

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

REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES
Wednesday, July 10, 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.

IV. Roll Call:

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

V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting June 12, 2019

Motion	To approve the 6/12/19 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Charlie Gallagher
Vote	Motion carried 6-0-1 (A. Smith abstained)

VI. Public Comment

Thomas Sausto, 5077 Tremont Ave., is the coach of the Muckdogs baseball team and spoke on his Use of Parks application. They are not part of the EHT Baseball Association. Mr. Sausto stated that 80% of his team is comprised of EHT residents. He also gave background information on the Muckdogs team, their request to use the fields, and their schedule for the fall. Rick Audet spoke about the Parks Fields and Facilities policy and how the approval process works for outside teams and the related fees involved. Christine Gras stated that the Muckdogs appear to be a Mays Landing based organization. Mr. Sausto stated that his team will help take care of the field as well, they are willing to do work to help improve the field if they are granted access and shared information about the work his team performed on the ball diamond on Spruce Ave.

Bill Warrell asked if they can continue to schedule practices at Spruce Ave field and play games at Bargaintown Park.

Paul Trinkle stated that the Muckdogs have historically used the field at Klune firehouse.

Mr. Sausto wants the EHT kids to play baseball in EHT. Their team is not part of EHTBA because they only field one travel team at this level and the kids on this team were rejected by EHTBA. Toni Rispoli asked if they could field another team in EHTBA at this level. Mr. Sausto stated his past participation in the EHTBA program as a coach and boardmember. He is coming tonight to plead for the kids on his team, they want to play baseball in and for EHT, and hopes the Commission can help make that happen and reduce the field use fees that would be imposed on his team.

Joe Innocente, 421 Aurora Drive, stated that there weren't enough spots on all-star teams, and the same 12 kids stay on the travel team year to year so there is no room for the kids on the Muckdogs teams in EHTBA.

Alison Haynes, 110 Cardinal Road, stated that her son never had a shot on an EHTBA travel team. She pays taxes as an EHT resident, her taxes go to Bargaintown Park baseball field. She feels that her taxes should be good enough to use the field and pays their field use fees. She asked if the team could perform community service as their way to obtain permission to use the field. Ms. Haynes asks the Commission to help them out and wants to fight for her son and have the boys keep playing the game they love. She stated that it is not their choice to not be in the EHTBA organization.

Danielle Conroy, 503 Cape Island Court, stated that the field will not be used each day there are openings on the schedule.

Mary Sausto, 5077 Tremont Ave., stated that the Muckdogs were created over 16 years ago in Mays Landing, but her team is an EHT team and has no affiliation with Mays Landing YAA organization. She stated that these kids were rejected by EHTBA.

The fee schedule of the current Park Field and Facilities policy was summarized by Rick Audet, Parks and Recreation Director as well as how each category of user group is defined.

Charles Yohe, 139 Pine Ave, is an EHTBA board member. He stated that EHTBA tried to put a team together, but will not have a 13U team at this time.

VII. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups

None.

VIII. Old Business

a. 2019 Capital Projects update

Rick Audet summarized the 2019 capital projects and gave an update on the status of each.

IX. Use of Parks Facility Requests

- a. Muckdogs Baseball Club Bargaintown Park 8/21/19 – 10/27/19
- b. United for (Youth) Humanity Veterans or Tony Canale Park 7/22/19

Motion	To approve the use of parks application as presented by Muckdogs Baseball team. Approval is contingent upon the team meeting all residency criteria and submitting all materials per our policy. Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Bill Warrell
Vote	Motion carried 5-1-1 (P. Trinkle – No / C. Gallagher - Abstain)

Motion	To approve the use of parks application as presented by United for (Youth) Humanity organization. Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Amy Smith
Vote	Motion carried 7-0

X. Director’s Report

Rick Audet provided a Director’s report. The summer events and programs including summer camp, Under the Stars Movie Nights, Rhythm in the Parks Summer Concert Series, and Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs fishing trips were summarized for the Commission. Mr. Audet commended the Parks and Recreation Department staff for their great work on our summer offerings.

XI. New Business

Toni Rispoli provided an update on the EHT Youth Softball team that is currently competing in Regionals competition and doing very well.

Christine Gras stated that as the new liaison to YO, she is already being contacted that the YO Board is not following its own bylaws on their handling of a board member who has missed too many meetings. Christine and Rick plan to attend the next YO Board meeting.

Motion	To amend the Parks Fields and Facilities policy as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Director to consolidate the category of user groups from seven to six and to change the fees for use by Category IV to minimum two-hour block at \$25 per hour. Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Bill Warrell
Vote	Motion carried 6-1 (P. Trinkle – No)

XII. Correspondence

EHT Youth Group Minutes

- A. Baseball Association – 6/6/19
- B. BMX – last received 4/6/19
- C. Youth Organization – 3/6, 4/3, 5/1/19
- D. Jr. Wrestling – last received 2/26/19
- E. Lacrosse – last received 3/5/19
- F. Soccer Club – last received 5/14/19
- G. Street Hockey Association – 5/7/19
- H. Travel Basketball – 6/13/19
- I. Youth Softball – last received 4/14/19

Handouts

- A. Public Works Ground Department summary 7/10/19
- B. EHT Baseball Association Bylaws – annotated version

Toni Rispoli discussed the application for use of school facilities by EHTBMX for camper parking during the Garden State Nationals that was sent in to the School District's Business Administrator's office. It was denied at first, however the school board did in the end approve it.

XIII. Tabled Matters

None.

XIV. Public Comment

None.

XV. Adjournment

Motion	To adjourn the July 10, 2019 meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 8:51 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 August 21, 2019 Recreation Commission Meeting.
