

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

**SPECIAL MEETING – MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, July 23, 2019 4:00pm**

**I. Call to Order**

Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act**

Director of Parks and Recreation Rick Audet read the opening statement.

**IV. Roll Call:**

Toni Rispoli, Chair - Present	Amy Smith - Excused
William Warrell, Vice Chair - Present	Paul Trinkle – Excused
Charles Gallagher - Present	Christine Gras (Alt. 1) – Present
Paul Weldon – Excused	Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Excused
Kevin Stetser – Present (arrived 4:07)	

**V. Public Comment**

Kim Berk, 100 Captain's Walk, Egg Harbor Township, was present to speak on behalf of her AC Outlaws team's Use of Parks application. Her team was approved for a Use of Parks permit last fall but chose not to use the fields due to the field use fees. The cost was not feasible at the current rates. She is applying again for this fall and asked the Commission to consider reducing the fees for her team, as they are a team of mostly EHT kids. Kim stated that there is only one travel team offered thru EHT Baseball Association. Presently, her roster has 7 out of 9 players as EHT residents; they will be adding more players to the team after an upcoming tryout. Their team catcher is from Mays Landing, the head coach of the team is an EHT resident. Toni Rispoli stated that we will ask for documentation showing the residency of all players on the roster.

Toni Rispoli also stated that her team will need to submit proof of their State of NJ non-profit status with the Commission. In addition, any non- EHTBA team will have to pay the field uses fees. She stated that we are reviewing the policy and fee structure later in this meeting. Ms. Berk stated that they would be willing to pay the field uses fees as necessary for their fall season. They have applied for use of field two times per week for two hours each evening. Their team will start scheduling games in the next few weeks. Ms. Berk stated that her team is willing to line and drag the field as needed.

Toni Rispoli asked if they plan to schedule games for the fall as well. Ms. Berk answered that ideally yes they would. Ms. Rispoli encouraged her to speak with the EHTBA president and see if their team could come back under the EHTBA umbrella. Christine Gras also inquired if EHTBA could take them as a second travel team for this age group in their organization. Ms. Berk responded that her son did not have a spot on an EHTBA travel team. Ms. Berk said possibly they can approach EHTBA on this but it is too late for this fall. She stated that her son is on 13U and there is rarely an opportunity to make a roster on an existing EHTBA travel team.

Director of Parks and Recreation Rick Audet stated that the Muckdogs team was approved for their use of parks application at the July 10 meeting. If both groups are approved, the Director will look at both applications, their date of application, and all clauses within the policy to determine how to assign a schedule of field use for both teams.

Toni Rispoli stated that if the Recreation Commission amends its Parks Field and Facilities policy and the fees therein, the proposed changes must be read at a Township Committee meeting and then voted on by Township

Committee at its next meeting. Our park use fees are adopted within Township Ordinance. Ms. Rispoli further stated that our fields are in bad shape and that we need to continue to invest in them and protect them. Therefore, all policies and procedures that the Commission sets should also focus on protecting our fields.

***The Public Comment portion of the meeting was closed at 4:31 p.m.***

The Commission discussed the state of travel sports in Egg Harbor Township. Christine Gras stated that it can be problematic when many competing travel teams are formed and teams not staying under the umbrella of the Township sponsored group as it can water down the pool of players. In the past, the Soccer Club board approved a second travel team at an age level as needed. The Commission wants to keep teams in our sponsored organizations. We may be doing a disservice to our sponsored groups by enabling too many travel teams to have use of our fields. The Commission should note this moving forward as it permits park use for outside teams.

**VI. New Business**

**Review of Recreation Commission’s Parks and Facilities Use Policy**

Rick Audet, Parks and Recreation Director, presented the revised policy draft to the Commission and summarized the changes being proposed. There was a lot of discussion and information on this at our July 10 regular meeting so tonight is mostly a review. The primary changes are to consolidate the seven categories of user groups from seven to six. Secondly, the field use fees for Category IV which is defined as a non-profit team or organization that serves 75% or higher residents is recommended to be changed from a minimum 3 hour block at \$30 per hour to a 2 hour block at \$25 per hour. This would allow a team to hold a two-hour practice for a fee of \$50 rather than the minimum fee of \$90 found in our current policy.

If the Commission votes in favor of the change tonight in its special meeting, the policy must be voted on and adopted at its next regularly schedule regular meeting according to Recreation Commission bylaws.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approved the revised Parks Fields and Facilities policy as presented.</b> Motion made by Charlie Gallagher Seconded by Bill Warrell
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

**VII. Use of Parks Applications**

The Recreation Commission received the Use of Parks application from the EHT Baseball Association for Fall 2019.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approved the Use of Parks application as submitted by the Egg Harbor Township Baseball Association for Fall 2019 at Veterans Memorial and Bargaintown Parks.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Bill Warrell
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approved the Use of Parks application as submitted by the A.C. Outlaws for Fall 2019 at Bargaintown Park.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Kevin Stetser
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

**VIII. Public Comment**

None.

**IX. New Business**

Toni Rispoli stated that EHT Booster Clubs/School Clubs fall in Category B of our current Community Center Use of Facilities policies and procedures. Therefore, to have a meeting in the community center they are charged a fee of \$25 to meet. Ms. Rispoli stated that the Commission might wish to consider moving EHT Booster and School Clubs to category A of our policy so that booster clubs could meet at our community center at no cost.

There was discussion of booster club use of our community center and our current policy.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To revise the Community Center Use of Facilities policy to move EHT Booster and School Clubs from Category B of our rules and regulation to Category A.</b> Motion made by Kevin Stetser Seconded by Christine Gras
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

**X. Adjournment**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To adjourn the July 23, 2019 special meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 5:26 p.m.</b> Motion made by Kevin Stetser Seconded by Christine Gras
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

*(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 August 21, 2019 Recreation Commission Meeting.  
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