

## Board of Recreation Commissioners

Egg Harbor Township, NJ

### REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

7:00pm

## MINUTES

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairperson Rispoli, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

### Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

The statement was ready by Chairperson Rispoli.

### Roll Call

Roll call showed 7 members present and 1 absent. The Alternate #2 seat is still vacant. (Commissioner Weldon arrived at 7:36pm, changing to 8 present and Alternate #2 vacant)

Charles Gallagher	Present	Paul Trinkle	Present
Christine Gras	Present	William Warrell, Vice Chairperson	Present
Toni-Lynn Rispoli, Chairperson	Present	Paul Weldon	Present @7:36pm
Amy Smith	Present	Stan Russ, Alternate #1	Present
		Alternate #2	Vacant

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

### Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

#### Regular Meeting March 10, 2021

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the March 10, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.</b> Motion made by Commissioner Gras Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Russ, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell

#### Special Meeting March 24, 2021

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the March 24, 2021 Special Meeting minutes as presented.</b> Motion made by Vice Chairperson Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Gallagher
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Russ, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell

### EHT Recognized Youth Groups

Chairperson Rispoli opened the floor to any youth group present who wished to speak. No groups spoke at this time.

### Public Portion

Chairperson Rispoli opened the public portion at 7:05 pm. No members of the public spoke at this time.

### Old Business

Chairperson Rispoli asked Director Audet to advise on the use of facility fees. Director Audet provided the commissioners with the current and proposed field use fees. He noted that there as one change under category IV. The minimum went to 3 hours instead of 2 hours. This change was made to be consistent with the other categories.

Chairperson Rispoli asked for a motion to accept the fee schedule as presented.

### Use of Facility Fee Schedule Update

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the fee schedule as presented and to submit to Township Committee to update the ordinance.</b> Motion made by Vice Chairperson Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Russ
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Russ, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell

Director Audet will take care of sending the information over to the Township Administrator to revise the fee schedule ordinance for recreation field use.

### Use of Parks Facility Requests

Request for Robert J. Lincoln Amphitheater from New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. Pastor Dr. Robin L. Moore submitted the request on behalf of the members. This is for a free outdoor gospel concert and author expo. The event will take place from 1pm-6pm on Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 31<sup>st</sup>. This concert is free to the public. Authors and Musicians are charged a \$25 fee for their vending space. The funds are going toward the church building fund.

Director Audet advised the commission that the Church is not located in EHT, however, the pastor and its members are residents. Vice Chairperson Warrell asked if this was only for one Saturday. Chairperson Rispoli confirmed. Director Audet stated the church would be charged for the use under the appropriate category. Director Audet did not think the use would affect anything we had going on in the parks, such as our Movie Nights. Recreation Program Manager Danz advised the movie nights are July 10<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Director Audet advised they would also be submitting their insurance for this event. Chairperson Rispoli asked the commission to review the request. Director Audet advised that the church will supply all the documentation that is required and will be charged the appropriate fees.

### New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Amphitheater Rental

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve Amphitheater rental for July 17<sup>th</sup> (rain date July 31<sup>st</sup>) from 1pm-6pm for New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.</b> Motion made by Vice Chairperson Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Smith
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Russ, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell

Request for Veteran's Park Field 10 and both T-Ball fields. July 10<sup>th</sup> from 8am-7pm. Jim "Birdie" Buchanan Memorial Whiffle Ball Tournament. The request is being made by Denise Buchanan. There is no cost for this event.

Director Audet advised that the original request had dates of June 19<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup>. He noted that after speaking with Baseball President Jamie Gillespie, the date of July 10<sup>th</sup> would work best. He also advised the commission that there will be a charge to use the fields. They will be considered category IV and Mrs. Buchanan is aware of the cost.

Vice Chairperson Warrell said that he was OK with this request as long as the date was worked out with EHT Baseball.

**Jim “Birdie” Buchanan Whiffle Ball Tournament at Veterans Memorial Park.**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve Whiffle Ball Tournament at Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 8am – 7pm as requested by Denise Buchanan.</b> Motion made by Vice Chairperson Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Russ
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Russ, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell

EHT Youth Softball is requesting use of Childs-Kirk Memorial Park for their tournaments. The first tournament is this weekend (4/16, 17, 18 Swing into Spring). The second tournament will be held on 5/14, 15, 16. This is the May Madness Tournament. The final tournament will be 6/18, 19, 20. This is their Summer Frenzy. All the tournaments will benefit the EHTYS Scholarship program. The tournaments will consist of 25-28 teams and each team will be charged \$650 to enter. The fields will be in use from 8am – 8pm.

Chairperson Rispoli advised that there is no interference with another group and they are asking to utilize the fields that are already granted to them. She asked for a motion to approve all three dates.

**Softball Tournaments (April, May & June) Childs-Kirk Memorial Park.**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve Swing into Spring Tournament 4/16, 17, 18, May Madness Tournament 5/14, 15, 16 and Summer Frenzy Tournament 6/18, 19, 20 at Childs-Kirk Memorial Park. 8am-8pm.</b> Motion made by Commissioner Trinkle Seconded by Commissioner Gras
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Russ, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell

**Directors Report**

Director Audet provided the Commission with the following recreation department update. Our first spring craft fair will be held on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 10am-2pm. Our Parks Scavenger Hunt will begin shortly. This is a way to get members of the public into our parks. If the hunt is completed those who participated will receive a prize/discount for any recreation program.

He advised that all of our outdoor programs (Tennis, Field Hockey, and Soccer Clinic) are on a wait list. Our summer program guide will be coming out in May. We are currently waiting on the guidelines for Summer Camp from the Department of Health and the Governor’s Office. Recreation will be partnering with the Municipal Alliance on June 5<sup>th</sup> for the fishing derby at the Nature Reserve.

Recreation Program Manager Danz added that we will begin our Walk and Talk with Committee in May and in June we will do a 60 day 100 mile challenge as part of the Mayors Wellness Campaign.

Director Audet noted that the fitness equipment for Bargaintown Park will be installed shortly. He met today for the pre-con meeting and they hope to have it marked out by Monday.

Chairperson Rispoli asked if this was stationary outdoor fitness equipment and Vice Chairperson Warrell asked if it was the same as the fitness equipment they are looking to do at the Nature Reserve. Director Audet advised this is outdoor equipment. It will be grouped together and more static than what is being planned at the Nature Reserve.

Chairperson Warrell asked Director Audet to please invite Donna Marculik the new Township Administrator to the next Commission meeting. Director Audet advised he would and did remind the Commission that we will definitely see her at the August Meeting when we host the township officials and presidents.

Director Audet gave the update on the MK Betterment project. He noted that the engineer's office has created a master plan. The proposal includes 8 Pickleball courts, some horseshoe pits, bocce ball, a gazebo and a playground. He mentioned that we need to get pinelands approval and that the engineer's office is working on that. This approval can take two months.

This year we will look to do sidewalks, parking, basketball and Pickleball with general landscaping. They are hoping to pave certain areas under the Roads Program. Refurbishing the building is also at the top of the list. There is currently \$200,000 set aside this year for construction. If additional funds are needed we will need to speak to the Township Administrator and Committee.

Delilah Oaks basketball court is a safety hazard and needs to be completed this year. We may have to push other projects off a year, such as softball dugouts. Director Audet asked if anyone had feedback that he could provide to the engineer.

Chairperson Rispoli asked if there would be any additional tennis courts at the MK Betterment site. She advised in a Township this size we could use some more courts. Director Audet said that there is no plan for Tennis at this site. There is not enough room at this time. Maybe once additional streets are vacated, it could be looked at in phase 3.

He continued that if we had additional funding the Canale courts will need to be updated. They are over 20 years old.

Commissioner Gras inquired if there was a building on the MK Betterment site that could house wrestling. Director Audet advised there was not, but could be incorporated later. The building that is currently on site is not large enough.

Vice Chairperson Warrell asked on the timeline to have the Pickleball courts completed. Director Audet advised if the application goes to the pinelands commission at the end of April, we could have an approval within three months. This would allow us to go to bid in July and construction to begin in September/October. He reiterated that this is all based on pinelands approval.

### **New Business**

Chairperson Rispoli mentioned that she would like the Commissioners to take a more active role in checking kid safe approvals. She asked them to reach out to their groups and get a list of coaches and board members. She would like for them to compare it to the Kid Safe approved list.

She advised that she checked 3 groups (board of directors) and she noted that there were 5 board members who were missing from the approved list. She asked if the commissioners could check their boards and coaches against this list and also asked them to confirm they are all residents.

Everyone needs to be kid safe approved. Coaches, Board Members, everyone. As Commissioners, we need to do this. Volunteers need to be printed every 5 years. Please ask your groups to provide you with their registration forms, coaches list and their board of directors. Chairperson Rispoli advised that there are at least two kids from Galloway playing in one of the leagues. She asked to confirm that it is not a divorced family or what the circumstances surrounding them are.

Director Audet advised that he would oversee this.

Commissioner Gras asked what happened to the Commissioners giving a report to the board. She said in the past, the liaison for each group would advise what happened at the youth groups meeting. She isn't sure why this stopped, but asked if it could be brought back.

Chairperson Rispoli thought this was a good idea and would like to start this again. Director Audet advised he wasn't sure where to include this without adjusting the bylaws since the agenda is set by the bylaws. Recreation Program Manager Danz advised it could be listed as A. under new business each month.

Chairperson Rispoli asked Commissioner Gras if she would like to start with her report for EHTYO. Commissioner Gras advised at the last YO meeting they selected their coaches for the next season. Varsity Head Coach is Bud Brubaker, JV Head Coach is Dominic Branca, Pee Wee Coach is Lawrence Triniwell (pending Kid Safe Approval) and Taxi coach is still open.

Commissioner Gras said that those coaches who applied and did not get selected for their respected level were all asked if they wanted to take the Taxi position. She also noted that all the cheer coaches ran un-opposed. YO also voted to go back to the Atlantic League.

Commissioner Russ asked if this was going to be an unweighted division. Commissioner Gras confirmed it was.

Commissioner Trinkle mentioned that EHT Baseball Association will meet tomorrow night. Vice Chairperson Warrell said that Lacrosse is meeting next week. Commissioner Smith advised that EHT Street Hockey was postponing their tournament to next week. She also asked if someone could forward her the contact information for their board. Director Audet advised he would send it to her.

Commissioner Russ noted that EHT Soccer Club met last night and Commissioner Gallagher advised that Travel Basketball meets tomorrow night. At this time Commissioner Weldon arrived.

Commissioner Weldon mentioned that he could not attend the last EHT Youth Softball meeting and that Chairperson Rispoli attended in his absence. Chairperson Rispoli said that softball is correcting their minutes. They will make sure their votes are listed and that any abstentions are noted. Their bylaws currently read they meet on Monday's, they will be changing this to Tuesday's. Commissioner Weldon needs to know when their next meeting is.

Commissioner Warrell asked the commissioners if they could have reports from their groups for the next meeting. If you cannot attend, please send your report to Chairperson Rispoli so that it can be read into the minutes.

## Correspondence

The following items were turned in and are attached to these minutes.

- |                |                   |         |
|----------------|-------------------|---------|
| a. Minutes     | EHT Street Hockey | 1/4/21  |
| b. Minutes     | EHT Baseball      | 3/8/21  |
| c. Minutes     | EHT Soccer Club   | 2/9/21  |
| d. Minutes     | EHT Youth Org.    | 3/2/21  |
| e. Minutes     | EHT Youth Org.    | 3/22/21 |
| f. Financials  | EHT Lacrosse      | 3/17/21 |
| g. Bd. Members | EHT Youth Org.    |         |
| h. Rosters     | EHT Softball      |         |
| i. Coaches     | EHT Lacrosse      |         |
| j. Fundraiser  | EHT Lacrosse      |         |
| k. Schedules   | EHT Lacrosse      |         |
| l. Bylaws      | EHT Youth Org.    |         |
| m. 2020 (990)  | EHT Softball      |         |

Chairperson Rispoli reminded all groups to make sure when they submit their minutes that votes are documented.

Director Audet mentioned that EHTYO Bylaws were sent out for review and asked the commission to advise on any revisions they felt were needed.

The commission went back and forth reviewing the proposed document and made suggestions for EHTYO to consider. Some of the concerns were voting rights, non-resident coaches, amount of board positions, debit cards, certifications and kid safe approvals, demerits, registration time frame and the handling money (snack stand).

Chairperson Rispoli asked EHTYO to make the changes, read them twice at their meeting and send a highlighted copy of the changes back to the commission for their approval.

Mrs. Branca asked if we could put it up at the next meeting, she said they were already read once. Chairperson Rispoli advised they could put it up for vote as long as it was the second reading.

Commissioner Gras advised in the handouts received with their agendas show two kids from Mays Landing on the softball rosters. Last name is Tadros. Commissioner Weldon advised he would look into it.

All correspondence listed above are attached to the minutes of this meeting.

## **Tabled Matters**

Vice Chairperson Warrell advised it really wasn't a tabled matter, but a matter that had been addressed before that needs some discussion. He advised the commission that he received a text from a parent along with a photograph on 3/20 of Dave Sonnie coaching on the softball field. Mr. Sonnie has been advised that he is not on the kid safe approved list and is not allowed on the field with the kids.

Vice Chairperson Warrell advised that he would like a certified letter sent to Mr. Sonnie reminding him he is not allowed on the fields. He asked the letter be sent to the softball board as well. Coaches are responsible as well as the board for allowing him to step onto the field. Everyone knows he is not supposed to be coaching.

Chairperson Rispoli said she told EHT Softball this at their last meeting. She advised if this was still happening we have a serious issue. Vice Chairperson Warrell state he deserves a letter in writing. This commission has a responsibility to make sure that he is not on any field. He continued, if the coach is allowing it to happen, the coach should be addressed as well.

Commissioner Weldon stated he would address this again at their next meeting. Director Audet continued that Mr. Sonnie has been non-compliant in the past. Deputy Mayor Pfrommer advised that once the letter is sent to him, the police could be called for the violation. The police could then force him to leave the field. She continued, he should leave willingly.

Chairperson Rispoli advised that she specifically told Mr. Sonnie he was not allowed on the fields. She told him the appeal process should he wish to coach again. If he is still being defiant, then it's an issue. Commissioner Weldon noted that Director Audet should reach out to the Chief as well as Judge Nehmad. Find out what is needed in order to sign defiant trespass charges should it come to that. In the past, you only needed to verbally tell someone they were not allowed to be there. Since it's an ordinance violation, he should ask the judge what would be needed. Commissioner Weldon stated the letter that is sent should also be copied to the police department.

Vice Chairperson Warrell suggested contacting parole or probation and advising them of the issue. You do not get a written warning from them when you are breaking a law. Deputy Mayor Pfrommer advised that if softball is turning a blind eye to Mr. Sonnie being on the field, then that needs to be addressed. They are responsible for keeping the kids safe.

Commissioner Gras continued, that allowing this in her eyes, is worse than taking money from the stand. They are ultimately putting children at risk. Deputy Mayor Pfrommer noted that if an officer shows up, these kids will be seeing things they shouldn't.

Director Audet advised he would send the certified letter. Included in the letter he will state the ordinance violation. He will include the Chief in the initial conversation. Deputy Mayor Pfrommer asked to copy Peter Miller on the letter as well. She also suggested that when speaking with the Judge, we let him know there are photos of him violating the ordinance.

Commissioner Smith said that we are all now aware that this is happening and the Commission needs to step in. If we do nothing, then we are just as responsible. She asked that Director Audet also reach out to the softball board and advise them of the violation.

Commissioner Gras stated that this is her frustration. Softball isn't following the rules. They are not operating as a standup organization if they are allowing Mr. Sonnie to be on the fields. They are ultimately responsible for what their coaches do. They have allowed this to continue. Director Audet said that he has sent two emails this spring in reference to this issue.

Deputy Mayor Pfrommer suggested that softball be advised that their use of facility is at risk and that their tournaments can be denied if they continue to allow Mr. Sonnie on the fields as a coach. Softball isn't doing what they need to. Commissioner Smith suggested pulling the May and June tournaments until this was addressed.

Chairperson Rispoli asked Director Audet to include in the letter that they are in jeopardy of losing their approvals if Mr. Sonnie steps onto the fields. She asked that this be sent to all softball board members. Director Audet advised he would handle this request in the morning.

Chairperson Rispoli mentioned, going forward the commission needs to make sure all the organizations are treated in the same way.

Mrs. Branca spoke from the audience. She stated that if they are not an approved coach, letters should go out immediately upon hearing of the violation. Chairperson Rispoli provided some commissioners with the list of names of board members for their organizations that are not on the approved list and asked them to make sure they address it.

#### **Public Portion**

Chasity Branca, EHT NJ. Mrs. Branca had a question on how to capture the vote since EHTYO does paper ballots. They do paper ballots as members tend to be more honest that way. Chairperson Rispoli advised that the ballots should be kept, and counted in the room for everyone to hear. The vote then should be documented in their minutes.

No other public spoke. The public portion was closed at 8:36 pm.

There was nothing else listed on the agenda to discuss. Chairperson Rispoli called for a motion to close the meeting at 8:36pm

#### **Adjournment**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve adjourn the meeting at 8:36 pm</b> Motion made by Commissioner Russ Seconded by Commissioner Gras
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon.

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

---

Toni-Lynn Rispoli, Chairperson

---

---

These Minutes were approved on / /

---

DRAFT