

# Board of Recreation Commissioners

Egg Harbor Township, NJ

## REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 11, 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

William Warrell, Vice Chair - Present

Charles Gallagher - Present

Paul Weldon - Present

Kevin Stetser – Present

Amy Smith – Present

Paul Trinkle – Present

Christine Gras (Alt. 1) - Excused

Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Present

**V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes**

a. Regular Meeting February 12, 2020

Toni Rispoli stated that the minutes from 2/12/20 should be amended as follows: Under VIII. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups – Presidents Presentations, EHT Baseball Association.

Change: *The Recreation Commission voted and approved the three non-resident players for the travel team. To: The Recreation Commission tabled the matter.*

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the 2/12/20 Regular Meeting minutes as edited above.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Kevin Stetser
<b>Vote</b>	Motion carried 6-0-1 (Bill Warrell abstain)

**VI. Public Comment**

None. Commission Chair Toni Rispoli closed Public Comment.

**VII. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups**

None. No groups were present.

**VIII. New Business**

a. Discussion on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Recreation Commission discussed the current Coronavirus outbreak and impact on local programs and organizations. The plans for the school district as related to Coronavirus were also discussed. Rick Audet summarized the status of the sponsored youth sports organizations and the plans for closing Township parks.

**IX. Closed Session**

Authorizing the Recreation Commission to convene into a Closed Executive Session to discuss matters which may involve personnel and/or legal matters.

The Recreation Commission discussed the issues and concerns with certain conduct and operations of the Youth Organization in recent years. The recent efforts by some members of the board to elect teenage children of board members to board seats was discussed. The Commission stated that this is a transparent effort to stack votes for certain board members and for upcoming votes on head coaches. The history of concerns with Youth Organization was discussed including multiple violations of bylaws, holding football practice in 100 degree heat index, the state police investigation of their finances, and others.

One of the primary reasons the Commission is working on solutions to the issues is that many parents and families in YO have come forward to the Commission with their concerns. There were significant problems and issues with the cheer camps and cheer operations last year. The Commission is concerned

that cheerleading leaders in the organization have too much control towards football operation and the negative impact on football this creates including safety. The Commission discussed their attendance at the YO board meeting earlier this year where we stated our belief that only one team at every level needs to be formed instead of two teams formed which in recent years has created roster sizes of 16-17 kids. The Commission is concerned for the safety of the football players. The YO board as a whole seems resistant to the move to one team or stated that they are a “year or two” away from this move. Toni Rispoli asked Rick Audet to draft a letter stating that only one teams will be allowed to be formed at a given level unless a strong turnout of registrations allowed for two teams.

Multiple options of dealing with the YO board and attempting to solve the concerns the Commission holds were discussed, including:

Replacing boardmembers in Youth Organization

Considering a possible formation of a new youth football / cheer based non-profit organization who could apply for the right to be the sponsored youth football/cheer organization and be awarded the annual field permit. Rick Audet shared his previous experience in another town where multiple travel soccer organizations wanted to be the sponsored provider and his Department formed a sub-committee to meet with and vote on the chosen organization.

To run a football/cheer program through Parks and Recreation as a Recreation program.

The pros and cons of each option was discussed. The Commission has the right to not issue a field use permit to YO at any given year.

Motion – To pass a vote of no confidence in the YO board. The Commission will further explore and discuss various options that would bring about a new leadership group for football/cheer in EHT. The Commission will consult with Township Committee and Township Administrator on this matter for their input.

Motion made by Paul Weldon.

Seconded by Kevin Stetser.

Motion passed 6-1 (Trinkle – No)

**X. Use of Parks Facility Requests**

a. US Coast Guard Tony Canale Park 4/4/20

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by U.S. Coast Guard.</b> Motion made by Charlie Gallagher Seconded by Bill Warrell
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

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

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by St. Katherine Drexel Parish.</b> Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Kevin Stetser
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

c. Prestige Soccer Training Tony Canale Park / Bargaintown Park 3/18-5/22/20

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by Prestige Soccer Training.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Paul Trinkle
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

d. South Jersey Mens Senior Baseball Bargaintown Park 4/5/20-8/30/20

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the Park use request as presented by South Jersey Men’s Senior Baseball.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Kevin Stetser
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Rick Audet was asked to confirm the correct legal name for the league as it was difficult to read on the application.

**XI. Director's Report**

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet informed the Commission that the 2020 Spring Program Guide is now available and registration for spring programs begins this Friday. Mr. Audet summarized the Mayor's Wellness Campaign initiative that Parks and Recreation was coordinating with Mayor Hodson and Deputy Mayor Pfrommer. Lastly, Mr. Audet discussed this year's capital budget with the Commission and the project funds that are approved.

**XII. Old Business**

a. EHT Soccer Club Bylaws Revision – Commission Review

The Recreation Commission finalized their review of the bylaw revisions above. The Commission stated that the Soccer Club board needs to add: Board members and coaches must be background checked. With this change the bylaws as revised are approved by the Commission.

b. EHT Travel Basketball Bylaws Revision – Commission Review

The Recreation Commission finalized their review of the bylaw revisions above. The Commission stated that the travel basketball board needs to add: Board members and coaches must be background checked. With this change the bylaws as revised are approved by the Commission.

**XIII. Correspondence**

EHT Youth Group Minutes

A. Baseball Association – 9/5/19

B. BMX – 1/13/20

C. Youth Organization – 10/2/19

D. Jr. Wrestling – 12/17/19, 1/28/20

E. Lacrosse – 6/13/2019

F. Soccer Club – 10/8/19

G. Street Hockey Association – 12/16/19, 1/6/20

H. Travel Basketball – 1/9/20

I. Youth Softball – 10/6/19

Handouts

a. EHT Soccer Club – 2019 990 Tax Returns (on file in office)

b. EHT YO Treasurer's Report 12/4/19

c. EHT Soccer Club Board – updated 2/4/20

The Commission directed Rick Audet to draft guidelines on the operation of concessions for our sponsored youth groups to follow. The Commission asked Rick Audet to follow up with the Jr. Wrestling Club on the vendor listed in their financials: EZ Tournament and ask what the cost or service was for. There was discussion from the Commission on if it was permissible for Jr. Wrestling Club to use the Soccer Club's raffle number.

**XIV. Tabled Matters**

None.

**XV. Public Comment**

None. Commission Chair Toni Rispoli closed Public Comment.

XVI. Adjournment

Motion	To adjourn the March 11, 2020 meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 9:30 p.m. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Jonathan Parker
Vote	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

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

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Toni Rispoli, Chair

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Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation

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These minutes were approved at the June 10, 2020 Recreation Commission Meeting.  
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