

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

**REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, February 13, 2019** **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 Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

**IV. Roll Call:**

Toni Rispoli, Chair - Present	Amy Smith - Present
William Warrell, Vice Chair - Excused	Paul Trinkle - Present
Charles Gallagher - Present	Christine Gras (Alt. 1) - Present
Paul Weldon - Present	Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) - Unexcused
Kevin Stetser - Present	

**V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes**

a. Regular Meeting January 9, 2019

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the 1/9/19 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Amy Smith
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 7-0.

**VI. 2018 Coach of the Year Award Presentation**

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet discussed the purpose of the annual award and summarized the nominations the Commission received for 2018. Joseph Isabella was introduced as the winner for 2018. Rick Audet read one of the nomination letters received for Mr. Isabella. The Commission congratulated Mr. Isabella for his award and thanked him for his efforts coaching the children in our community.

**VII. Finance Subcommittee Presentation on Requirements for Financial Reporting**

Christine Gras presented to the youth groups in attendance her best practices for tracking and submitting monthly and year-end financial reporting both for their own organization and for submitting to the Recreation Commission. Ms. Gras presented the information verbally and prepared a handout for each youth group president. Theresa Rosenberg from the EHT Soccer Club asked about turning in receipts at the end of the year. It was stated that all reimbursements should have a memo or back up documentation to support the reimbursement. Jamie Gillespie from EHT Baseball Association asked about how to track reimbursements when they process refunds through their online registration software. Shannon Cagna from EHT Baseball stated that they can print a summary of all the reimbursements at the end of the registration period. Amy Smith stated that as long as there is a paper trail supporting and documenting each transaction then the group should be in good standing.

**VIII. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups – Presidents Presentations**

Stan Russ, 3 Patrician Terrace, is the president of EHT BMX organization. Mr. Russ stated that their season starts in March, and they are now getting ready for their Jack Frost race. He expects a record turnout for the race. Mr. Russ mentioned that the track was awarded the Nationals race in August. EHT BMX is working on getting ready for their season and getting the track prepared. EHT BMX has a new treasurer. Mr. Russ would like to see the finish line paved and feels the facility needs new bleachers. Rick Audet stated that new bleachers are on the 6-year capital improvement list but will not be able to be purchased for 2019.

Andrew Carpenter, 35 Marsh Road, is the president of EHT Lacrosse Association. Mr. Carpenter stated that their season begins March 1. He discussed the current field conditions which are a significant annual concern for their organization. EHT Lacrosse is planning the construction of a rebound wall for their players and would like to install a scoreboard between field 3 and 4. The Township will have to approve both projects, Rick Audet will discuss with Public Works and Administration and reply back to Mr. Carpenter. Field 3 and 4 are getting new netting on the south end to stop balls from going into the woods. Public Works will install a new door on the connex box for better access, and lacrosse has arranged for a lacrosse mural to be painted on the box.

Nate Schaefer, 50 Marshal Drive, is the Intramural Coordination for the EHT Soccer Club. Their travel soccer season begins March 3. They are expecting to miss time in March due to weather and field conditions. Mr. Schaefer discussed their registration numbers for the spring. The overall game schedule is organized by the league director. The soccer club's primary capital request is for additional field lighting. Toni Rispoli stated that lights are on the 6-year capital plan and we hope to be able to get them in the future.

Jamie Gillespie, 511 Glenn Ave, is the EHT Baseball Association president. Mr. Gillespie thanked the Commission and the Township for their support for the current field renovations project. Baseball has planned to renovate field 5 and 6 by adding a grass infield and improved infield mix. This project is concurrent to the Township's capital project to install a new well and add irrigation to a number of baseball fields, including the newly sodded areas. Mr. Gillespie thanked Robert Lundberg and the Public Works department to being responsive to their fieldwork requests, materials, and supplies they are able to provide. The primary capital improvement request for EHT Baseball is for field lighting, especially field 6. Last year, they applied to host a Babe Ruth tournament and were denied due to no lights on the Babe Ruth fields. More lighting will increase the access for recreation baseball players as well.

Kevin Pedrick, 10 Copper Ridge Circle, is the secretary for EHT Street Hockey Association. Their regular season wrapped up at the end of January. Mr. Pedrick thanked the Commission for the lighting on the north court and stated that it is a huge upgrade. The lights have been left on overnight recently and the board is getting a handle on it and will put a stop to it. Street Hockey asked for more No Smoking signs for their facility, which Rick Audet provided to them. The west court continues to have a drainage issue near their dugouts, which the Township has tried to fix, but it did not fully resolve the issue. Street Hockey is exploring a new surfacing for the north court and are considering a different tile or possibly asphalt for the surface. The current tiles are very difficult to maintain. Street Hockey will consider the ProWall product that was installed on the west court for their future court needs depending on how it performs. The snack stand turnover with BMX will be scheduled soon. Street Hockey informed the Township that the hand dryers in the bathrooms are an issue. Mr. Pedrick asked if Public Works could refill their salt containers. The Township is planning a removal of the blue connex box next to the west court. Lastly, Street Hockey is planning to host a tournament in June.

Josh Brown, 7225 Fernwood Avenue, is the Treasurer of EHT Travel Basketball. Mr. Brown stated that they have 100 players on ten teams this season. They have tournaments coming up in late February and early March and they have been able to fundraise to cover the costs of the tournaments. Most of their teams have had a successful season and have finished in the upper tier of their divisions. They have their first group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders who matriculated through the entire travel basketball program. The school district's gym usage fees reduction that were negotiated have allowed their organization to be economically viable and have some funds left in their account at the end of their season. Mr. Brown also discussed the travel basketball team uniforms.

Tony Savastano, 311 Gravel Bend Road, is the president of EHT Youth Organization. Mr. Savastano stated that they do not need much at this time as they are out of season. He thanked the Recreation Commission for its support and appreciated the work on the fields performed by Public Works. Their fields get beat up during the season between lacrosse and football. The snack stand will soon be turned over to EHT Baseball. Mr. Savastano asked if we could revisit the issues with parking at Veteran's Park that were brought up last year. It is still a huge problem for his organization. His capital request is for fieldwork.

Kathleen Glick, 1059 Ocean Heights Ave, is the president of EHT Softball. Ms. Glick stated that softball has started registrations for the spring season. Field 1 dugout has holes in the boards of the dugout and she asked the Township to fix it. There are at nine bulbs out on field 1 lights. Ms. Glick stated that almost all the fields flood and need more infield mix installed to make them properly playable. Rick Audet stated that Robert and Public Works will perform the basic field preparations for their upcoming season including infield mix as necessary. EHT Softball's capital request is for lights on two additional fields. The softball board purchased D&O insurance, as well as insurance for equipment and items not covered by the Township's insurance. Their insurance policy cost the organization \$4000.

Kim Collins from softball stated that when groups inquire on D&O insurance they need to understand that this insurance does not provide general liability insurance, and that groups need to make sure they add a GL policy to their coverage. Softball is technically a tenant of the Township facility, there is no lease. There was a discussion on coverage and legal aspects of insurance as it relates to injuries and their use of the facility. Laura Pfrommer stated that she would inquire with our administrator and solicitor on tenant insurance.

Kathleen Glick stated that softball has asked for netting or warning signs in the past to be installed along field 5 to address the foul balls that can hit cars. Softball has asked for new batting cage at field 5, 6, 7 area as a capital request. Ms. Glick asked when the building will be opened and water turned on for their season. Sam Gioconda from Public Works stated that it will be done as soon as temperatures allow. Ms. Glick stated that practices begin the third week in March with Opening Day scheduled for April 8. She stated that field 2 infield floods so badly that you can swim in it. Lastly, she is getting the receipts together for 2018 financials to be turned in. The Commission asked why many of the board members are seemingly also the ones who receive the scholarships, Ms. Glick replied that softball put together a scholarship committee and numbered the applications.

Damien Correa, 109 Ohio Ave, is the president of EHT Jr. Wrestling. Mr. Correa stated that he is thankful to the Township for the facility and support of their program. The organization had about 64 wrestlers last year and this year they have almost 100 wrestlers. They have four home matches this season. They are having a good season. Wrestling recently ordered more uniforms. They are requesting a new wrestling mat as a capital purchase, which would add a 4<sup>th</sup> mat. They want to continue to host future meets at the EHT Community Center. Mr. Correa stated that Dena Danz of the Parks and Recreation Department has been amazing in her efforts for them and also thanked Alex Brown of the Public Works staff. Wrestling is hoping to bring their registration costs down. Jill Mensch, 258 Sea Pine, is the treasurer for wrestling and asked Rick Audet for an extra day in the Community Center next season for their program. Locations in the community center were discussed. Rick Audet stated that Mondays and

Wednesdays will not be possible but Wrestling can have two Fridays a month. Toni Rispoli stated, in the past, Jr. Wrestling has used the Multipurpose room on alternate nights, when the Auxillary Gym was not available. Jr. Wrestling was responsible for moving the necessary equipment to and from the multipurpose room. Toni asked how much room they would need and were they willing to do the transport? Damien replied that Wrestling would move the mats. Damien was directed to consult with the Recreation Department to determine the dates the multipurpose room would be available for their use.

Andrew Carpenter of EHT Lacrosse mentioned the “roaring rapids” of Veteran’s Park to the Commission. This is the area that floods between field 3 and 4 and has been an ongoing problem for lacrosse. Mr. Carpenter is recommending a sloped trench that runs the length of this area that can better carry water out of this area. Robert Lundberg stated that this is a problem such that we would have to engage the engineer’s office.

Damien Correa stated that Helen Ginis would send in any Jr. Wrestling Club minutes that are missing at this time.

**IX. Public Comment**

None. Public Comment was closed.

**X. Old Business**

None.

**XI. Use of Parks Facility Requests**

- a. SJ Men’s Baseball League                      Bargaintown Park                      April 7-August 18

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by S.J. Men’s Baseball League.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Christine Gras
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

- b. Bargaintown Fire Auxiliary                      Canale Park                      April 6, 2019

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by Bargaintown Fire Auxiliary.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Christine Gras
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

- c. Hope for Atlantic City                      Robert Lincoln Amphitheater                      May 18, 2019

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by Hope for Atlantic City.</b> Motion made by Amy Smith Seconded by Toni Rispoli
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 6-1. Paul Weldon – No.

**XII. Director’s Report**

None.

**XIII. New Business**

Toni Rispoli asked Robert Lundberg when the fields were last treated. Mr. Lundberg discussed the work that was done last fall and a summary of his plans for the spring. Ms. Rispoli asked that he coordinate with Rick Audet and the sponsored youth groups. There was a discussion on the plans to spray the fields for weed control this spring how the Township should try to avoid tournaments and important dates. Toni Rispoli stated to the youth groups that the Commission hears them on their turf condition concerns but that they will have to work with us on scheduling and we need some flexibility from them. Barbara Dodd stated that the parks and recreation office could reach out to her and try to schedule school fields during these dates if that will be of help.

Amy Smith shared her concern with the Commission that our sponsored youth groups are spending their groups’ money on fieldwork. She stated that this is the kids’ money and they are also taxpayers, she feels that the money for fieldwork should come from the Township only and not from fundraising and the groups. We are repeating much of these same conversations every month and this does not sit well with her. Christine Gras stated that when she was the president of the soccer club, this was a frustration for her as well. Paul Weldon stated that some groups are doing projects of a capital nature with their funds. Amy Smith reiterated that the money that is collected should go to the children in the organization and we should not expect it to be put towards the fields and routine facility maintenance. Jamie Gillespie stated that in reality there is a lack of funding for Public Works that has been going on for a long time. He feels that for his organization to support the facility with their funds that the benefit does go to the children in a way.

Nate Schaefer stated that soccer could not do the same because of Green Acres regulations as has been explained by the Township in the past. There was discussion on green acres regulations and how it may pertain to what groups are

allowed to do at the fields for maintenance. Paul Weldon stated that we are making efforts to do better, some things are out of our control. Mayor Paul Hodson stated that there are many moving parts and we need to do our best to fix the fields. Deputy Mayor Laura Pfrommer stated that we made more fields, there have been budget cuts and the issue is now coming to a head. Robert Lundberg needs approximately \$70,000 in his budget for athletic field maintenance. There was discussion on the conditions of fields at each park. Toni Rispoli asked the commissioners to look at the fields at each park and provide feedback. Paul Weldon stated that Vets Park field 3, 4, 5 is ahead of where it was last year as far as turf coverage. Christine Gras stated that her biggest issue is safety, staying off the fields as soccer has done numerous times, has not worked. An irrigation pipe broke last year, which added to the issue at Canale.

Andrew Carpenter stated at Veteran's Park the grass was dead over the summer. Robert Lundberg stated that a well pump went bad which was replaced.

Amy Smith asked the Commission if the Recreation Department should dictate game substitutions in the youth recreation basketball league. Rick Audet replied that as league director he thinks it is a good thing to make sure all players get equitable playing time, and when there are less than ten players present at a game, the system does allow the coach some flexibility in managing substitutions.

Amy Smith informed the Recreation Commission that she is now coaching in the EHT Lacrosse program and reminded everyone that she is also the liaison for lacrosse. Ms. Smith stated that she would step down as liaison and move to a different sport if the board wanted her to or if anyone felt this was a conflict of interest. There was no concern on this from the commission.

**XIV. Correspondence**

EHT Youth Group Minutes

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|--|---|
| A. Baseball Association – 12/13/18, 1/10/19    | F. Soccer Club – last received 11/19/18         |
| B. BMX – 1/8/19, 2/5/19                        | G. Street Hockey Association – 12/17/18, 1/7/19 |
| C. Youth Organization – last received 10/17/18 | H. Travel Basketball – 1/10/19                  |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – last received 8/28/18       | I. Youth Softball – 8/6, 9/9, 11/11/18          |
| E. Lacrosse – 11/13/18                         |   |

Handouts

- A. EHT Street Hockey financial report 12/31/18
- B. EHT Softball 2018 financials (on file in office)
- C. EHT Jr. Wrestling Treasurer Report (on file in office)
- D. EHT Baseball Association – Recreation League 2018 Financials (on file in office)
- E. EHT YO Profit & Loss Report Jan-Dec 2018
- F. EHT Soccer Club – spring 2019 field layout and painting request
- G. EHT BMX 2019 Track Calendar

**XV. Tabled Matters**

**XVI. Public Comment**

None.

**XVII. Adjournment**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To adjourn the February 13, 2019 meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 9:24 p.m.</b> Motion made by Amy Smith Seconded by Kevin Stetser
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

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

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Toni Rispoli, Chair

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Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation

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These minutes were approved at the March 13, 2019 Recreation Commission Meeting.