

Board of Recreation Commissioners

Egg Harbor Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 2020

6:00pm

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Recreation Commission Chair 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

Director of Parks and Recreation Rick Audet read the Opening Statement.

IV. Roll Call:

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| Toni Rispoli, Chair - Present | Amy Smith – Present |
| William Warrell, Vice Chair - Present | Paul Trinkle – Present |
| Charles Gallagher - Present | Christine Gras, Secretary (Alt. 1) - Present |
| Paul Weldon – Present | Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Present (Arrived 7:45) |
| Kevin Stetser - Present | |

V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting December 11, 2019

Toni Rispoli requested a change to the following minutes where it stated: “The Township would retain the services of its local engineering firm as the civil engineer for the project.” To: “The Township would retain the services of an engineering firm as the civil engineer for the project.” There was no further comment or discussion on the minutes.

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| Motion | To approve the 12/11/19 Regular Meeting minutes as amended. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Christine Gras |
| Vote | All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0. |

VI. Public Comment

None. Chairperson Rispoli closed Public Comment.

VII. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups

Matt Bailey, 107 Cabot Lane, stated that the soccer club is busy and everything is going well. Travel Soccer has begun registrations for the spring, micro/intramural registration begins this coming Friday. They have sent a flyer to the school. The intramurals program will be run in-house with the exception of one team. The U15 team may participate in the shore league. The soccer club is currently reviewing their bylaws and will need to revise their existing bylaws. Toni Rispoli noted that the bylaws need to be sent in to the Commission for review before they are finalized. The soccer club is also in their second round of nominations for board positions.

The new soccer goals at Bargaintown Park were paid for by the Soccer Club. The nets are taken down each year by Public Works. Christine Gras asked Matt Bailey who on the soccer club board plans to step down that he is aware of. Matt Bailey stated that the board is adding a person to focus on marketing for the club.

VIII. Old Business

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

The proposed project of expanding the athletic fields at Tony Canale Park was stated and quickly summarized for the Commission. Rick Audet stated that the Township Administrator has requested the Commission review the project as well as the needs of our youth groups in the Township and formulate a recommendation that can be passed on to Township Committee.

How the use of the fields would be structured and organized was discussed. The possibility of a synthetic turf field at both Canale and Vets Park was discussed. Permit fees that the Township could collect from the use of the turf fields was discussed. Kevin Stetser summarized the turf fields that exist in our area already.

The Commission discussed how the loan and grant would work and what the totals of each were.

Amy Smith stated that she thinks two turf fields are needed for our youth groups, however she is concerned with the impact on the community and our taxpayers if the project moves forward at the same time the school district is planning two turf fields. Ms. Smith further stated that one turf field would be a good start and would not take away potential capital funding to the youth groups that would not be using that amenity. Bill Warrell stated his concern that the location of the turf field at Veteran's Memorial Park would not be an ideal one, nor function well as the game field area. There was discussion on the Green Acres program, and what would change at a park where Green Acres money was accepted for and then beholden to the Green Acres regulations.

Christine Gras stated that about 500 soccer players in EHT Soccer club play year round, the numbers of both football and lacrosse combined are below that. Therefore, the best use of these funds may be for the field to be located at Canale Park. The expansion of A.C.I.T. and the impact on local taxes was discussed. Kevin Stetser stated that the School District's relationship with the Township and vice versa is unfortunate as to the lack of cooperation that exists between the two. Mr. Stetser further stated that three or four turf fields in the Township may not be wise and the taxpayers may be upset at three turf fields in our Township being funded. He used the example of the fields at Southern Regional High School and the use of that facility that is coordinated between the school district and municipality.

Toni Rispoli stated that the school district has informed her they are pursuing two turf fields at this time, a replacement of their existing field and a new field. Paul Weldon stated the Township has taken on field projects in the past and this scope and cost.

Matt Bailey stated that he was the only youth group representative to show up tonight. He stated that the EHT Soccer Club is willing to help with funding for the project to the best extent they are able to. There was discussion on if the full expansion project was still in play in light of the Green Acres and Pinelands Commission restrictions on the land that the Township Administrator explained at the December meeting. Rick Audet stated that he met with the Administrator recently and confirmed with him that the full expansion project is still in play. Rick Audet stated that their decision making and discussions tonight should include this option.

Bill Warrell stated that the EHT soccer club has proven itself over the past number of years and is still growing. Paul Weldon stated that it may not be right to provide a one million dollar plus facility that only one group would benefit from. He further stated that we need more space, we have done big projects in the past, and with the economy that now may be the best time for the loan. Toni Rispoli stated that she wants to meet with the Administrator to further discuss all aspects of the project and funding. Ms. Rispoli will keep the Commission advised with any additional information she may receive.

Mark Mensh, 2 Dockside Drive, arrived at the meeting after agenda item VII. Dr. Mensh stated that the YO will hold elections for board seats in February. There was no meeting in January. He summarized what seats are up for nominations and elections as he could best recall. The president and treasurer seats are up. Dr. Mensh informed Rick Audet that the fieldhouse meeting room is too cold. Rick Audet stated that he would follow up with the PW buildings manager on fixing the problem.

b. 2019 Coach of the Year Nominations

The Commission continued its review of the nomination applications received for the 2019 Coach of the Year award. The Commission discussed the applications and selected three finalists. There was a motion and second for a final candidate. A vote was held and the winner was selected. There will be a presentation at the February Commission meeting for the selected coach.

IX. New Business

a. Nomination & Election of Officers

Rick Audet summarized the nomination and election of officers procedure according to our bylaws. There was discussion on what seats were up tonight and the length of term.

Nomination for Recreation Commission Chair

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| Motion | Paul Weldon made a motion to nominate Toni Rispoli for Recreation Commission Chair. Seconded by Kevin Stetser |
| Vote | All voted in favor. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Rispoli abstain.) |

Nomination for Recreation Commission Vice-Chair

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| Motion | Paul Weldon made a motion to nominate Bill Warrell for Recreation Commission Vice-Chair. Seconded by Christine Gras |
| Vote | All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0. |

Nomination for Recreation Commission Secretary

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| Motion | Paul Weldon made a motion to eliminate the position of Secretary for this year. Seconded by Bill Warrell |
| Vote | All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0. |

Toni Rispoli discussed liaison assignments for all Commissioners and opened the floor for any discussion or changes members may want to see. There was a brief discussion. The liaison assignments are as follows for 2020:

- Toni Rispoli - none
- Bill Warrell – Street Hockey, BMX
- Charlie Gallagher - Softball
- Paul Weldon - Soccer
- Kevin Stetser – Jr. Wrestling
- Amy Smith - Lacrosse
- Paul Trinkle – Travel Basketball
- Christine Gras - YO
- Jonathan Park – Baseball

The Commission discussed the status of tackle football in the Township. Toni Rispoli stated that we might want to put in place a rule on the minimum number our football teams carry so that we are not fielding teams that are too small in numbers and potentially creating a safety concern. There was discussion on how the leagues work, our current football roster sizes, and how we can create change. Toni Rispoli asked Rick Audet to send a communication to the YO Board that the Commission is concerned with the recent team sizes and for them to start thinking of contracting to one team at every level should it become necessary to do so. It was agreed that a team should have 25 kids or so to be viable and that they need to consolidate if they do not meet those numbers. It was suggested that we can invite the YO Board to meet with some members of the Commission at 6:00 p.m. on February 12 to review our concern.

The hockey court lights are being left on far too frequently when the courts are not in use. There was discussion on how the lights work at the hockey courts, how they are scheduled and how they turn on. Bill Warrell was directed to call the Street Hockey President on this matter and ensure that the problem ceases.

Bill Warrell asked if it would be beneficial to have a youth group of the year award. The Commission agreed that it would not be.

X. **Use of Parks Facility Requests**

- a. Womens Ball Hockey League Veteran’s Park Hockey Courts 3/11/2020-6/17/2020

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| Motion | To approve the park use request for Womens Ball Hockey as presented. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Christine Gras |
| Vote | All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0. |

XI. **Director’s Report**

None

XII. Correspondence

EHT Youth Group Minutes

- A. Baseball Association – 9/5/19
- B. BMX – last received 4/6/19
- C. Youth Organization – 10/2/19
- D. Jr. Wrestling – 9/12/19
- E. Lacrosse – 6/13/2019
- F. Soccer Club – 1/8/20
- G. Street Hockey Association – 12/16/19
- H. Travel Basketball – 10/10/19
- I. Youth Softball – 6/9/19

Handouts

- A. EHT Soccer Club Financials 11/30/19
- B. EHT Soccer Club Financials Jan-Dec, 2019

XIII. Tabled Matters

XIV. Public Comment

XV. Adjournment

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| Motion | To adjourn the January 8, 2020 meeting of the Recreation Commission at 8:31 p.m. Motion made by Paul Trinkle Seconded by Paul Weldon |
| Vote | 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 February 12, 2020 Recreation Commission Meeting.
