

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

REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES
Wednesday, January 9, 2019 7:00pm

I. Call to Order

Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

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 (arrived 7:49)	Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Present (arrived 7:30)
Kevin Stetser - Present	

V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting December 12, 2018

Motion	To approve the 12/12/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Paul Trinkle Seconded by Charlie Gallagher
Vote	Bill Warrell and Amy Smith abstained. All others voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0-2

VI. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups

Joe Olivieri, EHT Soccer Club vice president is in attendance. Mr. Olivieri stated that he did not have anything specific to discuss or report, just attending to listen to our meeting. Toni Rispoli informed him that the soccer club would be assigned Paul Weldon as the new liaison from the Commission. Mr. Olivieri stated that he would inform Officer Weldon of their meeting schedule going forward.

VII. Public Comment

None

VIII. Old Business

a. 2018 Coach of the Year Award Selection

The Recreation Commission discussed nominations for the 2018 Volunteer Coach of the Year award one by one. The Commission narrowed the candidates down to three finalists. Each Commissioner voted for their selection from the three finalists. A winner was determined. Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet stated that he would order the plaque and invite the winner to the February 13 meeting.

IX. Use of Parks Facility Requests

a. EHT Sponsored Youth Groups – Spring/Summer

- EHT Youth Softball
- EHT Soccer Club
- EHT Baseball Association
- EHT Street Hockey
- EHT Lacrosse Association

Motion	To approve the Park use request as presented by the following sponsored youth groups: EHT Youth Softball, EHT Soccer Club, EHT Baseball Association, EHT Street Hockey, and EHT Lacrosse. Groups will be allowed to start on or after March 1st weather and field conditions permitting. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Christine Gras
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli stated that Jonathan Parker has been assigned as the liaison to the EHT Baseball Association. Rick Audet will inform the baseball association.

Amy Smith mentioned the use of our fields that is due to begin on March 1. Ms. Smith stated her concern that if the weather or conditions do not allow the field to be used due to being too wet or if they have snow, how do we tell our sponsored youth group teams that they can't use the fields or have an indoor spot as a backup. Toni Rispoli stated that

the practices can possibly be moved to another area of the facility as many areas at the fields are in poor condition right now. Bill Warrell stated that the youth groups may want to think ahead and create their own alternative plan. Amy Smith stated that our fields are going to be destroyed if they are wet and asked what our contingency plan is for that. Toni Rispoli stated that we have this same issue every year and that we have to do our due diligence and use our common sense and coaches may need to move to a different part of the field.

The Commission discussed if we could use the school fields in March, Toni Rispoli stated groups can apply for use of fields but their sports are not allowed in the gyms. Alder Ave field was discussed but it's in use for baseball in the spring. Miller field was discussed as a contingency field if the Township fields are unplayable. Dena Danz stated that use of facilities should be put in now. Amy Smith stated that we should be able to work together and use the schools. Amy Smith stated that other Townships have back up plans and indoor facilities for their groups. Christine Gras stated that for the soccer club, if they are allowed to use a full size field, they can't play any of their 7v7 or 9v9 games there so it's not a full solution for them. Christine Gras stated that dates are regulated by the league the EHT Soccer Club plays in; they may not have any choice and are forced to play games as scheduled. The Commission discussed various area private indoor facilities. Kevin Stetser stated that use of schools is not a viable answer to this annual dilemma, we need to take care of our own issue.

Laura Pfrommer stated that field improvements can take a few years to see real results and some time is needed for the turf treatments to show results. Toni Rispoli asked Joe Olivieri, for the soccer club, how easy it is to switch fields before a game if needed. Mr. Olivieri stated they would have to forfeit and the Club really can't move games around once the official schedule is posted because of the way the referees are set up. Toni stated that groups will start March 1 and we will have to do the best we can. We do have a field closure policy in place that will need to be followed.

X. Director's Report

None.

XI. New Business

- a. Recreation Commission Annual Election of Officers

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Recreation Commission.

Motion	Motion made by Bill Warrell for nomination of Toni Rispoli for the position of Chair. Seconded by Amy Smith.
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson of the Recreation Commission.

Motion	Motion made by Toni Rispoli for nomination of Bill Warrell for the position of Vice Chair. Seconded by Amy Smith.
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Secretary of the Recreation Commission.

Motion	Motion made by Toni Rispoli for nomination of Christine Gras for the position of Secretary. Seconded by Amy Smith.
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

XII. Correspondence

EHT Youth Group Minutes

- A. Baseball Association – 11/8/18
- B. BMX – last received 12/4/2018
- C. Youth Organization – last received 10/17/18
- D. Jr. Wrestling – last received 8/28/18
- E. Lacrosse – 11/13/18
- F. Soccer Club – last received 11/19/18
- G. Street Hockey Association – 11/19, 12/3/18
- H. Travel Basketball – last received 10/11/18
- I. Youth Softball – 8/6, 9/9, 11/11/18

Handouts

- A. Recreation Commission 6 Year Capital Budget

Amy Smith stated that EHT Lacrosse wanted her as their liaison to bring up the possibility of installing a French drain at the fields where there is flooding in the fields 3/shed area adjacent to the school property. Rick Audet stated that he would bring it to Public Work's attention again to discuss any possible solution, but that is a very long distance to run a drain. EHT Lacrosse would need Township approval for such a project. Bill Warrell said the water in a French drain has to go somewhere and it will most likely fail or get clogged up. The issue and possible solutions were discussed.

Amy Smith asked the Commission if EHT Lacrosse would be allowed to run a local U8 division consisting of kids from multiple towns and run it in EHT because the U8 division does not play in all leagues. This would not displace any EHT player and they would play clinics on Friday night with kids from all towns mixed together. They would register under EHT Lacrosse as a U8 participant. Once players move into U10 division they can only play for their towns. Ms. Smith discussed the U8 division and how it works in their league, it is more of a clinic than a recreation division of play. EHT Lacrosse believes that it would give us more quality control over the division and give the kids an opportunity to play. Paul Weldon stated that it's similar to Chipmunk division in street hockey. The U8 division is instructional only, they learn the game with drills and do a scrimmage at the end of each night. Rick Audet asked if they could register in their own towns for the towns that run a U8 clinic and then run the clinic at various towns' fields in a rotation.

Toni Rispoli stated that they can possibly register under U10 in their own town and then play in the U8 clinic. Toni asked Andrew Carpenter to check with Andrew Gargan how the ground ball program was run. Bill Warrell asked for EHT Lacrosse to come in with a plan and present it to us. Am Smith stated the purpose is to just bring the kids in and train them and EHT Lacrosse would have more control over organizing the program. Toni Rispoli asked the Parks and Recreation staff if the department can run this as a program. She stated that insurance is a key issue. Rick Audet stated that what EHT lacrosse is proposing could work. All agreed that EHT Lacrosse would need to make sure everyone is registered with US Lacrosse for insurance purposes. Andrew Carpenter will have to attend a meeting and go through the fine points, Amy Smith will reach out to Andrew for this.

Amy Smith stated that U14 level does not have a coach, and on behalf of EHT Lacrosse asked can a coach from Mays Landing be brought in as an assistant and help at the U14 level because they currently do not have a coach. This is for a travel team. The Commission agreed that a non-resident can be brought in and approved according to our policy.

Christine Gras stated that we need to remind the youth group presidents at our next meeting that they need to let the liaisons know when a meeting has been moved or changed. Jr. Wrestling did not inform her of a change on their recent meeting and it was not posted on their Facebook page. Ms. Gras further stated that in the softball minutes for August they posted their treasurer's report and then did not post anything in September, or October. There was then a report for November. There was discussion on softball financials. Secondly, according to Ms. Gras it appears as though most or all of the scholarship winners are board members children. Christine asked if softball has a policy or bylaw on how scholarships are awarded. Dena Danz explained how the softball scholarships work. Kevin Stetser explained how it works with the high school football booster club as well for an example.

Christine asked us to find out from softball why they haven't turned in their annual financials yet. Toni Rispoli stated it came to her attention from a Recreation Commissioner that a travel coach was having a difficult time turning in fundraising money to the Youth Softball treasurer. Toni thought Diane Miller was the treasurer. Toni Rispoli gave the commissioner Kathleen Glick's telephone number so that the travel coach could determine who to turn the money in to.

Rick Audet stated that the Commission received a final copy of the six year capital budget. Toni Rispoli asked about the project for new wells and irrigation at Vets Park and why the more money had to be allotted for the project. Rick Audet stated that four bids were received for the project but all came in higher than anticipated. Rick Audet worked with Township Administrator to transfer money from a previous year capital project to be able to fund and complete the upcoming project.

Christine Gras updated the Commission on the review of EHT BMX 2018 financials and the finance subcommittee had concerns and questions on what was turned in. There were no receipts turned in with their statements and debit card transactions which is unacceptable. Christine Gras stated that our groups have to know exactly what is expected of them for financial reporting and receipts, she does not want any Recreation Commissioner to waste their time trying to review financials if the groups are not doing it right. The BMX president, treasurer and board need to attend a meeting with the finance subcommittee. It is not evident who is signing the checks, there were reimbursement checks made out to the spouse of an executive committee member. The Commission decided that we would require BMX to meet with the finance subcommittee before our next meeting.

Christine Gras stated that at the next meeting, she will present to all the sponsored groups a concise and accurate explanation on the white board what is expected of them. The issue of having issue to have husband and wife on the same board was discussed. Rick Audet will contact BMX and let them know what they should be showing up with, they need to be here at 6pm. Finance subcommittee also had one question with soccer financials Rick Audet was asked to email Matt Bailey from EHT Soccer Club for an answer.

XIII. Tabled Matters

XIV. Public Comment

Ray Ellis, 83 Asbury Road, spoke under Public Comment. He stated that he thinks the Commission is doing a great job. He also commended Rick Audet and Dena Danz in the Parks and Recreation Department.

XV. Adjournment

Motion	To adjourn the January 9, 2019 meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 8:26 p.m. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Kevin Stetser
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 February 13, 2019 Recreation Commission Meeting.
