

Board of Recreation Commissioners

Egg Harbor Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 19, 2020

6:00pm

MINUTES

Call to Order

Chairperson Rispoli called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

Chairperson Rispoli read the Opening Statement.

Roll Call

Roll call showed 7 members present. The 2 Alternate seats are still vacant.

Charles Gallagher	Present	Paul Trinkle	Present
Christine Gras	Present	William Warrell, Vice Chairperson	Present
Toni-Lynn Rispoli, Chairperson	Present	Paul Weldon	Present
Amy Smith	Present	Alternate #1	Vacant
		Alternate #2	Vacant

Also present at the meeting were Township Committeeman Ray Ellis, Recreation Director Rick Audet and Program Manager Dena Danz.

Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

Regular Meeting October 14, 2020

Motion	To approve the October 14, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Vice Chairperson Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Gras
Vote	Motion carried 6-0-1 Gallagher, Gras, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell Weldon Chairperson Rispoli abstained.

EHT Recognized Youth Groups

Chairperson Rispoli opened the floor to the youth groups that were present.

Jamie Gillespie, Glenn Avenue. EHT Baseball Association President. President Gillespie addressed the commission on possible ways to get the 13-16-year-old age bracket back to playing on EHT fields. President Gillespie provided the commission with the breakdown of 2019 recreation and travel teams. There are currently no recreation teams under EHT Baseball 13U-15U and there are no travel teams 13U-16U (see attached handout for complete explanation).

President Gillespie advised that since there are no teams at those levels, they wanted to look at modifying the baseball bylaws. The proposal would be to allow EHT Travel Baseball teams at the ages of 13U-16U to have a roster of a minimum of 50% residents, would allow for EHT players to be cut and all teams would be coached by an EHT Resident. The goal of this proposal is to allow EHT kids to play on EHT fields. Kids are leaving to go to other “competitive” teams leaving a handful of EHT kids no team. President Gillespie advised that there are currently 6-7 kids at each of those levels that would benefit from this modification and he is asking the commission for their support.

Chairperson Rispoli called on the commission for their comments/concerns. Commissioner Trinkle asked to confirm that 6-7 kids was all they were left with. President Gillespie confirmed and said that Babe Ruth was dying out at these levels. At 13U most kids are playing travel baseball.

Commissioner Gras advised that the commission must look at this option for all youth groups. If this was allowed, she asked President Gillespie if he saw kids who left for more competitive teams, returning? Commissioner Gras mentioned that it seems that the head coaches seem to be the issue.

President Gillespie replied that he did not envision those who were playing for established teams returning to play for EHT.

Commissioner Trinkle said that the rules already allow for outside residents to play. President Gillespie said that the current rule allows for it, but the number of EHT kids needed was not feasible. He also stated that they wanted to be able to cut an EHT resident who was not at that level. Some kids try baseball for the first time at 13U and a travel team really isn't for them.

Recreation Director Audet asked how many teams Softball has at these levels? Chairperson Rispoli advised that she believes that at the 12U, 14U and 16U levels, softball has 2-3 teams. She said the teams are predominately EHT residents.

Director Audet advised that we do need to treat all groups the same. Chairperson Rispoli said that softball is sustained at all levels. President Gillespie reiterated that it is 5-7 kids who will have no place to play if they are not able to amend the bylaws. They would have to hope that they could latch onto an existing Outlaws or Sandsharks team. They would not be able to stay together.

Chairperson Rispoli advised that if they fall under EHT Baseball Association then they would not be able to cut an EHT kid. President Gillespie stated that is what he is asking the commission to allow. Chairperson Rispoli said that she could not accept cutting EHT residents. President Gillespie advised that if this change was not permitted then the fields would continue to be left unused.

Chairperson Rispoli mentioned that she has heard that some choose to leave because its daddy ball. If they don't get what they want, they leave EHT and start a new team somewhere else. President Gillespie reiterated that being required to take someone who has never played baseball because they now want to play is not the answer for the 6-7 kids that are left. The teams need to be competitive. Chairperson Rispoli reminded President Gillespie that the role of a coach is to mentor and help make the kids better. President Gillespie said that he is only here to get the kids playing on EHT fields. Again, if the policy does not change then or fields are left un-played on.

Commissioner Gras asked how many kids are on a 12U roster. President Gillespie advised 12 and they are currently all EHT players. Commissioner Gras inquired, that this may be the year, to bring back the 13U team and if one or two players leave, then you only have to ask for a few outside players and the team is sustained playing in EHT on EHT fields and under EHT Baseball.

President Gillespie asked if they would have enough to still be competitive if some don't stay. Commissioner Gras advised that is when you ask for additional outside players, to round out the roster. If we change for you then we must change for every other youth group. If you start with your existing 12U and add a few outside players to maintain the competition, then you eventually build back up to having teams at the older age brackets. EHT Soccer Club has been extremely successful in filling their roster spots for existing teams. Commissioner Gras advised that this be attempted this year with the existing 12U team.

President Gillespie presented the changes the Baseball Association feels they need to make in order to get the kids playing on the larger fields, but said if he can't get the commission to understand then the fields will just go unused.

John Ohlsen, Monroe Lane. EHT Lacrosse President. President Ohlsen wanted to introduce himself as the new lacrosse president. He mentioned that he had a lot of questions. Chairperson Rispoli welcomed President Ohlsen and advised him that Commissioner Smith is their liaison. She asked him whatever he asks of Recreation Director Audet, that he also include Commissioner Smith.

Commissioner Smith mentioned that Commissioner Weldon is also available to help when she is not around. She continued that they have been working well with Lacrosse, so she doesn't see anything changing.

President Ohlsen asked when he needed to turn in the use of facilities. Director Audet responded that he would send him the policy and procedures manual that will have everything he needs in it. He continued that use of facilities are due in February.

President Ohlsen inquired how lacrosse gets a list of capital improvements slated for their fields. He also asked how they go about getting added to the list for funds or did the funds for improvements need to come from Lacrosse's funds?

Director Audet advised that in the February and August meetings capital improvements are discussed and they should bring up items they want at that time. The capital plan then gets compiled at the commissions September, October and November meetings and presented to the Township Administrator at the beginning of December for Township Committees review.

President Ohlsen asked if a field expansion could be investigated. They currently have 8 teams and 3 fields. Director Audet advised they have a 4th field for practice.

President Ohlsen inquired how they should go about handling a financial dispute with a parent. Lacrosse advised that anyone who wanted their registration fee back needed to advise them and they would cut a check. They had one parent dispute the charges with the credit card company. The credit card company reimbursed the parent, however the domain they use for registration charged them. The parent got their money back, but Lacrosse was then out the US Lacrosse fees and service charges for the domain having to reimburse the credit card company. Director Audet advised that would be up to the Lacrosse Board. You could add a balance due onto that household account for next year.

President Ohlsen thank the commission for their time and will follow up with Director Audet on his other questions.

Pat Christopher, EHT Street Hockey President. President Christopher introduced himself as the new president. Vice Chairperson Warrell welcomed him and advised him that he was their liaison and if they needed anything to reach out.

Dorothy Madamba, Jonathan Court. EHT Youth Organization President. President Madamba stated she was going to be as respectful as possible, but she wanted the commission and committee to know that the board is upset with the handling and the lack of support with the Stetser situation. She continued that Mr. Stetser has gone beyond harassment. He has continued to photograph without consent and that the board feels that they do not have a support system with the commission. The last email that was sent out made it feel as if EHTYO was left on their own since the Stetser's are EHTYO parents. President Madamba continued that they have nominations coming up and that if the commission doesn't support the EHTYO board then they may end up losing a lot of good volunteers.

Chairperson Rispoli advised President Madamba that the commission is fully aware of what the EHTYO Board is going through. She continued, that this past Friday she met with the Township Administrator, the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and Director Audet about the issues. She advised that the Stetser's can ask for minutes/bylaws at any time and that was not constituted as harassing.

Chairperson Rispoli continued, President Madamba you have been great. What was said to the board, was that what transpired at the grievance hearing could not be disclosed because it was handled as a personnel issue. EHTYO has come a long way and we need to move past this and start over. EHTYO has a clean slate and Commissioners Gras and Trinkle are doing a wonderful job working with the EHTYO Board. Chairperson Rispoli said that everyone knows how hard they are working and that she hopes at the end of this season this all goes away. Next year coaching selection will be handled differently. Chairperson Rispoli advised that she would not have voted to put Mr. Stetser on the coaching selection committee if she knew this was going to happen. She mentioned that when she chose him, he advised that he would not be one of the coaches and that his son was playing legends. If she knew then what she knows now, she would not have put him on that committee. Mr. Stetser told us one thing and did another.

Chairperson Rispoli mentioned that the email that was sent yesterday from Mrs. Stetser asking about the minutes was responded to by Commissioner Gras perfectly. President Madamba advised that everything Mrs. Stetser was eluding too was hearsay. Mrs. Stetser was not at the meeting and she is getting things second hand. Mrs. Madamba said that she is trying to be respectful, but some see it as weakness. Chairperson Rispoli advised that she responded to the bylaw violation politely and that she has done a great job.

Public Portion

Chairperson Rispoli opened the public portion of the meeting at 6:38pm.

Township Committee Member Ray Ellis introduced himself. He said that he has been a football coach for 40 years and this is the first time that he has not been on the field himself. He continued with he has not seen anything like what EHTYO has been through this year and wanted to let them know that he is here to help them. He continued with he loves sports and the recreation department. He loves to watch the youth play and have smiles on their faces. He did mention that he has watched the Muckdogs play at the old Cardiff School. He continued that they are all EHT kids playing out of Mays Landing and that the commission should look into it.

Chairperson Rispoli thanked Committeeman Ellis for attending since Committeewoman Pfrommer could not be here. The public portion was then closed at 6:42pm.

Old Business

Capital 2021-2026 document was reviewed after being updated from the last meeting. Director Audet advised that he added tennis courts into the mix for 2023.

Chairperson Rispoli asked if it was cost effective to do all the basketball courts at one time. Director Audet said we can look into it. We may get better pricing.

Chairperson Rispoli inquired if the tennis courts were both Canale and Bargaintown. Director Audet advised that Bargaintown is not as old as Canale and that we can still do crack repair on them.

Chairperson Rispoli asked the commission if everyone was OK with what was presented for 2021. She continued with she likes the ideas of the cameras in the concession stands. They need to be connected to what is already out there so that the police department can review them if there are any issues.

Vice Chairperson Warrell asked how much each camera costs? Director Audet advised about \$600 each. Vice Chairperson Warrell wanted to confirm they were reactive cameras and didn't require Wi-Fi.

Commissioner Weldon asked if the 2020 lot project at Shires Park should be on the list or if this is something that should fall under the roads department. Director Audet stated that he listed it just in case it can't be handled under the roads contract. Chairperson Rispoli advised that this is very much needed since the parking along the park is not permitted and the road itself belongs to the shopping center and not the Township. She continued, that if something were to happen, she doesn't know who would be responsible. Commissioner Weldon agreed it needs to be done but feels that it is a roads project and not something that should come from Recreations Capital.

Vice Chairperson Warrell advised that if the parking lot gets added to Shires Park, then we should also take the opportunity to spruce the park up as well. Director Audet advised that parking lot would allow us to have more use at that park. Chairperson Rispoli asked that when the parking lot is done, that the walking path be completed at the same time. Director Audet advised that we have a goal in place to improve that park.

Commissioner Smith asked if we can ever make it to the projects in the given year. She stated she understands some things are place holders, but our long-term goals don't ever seem to get done. We shouldn't be looking past 2022 because then everything is going to shift again. We need to focus on 2021 and get those projects completed.

Commissioner Gras asked why there were a lot of new items on the list. Some have not been there before. Director Audet advised that the list is what has been identified as needing to be done. Somethings change over time and some items get removed with newly identified projects being added.

Vice Chairperson Warrell mentioned we need to adjust some items from time to time. Commissioner Smith agreed, but stated we need to focus on reality and what is actually going to happen. Vice Chairperson Warrell asked when the last big project was, and Director Audet advised that was probably Field 5 being lighted in 2015.

Vice Chairperson Warrell said he would like to see the Lacrosse Netting/Backstop be moved to 2021. Director Audet advised that public works would not be installing the posts for them. If it was put on capital projects that may help with getting it done. Vice Chairperson Warrell advised he would like it moved to 2021 and we should try our best to get it done.

Director Audet advised that if they wanted it moved, that was their right.

Chairperson Rispoli asked if the cost for the dugout was more than before. Director Audet said for Field 3 it is a good deal, and that Field 2 was part of a larger project. Chairperson Rispoli asked if Public Works would be doing the work and Director Audet responded that it would be an outside contractor.

Chairperson Rispoli agreed with Vice Chairperson Warrell on moving the Lacrosse backstop to 2021. All commissioners agreed and Director Audet confirmed he will make the change and submit it to the Township Administrator. Chairperson Rispoli mentioned she wasn't sure how much money we will get for 2021. Director Audet confirmed it should be no less than \$100,000.

Use of Parks Facility Requests

EHT Street Hockey, Veteran's Memorial Park Hockey Courts (October -March, Mon-Fri 5:30-9p, Sat-Sun 10a-2p)

Motion	To approve the Park use request for EHT Street Hockey for Veteran's Park Hockey Courts Motion made by Vice Chairperson Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Weldon
Vote	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell Weldon

Director's Report

Director Audet advised that the Recreation Department had a fantastic craft fair. All programs running were going well with no issues. The Mayor will be hosting the 2nd annual tree lighting on December 5th at 5:30pm at the Community Center.

Director Audet mentioned to the commission that he sent them an email that he received from Ms. Franklin asking if her son David could finish out his 8th grade year with EHT Wrestling even though they moved out of town. Director Audet advised the commission that he took the same into consideration for allowing a senior to finish out recreation basketball even though he no longer lived in the township.

Director Audet advised that he spoke with Wrestling president Damien Correa and wrestling, if they run, would allow David to wrestle if the commission gave their blessing.

Motion	To allow David Sonnie to wrestle for EHT Junior Wrestling as an outside resident to finish out his 8th grad year. Motion made by Commissioner Weldon Seconded by Vice Chairperson Warrell
Vote	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell Weldon

Director Audet mentioned that he sent an email to the commission in reference to revising the Park Ordinance with Township Committee. Director Audet said that the update to the ordinance would be no private instructions on courts. Currently it reads no organized use, but he was asking for it to be updated to spell out that private instruction was not allowed.

Chairperson Rispoli asked with this change, if we see someone and we ask them, what guidelines do we have if they do not listen to us and leave the facility. Director Audet advised you would then call the police. Director Audet asked for the commission's approval to move this along to Township Committee.

Commissioner Smith asked if she was supposed to ask every person on the field or court if they were there for profit. She said she is uncomfortable with this. Commissioner Weldon asked if under this new wording would he be allowed to go out to the field with his son and a trainer to work on shots. Director Audet advised he would not.

Director Audet said this is happening mostly with the tennis courts, but the ordinance would be for all courts (fields). Committeeman Ellis advised Program Manager Danz, who was taking minutes, that this was discussed at the committee meeting the night before.

Program Manager Danz pulled up the committee agenda to find the proposed ordinance so that the commission could see how it was worded. Program Manager Danz read the ordinance as it was presented. Director Audet advised he was looking for a motion to support the ordinance change to read no private use.

Niall Bridgeman spoke from the audience that people do use the fields to train. He had to kick a person off who was training 3 kids. They did leave when asked, but they needed to be asked. Chairperson Rispoli advised she would look at it as if a business was running it, not as if a dad and kid went out with someone to help them learn to pitch or catch.

Dorothy Madamba spoke from the audience that there are people on the football fields all the time using them for dog obedience training.

Commissioner Smith asked if this was already presented to Township Committee why are we discussing it? Director Audet said the timing for the November meeting was off, since the commission had to move their meeting, this would have been discussed prior to Township Committee hearing it.

Commissioner Gras stated she did not support it as written. As written, this would not allow the youth groups to use paid trainers. Vice Chairperson Warrell asked why they couldn't just call and do a use of facility. He said the rules on paper cannot be than the rules we want to enforce. Vice Chairperson Warrell continued that he didn't want to hurt the handful of parents who go out with their kid and a trainer to make them better.

Chairperson Rispoli asked when the next Committee meeting was that this would be discussed at. Program Manager Danz advised that according to the ordinance the public hearing will be on December 19th. Chairperson Rispoli advised we have until then to adjust this. This should not be done to hurt an individual kid. If these are organized lessons, then they can do a use of facility. It is already in place that you can't use the fields/courts for organized use without a permit.

Commissioner Smith asked if this is an issue with Tennis why are we including all the fields? Also, if the complaint from Tennis has anyone called the cops to enforce the existing ordinance. Director Audet said that the complaints came into recreation via email and that it was happening on the weekends when no one is around.

Commissioner Gras stated that we are duplicating what is already on paper, no organized use without a permit. This needs to be enforced, not changed.

Commissioner Smith asked again why we were debating this if it is already with Township Committee. Commissioner Gras asked how it got to committee without their discussion yet? Director Audet said he will ask for it to be rescinded/removed from Committee's Agenda.

Vice Chairperson Warrell advised we need at least another month to discuss this. Committeeman Ellis spoke from the audience and advised he can't see why committee can't pull it from the agenda to give the commission time to review it first. He suggested then it be presented together at a Township Meeting if they choose to move forward.

Chairperson Rispoli asked that this matter be tabled and that an email be sent to all members with exactly how the ordinance change to chapter 165 will read and the reason for it. She would like all commissioners to review it and respond back and be ready to discuss at the next meeting.

New Business

Director Audet provided the commission with a list of dates for their 2021 meetings. Memo of dates is attached for review.

Motion	To approve 2021 Recreation Commission Meeting Dates. Motion made by Commissioner Smith Seconded by Commissioner Gras
Vote	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell Weldon

Chairperson Rispoli reminded those in the audience that Coach of the Year nominations are being accepted and that they should reach out to those in their organizations submitting an application. We are looking for candidates and the information can be found on the Recreation Website.

Director Audet advised he will be sending the information out via email to all the youth group presidents.

Chairperson Rispoli discussed with the board that a portion of the policy and procedure manual needed to be updated. The section for youth groups to submit minutes to the commission by the next meeting date should be updated to read "approved" minutes.

Vice Chairperson Warrell added that it should be within enough time. It was mentioned that some groups do not turn the items in now, so does it matter if we put a time frame on it?

Vice Chairperson Warrell advised he was just looking for consistency. Commissioner Gras suggested they turn in approved minutes within one week of being approved.

Motion	To update the policy and procedure manual requiring youth groups to submit "approved" minutes to the commission within 7 days/ 1 week of being approved. Motion made by Commissioner Gras Seconded by Vice Chairperson Warrell
Vote	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell Weldon

Correspondence

The below listed minutes and submittals from the youth groups will be attached to these minutes.

EHT Youth Group Minutes

- A. EHT Street Hockey 9/28/20
- B. EHT Soccer Club 10/6/20
- C. EHTYO 9/2/20, 9/16/20, 10/7/20, 10/21/20
- D. EHT Travel Basketball 10/8/20

Submittals

- A. EHT Street Hockey Winter Program Preparation Plan
- B. EHT Street Hockey Board of Directors
- C. EHT Street Hockey Coaches List, Winter Teams (penguin, beaver, cadet) and Winter Schedules
- D. EHT Soccer Club Financials
- E. Email from Coach Niall Bridgeman ref to 12U team for EHT Baseball
- F. Email from Chastity Branca updating EHTYO Coaches
- G. EHTYO Treasurers Report and Tax-Exempt Return and 990 EZ Filing
- H. EHT Street Hockey Financial

Chairperson Risopoli asked if softball turned in their financials. Director Audet advised they turned in their 2019 990 and that their 2020 990 will be due next year.

Lacrosse President Ohlsen advised from the audience that they have not met since they were in the off season therefore you have no Lacrosse minutes. Chairperson Risopoli let him know he was fine, and that Commissioner Smith always lets them know when Lacrosse doesn't meet.

Tabled Matters

There are no tabled matters at this time.

Public Comment

Public comment was opened again at 7:38pm.

EHTYO President Madamba spoke again. She advised the commission that the stand clean-up is in the works and she will let Director Audet know when it is completed. She also asked if additional signage can be placed on the fields advising dogs are not allowed on athletic fields. She said the only signage is the main sign that is not near the fields.

Director Audet advised he would get more signs put out there.

Public portion was closed at 7:39pm.

There were no other items to discuss and Commissioner Weldon made a motion to adjourn

Adjournment

Motion	To adjourn the November 19, 2020 meeting of the Recreation Commission 7:40 pm Motion made by Commissioner Weldon Seconded by Vice Chairperson Warrell
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Minutes as heard by Dena Danz, EHT Recreation Program Manager.

Toni-Lynn Rispoli, Chairperson

Dena Danz, Recreation Program Manager

Minutes approved at the December 9, 2020 Recreation Commission Meeting
