

Egg Harbor Township Recreation Commission Meeting
EHT Community Center 5045 English Creek Avenue
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, September 28, 2016
Minutes

7:00pm

I. Call to Order by Chairman Fairfield at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Fairfield.

II. Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

IV. Roll Call:

Robert Fairfield, Chair - Present	Charles Gallagher - Present
Carmen Messina, Vice Chair – Present	Justin Riggs – Present
Toni Rispoli – Present at 7:03 p.m.	Paul Weldon – Present
Kathy Fiedor - Present	Kevin Stetser - Present
William Warrell - Present	

Rick Audet (Director of Recreation) - Present

V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

a. Minutes – September 14, 2016.

Motion made by Bill Warrell and seconded by Kathy Fiedor to accept the minutes. Passed 8-0 1 abstention (Rispoli).

VI. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups Comment

None.

VII. Public Comment

a. **Non-Resident Coaches**

Lori Oberman inquired whether there was any progress with allowing non-residents to coach in EHT? Chairman Fairfield indicated that the Policy and Procedure Committee met. Their recommendations will be addressed under New Business.

***Public portion was closed at 7:35 p.m.**

VIII. Old Business

a. **Capital Projects Update**

Canale Park Bathrooms

The bathrooms have been installed. The Roofing Contractor will finish the fascia. The Engineer and Township Administrator Miller will speak to the Water Company to have their work finished prior to

October 21, 2106. A concrete pad leading to the doors must be installed to meet ADA approval. Sewer and Water need to be completed.

Amphitheater cover

A new design needs to be tweaked to meet our needs. The roof will be rolled metal.

Surveillance Project

Installation of the cameras has been re-scheduled for the second week of October. Breakers LLC is under state contract. Installation of the cameras should take approximately one week.

Commissioner Rispoli proposed that cameras and mirrors be placed in the Community Center.

BMX turns-

Work began on September 28, 2016. However, due to inclement weather, continuation of the project will be placed on hold until next week.

Childs-Kirk field 3 dugouts

Field Three dugout work is scheduled for October. EHTYS is aware that the field will be shut down.

IX. Use of Parks Facility Requests

X. Director's Report

a. Recreation Department Halloween Event on October 25, 2016

Director Audet asked if three Recreation Commissioners would judge the costumes. Chairman Fairfield indicated that Commission would be honored to perform the judging. Commissioner Fiedor volunteered.

XI. New Business

a. Capital Budget Workshop – Part II

Director Audet advised the Commission of additional areas that should be included in the Capital Plan.

2018

Amphitheater railings need to be replaced.

2020

Installation of an Adult Softball field.

2022

Spray/Water Playground.

Chairman Fairfield reminded the Commission that we need to formally present the Capital Budget in October. Commissioner Rispoli stated that she would like to add an additional gym to the budget. Commissioner Riggs suggested the year of 2021.

- **Closed Public Portion 7:25 p.m.**

XII. Correspondance

EHT Youth Group Minutes

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| A. Baseball Association– last received 8/11/16 | F. Soccer Club – last received 7/12/16 |
| B. BMX – 8/25/16 | G. Street Hockey Association – 7/5 & 8/29/16 |
| C. Diamond Cheer | H. Travel Basketball –last received 9/8/16 |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – 5/24/16 | I. Youth Softball – last received 3/28/16 |
| E. Lacrosse – last received 4/5/16 | J. Youth Organization –last received 8/17/16 |

XIII. Handouts

- a. EHT BMX – agenda and minutes 8/25/16
- b. EHT Travel Basketball- financials report

XIV. Tabled Matters

- a. Discussion Policy & Procedures - non-resident coaches.
Chairman Fairfield presented the Policy and Procedure Committee’s recommendation.
A one year pilot program regarding non-resident coaches was proposed. Any Organization that wishes to utilize a non-resident, as a coach, must advise the Recreation Commission of their need for a non-resident to coach. The President of the Organization and the anticipated non-resident coach must come before the Recreation Commission. The coach must complete the Kid Safe program. Upon approval by the Recreation Commission, the proposed policy would be added to the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Vice-Chair Messina expressed his thoughts against allowing non-residents to coach. Recently the Commission learned that the President of EHT Street Hockey no longer resided in EHT. EHTBA by-laws were not followed when the Travel program consented to a non-resident coaching one of their travel teams. EHTBA did not follow the Recreation Commissions’ Policy and Procedure Manual. Because EHTBA was non-compliant, Carmen asked why the Commission hasn’t taken the fields away from the Travel portion of EHTBA? He stated that if a parent wants their child coached by a non-resident they should take their child to an AAU team. Presidents of the offending organizations have never come before the Commission to state that they have a problem getting coaches. Carmen asked why Recreation would consider opening the door to exclude EHT residents from coaching. He asked how do we get residents to step up and volunteer? The EHTBA Travel Director never indicated that there was a problem getting coaches, nor did he advise the Commission that he had a non-resident coaching. Carmen is adamant that EHTBA did not follow their by-laws. The fact that EHTBA paid the non-resident \$1.00 as a trainer is not correct, they paid him to coach. There are no paid coaches in the

EHT Youth Organizations. If parents want to pay a coach, they should take their child to an AAU team. The EHTBA Board never came to the Recreation Commission to discuss the need for a non-resident to coach a Travel team. The Travel Director never informed the Recreation Commission that he appointed a non-resident to coach a Travel team. Only the parents of the players, on the Travel team, asked why a non-resident could not continue coaching their sons. It should be noted that

EHTBA deliberately allowed a non-resident to coach even though they were aware that the by-laws do not allow a non-resident to coach. Because EHTBA chose to ignore their by-laws and the Recreation Commission by-laws, we should be deciding on taking their field privileges away. By no means should the Commission review or rewrite our by-laws or Policy and Procedure manual. Allowing non-resident coaches we hurt volunteerism. We know that it is difficult for some to get involved, by allowing non-resident coaches we are giving them an out instead of stepping up.

Commissioner Warrell disagreed that allowing a non-resident to coach would hurt or stop volunteerism in EHT. Bill feels that there are a handful of non-residents that would ask to coach in EHT. Non-residents cannot hold positions on any of the boards. Bill feels that it is time for a change and to move forward. See how the pilot program works in the next year. Evaluate the program and then determine whether to continue it.

Commissioner Rispoli stated that her concern is that the integrity of the organizations have been impugned. The Recreation Commission expects full disclosure from the Youth Groups. Director Audet requested sign up forms to ascertain whether residents expressed a desire to coach and were possibly overlooked. EHTBA did not present the forms, as they use on-line registration.

Commissioner Stetser stated that we need to determine whether there is an actual need for a non-resident to coach. He doesn't feel that we should shut the door. The Commission needs to take a good look at it.

Commissioner Gallagher emphatically stated that no EHT resident should be displaced due to a non-resident coach. Our priority should be EHT residents come first.

Vice-Chair Messina reminded the Commission that the EHT resident that is displaced does not come before the Recreation Commission to complain. The Township has always relied on its' residents to step up.

Commissioner Fiedor stated EHT has always been about the residents. Kathy does not believe there is a need for non-residents to coach in EHT.

Commissioner Weldon said that the organizations must understand that a non-resident cannot be a Head Coach. The Organization needs to explain why a non-resident coach is necessary. Each case will be decided on a case by case basis.

Commissioner Riggs is open to the pilot program.

Chairman Fairfield indicated that the Policy and Procedures committee will meet prior to the October 12, 2016 meeting. They will discuss policy and the best way to present the pilot program. He reminded everyone that under no circumstances will an EHT resident be replaced by a non-resident. If approved the pilot program will only be for one year and there is no guarantee that it will be in effect for the next year. An assessment of the pilot will be conducted and determine whether it will continue. The Recreation by-laws will not be changed. However, the Policy and Procedure Manual can be amended. If the pilot program is approved and it is discovered that an organization has not been truthful the President of that organization will be suspended. We need full disclosure from all of the Youth Organizations.

- b. Discussion Policy & Procedures – non-resident players.

***** Closed Tabled Matters portion of the meeting 7:54 p.m.**

XV. Public Comment

***** Re-opened at 7:55 p.m. *****

Non-Resident Coaches-

Lori Oberman took offense to the comment that parents who want a non-resident to coach their children should have them play for an AAU team. Lori stated that the President and non-resident coach must be made aware of the policy and procure regarding a non-resident coaching. No grandfather waivers.

Vicky Hawkes advised that EHTBA Board votes on coaches. She indicated that a list of potential coaches can be provided.

Brian Hawkes responded that if the non-resident coach was detrimental to the team, the EHTA Board would have removed him.

Green Acres-

Director Audet advised that EHT must be compliant with Green Acres. Presently research is being conducted to ascertain fee structures from Green Acres and surrounding towns. EHT Township sponsored groups will have priority prior to outside groups. Reasonable accommodations will be taken into consideration. EHT Township Committee will be contacted to determine whether an ordinance will be required.

Jay Adamson asked whether EHT Youth Groups would have first scheduling rights to the fields. Director Audet responded that alternate fields or time slots would be offered to the outside teams.

XVI. Adjournment at 9:12 p.m.

(Motion Commissioner Riggs/Seconded Commissioner Gallagher) 8-0 approved.

Robert Fairfield, Chairman

Toni Rispoli, Secretary

These minutes were approved at the October 12, 2016
Recreation Commission Meeting
