

**Board of Recreation Commissioners**

Egg Harbor Township, NJ

**REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

7:00pm

**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Recreation Commission Chairperson 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 (Arrived 7:05)
William Warrell, Vice Chair - Absent	Paul Trinkle - Present
Charles Gallagher - Present	Christine Gras (Alt. 1) Present
Paul Weldon - Present	Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Present (Arrived 7:29)
Kevin Stetser - Excused	

**V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes**

a. Regular Meeting January 8, 2020

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the 1/8/20 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Paul Trinkle
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 5-0

**VI. 2019 Coach of the Year Award Presentation**

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet read a statement presenting Dave Dorofee as the Recreation Commission’s 2019 Coach of the Year award recipient. Mr. Audet summarized Mr. Dorofee’s volunteer work at the BMX facility over the years, highlighted the recent track improvements and the accomplishments of both Mr. Dorofee and the EHT BMX board. Toni Rispoli thanked Mr. Dorofee for his service and on behalf of the Commission congratulated Mr. Dorofee on his award. A photo was taken of Mr. Dorofee and his family along with Township officials.

**VII. Public Comment**

None. Toni Rispoli closed Public Comment at 7:07 p.m.

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

Toni Rispoli stated to the groups in attendance that new training on child abuse will soon be implemented by the Township in response to the MEL JIF mandate. Rick Audet shared a handout with all youth group presidents on seasonal and annual requirements of our youth groups as well as topics of importance that we have seen over the past year. Mr. Audet also stated that new youth coaches training requirements are now in effect and that all groups will need to send all coaches for training once. This policy will be an increased focus for the Township this year and all volunteer coaches will need to adhere to it.

Jr. Wrestling Club

Damien Correa, 109 Ohio Ave, is the president of the EHT Jr. Wrestling Club. He thanked the Commission and the Township for their support of the program. They are 2/3 of the way through their season. The varsity squad is undefeated. The season is going very well for their wrestlers. There are tournaments upcoming that some of their wrestlers will compete in. They had 84 wrestlers this season. The new mat has been a big hit at their meets. They want to bring back their annual tournament next year that they used to run. Their dates for use have been submitted.

Cory Bird is a coach in the wrestling program. He shared his history of participation in wrestling and his love for the sport. Mr. Bird mentioned the important life lessons that wrestling teaches children. His experience in EHT has been that our youth program is very strong but our high school program is struggling this year. The high school is at a lower level of competition and they struggled to compete outside of our league. Mr. Bird stated that he and the program hope to bring about change at the high

school level. The youth program at this time does not have all the time and space that they need in the community center. Cory also mentioned the concussion protocol that exists in wrestling and football. Mr. Bird requested to the Commission and Director more time and space for their program. Toni Rispoli summarized the history of wrestling's use of the community center and other facilities. Damien Correa reiterated that they are the feeder program for the high school.

#### EHT Soccer Club

Joe Olivieri, 120 Carmel Drive, is the president of EHT Soccer Club. They recently held elections for their board. They have a ten-member board. The banquet from last season went well, and was sold out. They may have to go to a bigger venue in the future as they are outgrowing the community center's multipurpose room. The soccer club recently purchased new goals, netting and equipment for their fields. Travel soccer begins the weekend of March 7, 8. They are currently coordinating with Public Works to finalize the lining and preparation of their fields. Mr. Olivieri stated he hopes the oversight from PW remains consistent this season as they had a large issue with irrigation last year that closed their fields.

Recreation soccer begins April 4. They expect close to 500 players for spring rec soccer. The soccer club has reinstated trainers in the rec and micro program. They are also holding evaluations for rec soccer to create more evenly balanced teams. Christine Gras asked how, in light of the increase in participants, they are doing on field space. Joe Olivieri replied that it is tight but they are making it work. Mr Olivieri expounded on their schedule, field space, and how it all works. Christine Gras stated for the benefit of all in attendance that the goal of a youth group president is to leave the organization better than they found it and commended the past soccer club president Matt Bailey for doing so.

#### EHT Youth Softball

Kathleen Glick, 1059 Ocean Heights Avenue, is the president of EHT Youth Softball. They are in their third week of registrations and are offering online registrations. The softball program is running intramural play in-house this year rather than league play. They have nine tournaments scheduled this year for Childs Kirk Park. Their organization wants to additional lighted fields. They are hoping to raise funds from their tournaments and apply for grants from Delta Line or Musco to purchase lighting. Toni Rispoli stated that lighting new fields requires full approvals from the Township. Ms. Glick stated that in addition to lighting, their board is focused on the fields and re-grading them so they don't flood so easily. Ms. Glick also stated that she plans to step down as president in November.

#### EHT Street Hockey

Gary Adams, 108 Ruby Drive, is the president of EHT Street Hockey. They recently finished their rec season. They had 240 youth participants. It was a good season for them, no major issues. EHT Street Hockey is starting a local all-stars program that will be played in a few of the towns including EHT. They are planning a tournament in June. Mr. Adams thanked Public Works for their assistance and maintenance of the facility. Street Hockey is currently discussing plans for the north court and if they want to keep the deck tiles or transition to an asphalt surface. They will need help from the Township for the costs of that project.

#### EHT Youth Organization

Dorothy Madamba 802 Jonathan Court, is the president of YO. Their board recently held board nominations and they have a few more seats upcoming as well. YO plans to start registrations earlier this year in March or April. They are looking into online registrations. They are planning concussion training for their coaches through the USA Football program. The board is hoping for a better year in 2020.

Toni Rispoli stated that the Commission needs YO to strongly consider the proposal to combine into one team at every level instead of two. Ms. Rispoli stated that it is becoming a safety concern to have 16 or 17 players suit up for a game. The Commission feels that 25 players per team should be their goal. Ms. Madamba replied that they hope their numbers go up and she feels it may take a year or two to transition to one team at each level. Toni Rispoli asked Dorothy if YO has further considered participation in the SJ Youth Football league. Ms Madamba stated that the board would discuss it again.

### Travel Basketball

Kylene Wood of Egg Harbor Township is the secretary for EHT Travel Basketball. She asked about the coaches training that Rick Audet had mentioned. Travel Basketball had 115 players this season on 12 teams, five boys and seven girls teams. Their turnout in girls 5/6 division was particularly high. They participated in two local leagues this season. Their teams won two tournament championships. She thanked the Recreation Department and School District for use of gym space. Ms. Wood stated that the level of play in the travel program has been great. They are a strong program. EHT Travel Basketball would like to organize a basketball camp this summer. Ms. Wood mentioned that they need adjustable rims at Alder Avenue School. They plan to use the outdoor courts at Alder this summer and will have a three-point line painted there. The score clock in the back gym at Fernwood is not working, she asked if we can get the clock to work.

### EHT Baseball Association

Niall Bridgeman, 223 Tallowood Drive, is the vice-president of EHT Baseball. Mr. Bridgeman stated that registrations for baseball are currently being held online. EHT Baseball formally requests lights for Field 6. Niall stated that the field schedules are very tight on this field due to no lighting and that it prohibits EHT Baseball from being able to host better tournaments. The batting cage near field 5 needs repairs. Mr. Bridgeman thanked Robert Lundberg, Public Works Grounds Foreman, for this efforts and assistance. EHT Baseball is providing new jerseys this year, they will be "real" teams such as Pirates, Cardinals etc.

Travel Baseball held winter workouts. Mr. Bridgman asked the Commission, per its policy, for one EHT Travel Baseball team to add three non-resident players for just the upcoming spring season. Niall stated that there was an issue in travel last year where a former coach left the program and took a number of players with him. They need to have two teams at this one level and are three players short. No EHT player was or will be cut from travel at this level. Toni Rispoli stated that you can never cut EHT players in order to add a non-resident player. The baseball season begins in about a month. The Recreation Commission tabled the matter.

### EHT BMX

Steve Adams, 70 Somers Avenue, is the new president of EHT BMX. Stan Russ stepped down as president last year. BMX is in their offseason right now, but is planning their race schedule and track maintenance for the upcoming year. They also have plans to sheetrock and paint their registration building. EHT BMX received an award recently on their fundraising for a charity. Mr. Adams stated that the back parking lot needs lights. Lastly, he thanked Public Works for the two new picnic tables that were recently installed.

### EHT Lacrosse

Andrew Carpenter, 35 Marsh Road, is the president of EHT Lacrosse. He stated that lacrosse season begins March 1. They are low on boys grade 3/4 registrations at this time. The other teams' numbers look good. Andrew stated the fields are looking good for their season. He asked if the Township can rent the port-o-potties for their fields this year. The new backstops/netting are getting damaged from mowing. Robert Lundberg stated that they will spray the net line and try to keep the mowers away. Andrew mentioned that they will need baseball field 3 the week before Memorial Day again this year for their tournament. They will also need coordination from the Police Department or Explorers to help with parking at the tournament.

Mr. Carpenter stated that EHT lacrosse has purchased three new backstops and netting for the fields. They are coordinating training and certification for their coaches. Mr. Carpenter stated that the idea to clear some trees and create an additional practice area and a place they can install their rebounding wall has his full support and he hopes that the Township is able to do so as soon as possible. The scoreboards they plan to purchase and have installed are on hold at this time.

Andrew stated that he encourages kids to play other sports and not specialize in one sport. He discussed their registration numbers and how he feels it is best for kids to try different sports and that in rec sports you shouldn't penalize kids who cant make it to every practice.

Public Works

Sam Gioconda, Public Works Buildings Manager, stated he did not have anything to report. Youth groups should continue to let the Township know of any issues or concerns that they have and he will try to fix them as soon as possible.

Robert Lundberg, Public Works Grounds Manager, discussed his field turf maintenance schedule with the youth groups in attendance. He discussed applications planned for spring and reminded the groups they will need to stay off the fields accordingly while the work is performed. For spraying for three days after. If the youth groups want improved field conditions they will need to coordinate with Public Works and be cooperative in staying off the fields. Robert will do a second application in April. He will try to work around groups' schedules as possible.

For the baseball and softball diamonds, Public Works has a new groomer that can laser grade the fields. He has infield mix staged at both Veterans and Childs Kirk Parks. Robert summarized additional field prep work that his staff is currently performing.

Dorothy Madamba stated that the hot water in the faucet in the women's room at their fieldhouse does not work. The snack stand walkthrough will be conducted soon between YO and Baseball Association. Steve Adams mentioned to Sam Gioconda that the new heating unit that was installed did not turn off recently. Sam Gioconda replied that he would look at it. Kathleen Glick stated that the air conditioning in their meeting room is not working.

**IX. New Business**

None.

**X. Use of Parks Facility Requests**

a. St. Katherine Drexel Parish Tony Canale Park 5/31/20 (6/7/20 rain date)

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by St. Katherine Drexel Parish.</b> Motion made by Charlie Gallagher Seconded by Christine Gras
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

b. Bargaintown Volunteer Fire Auxiliary Tony Canale Park 3/28/20

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

c. EHT Youth Softball Childs Kirk Park 3/10/20-7/30/20

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

d. EHT Baseball Association Veteran's Memorial Park 3/1/20-7/30/20

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by EHT Baseball Association.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Jonathan Parker
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

e. EHT Soccer Club Bargaintown & Canale Park 3/1/2020-7/30/2020

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by EHT Soccer Club.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Amy Smith
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

f. EHT Street Hockey Veteran's Memorial Park 3/1/2020-7/30/2020

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by EHT Street Hockey.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Amy Smith
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

g. EHT BMX Veteran's Memorial Park 3/1/2020-11/21/2020

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by EHT BMX.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Jonathan Parker
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

**XI. Director's Report**

None.

**XII. Old Business**

a. Discussion of Proposed Expansion of Tony Canale Park Athletic Fields & Green Acres Grant

Toni Rispoli summarized for the Commission the meeting she attended on January 31 with Township Committee members Deputy Mayor Laura Pfrommer and Committee member Frank Balles, Township Administrator Peter Miller, Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet, Recreation Commissioners Bill Warrell and Paul Weldon on the proposed field expansion project. At the previous Commission meeting this project was discussed in full by all members. Toni Rispoli stated that it would be a waste of money to put in a turf field at Veteran's Park because it could not be a true game field. Toni does not wish to see two turf fields at this time, she prefers concept of one turf field, practice fields and field house at the expanded area at Canale Park.

The project contains restrictions placed on the land by Pinelands Commission. The project has an estimated cost of \$5-6 million, \$750,000 of which would be paid by the Green Acres grant the Township received. Soccer, lacrosse and football would all use the field as well as permitted groups and Recreation Department programs. The new fields are would be the home for YO football and cheer during the fall. Ms. Rispoli stated that we are trying to combine as many uses and needs into the project to get the biggest bang for our buck. Amy Smith stated that lacrosse would remain at Veteran's Park, however the turf field could be used for early season practices and a tournament site.

The turf field would be lined for four sports. Andrew Carpenter stated that it would eliminate the field issues between lacrosse and football. The Commission further discussed the pros and cons of the project and impacts on our youth groups and the community. The Commission stated that the project should include a walking track around the turf field. The public would benefit from a facility to walk at and in improving their health. Additionally, Recreation would benefit from the track for its Running Club and Speed and Agility programs.

The need for a walking path around the perimeter of the park was also discussed. We have to allow taxpayers to benefit from this project in addition to our youth groups. Laura Pfrommer stated that 4-5 million in bond debt would be carried out for the project. The current plans for the school district's turf field was discussed. The Township project would be funded over a twenty year span which would spread the burden of payment to additional field users. Dena Danz, Program Manager, stated the track around the turf field would help Recreation and the kids in our community a great deal. The Running Club program has been held at the Nature Reserve but it is in need of a new location.

Jonathan Parker discussed who could use the track and how many lanes we should plan for it to have if we are able to implement it in our project. Deputy Mayor Laura Pfrommer encouraged the leaders of our youth groups to come and speak at the Township Committee meeting next week. Committee member Frank Balles explained the bond ordinance process. Damien Correa asked if the Jr. Wrestling Club could have a room built for them in the new field house.

The Commission further discussed the details and cost/benefits of the project. Laura Pfrommer stated that we want to make sure we discuss the needs we currently have, what operations are hindered today, and why we have the need for this facility. Toni Rispoli reminded the Commission that this plan includes a proposed reduction in capital funding for Recreation for the next three years. Christine Gras stated that

we can't develop good players and good programs that would feed into the high school without good fields and facilities. Frank Balles stated that the capital funding would be lessened for multiple Township departments, not all of the burden of this project would be placed on Parks and Recreation.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the proposed Canale Park fields expansion project as discussed to include a synthetic turf field, three grass practice fields, a field house, and track around the turf field. The Recreation Commission's approval of the proposed project would be passed on to Township Committee as the Commission's endorsement of the project to move forward.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Christine Gras
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

**XIII. Correspondence**

EHT Youth Group Minutes

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| A. Baseball Association – 9/5/19 | F. Soccer Club – 10/8/19                        |
| B. BMX – 1/13/20                 | G. Street Hockey Association – 12/16/19, 1/6/20 |
| C. Youth Organization – 10/2/19  | H. Travel Basketball – 11/14/19                 |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – 9/12/19       | I. Youth Softball – 10/6/19                     |
| E. Lacrosse – 6/13/2019          |   |

Handouts

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| A. EHT YO Balance Sheet / Profit and Loss Statement               | 12/31/19 |
| B. EHT BMX 2019 Financials (on file in office)                    |          |
| C. EHT Soccer Club Bylaws Revision – TABLED TO MARCH              |          |
| D. EHT Travel Basketball Bylaws Revision – TABLED TO MARCH        |          |
| E. EHT Soccer Club – field layout spring 2020 (on file in office) |          |

Christine Gras asked Dorothy Madamba and Denise Savastano from YO how the \$10,000 difference for banquet costs is being accounted for, would it be through registration fees or fundraisers. Ms. Savastano stated that the fundraiser wasn't as successful this past season as in previous years. Christine Gras asked what is the percentage that is not being made up.

**XIV. Tabled Matters**

**XV. Public Comment**

None.

**XVI. Adjournment**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To adjourn the February 12, 2020 meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 9:29 p.m.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Amy Smith
<b>Vote</b>	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 March 11, 2020 Recreation Commission Meeting.  
\_\_\_\_\_