

Egg Harbor Township Board of Recreation Commissioners Meeting  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

**SPECIAL MEETING - MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, May 20, 2020 5:00pm**

**I. Call to Order**

Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 – Absent

Kevin Stetser – Present

Amy Smith – Present

Paul Trinkle – Present

Christine Gras (Alt. 1) - Present

Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – 6:50 p.m.

**V. Public Comment**

None. Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli closed public comment.

**VI. New Business**

Discussion of Youth Organization

The March 11, 2020 meeting was discussed pertaining to the conversations held on the YO program. The draft minutes of the meeting were reviewed. The draft letter to YO which summarizes our concerns and certain safety related mandates was reviewed.

Amy Smith stated that our conversation on the YO board was a vote of no confidence and not an action plan to try to replace the organization with another group.

The Commission discussed what course of action would be supported by Township Committee.

The Commission discussed and agreed that some levels of play don't have enough participants to support two teams. Therefore, for safety reasons YO must have one team at all levels of play that don't have the numbers to support two teams.

Toni Rispoli stated that we have to undertake proper progressive steps of discipline with a sponsored organization. Full communication and a chance for corrective actions with the group must be offered prior to any action to remove a sponsored group. There was discussion on how travel basketball was run by Parks and Recreation for a short time and then transferred to a new board that had been installed to run the program.

Christine Gras stated that while she was not able to attend the March meeting. She felt like she was not involved in these discussions sufficiently as the liaison. Ms. Gras stated that the discussions on a course of action the Recreation Commission had is not the right way to proceed.

Kevin Stetser summarized for the Commission the concerns and bylaw violations by YO in recent years. Mr. Stetser stated that formal decisive action must be taken in order to ensure that the right group of leaders are in place to run the best football/cheer organization possible. He further stated that it is up to the Recreation Commission to ensure youth sports in EHT is done the right way. Mr. Stetser stated that he would like to be very involved with youth football in Egg Harbor Township moving forward. Kevin offered his services as a person with significant experience in football.

Bill Warrell summarized his takeaway from the March meeting and how we should proceed with YO for their next season. There was discussion on how information from Recreation Commission meetings was passed, through back channels, to members of YO in past years.

The Commission requested that the Parks and Recreation Director finalize the draft of the letter based on tonight's discussion and send it to all Commissioners for review. The letter should address the vote of no confidence, safety issues, and be succinct with bullet points. The letter should also state that a monitor or additional level of oversight may be put in place. The letter will also state that concerns and changes must be addressed or a new leadership group could be chosen for the park permit to run football/cheer in the future.

Christine Gras's role as the YO liaison must continue. She maintains an active role in the oversight of YO's operations as it relates to our policies and procedures and YO's bylaws. Christine has a good working relationship with the organization. Kevin Stetser indicated that he would like to assist Christine in areas that relates to football coaching in the organization. In order for YO to receive the field permit this fall, they will need to field one team at each level. The selection of head coaches for teams must be done in accordance with their bylaws.

The Commission asked Rick Audet to help draft a job description of a monitor. The letter to YO will include the decisions made by the Commission. Rick Audet was asked to bring the letter and our mandates to the attention of Township Committee.

**VII. Closed Session**

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

**VIII. Public Comment**

None. Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli closed public comment.

**VIII. Adjournment**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To adjourn the May 20, 2020 meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 7:10 p.m.</b> Motion made by Bill Warrell 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.*

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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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