconded by Angelo Stambolis.

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION

A. Kent Baird introduced himself as Palmer Township's Director of Planning and Craig Beavers as the Assistant Director of Planning, but Craig was not present. Baird explained that when he started in 2022 there were eighty open projects and heard discussion of Recreation Fees. The culture has changed, much more collaborating group, Craig was going to talk tonight about two land developments, but they had been kicked back to development, explained the Binney & Smith project where the first crayon was produced. Lee asked if it was the Water Edge project and asked if it was going to the Planning Board. Baird answered that most times the Recreation Board is not included and explained that they want to claim Crayola building back, and working on including it with active transportation, want to connect people from the east side to the west side to trails and parks, wants safety for their kids.

- B. Philip Godbout introduced himself as Palmer Township Director of Public Services. He gave a drawing of Penn Pump to each board member and explained that this is a project that he must complete by the end of the year. He explained the history of the grant and it meets our Bushkill long term planning goals. He went over the drawing and the plan, making a ramp out of concrete and the funds have been available since 2020. Lee asked if the grant money was already awarded and needed to be spent, and can it be done by year end? Godbout stated yes. Lee questioned if this was the best option to use these funds? Baird explained Tom Adams, former Director of Public Services proposal and the extent of it and it had county approval. We do not want to lose the money and also adapt to ADA compliance. Godbout educated that it approximately 75,000 and time is the resource he explained further, it will be a challenge but achievable for the end of the year. Keckler questioned if it was within the scope to get it done? Lee inquired if this is the best way to allocate funds, what happens if questioned why we chose this. Baird made it clear that is not spent, it is gone. Lee inquired if this is what the BOS wants? Keckler stated that things were made prettier, and shiner and ADA make up work. Godbout explained that the ramp will be asphalt. Nielsen asked if that would stand the floods at the park? Godbout stated that if constructed right, well packed, it will not be affected. Lee stated if limited time and limited funds, it is not something that should be passed up. Godbout explained the project and that it is called Penn Pump Rehabilitation Project.

Darryl Keckler made a motion to proceed and support the Penn Pump Rehabilitation Project with additions in the future.

Motion: Seconded Angelo Stambolis

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

Godbout told the Recreation Board that in the future he would like to look at signage with the Recreation Board. Baird stated that signage is included the Bushkill Creek Greenway Program. Discussion occurred on cross walk signage (Greenwood) and future plans.

- C. Keckler informed the Recreation Board that he attended the Old Orchard improvement meeting. Nielsen was not sure that the Recreation Board was going to get asked to attend. Baird stated that not sure everyone was supposed to be there. Keckler offered that there were a lot of people there that day. Change needs to be done but keep it historical, garbage cans need to be changed, this will make it easier for public works to take care of. The pavilion needs to be polished,

this is reactive to people who live there. We have to be careful of reacting to small groups. It is a park with a basketball court. Baird explained the public overview from Palmer Days last year. Lee asked what was the consensus of Old Orchard Park? Keckler indicated that it needs to be a community park, there were too many people at this meeting and wondered how things got done. Baird stated that there probably will not be a meeting like that again. Nielsen stated it needs a path and Keckler stated it needs to be made ADA compliant.

- D. Nielsen announced that Jeff Young, Board of Supervisor member has resigned as the Recreation Board liaison. Lee confirmed that the Recreation Board no longer has a liaison, he was approached by Mike Brett, BOS Chairman and mentioned that maybe it is better if someone doesn't get in the middle and may be better without a liaison, it would be proactive for a Recreation Board member or two to attend a BOS meeting and let them know what was discussed. Lee explained our past history with liaisons and discussion occurred. Stambolis commented that he thinks two Recreation Board members should go to the BOS, we can control our voices. Lee stated that it was his task to approach the board to get feedback on which way to go.

Thom Lee made a motion to eliminate the Board of Supervisors liaison to the Recreation Advisory Board. Two people from the Recreation Advisory Board will attend a Board of Supervisors meeting once a month to inform them of the agenda of the Recreation Advisory Board.

Motion: Seconded by Daryl Keckler

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

4. OLD BUSINESS **INFORMATION**

A. Adaptive Playground Equipment

Discussed Adaptive Playground Equipment, Baird commented that there are only three companies in the country that have this equipment, Kompan is exceptionally good. Lee explained that prior to this meeting, we brought to the Board of Supervisors that this is something we feel is needed, what would be our directive? Baird discussed that there is a new administration and in this case fourteen parks need work and will not be done in 1 year. Inclusive playgrounds and shared an early list of grants, suggest as a directive, share up, that you want park improvements, changes you recommend, hate it, love it, grants want to see all aspects. All parks need a master plan and ADA specifications. If you want an inclusive playground, make a motion that you want to budget for it next year. He continued to explain the Bushkill Greenway Plan and the Mill Race Plan. The Mill Race plan is the first one seen. Budget each year gets grants, multiple benefits, again explained the list of grants he handed out and educated on grant cycles that

open up, matching requirements, would need a resolution from our Board. Keckler stated that we made a motion prior to start with Fairview. Lee further stated that we are not sure it got to where it needed to go and stated that he knows changes are being made. We want to continue to pursue this course of action for Adaptive Playgrounds. Stambolis questioned that maybe start at the Community Center playground with one swing. Cheryl asked if anyone saw the merry-go-round at Bethlehem Township? All use it. Baird educated on the process and Lee told him that the Board appreciated him being here.

Thom Lee made a motion to continue to support and discuss Adaptive Playground equipment, if not enough money to downsize, pursuing grants and place into the 2025 budget.

Motion: Seconded Darryl Keckler

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

B. Dog Policy in the Palmer Parks

The no dogs allowed in Palmer Parks policy was discussed. Keckler recommends revisiting the ordinance on no dogs in Palmer Parks and amend to allow dogs in Palmer Parks and on the Community Center grounds. Stambolis agrees.

C. Youth Center

It was announced that there is a Grand Opening of the Kiwanis Youth Center on September 7, 2024 at 10:00am. Godbout explained what needs to be done beforehand and then discussion occurred on the Youth Center.

5. Director's Report
INFORMATION

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Nielsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:49pm, the motion was seconded by Angelo Stambolis.

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

Next meeting September 17, 2024 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Lazarus
Corresponding Secretary