

Board of Recreation Commissioners

Egg Harbor Township, NJ

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

7:00pm

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 (7:05 p.m.) | Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Absent |
| Kevin Stetser - Excused | |

V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting November 13, 2019

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| Motion | To approve the 11/13/19 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Christine Gras |
| Vote | All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0-2. (A. Smith and P. Trinkle abstain) |

VI. Public Comment

None. Chairperson Rispoli closed Public Comment.

VII. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups

Mark Mensh, 2 Dockside Drive, is the Youth Organization liaison to the Recreation Commission. Dr. Mensh stated that the YO season is over. The Cape Pee Wee team won the championship. Nominations for expiring YO board positions were held at their last meeting. There is no meeting in January. They will hold elections at their February meeting. Dr. Mensh also stated that the meeting room was cold at their last meeting. Rick Audet stated that he would ask the Public Works buildings foreman to look into it. Youth Organization board is allowed to meet in the community center over the winter months. However, they have to finish their meeting and vacate the center by 9:15 as the building closes at 9:30 and their meetings often run later than that time.

Matt Bailey, 107 Cabot Lane, EHT Soccer Club President, provided an update to the Commission. Their season is over. The travel program this past year was successful having seven champions in their respective flights. This was their first year conducting the intramural program in-house. The program was all co-ed. The soccer club board received a few complaints that some girls didn't play as much as other players. The club plans to host tryouts and evaluations for spring play and they will run a draft for the teams. A couple of outside towns may join their recreation league play. The board brought back the trainers for micro and intramural teams this past season. Mr. Bailey stated it was a great season and they had no issues.

Joe Olivieri, 120 Carmel Drive, EHT Soccer Club Vice President stated that it was a very successful season. They are continuing to build their in-house rec program. There were a number of irrigation related issues with the fields this past fall that they had to deal with. The fields had to be closed frequently due to the irrigation problems and rain. The fields can't handle water and require being closed frequently.

VIII. New Business

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

Peter Miller, Township Administrator, presented to the Commission a summary of the proposed Tony Canale Park fields expansion project. The Township submitted a grant application to the Green Acres program. We have been awarded a \$750,000 grant. The grant requires a \$2.2 million dollar match by the Township. As an alternative, if the project we wish to pursue is less than that cost, the grant can be taken partly as a grant and partly as a loan. The NJ Pinelands Commission has a restriction in place, related to sewers, on developing this land. The Township would be required to permanently restrict some land within the park to meet their requirements.

Mr. Miller informed the Commission about loans from the Green Acres program and how they work. Mr. Miller continued by stating that if the Recreation Commission decides to move forward with the fields expansion project and a loan is obtained for its funding the Commission will give up some capital funding in future years. Much of the regular annual capital project funding provided will go towards paying off the loan for the project. Mr. Miller advised that youth football numbers are shrinking and we should closely examine our needs.

Amy Smith stated that the field can be lined for multiple sports. Field rentals can generate revenue for a Township. It would be wrong to say we don't need the field because football numbers are declining. The Commission discussed the proposed turf field and schedule and how many groups can use the field.

Peter Miller stated that he is giving an alternative option to the original proposed project tonight as well. Mr. Miller handed out a rendering of a new parking lot and a proposed turf field on the existing soccer field 7 at Canale Park . He estimates a new synthetic turf field at Canale would cost approximately \$1 million with a parking lot at approximately \$300,000. Therefore, the grant we recently obtained would actually become a \$250,000 grant and \$500,000 loan. The Township would come up with approximately \$600,000 to fund the balance of the project. The proposed parking lot provided by Mr. Miller can be changed or altered as well depending on our final design. Bill Warrell asked Mr. Miller to confirm that we are not handcuffing ourselves with regards to the Pinelands Commission regulations.

Peter Miller stated that another alternative could be to convert football/lacrosse practice field 3 to a synthetic turf field. This second step could be done concurrent to first field or be completed a few years out. A field in this location would be used by football in the fall, lacrosse would have it all spring, and it would eliminate EHT Baseball giving up field 3 each fall. It was discussed by the Commission that in 10-12 years the color bleaches out of the synthetic turf fibers. Further discussion of schedules and field use and how fields are lined was held.

Mr. Miller stated that if football stays out at Vets Park, the Parks and Recreation Department will have to manage the master schedule for all users including possible outside permitted groups. Toni Rispoli stated that a local adult sports provider such as Playmore would pay substantial field use permit fees that could potentially generate revenue for the Township. The Commission and Mr. Miller further discussed use of field, options, schedule and logistics in the proposed field. Mr. Miller asked the Commission to consider if this proposed field expansion concept appeals to us and if the Commission considers it a wise use of Township funds.

Matt Bailey stated that soccer lines fields for 11 v 11, 9 v 9, and 7 v 7 play. The lining of the proposed turf field at Canale was discussed and what sports would be lined on the field. It was discussed that if the field is lined for 4 sports: football, soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, there are two additional size fields needed for soccer and lacrosse. All the lines that are needed would not fit onto one field.

Paul Weldon asked if we look to install two turf fields at the same time, would we get same level of grant funding from Green Acres. Mr. Miller replied no. Frank Balles, Township Committee member, asked that if the project were to go through, what time of year would the Township look for complete the project, how long construction could be expected to take, and how long would fields be down for use by our youth groups. Mr. Miller replied that construction for this alternative single field project should take approximately 4 months, the parking lot could be built at the same time as the field. Mr. Miller further stated that ideally we would start by June 1, 2020 and be done by October 1.

Amy Smith asked if it is more cost effective to do two fields at once. Would a contractor generally work with us and provide a unit cost break for the second field as they are mobilized in town. Ms. Smith further stated that the adults in our community have needs for available fields as well. Ms. Smith stated that she

thinks it is very unfortunate that the school district and Township continue to have internal struggles and don't work together. An example of this being the proposed installation of synthetic turf fields by both entities going on at the same time without any cooperation.

Bill Warrell asked if we can do both fields, one at each park, and be able to fund it. Mr. Miller replied yes however asked if the Recreation Commission is willing to put off any capital projects for 4 years if we look to install two turf fields. Mr. Miller stated that between now and our January meeting he is seeking feedback on what the Commission feels is in the best interests of the residents and our sponsored youth sport groups moving forward.

Toni Rispoli asked Peter Miller if he had reached out to school district superintendent Kim Gruccio in regards to our interest in expanding our fields. Mr. Miller replied that he did speak with her on it on one occasion. The history of the turf field at the high school and the offer of money from the Township at the time to be able to use the field was discussed. Mr. Miller stated that the Township is apprehensive to formulate an agreement with the school district as they have a history of charging the Township for all use of their facilities when the Township has not charged the school district for the use of Township facilities.

Christine Gras and Amy Smith stated their concern for the taxpayers in our community if the Township and the School District both seek to build (or rebuild) four turf fields at the same time. Bill Warrell stated that he is not in favor of a joint venture with the school district. Peter Miller stated that the projects may get a discount on mobilization costs for such a venture but the economy of scale is not great. Christine Gras stated that it would be better to get one field right instead of two fields wrong.

Peter Miller was asked about the architects and engineers of the proposed project. Mr. Miller replied that there is a reputable synthetic turf field design company in Moorestown that he would consider working with and may be a good fit for the project. The Township would also retain the services of an engineering firm as the civil engineer for other aspects of the project including the parking lot.

There was further discussion on the use and needs of fields in the Township by our sponsored youth groups and the community. Peter Miller asked the Commission for their formal recommendation by January 15, 2020. It may be advisable for representatives of the Commission to attend the January 15, 2020 Township Committee meeting to workshop on this topic.

Toni Rispoli thanked Peter Miller for his time and the information he provided tonight. She stated the Commission will get a recommendation to him as requested. Ms. Rispoli informed Peter Miller that the community center is greatly in need of blinds in more of our fitness rooms for many important reasons. Mr. Miller responded that he has authorized Rick Audet to seek quotes for blinds.

b. 2019 Coach of the Year Nominations

The Commission went into a closed executive session and reviewed all Coach of the Year nomination forms that we have received to date. A winner will be selected and presented their award at the February 12, 2020 Recreation Commission meeting.

IX. Use of Parks Facility Requests

None.

X. Director's Report

None.

XI. Old Business

a. Delilah Oaks Park Pickleball Court Hours – discussion amendment to Township Ordinance

Rick Audet stated to the Commission that the residents near Delilah Oaks Park continue to have significant concerns on the use of the pickleball courts and the noise they create. The residents strongly contend that it is a nuisance to those living near the courts. The park neighbors further contend that some people play before and after the current approved park use hours. Rick Audet recommended to the Commission that they should consider an ordinance change that would limit the hours of use allowed on the pickleball court. This approach would allow many hours of court use each day while also giving the neighbors some consideration as well. A discussion was held on the merit of limiting the hours of use.

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| Motion | To amend the pickleball court hours to 9am-6pm daily by ordinance. Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Amy Smith |
| Vote | Motion carried 6-0-1. (Gallagher abstained) |

XII. Correspondence

EHT Youth Group Minutes

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| A. Baseball Association – 9/5/19 | F. Soccer Club – 10/8/19 |
| B. BMX – last received 4/6/19 | G. Street Hockey Association – 10/21, 11/4/19 |
| C. Youth Organization – 10/2/19 | H. Travel Basketball – 10/10/19 |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – 9/12/19 | I. Youth Softball – 6/9/19 |
| E. Lacrosse – 6/13/2019 | |

Handouts

- A. EHT Street Hockey Board of Directors
- B. EHT Soccer Club Board of Directors
- C. EHT Soccer Club Financials 10/31/19
- D. EHT Travel Basketball practice schedule, coaches list, team rosters

XIII. Tabled Matters

XIV. Public Comment

XV. Adjournment

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| Motion | To adjourn the December 11, 2019 meeting of the Recreation Commission at 9:20 p.m. Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Christine Gras |
| 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 January 8, 2020 Recreation Commission Meeting.
