

Board of Recreation Commissioners

Egg Harbor Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

7:00pm

MINUTES

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Chairperson Rispoli.

Pledge of Allegiance

Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

The statement was read by Chairperson Rispoli.

Roll Call

Roll call showed 8 members present. The Alternate #2 seat is still vacant.

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| 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 | Stan Russ, Alternate #1 | Present |
| | | Alternate #2 | Vacant |

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Mayor Laura Pfrommer and Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet.

Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

Regular Meeting February 10, 2021

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| Motion | To approve the February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Weldon Seconded by Commissioner Gras |
| Vote | Motion carried 7-0. Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon |

Special Meeting February 16, 2021

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| Motion | To approve the February 16, 2021 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Commissioner Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Russ |
| Vote | Motion carried 6-0-1. Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell (Trinkle Abstained) |

2020 EHT Coach of the Year

The Recreation Commission introduced Gary Adams as the 2020 EHT Volunteer Coach of the Year award winner. Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet summarized the volunteer work of Mr. Adams over the years. Gary was very successful as a well-liked coach in both the baseball and street hockey organizations. Gary served as the

president of EHT Street Hockey up until recently. Gary led a number of improvement projects of the street hockey courts as well. Mr. Adams was presented with a plaque in recognition of the award.

Mr. Adams thanked the Recreation Commission. He stated that the most important thing he did over the years was provide a positive experience with the kids. He thoroughly enjoyed his time volunteering and serving his community. Toni Rispoli thanked him for his service and his work on behalf of the kids of EHT.

EHT Recognized Youth Sports Group Presidents

Toni Rispoli asked if any sponsored youth group presidents were here to speak tonight and invited them to speak. There was no comment from our sponsored youth groups.

Public Comment

Toni Rispoli opened the public portion at 7:09 p.m.

Robert Herman, 222 New Road, EHT property owner, spoke on the issue of pickleball court hours at Delilah Oaks Park. He is requesting a modification of the ordinance passed last year that limited the court hours to 9am- 6pm daily. He understands the concern of the residents in proximity to the park. Mr. Herman stressed that the ordinance is not reasonable. He is asking this on behalf of several hundred pickleballers. Pickleball is a fast growing sport and played by seniors who often don't have many programs offered to them. The hours of the court used to be sunrise to sunset.

The hours of 9am to 6pm are especially a big deal over the summertime. The hours force players to play during the hottest part of the day. The heat of the day forces play to be in morning or evening. Also, many players work until 5:00 p.m. and can't make it to the court in time to play before 6:00. Mr. Herman requested the Commission recommend extending hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He is asking the Recreation Commission to make the recommendation to change the court hours. He understands the change of ordinance is done through Township Committee. He is requesting the court hours at least to extend further into the evening. Mr. Herman continued stating that pickleball promotes exercise and socialization and helps fight off depression especially in light of the pandemic the past year.

Toni Rispoli stated the hours are 9am-6pm. She asked if there was a motion from any Commissioner to change the ordinance. Bill Warrell asked if the pickleball players could use the community center gyms during the summer when it's hot outside. Rick Audet responded that is not possible due to our summer camp program and their use of the center. Pickleball is indoors from end of September until mid or end of April. Mr. Audet stated there is one court for pickleball at Bargaintown Park that is open until sunset. He said he does not wish to convert more tennis courts into dual use especially in light of the upcoming project to create a pickleball facility at MK Betterment Park. The hours will be until sunset at the new location.

Christine Gras asked why the court hours were changed until 6pm when the other areas of the park are open until sunset. Rick Audet responded that the hours were changed in the interests of the residents who live in close proximity to the court and the noise that is generated by the courts. Mr. Audet stated that living near a pickleball court can negatively impact peace and quiet in your home. That was our decision at the time. Amy Smith

Said we responded to the neighbors who had an issue with it. The decision was ratified by Township Committee as they passed the resolution as well. Toni Rispoli stated the Commission never anticipated the issue of the pickleball court noise and the problem it would create. However, the residents in that community do not want to hear the noise 12 hours a day. We had to respect the concerns of the neighbors. The neighbors weren't asked if they wanted the court out there, the Commission just did it.

Ms. Rispoli stated that she can see both sides of the argument. There is also an issue with cars not stopping at stop signs and cars speeding. Toni said that kids in the neighborhood were told they can't play on the courts. The ordinance was put in to give some respite from the noise to the residents of that community. She asked if any Commissioner is willing to make a motion to change the time and recommend a change to the ordinance

Diane Kresz, 102 Offshore Road, is a local pickleball player. Ms. Kresz said Bargaintown Park is really not a facility for pickleball. Ms. Kresz spoke in support of Mr. Herman's comments to change the hours of use of the court. Ms. Kresz stated that Ocean City courts are in the middle of residences that are three quarters of a million dollar homes. In Margate and Ventnor courts are located amongst residences of million and multi-million dollar homes.

The people who live near Delilah Oaks Park should love the fact that pickleballers are there. People are beating each other in the area and the pickleballers are calling the cops. The neighbors don't have a problem with the language and music of the basketball courts. They don't have a problem with loud cars of the neighbors. They are picking and choosing what they have a problem with.

Paul Weldon stated that someone calls the police department every single night on the users of the basketball court. The neighbors are concerned about the basketball court too. Ms. Kresz said that they can still play until sunset. The basketball players have the full set of daytime hours for their use.

Mia Campo, 318 Reynolds Road, there have been times where neighbors walk over the courts and ask if they can learn how to play the game. The pickleballers welcome them. There are residents who like them there. They are very friendly to everyone in the neighborhood. During the summertime, residents have their air conditioning running all day and all night long. She is not sure how they hear the pickleball noise when all their doors and windows are shut with the AC running.

Ms. Campo continued stating people buy houses at the Village Grande that back up to the court demonstrating that living in close proximity to a pickleball court is desirable. She wants the extra time of court use given back to the pickleball players. The players do not want to be forced to drive to other towns to play their chosen sport. The working people can't get home at 5:00, get changed, and have any time left to play. Pickleball helped her make many new friends in the Township, they don't want to have to drive to other towns.

Toni Rispoli asked if we could lower or change the net at the Bargaintown court to make it more suitable for pickleball play. Rick stated possibly yes but the courts would be off for tennis. It's a 2 inch difference in the center. We could most likely find a way to lower the courts. Toni stated that it would be better for pickleball and you could still play tennis there.

Amy Smith said she does not dispute pickleball is amazing and that 6:00 p.m. is an early end time for their activity. She is also not disputing that we had the Delilah Oaks Park neighbors come to our meetings and clearly state their issues with the courts and the noise created by the games. It doesn't matter if a home is \$30,000 or 4 million dollars. Your home is your home and we should not equate a dollar value of a home to being able to enjoy your home.

Amy asks if anybody thought to bring the pickleballers and home owners together to discuss it in a meeting. Can we improve the communication between people who live there and people who want to play. The Recreation Commission is just a sounding board. Has anyone thought to talk this out and come to a reasonable agreement for the summertime. She feels that we could consider longer hours over the weekend during the summertime. We have not had the two groups of people come together, can we try to make that happen.

Christine Gras asked if we could recommend that on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays later court use hours be approved. She would not want to hear the noise on a Sunday night. She thinks it would be ok to play later on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings.

Bill Warrell asked Rick Audet how many pickleball courts are at Bargaintown and how many tennis courts are there. Rick Audet answered that there are four tennis courts, one of which is lined for pickleball use also. Mr. Audet stated the typical use from tennis at both Bargaintown and Canale. NRPA level of service standards call for more than 8 tennis courts in a town of our size so he would be hesitant to take more tennis courts away. There are times the tennis courts are unused but also times they are packed with players as well. Rick said the residents who live near the courts have a legitimate complaint on the court noise.

Mr. Warrell said players can go Bargaintown to play until sunset. However, we can't just flip flop on the issue and go against what was already decided for the ordinance. Amy Smith stated that she is not advocating for an ordinance change, she is advocating for better communication. Bill Warrell said that it is a great game but the sound of the courts hearing it from your house is annoying.

Gerry Wurtzel, 64 Oakmont Drive, Mays Landing, stated that some courts have sound baffles that they put up on the fence to help lessen the noise. That's an idea we could look into. He wants to play closer to home. The courts are full. There are 12 people that can play at one time and the bleacher is full. There are often 8-10 people waiting to use the courts. He is a musician and thus hears very well and is attuned to noise and sounds. He listened carefully to the noise at Delilah Oaks. This neighborhood has to deal with noise from fighter jets at times. We are in the flight path of an international airport. He heard the neighbor across the street with the loud muffler his cars. At times, the pickleballers can't even hear themselves talk. Basketball makes more noise. There is noise from the use of the playground. There are a variety of things that create noise at the park. The people who play pickleball are good-natured people.

Marie Stokes, 211 Lander Road, said she is a senior and she is healthy due to playing pickleball. Pickleball is a great sport for senior citizens. Pickleball is taking over. There are 8 tennis courts. We would be surprised at how many pickleballers are at the park. She suggested converting some of the tennis courts to pickleball courts. There are more pickleballers than there are tennis players. Maybe we can use quiet pickleballs. Pickleball is coming and it's here to stay.

Bill Warrell stated that the Commission absolutely supports pickleball. We know the issue and we know what's wrong. However, in converting other courts we are creating a solution to this issue by throwing good money after bad. We respect the needs of the pickleball community.

Toni Rispoli said she wants to bring back the issue of the request for an ordinance change. She asked if there was a motion from any Commissioner to alter court use hours and recommend a change to the ordinance. There was no motion made. Toni said will continue in our efforts to develop new courts at MK Betterment Park.

Jamie Gillespie, 511 Glenn Avenue spoke under public comment. He is here tonight to speak on behalf of a travel team that he is affiliated with and not as the EHTBA president. He called Rick recently in a bit of a panic when the field his team was using in Northfield suddenly became unavailable due to field work. He lost use of the field for 4 or 5 weeks. He has six EHT residents on his team. Rick informed me of the timeline in putting this on the Commission agenda. He is hoping the Commission can add his use of parks application to their agenda tonight.

The Commission discussed field use at Veterans Park as a Category V user and pricing. Mr Gillespie said he knows firsthand there is field use availability at Veterans Park. He was asked which field he wants to use. Mr. Gillespie answered field 3. Toni Rispoli asked him how many nights a week. Mr. Gillespie answered it would be about 10 field uses total. He answered that it doesn't matter which night, his team is very flexible. He apologized for the late notice but was just informed last night and they are now scrambling to use the field.

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| Motion | To add the use of parks application request of Mr. Gillespie to our agenda. Motion made by Commissioner Gras Seconded by Commissioner Russ |
| Vote | Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon |

The use of parks application will be added to our use of parks section of our agenda tonight.

Old Business

Toni Rispoli commented that the Commission needs to review liaison assignments tonight. Toni believes that two years is a long time to be a liaison to one particular organization. Anything more than two years it is time to switch it up. She stated the merits of changing liaison roles every two years as Commissioners should be knowledgeable on how all groups work. She said that we can draw liaison assignments from a hat. Ms. Rispoli asked the Commissioners by what process they would like to change up the assignments. Most meetings are on Tuesday or Thursday nights so it might be best to consider your schedule as we decide.

Softball was meeting on Sunday nights. Toni asked them to change their meeting night. Softball is meeting on Tuesdays and they have to change their bylaws to reflect that. Bill Warrell asked if we can move this matter to the bottom of our agenda. Commissioners may need more time to consider this topic as they begin to hash it out. The Commission agreed it is ok to move it down the later in the agenda.

Toni Rispoli said the next topic was the request for non-resident players from both softball and lacrosse organizations. Rick Audet summarized that we held a special meeting last month on this. In accordance with our

bylaws, decisions made at a special meeting are voted on at a regular meeting. We can reopen the topic of the Commission would like but we would need discuss and have a vote.

Toni Rispoli noted that we already voted and approved the minutes from the special meeting. There was discussion on how the vote is ratified after a special meeting. Christine Gras said we should have a vote and have our decision stated in the regular meeting minutes. Chairperson Rispoli summarized the request from softball and lacrosse for non-resident players. Ms. Rispoli further stated that we voted no, 7-0 at our special meeting. For recreation leagues, we must protect the rights of EHT children to be able to play in the rec program. Travel is different situation. Rick Audet summarized the vote at the special meeting. Amy Smith stated that when we vote on the minutes we have ratified the decision made at that meeting.

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| Motion | To have the vote of no stand as per the request of EHT Youth Softball and EHT Lacrosse Association for non-resident players to be allowed to play in recreation teams as made at the special meeting on February 16. Motion made by Commissioner Smith Seconded by Commissioner Gras |
| Vote | Motion carried 6-1 Gallagher – No / Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon - Yes |

The Commission discussed that recreation and travel programs are different and handled differently on the rule of non-resident players.

Use of Parks Facility Requests

EHT Youth Softball use of parks application at Childs Kirk Park for the dates and times noted on their application. Toni Rispoli noted that this application is for their normal season of play.

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| Motion | To approve the Park use request as presented by EHT Youth Softball. Motion made by Commissioner Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Smith |
| Vote | Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon Yes |

SJ Hammerheads travel baseball team use of parks application was discussed. Toni Rispoli read the days, dates times, and locations on the application. Rick Audet stated that he believes the use application was now being rescinded. The applicant, Niall Bridgeman, was in attendance and was asked to speak on the status of the application.

Niall Bridgeman, 223 Tallowood Drive, updated the Commission on the use of parks application for his travel baseball team. He is withdrawing his request. Mr. Niall is opening tryouts to rec players and he is letting parents know of the financial commitment. Toni Rispoli asked how many non-residents he has. Mr. Bridgeman said he will have 10 residents and 1 non-resident player. His team will play under the EHT Baseball Association umbrella. He is advertising tryouts. Mr. Bridgeman stated that EHT Baseball Association will take over his teams funds and handle

the finances of his team same as all the others. Christine Gras asked if this would be a team under EHTBA and be treated according to their bylaws and same as all other teams. Mr. Bridgeman said yes.

Mr. Bridgmena stated that his teams uniforms can be altered and have an EHTBA patch sewn onto them. He is coaching an 8u travel team also already so he is out there every night of the week. He will take care of the fields. Chairperson Rispoli stated that his team will come under EHTBA as a travel team. EHTBA has been approved for field use, they work the field schedule out for all teams amongst themselves. Amy Smith clarified that it was EHTBA absorbing another travel team into their organization. The team will be called the EHT Hammerheads. Rick Audet asked if this has been approved by the baseball board. Jamie Gillespie answered yes. The matter was discussed and approved by the board. The park use application of SJ Hammerheads is canceled and we do not need to vote on it.

The next field use application is for Jamie Gillespie for SJ Surf. They are not being absorbed by EHTBA, this is a standard use of fields application.

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| Motion | <p>To approve the Park use request from Jamie Gillespie for his travel team SJ Surf at Veterans Park per the dates of his request and in accordance with our field use policies.</p> <p>Motion made by Commissioner Gras Seconded by Commissioner Trinkle</p> |
| Vote | <p>Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon</p> |

Directors Report

Rick Audet said the Director’s Report with start with an update on the Department. Dakota Wunsch, 4018 Spruce Avenue, was invited to speak. Mr. Wunsch is currently an intern from Kean University in the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Wunsch summarized for the Commission the programs and events currently running in Recreation. He summarized upcoming registration dates. He said that the program guide for spring programs is out and available to the public. Mr. Wunsch also summarized the Mayor’s Wellness Campaign that Recreation is coordinating. Lastly, there is a spring craft fair on May 8.

Rick Audet said the Administrator distributed the proposed 2021 Municipal Budget to all department heads and Township Committee. The budget calls for a tax increase for 2021. Past tax rate increases were summarized. There is an approximate revenue shortfall of 2 million. The budget being presented has a larger than normal tax increase compared to the past ten years. Parks and Recreation operating budget stayed the same from 2020, the only increase was in the salaries and wages line. Township Committee will review the budget and then there will be a public hearing.

Rick Audet stated that our capital budget of \$100,000 is approved as requested last year. Our capital projects are Delilah Oaks Park basketball court, CKP Field 1 dugouts, community center improvements and security cameras placed into concession stands. We also have \$200,000 in the budget for the MK Betterment Center. Mr. Audet met with an engineer today. A master plan will be developed. A timeline of the master plan and project was discussed.

Everyone received a copy of the memo detailing the project. The park amenities we wanted are on the master plan. Phase I of the project should be completed this year.

Future work will be dependent on funds budgeted by Township Committee. The building on site will need some work but it is expected to be usable. Recreation and PAL will be able to use the building. The project timeline for 2021 was discussed. The project requires Pinelands Commission approval which can take up to 3 months. New pickleball courts, parking lot, sidewalk, retention basin and landscaping will be the focus this year. Toni Rispoli asked Rick who he met with. Rick Audet answered it was Bob Watkins from Mott Associates.

Chairperson Rispoli asked if we are looking at 8 courts. Rick Audet stated that there has been talk of 3 or 4 courts by some, he indicated 6 courts previously, some people want 8 courts. Bill Warrell stated that we have 3 courts at Delilah Oaks Park that are always backed up. Six courts may fix the problem but he feels 8 courts will give the sport room to grow. Rick Audet stated that he will make sure the Commission is updated on the project every step of the way. We are keeping the basketball court that is on site. We will top coat the court and put in new hoops. The current basketball court has an east-west orientation. The pickleball courts will need to have a north-south orientation.

Toni Rispoli asked if we are planning to turn the courts at Delilah Oaks back to tennis when MK Betterment courts are open. Rick Audet said yes, we have discussed to bring it back to a tennis court. That may require capital funding next year. The current fencing is 6 feet, tennis courts require 10 feet. The project will be done in phases. We can create a walking trail and other amenities in future phases. We are trying to acquire more land to the south and develop a multipurpose field. The building has a meeting room spaces as well as office space. Its not large enough for wrestling as it stands.

Rick Audet stated per his email that there was a suggestion from the Administrator to rename Oakland / Tremont Park as Oak Tree Park. Mr. Audet was asked to present this idea to the Commission for their review and thoughts on the name change. Toni Rispoli said that this might confuse people. We already have an Oak Tree Plaza. She offered Tremont Park or Oakland Park as suggestions. Bill Warrell said that the name Tremont is more well-known. Paul Weldon asked Rick Audet if he mentioned to Peter that we are trying to acquire the property just east of the current park. Rick Audet stated that Peter would know that better on that himself but Rick stated the Township acquired a piece of land next to the park.

Paul asked if we could expand the park, would it be large enough for a second basketball court. Rick Audet stated that he didn't think the new parcel would be large enough. Toni Rispoli asked if we could build a parking lot in the new area. Rick said possibly but it may not be large enough. e could perhaps build a playground. Christine Gras stated the name court may be more appropriate than the name park since there is one court now and for foreseeable future. We should just call it Tremont Avenue basketball courts. Amy Smith stated that it is just a court there now and no other amenities or even a grass area. It should be called a court. She said there should be a 4 way stop sign at the intersection as well. Rick said the Commission does not support the idea for Oak Tree as a name and he will pass that on to the Administrator.

New Business

a. EHTYO Head Coach Interview Process

Rick Audet opened the agenda item and provided a summary of the issue to the Commission. In 2020, there was a mandate made by the Recreation Commission to Youth Organization on how their head coaches would be selected. The mandate called for three Commissioners to be on the interview panel consisting of five people. There was a three year timeframe on this arrangement. YO is soon planning their head coach selection process for 2021. YO has asked Rick and the Commission for an update on how the process would be governed this year. Dorothy Madamba has asked the Commission for something in writing that clarifies what the Commission intends for the process this year.

Christine Gras stated that she and Commissioner Trinkle have worked closely with the YO board for many months. Her opinion is that the Recreation Commission does not need to have a seat in the voting process. YO has a process in their bylaws. Ms. Gras recommended that she and Paul attend the meetings in person but not have a vote and let YO make their own decision. Toni Rispoli asked Ms. Gras why she and Paul need to be there for the meetings. Ms. Gras responded if YO needs advice or guidance during the process and also to ensure the Commission that YO followed their bylaws.

Bill Warrell stated that he likes the idea proposed by Ms. Gras. Paul Trinkle stated that he has no problem with YO handling it as Christine suggests. He would be glad to help. Paul said that last year we threw it in their lap and the process may not have been fair. Amy Smith stated that the intention was good but the execution of the process failed.

Ms. Smith also doesn't want to just up and leave when we said we would be there and help for 3 years we do not want to bail on YO. She said that Christine and Paul have done a lot of work to help and YO is now trying to do their best with the organization. We need to help YO and have a transition back to them coordinating the head coach selection process.

Christine Gras said that at the end of the day they are their own organization, won 501c3. She made a commitment to YO and she intends to see that commitment through. From her perspective, in past months, there have not been bylaws broken and the board is doing its job. Paul Weldon stated YO parents have come in to the Commission with complaints and that nothing has changed in the organization. Christine Gras said that moving into 2021, YO has formed a committee to update their bylaws and reduce the size of their board. She does not need a vote. There is a process in place now to improve their bylaws.

Paul Weldon stated that is why we did this to begin with. We had parents coming in with complaints over and over. He is not sure anything has changed from last year to this year. We need to continue to do what's in the best interests of the kids. Their board was supposed to be reduced in size and that hasn't happened. Christine Gras said that going into 2022 season they have already formed a committee to reduce their board size. Our statement is always to follow your bylaws and YO is doing that.

Bill Warrell said YO has had plenty of time to change their bylaws. He asked why the size of board can't be reduced now. The season doesn't start until end of July. Christine Gras answered they have started that process. Paul Weldon stated that we asked them to do this last year and it hasn't even started yet.

Dorothy Madamba, 802 Jonathan Court said there are YO volunteers working very hard on this. They have to wait another year on it. They can't upend their bylaws and there are seats currently filled so they have to wait for terms to be up.

Chasity Branca stated that if anyone is in a board seat currently, we can't remove them until the end of their term. They are waiting for seats to expire. Two board seats are being eliminated at the next meeting. General seats are being removed. They will expire next year and will not be filled, thus reducing the size of the board.

Paul Weldon asked if there was a recent election. Chasity Branca said yes. She summarized what seats were just filled. Dominic Branca was voted into a seat 3 and Brian Wright is general seat 4. She explained what the new board seats would be. Paul Weldon stated that we took a vote of non-confidence partly due to the stacking of their board with family members. Since last year nothing has been addressed on our concerns or to reduce the board size. Mr. Weldon asked what YO has done since then to improve. We saw the meeting last year where parents in the organization were replaced by children of board members. He can't think of what YO has done since then to improve their organization. Christine Gras stated that people with voting rights are the people who vote on these seats.

Christine Gras stated that the only time people show up to YO board meetings is when something is going on, some issue. Chasity at the last meeting made a motion to change their voting rights procedure and make an effort to get new blood involved and new people to be involved. Ms. Branca's recent motion was to make special meetings count for voting rights. Ms. Gras agreed with this effort. The meetings in 2020 was a shock to us but the YO board is making changes. Ms. Gras stated that she now has voting rights due to how many meetings she has attended. She further stated that people are just not coming out to meetings. People only come out when a contentious issue is on

the table. YO just made a motion to make it easier to get voting rights to encourage more involvement. Ms. Gras disagrees with the statement that they are not doing things to improve their organization.

Paul Weldon can't understand why we are changing our minds when no improvements have been made. Mr. Weldon asked how many seats were open in their most recent vote.

Denise Savstano, 311 Gravel Bend Road, discussed the seats that are open on the YO board. They had seats open all year long. They discussed changes in board names. Ms. Savastano discussed when the seats expire. She further stated that when the board decides which league they will play in, YO will remove a league coordinator seat further reducing their board.

Bill Warrell asked what is the purpose in letting seats expire. Ms. Savastano stated that they are following their bylaws in doing so. They were voted in by the public for that term. It would not be right to change that. There was discussion on who ran for the open seats. Bill Warrell stated that YO could have changed their bylaws and not filled the seats. Ms. Savastano stated that nothing in their bylaws lets them do that. Toni Rispoli asked how many people are on their board now. Ms. Savastano answered eleven at this time and they are trying to get it down to nine. Chasity Branca stated that the YO board has done an initial reading of the proposed revised bylaws.

Paul Weldon confirmed the seats that exist and who is filling them currently. Dominic Branca recently got voted in to a seat as well as Brian Wright. Bud Brubaker and Achilles Ginis ran for those same seats but did not win the vote.

Dorothy Madamba stated that no one is coming to their meetings and earning voting rights. There are 19 people with voting rights now. Paul Weldon stated that it appears friends and family members continue to get voted into board seats. There is still an issue with filling seats with family members of the board, it does not look like a fair process.

Christine Gras said she does not think that is a fair assessment.. Dominic was nominated along with others. Amy Smith stated that she respects the time put in by the volunteer board members. She wants to allow people who are in there taking part in the organization to run their own coach selection process.

Dorothy Madamba commented on the process and how it was done last year. There were changes in the timing over the past year due to Covid pandemic. The majority of interviewees complained about the process. They felt it was too political. There were complaints within YO on how people were selected for the coaching positions. Paul Weldon said the process would be different this year since faces have changed. Amy Smith asked if people are aware that people aren't the same as last year. Toni Rispoli stated that we are supposed to get the board down to 9. Dorothy and Denise said yes.

Paul Weldon again clarified the most recent seats. Brian Wright was voted into a seat and was opposed by Bud and Achilles. Dominic was assigned seat 3. Dorothy Madamba said that they have a real problem with finding other people who have attended enough meetings and can even sit on the board. She understands it looks like the same faces are always on their board. There are 21 people right now with voting rights in YO. There are 19 if you don't include Christine and Paul. They had 120 football players and 89 cheerleaders last year. Rick Audet asked if they use apps and marketing to reach out to their parents for increased involvement. Denise Savastano stated that they use a handful of means.

Paul Weldon stated that appearances make it look like the YO board is on the "friends and family plan." His concern is that this is continuing with family members. Chasity Branca stated that they can't control how votes go. Mr.

Weldon stated that it does not look like a fair process from the outside. Christine Gras stated that she does not think that is a fair assessment. It was stated that people don't put their names in, they have to be nominated.

Stan Russ stated that Christine is heavily involved in the board matters and supports what she is saying. Amy Smith understands Paul's questioning, acknowledges last year is not a good frame of reference, and they are following their bylaws. She does not wish to advocate for anything different than what Christine recommends. She stated we could go down to two votes now and then transition to no votes. She sees the concerns on both sides.

Dorothy Madamba stated that people didn't want to get involved after the process last year. Toni Rispoli said that we got involved because we heard the opposite. People weren't getting involved due to the way YO was conducting its business.

Bill Warrell said there are a lot of different players from last year. It will be different this year and some mistakes won't be repeated. Mr. Warrell said that in the end he leans towards what the liaisons recommend. Christine said we are far removed from what occurred last year. She further stated that no parent complaints have come in to the YO board or Rec Commission except from one couple. How much as we supposed to get involved in an independent 501c3 organization when they are following their bylaws. Paul Weldon said we have had parent complaints on the

YO board for many years if not since last April. Again he doesn't know what has changed in the organization they are still electing family members to board seats.

Toni Rispoli call for a motion on the matter as to how the YO head coaching selection interview process. Ms. Rispoli said we implemented a three year process last year. Do the Commissioners wish to stay with that previous decision.

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| Motion | To have Commissioners Gras and Trinkle be involved in the 2021 YO head coach selection process by attending all meetings and ensuring bylaws are being followed but to not have any vote in the selection of coaches. The three person panel in accordance with YO bylaws will be implemented. Motion made by Commissioner Gras Seconded by Commissioner Russ |
| Vote | Motion carried 6-0-1 Gallagher, Gras, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon - yes / Rispoli - abstain |

Toni Rispoli said moving forward YO will proceed with their interview panel according to their bylaws, but if anything is found in violation of their bylaws we can deny their use of parks application. A letter will be written and given to YO on this decision.

b. Nature Reserve – Fit Trail Proposal

Rick Audet said that Nature Reserve Board Chairman Marc Friedman recently contacted the Department on a Nature Reserve matter. Their board wishes to install fitness elements within the Nature Reserve in close proximity to the walking path. This would allow people who are there for using the trails another option for exercise. Paul Weldon said that the Nature Reserve board has done a lot of work on the property through public works and the small funds they have been given. A larger set of funds that can go to the Nature Reserve is coming soon. There have been nice improvements out there. Rick Audet stated that this proposal is in accordance with their vision plan. They are also seeking erosion control, additional benches and various improvements.

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| Motion | To allow the Nature Reserve Board to install fitness elements in the Reserve as detailed in the letter from Marc Friedman. Motion made by Commissioner Warrell Seconded by Commissioner Smith |
| Vote | Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon - yes |

Bill Warrell asked Rick Audet if the Nature Reserve Board can address the access roadway behind their entrance gate. The Nature Reserve Board needs to ensure that the roadway is suitable for emergency vehicle access into the reserve. They have in the past had to take their fire rescue down into that area. Rick Audet said he will address this matter with Mr. Friedman right away and follow up with Mr. Warrell. Paul Weldon said he will bring it up at the next Nature Reserve meeting as well.

Correspondence (Minutes and Submittals)

Christine Gras stated that she has done her due diligence with EHT Youth Softball in response to concerns expressed to her. The EHT Youth Softball minutes tell the story. At the last meeting, the board had 5 people in attendance. This is short of a quorum and they held votes anyway. The EHT Youth Softball board does not announce their meetings. The last entry on their website is dated April 2019. The question arises if the meetings exist and if any decisions made at meetings that are not posted are valid according to Roberts Rules. Meetings were not advertised anywhere. Their bylaws state that their board meetings are to be held on Mondays. Their meetings are not being held on Mondays.

According to Ms. Gras, read she in the minutes that a travel team had \$4600 left in their team account. The softball board decides to divide that money between 7 players on the team. They got the team money kicked back to them. People have told Ms. Gras that some people get a check from EHT Youth Softball when they leave the team when a team disbands. Their organization should be able to answer these concerns. All matters of the organization must be kept above board. When they had a previous treasurer and secretary were on the board, allegedly funds left over when a team disbanded went back to the organization. Soccer and Baseball do it that way, travel team funds are put back into the organization. The families are not given back a check. Additionally, it was only seven girls who got a check back. This is a very slippery slope.

Those are three major concerns. We are trying to keep all organizations above board. When a board is run properly it trickles down through the organization. Christine suggests a motion be made to hold a special meeting with all members of the EHT Youth Softball board in attendance. Toni Rispoli stated that we have done this in the past. We did this two years ago with another organization. The concerns being discussed here tonight must be discussed with their board. Toni Rispoli said based on the minutes and what is being discussed tonight, all Commissioners need copies of the minutes. Ms. Rispoli agrees that we should bring in the softball board in for a meeting to review the concerns. Rick Audet will email all softball board minutes and bylaws to all Commissioners.

Dates for the meeting were discussed. It was decided that we would hold a special meeting on March 24 at 6:00 p.m. Rick Audet will contact the softball board to advise them of the special meeting date and time.

Toni Rispoli discussed the liaison assignments. She would like to change the liaisons every two years. For now, she wants to leave Christine with YO. Commissioners were in support. Most meetings are Tuesday or Thursday nights. There should not be weekend meetings. Travel Basketball liaison - Charlie Gallagher. Baseball liaison - Paul Trinkle.

Lacrosse liaison - Bill Warrell. Softball liaison – Paul Weldon. Soccer liaison – Stan Russ. BMX and Street Hockey liaison – Amy Smith. Wrestling liaison will be the new Recreation Commissioner soon to be named. YO liaison – Christine Gras. Rick Audet will send an email to each organization, and ask them to reach out to their new liaison and clearly communicate their meeting schedule.

a. Adult Recreation Field Use Fees

Toni Rispoli said that Commissioners have received a packet on information on field use fees, our current fee schedule and recommended changes. Rick Audet stated that based on Commissioners feedback, all aspects of the field use fees are ok, however Category IV field use fees with lights need to be addressed. This would affect all applicants

moving forward including youth travel baseball teams. The current policy and fees and our options to change the fees was discussed.

Actual field lighting costs borne by the Township was provided by Rick Audet in his memo. Current fees were discussed. The difference between category IV and V applicants was reviews, based on percentage of residents on the roster. A season long fee for a team was discussed. The fees are for outside teams. The field use application from Elmo Wright was received at a previous meeting.

All Category IV users are charged the same fees. The Commission discussed the fees being charged to groups for field use with lights. Bill Warrell suggested we charge Category IV users \$60 for up to 3 hours of field use with lights and also charge each team \$100 for every non-resident player on their roster. If a group does not turn in an accurate roster they will be denied all future use of parks applications.

The Commission decided to charge Category IV field use applicants with lights \$60 for up to 3 hours of use and also charge each non-resident a \$100 fee.

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| Motion | To approve field use fees for a team in Category IV would be charged \$60 for up to Motion made by Commissioner Weldon Seconded by Commissioner Gras |
| Vote | Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon |

Public Comment

Chairperson Rispoli opened Public Comment. Chasity Branca stated she put in a use of parks application for YO to sponsor and host an adult flag football tournament. She thought it would be on the agenda tonight. She is asking for the fields for June 5 and 6. Toni Rispoli stated that specific times for the tournament needed to be given to Recreation. The hosting group will be responsible for lining their own fields. Chasity Branca agreed. The applicant would also have to measure and see if the fields can fit into the space.

Trash would need to be picked up during and after the event and make sure no trash made its way onto school grounds or was left in the park. Chasity Branca said they were hoping for 120 yard fields. Paul Weldon stated that 120 yards may not be possible based on the space available YO and their co-host need to go out and re-measure the area. Rick Audet asked if they could use 80 yard field with 10 yard endzones or if they are playing under some sanctioned rules. It was decided that YO has to measure their space and determine for themselves what fields will fit.

Public Comment closed at 10:03 p.m.

Adjournment

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| Motion | To approve adjourn the meeting at 10:04 p.m. Motion made by Commissioner Gras Seconded by Commissioner Weldon |
| Vote | Motion carried 7-0 Gallagher, Gras, Rispoli, Smith, Trinkle, Warrell, Weldon |

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Minutes as heard by Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Toni-Lynn Rispoli, Chairperson

Rick Audet, Parks and Recreation Director

These Minutes were approved on / / _____
