

Egg Harbor Township Board of Recreation Commissioners Meeting
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

7:00pm

I. Call to Order

Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet read the opening statement.

IV. Roll Call:

Toni Rispoli, Chair – Present

Amy Smith – Present

William Warrell, Vice Chair - Present

Paul Trinkle - Present

Charles Gallagher - Present

Christine Gras (Alt. 1) - Present

Paul Weldon - Present

Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Present

Kevin Stetser – Excused

(arrived 7:04)

V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting October 10, 2018

Motion	To approve the 10/10/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Amy Smith
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

VI. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups

Dr. Mark Mensh, 2 Dockside Drive, Youth Organization liaison to the Commission, updated the Commission on the playoffs status and schedule for Youth Organization football teams. All teams on the Atlantic Division side are done playing for the year. All Cape teams made the playoffs and are playing on November 17.

Dr. Mensh went on to discuss the parking situation at Veteran's Park. He feels that parking is inadequate, and continues to be a very large problem at the park when all YO teams are in season. Dr. Mensh discussed the bus lane at the school and the new ADA path has blocked off spots that used to be used. Bill Warrell asked that since YO enrollment is down and there are no more drill teams why it is so bad.

Dr. Mensh asked the Commission if there is anything we can do for a solution on the parking problem and to consider options that will help the YO during their season.

VII. Public Comment

Beverly Kelly, 1 Essex Drive, stated to the Commission that the neighbors of Delilah Oaks Park have been informed of the possibility of expanding the pickleball courts and installation of court lighting at the park. She stated her strong opposition to any expansion of pickleball and that she is very concerned for her and the nearby residents. Ms. Kelly explained that living in proximity to the pickleball courts is misery for the nearby residents due to the noise from the courts and the cars speeding in the neighborhood. Bill Warrell stated that if people are playing pickleball in off hours or speeding then the residents should be calling the Police Department.

Toni Rispoli stated that there is no plan of installing lighting at the courts.

Dan Littlefield, 2 Essex Drive, introduced himself to the Commission as a resident of the Delilah Oaks Park area and a 25 year EHT Police Department staff member in the Traffic Division. He stated that Parks and Recreation and the Commission should have consulted the neighbors of the park before turning the old tennis court into pickleball courts. Mr. Littlefield complained of the port-a-potty that has been put on location and that the court is used by many non-residents. He noted that at the September Commission meeting it was stated that the court is unsafe for play. He further stated that if the pickleball courts are moved to the field area then people will park on Essex Drive. He claimed that neighborhood children were denied access to using the court by the pickleball players. There are people who play pickleball as early as 6:00 am.. Mr. Littlefield stated that the Recreation Commission would increase safety issues at the park if they were to expand the pickleball courts.

Ray Kelly, 1 Essex Drive, stated that he was curious what other locations or parks in the Township were being considered for any possible expansion of pickleball courts. He stated that we do not need more courts than what is at Delilah Oaks now and the residents can barely manage to deal with what is there now.

Frank Domiani, 59 Kingsley Drive, stated that the Recreation Commission doesn't know what the residents near Delilah Oaks Park have to deal with at the location. There are drug busts in the park and houses that have been broken into. He stated that the residents often police the area and the Police Department does not patrol the neighborhood. The park, especially with the noise from the basketball court and users of the court, has gotten so bad that they can barely live in their houses.

Amy Smith stated that the Commission is hearing certain issues and problems that are out of our jurisdiction, however pickleball is our jurisdiction and that this is the first time the Commission has heard of these issues from the nearby residents. It is key for us to hear these things before we make any decision on the parks and new projects.

Michelle Littlefield, 2 Essex Drive, stated that the nearby residents are very frustrated over the issues at the park. She pleaded with the Commission to leave the courts that are there, and to not add more courts. The pickleball noise is more obnoxious than people can imagine.

Beverly Kelly explained her attempts at contacting the Police Department when people are using the basketball court after posted hours and that it can sometimes take 1-2 hours for a response.

Bill Warrell stated that the Commission does not design or plan traffic for parks, that is done by engineers, the Commission oversees generally smaller scope improvement projects. The Commission tries to help neighborhoods by making parks better. Michelle Littlefield stated that other parks should share the burden of hosting pickleball courts. She stated we don't need to remove what is there now but to please not expand them. Dan Littlefield stated that most other parks are not in as residential an area as Delilah Oaks.

Ray Simpson, 6 Essex Drive, stated his belief that bringing in more people will create more problems. These are not kids using the park but adults.

Toni Rispoli stated that we hear what you are saying, we did not know about any noise problems at the park to date, and it was a logical place to install the courts. She stated that we are looking to resurface the courts for improvement and safety reasons. Dan Littlefield stated that the residents are not against fixing the surface on the courts that are there, but they just don't want more. He asked the Township to look at any possible sound barriers or special fence screens for the facility. Toni Rispoli thanked everyone for coming tonight. The Commission briefly discussed possible locations for pickleball in the Township. Jonathan Parker stated that the MK Betterment Center could be a good fit. Toni Rispoli stated that we need better parking at Shires Park and to possibly change the hours of pickleball.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Revision to Facility Use policy fee structure for use of amphitheater

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet presented to the Commission a draft updated Field and Facility Use Policy that includes a new fee for permitted use of the Robert J. Lincoln Amphitheater. The fee would be the same as that for use of fields without light and the category of users would remain the same as the current policy stipulates.

Motion	To approve the draft Field and Facility Use Policy as presented and accept the revisions as a new policy for use of parks facilities. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Paul Trinkle
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

- b. 2019-2024 Capital Projects Plan Draft

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet presented to the Commission the 2019-2024 Capital Projects Plan draft that was revised based on the discussions at the last Recreation Commission meeting.

IX. Use of Parks Facility Requests

- A. Mens Ball Hockey Veteran's Park November, 2018 – March, 2019

Motion	To approve the Park use request for the Men's Ball Hockey League as presented. Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Bill Warrell
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

X. Director's Report

Parks and Recreation Director updated the commission on Parks and Recreation Department events and programs. This is a busy time of year for Parks and Recreation with the recent Volunteers Day, Halloween Spooktacular, and Craft Fair events. Mr. Audet noted that Parks and Recreation staff members Dena Danz and Cassie Hynes did a great job running the events. Mr. Audet mentioned the Youth Recreation Basketball League officially started yesterday, there are 41 teams in the program.

XI. New Business

2018 Coach of the Year nomination forms were distributed to all sponsored youth programs Presidents last week, Rick Audet stated that he will follow up with everyone on this.

Toni Rispoli discussed the recent EHT Soccer Club board meeting. She stated that Brian Cieslak wants to remain as coach. He is still questioning the soccer club board as to why no one else was punished. The soccer club board had a private meeting with the Cieslaks. Toni Rispoli advised them to follow their bylaws. The soccer club is seeking input from coaches and team parents as to if they wish to continue with Mr. Cieslak as a coach of their team. Toni Rispoli asked the Commission to consider who would like to take over as the liaison to the Soccer club.

XII. Correspondence

EHT Youth Group Minutes

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| A. Baseball Association – 9/20/18, 10/16/18 | F. Soccer Club – 9/11/18, 10/9/18 |
| B. BMX – last received 4/16/2018 | G. Street Hockey Association – 9/24, 10/9, 10/22/18 |
| C. Youth Organization – 5/9, 6/6, 7/11, 8/1, 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17 | H. Travel Basketball – 9/8/18, 10/11/18 |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – 8/28/18 | I. Youth Softball – last received 7/9/18 |
| E. Lacrosse – last received 6/13/18 | |

Toni Rispoli questioned the Jr. Wrestling Club minutes that alluded to out-of-town wrestlers in their organization. Christine Gras will confirm with the board on the status of this and ensure no out-of-town wrestler is in the organization. Rick Audet stated that Jr. Wrestling is one of our groups where the organization is not allowed to have out-of-town wrestlers based on their own organization/league rules in addition to the Commission’s policies and procedures.

The lacrosse minutes reflect that they would like a rebounding wall installed. They also wish to install a French drain to help alleviate the water that floods from the school property onto their fields. Rick Audet stated that Public Works has done some work to alleviate this problem.

The Jr. Wrestling minutes reflect that club funds were possibly used for a collection for a member of their organization who is sick, the Commission stated, as they have in the past, that such efforts should be from a collection from the families and not any use of the organization’s funds.

Handouts

- A. EHT Soccer Club Financials Report ending 9/30/18
- B. Travel Basketball Rosters, Coach List, Practice Schedule, Reg Forms
- C. EHT Street Hockey Financials Report ending 9/30/18
- D. EHTSC financials ending 10/31/18
- E. EHTSC Bylaws – revised November, 2018

XIII. Tabled Matters

None.

XIV. Public Comment

None.

XV. Adjournment

Motion	To adjourn the November 14, 2018 meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 9:17 p.m. Motion made by Charlie Gallagher Seconded by Paul Weldon
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes as heard by Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Toni Rispoli, Chair

Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation

These minutes were approved at the December 12, 2018 Recreation Commission Meeting.
