

Egg Harbor Township Recreation Commission Meeting
EHT Community Center 5045 English Creek Avenue
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

7:00pm

Minutes

I. **Call to Order by Chairman Fairfield.**

II. **Pledge of Allegiance.**

III. **Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act** read by Commissioner Rispoli.

IV. **Roll Call:**

Robert Fairfield, Chair - Present	Charles Gallagher - Present
Carmen Messina, Vice Chair - Present	Justin Riggs – Present 7:02 p.m.
Toni Rispoli - Present	Paul Weldon - Present
Kathy Fiedor - Present	Kevin Stetser - Present
William Warrell - Present	

Laura Pfrommer (Township Committee Liaison)

Rick Audet (Director of Recreation) - Present

V. **Reading / Acceptance of Minutes**

a. Minutes – March 9, 2015

Commissioner Warrell made the motion to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Messina seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a vote of 9-0.

VI. **Presentations / Public Comment**

a. 2015/2016 Annual Snowman Contest Winners

Snowman and Snow Sculptures award winners received a trophy to commemorate the event. Honored recipients were Lucas Reichert, Abigail DeCosta, Isabella DeCosta, Haley Reinhard, Mikey Stapleton, Russel Green, Camryn Green, Isabella Pacheco, Kassie Johnson, Joseph Anderson, Gracie Raymond, Joseph Anderson, Luca Lopresti, Annaliese Lopresti, John Kukolo, Matisyn Kukorlo, Samantha Contino, and, Giana Contino.

b. 2015 Egg Harbor Township Coach of the Year Award

Kristy Gargan was honored as the 2015 Coach of the Year. Kristy is the past President of EHT Running Eagles Lacrosse. She stepped up as President when it was need most. She was instrumental in getting the program on track and moving forward. Her dedication to the program is evident by her passion and conviction. Congratulations on an award well deserved.

c. EHT Youth Groups

EHT Lacrosse-

Vice President Andrew Gargan indicated that the fields look good. He thanked Public Works for their effort. Drew inquired whether there was a place to store some of their items over the winter. The box that they are using isn't water proof. Recreation Director Audet said that small items, such as, their electronic score boards could be stored at the Community Center.

EHTBA-

Kim Feinstein, Treasurer/Field Coordinator, reported that there is a huge difference in the condition of the fields. Public Works has re-done all of the mounds with clay bricks. Work on field 3 is ahead of schedule. Sod is to be delivered next week. 100 tons of dirt has been spread and 100 tons more will be delivered. The shed is up to code and inspected. Bargaintown park had the first and third baselines realigned and work on the mound. Kim asked about water bibs being installed to wet down the infields. Vice Chair Messina advised that Public Works would need to assess the situation.

April 4 is Baseball's soft opening and April 9 is the official opening day.

d. Public Comment

EHT Elite Football

Chris Souder spoke before the Commission. Chris asked whether the Recreation Commission would lend support to their organization. He indicated that he is aware the Recreation Department certifies EHTYO's helmets. Chris asked for certification of their helmets and to be supplied with footballs.

Elite Football will hold sign-ups within the next few weeks. Since PAL Football has folded there is an outcry, by parents, to continue the program. Twelve former players have gone on to play D-1 and D-3 Football in College. Chris has met with the parents and they are asking how they can continue the program.

Chairman Fairfield explained that EHT Recreation already has a football program. He would find it difficult to endorse another football program when one already exists in the township.

Amber Smith indicated that they are all taxpayers who chose not to play under the direction of EHTYO.

Chris Souder explained that they went to Township Committee for help and were directed to the Recreation Commission. Chris went to the EHT Board of Education and they are working on a plan. Ray Ellis said he has been coaching football for 35 years. He came to introduce the program to the Commission.

Chairman Fairfield advised that there are fees to be paid to the EHTBOE for use of their facilities. Recreation Commission sponsored groups are charged a different fee for use of school facilities.

Commissioner Stetser stated that he played EHTYO football and was a co-founder of PAL football. He is now the Head Coach at EHTHS. Kevin put his heart and soul into the football programs. Kevin feels that there will be an issue with qualified coaches. He explained that every level needs five quality coaches. If there are twelve teams, sixty qualified coaches will be needed. Where will these coaches come from?

Ray Ellis disagreed. He felt that smaller teams of 20 players enabled the participants to actually learn the game. They get more play time and have a better understanding of the game. Ray thanked the Commission for their time.

EHTHS Wrestling

Mike Caiazza, EHTHS Head Wrestling Coach, addressed the Commission. Mike indicated that he has been coaching Wrestling for 30 years. He asked what the Recreation Commission's goal was for youth sports. Chairman Fairfield stated that our goal is to do the best for all of the Recreation programs. Mr. Caiazza said that he volunteers his time to help EHT Jr. Wrestling. Due to rumors that were spread, he was unable to use his wrestling room.

He asked Commissioner Riggs what was his role was for Recreation. Commissioner Riggs responded that his role is to give back to the community.

Coach Caiazza is upset that parents from EHT Jr. Wrestling are not supporting the High School program. He singled out an EHT Jr. Wrestling Coach who was promoting Holy Spirit Wrestling while at EHTHS matches. The Head Coach was cheering against EHTHS. Mike felt it was demoralizing to the EHTHS wrestlers.

Commissioner Fiedor indicated that there was a lot going on that he didn't know about. In particular EHTHS Coach Garret made derogatory remarks about an EHT Jr. Wrestler to his parents.

Chairman Fairfield explained that Commissioner Riggs was directed to speak with the EHTBOE for clarification regarding the Orchard Wrestling Club which practiced at the high school. Mike was concerned that the Recreation Commission did not speak to him first. It was explained that protocol was followed with regard to the Orchard Wrestling Club. Commissioner Riggs added that there is a fine line to walk when involved in Recreation Commission and EHTBOE situations. Commissioner Riggs apologized for appearing to circumvent Caiazza, however he must adhere to protocol.

Coach Caiazza stated that false information was on Facebook with regard to EHTHS charging to participate in the Orchard Wrestling Club. Commissioner Fiedor responded that EHT Jr. Wrestlers were encouraged, by the former President and Treasurer, to participate in the Orchard Wrestling Club and not EHT Jr. Wrestling. Each participant was charged \$60.00 to join the club.

Coach Caiazza stated that he needs support from the Recreation Commission and EHT Jr. Wrestling for his High School.

Vice-Chair Messina indicated that a lack of communication may have occurred. Chairman Fairfield advised the coach to reach out to EHT Jr. Wrestling. Both sides need to work together.

Director Audet added that It makes perfect sense for EHTHS and EHT Jr. Wrestling to work together. Harmonious relationships and communication work best. It is the parents right to decide where to send their child to school.

EHT Recreational Basketball-

Kim Feinstein stated that the referees for the Recreational Basketball league were of poor quality. He has video of a referee leaving the court before the game ended. Kim felt that the referees were not calling the game properly. He suggested that Director Audet go through an assignor to obtain better referees. Kim said that the referees and coaches act totally different when the Recreation Director or Dena Danz is present. Kim questioned why coaches who were not approved via the KidsSafe program were allowed on the court. Commissioner Rispoli advised that this incident was brought up at the March 9, 2016 meeting and has been resolved.

Director Audety explained that he was the new Director in January 2015. Referees were already in place. All of the referees used by Recreation are High School Officials. Until recently, Rick had not received any complaints regarding referees from coaches or parents. Director Audet is presently phasing out under performing referees for the 2016-2017 season. Commissioner Rispoli will obtain the names of the High School Basketball assignors for Director Audet.

Luis Mendez indicated that he has coached Recreation Basketball for four years. He thanked Director Audet for implementing mandatory play time for each participant. He does have a concern that many of the Recreational Basketball coaches do not possess a lot of knowledge of the game.

VII. Old Business

a. Capital Projects Update

Township Administrator Miller will present the budget on April 6, 2016.

Canale Park Bathroom

Two bids were received for the building. Bids are still needed for the site work.

Amphitheater roof

Engineer and Architect drawings have been received. Construction documents are being prepared.

Once accomplished the Township will go out to bid.

Resurfacing of the Canale park Tennis Courts

Anticipated to occur in May or June.

Surveillance cameras

Bids for electricians are needed.

b. Pickleball Courts

The Delilah Courts are now open. A porta-potty will be placed and benches for the participants will be installed. Two courts have been added to the main gym at the Community Center. The Fall Pickleball program will have three courts. They will play on two days, for an allotted time frame, but will not interfere with any recreation programs.

VIII. Use of Parks Facility Requests

a. ACBL Baseball

Vice-Chair Messina stated that work on Veteran's Park baseball field 3 should be completed by May 1, 2016. Therefore, EHTBA should not need to use the Bargaintown field. Carmen reiterated that adult leagues should only play at Bargaintown Park.

Commissioner Rispoli made a conditional motion to approve ACBL's use of Bargaintown Park. Vice-Chair Messina seconded the motion. A conditional vote of 9-0 was approved. Stipulations regarding the ACBL's use were that a Team roster and insurance be submitted and that ACBL understand that they are only permitted to use the Bargaintown field. Field 3 at Veteran's Park is off limits to the adult leagues.

IX. Director's Report

a. Memorial Bench plaque

Director Audet advised that Township Administrator and Committeewoman Pfrommer indicated that the Recreation Commission may manage this type of request. Administrator Miller recommended that the memorial plaque be applied to a new bench. Peter indicated that the family making the request should pay for it. The cost of which is approximately \$800.00. Chairman Fairfield advised that a policy regarding memorials must be formulated. Director Audet agreed that a discussion must ensue and a policy drafted.

b. Travel Basketball

Director Audet explained that Travel Basketball does not follow the policies of RecreationalEHT Youth Group They hold tryouts and make cuts. None of the Recreational programs do this. We need to meet with Travel Basketball to determine whether to take the program back under Recreation. The Travel Basketball President and Board will be invited to meet with the Recreation Commission at 6:00p.m. on May 11, 2016. This will be prior to the scheduled Recreation Commission meeting. Items to be discussed will include status of the organization, minutes, financials and how Travel Basketball should proceed. Vice-Chair Messina indicated that the Commission never approved Travel Basketball's by-laws and that they may need to be updated. Commissioner Warrell added that Travel Basketball needs to be held accountable.

X. New Business

Vote/Elections for Recreation Commission Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

Nominations were asked for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. No additional nominations were received. Chairman Fairfield, Vice-Chairman Messina and Secretary Rispoli were unanimously reappointed to their positions by a vote of 9-0.

BMX Jack Frost Race

Commissioner Warrell spoke on behalf of BMX. Bill attended the Jack Frost Tournament on March 19, 2016. Bill applauded BMX on the race and said they did a fantastic job. 450 riders participated in the event. The starting gate dropped every 60-90 seconds. It was an amazing race.

No Smoking signs

Chairman Fairfield advised that the signs will be posted in the near future.

XI. Correspondence

XII. EHT Youth Group Minutes

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| A. Baseball Association– last received 12/3/15 | F. Soccer Club – 2/9/16 |
| B. BMX –last received 2/18/16 | G. Street Hockey Association – 12/14/15 |
| C. Diamond Cheer | H. Travel Basketball – last received 5/14/15 |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – 12/17/15, 1/26/16, 2/23/16 | I. Youth Softball – last received 1/18/16 |
| E. Lacrosse – last received 1/27/16 | J. Youth Organization – last received 12/2/16 |

XIII. Handouts

- a. Grounds Department summary 3/23/16
Closed field signs work is in progress.

XIV. Tabled Matters

XV. Upcoming Events

XVI. Adjournment at 8:40 p.m.

Motion	Motion to adjourn the meeting from Chairman Fairfield, Seconded by Commissioner Warrell
Vote	9-0

Robert Fairfield, Chairman

Toni Rispoli, Secretary

These minutes were approved at the April 13, 2016
Recreation Commission Meeting
