

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

**REGULAR MEETING - AGENDA**  
**Wednesday, May 16, 2018 7:00pm**

**I. Call to Order**

Recreation Chair Toni Rispoli called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act**

**IV. Roll Call:** Toni Rispoli, Chair - Present Amy Smith- Present  
William Warrell, Vice Chair - Present Paul Trinkle – Present  
Charles Gallagher - Present Christine Gras (Alt. 1) – Present  
Paul Weldon- Present (Alt. 2)  
Kevin Stetser - Present

**V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes**

a. Regular Meeting April 18, 2018

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the 4/18/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras. Seconded by Bill Warrell.
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

**VI. Meeting with EHT Travel Basketball Board**

The Recreation Commission called a meeting with the Travel Basketball Board to discuss their financials and operations. No board member attended the prior two bi-annual presidents meetings. Toni Rispoli stated that the Travel Basketball Board's Treasurer Josh Brown has done a very good job providing the financials recently turned in. Amy Smith reviewed the memo that was written to the travel board requesting various items to be responded to in the financials reporting. The memo was reviewed line by line. Christine Gras and Amy Smith stated there were no major errors or concerns on the documents turned in. Josh Brown agreed to provide the print out of the checks for each monthly statement. Toni Rispoli told Josh to keep up the great work. Toni Rispoli stated that another reason for tonight's meeting was the two coaches who came in to the last Recreation Commission meeting with their concerns on who is coaching one of the teams. It was stated that only two coaches can be on the team bench area during games but Scott Lyon confirmed you can have as many coaches as you want working on a team otherwise and can swap out assistants who are on the bench. Scott Lyon said they may be changing a coach to work with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team, but the travel board is still working it out.

Toni Rispoli asked if there is a problem between any of the 3 coaches being discussed. Toni Rispoli asked if there were any problems on the travel basketball board that we should be aware of. Two members of the travel basketball board had met with the Commission and Recreation Director recently on issues they feel exists on the board and the leadership of the board and how things are being run. Toni Rispoli reiterated that Paul Trinkle is the liaison to the board and he is to be included on all items and issues being discussed. The Commission asked the board what training they provide to coaches. Sean Kane stated no formal training, they look for coaches with experience, and they have been fortunate to have good coaches in their organization. Amy Smith stated that every team can have issues with their coaches, the travel board came here tonight to clarify financials which they did, and if the coaching issue is resolved then there are no further issues to discuss tonight. Kevin Stetser asked why all the coaches want to coach the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team and not the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team and suggested that not everyone on the travel board has all the information they should.

Scott Lyon stated that the fundraising seat on the board is still open. Toni Rispoli reminded the travel basketball board to not circumvent Paul in their operations, wished them good luck on their summer season, and reminded Scott Lyon to come to the next President's meeting.

**VII. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups**

Dr. Mark Mensch, 2 Dockside Drive, spoke as the liaison from the Youth Organization board. He stated that YO had a board meeting last week, and asked if the Treasurer had turned in the financial paperwork to the Commission as had been requested. Christine Gras asked if they had taken actions to secure the missing information as noted by their auditor. Toni Rispoli asked Christine Gras and Amy Smith to review the YO financials prior to the next Commission meeting. Mark Mensch asked Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet, as a follow up from the last meeting, if we are considering taking trees down behind the field house. Rick Audet stated that the Township is not looking to do that at this time as the trees provide shade and beautify the area. Also, that it is not an official parking area, people should be parking in the parking lots. Mark Mensch asked the Commission who won the 2017 Coach of the Year award and was informed of the winner. Laura Pfrommer from Township Committee asked if we still have the drainage problems out at the field's entrance area near the field house. Rick Audet stated that he is asking Public Works to remediate that problem this summer.

Kathleen Glick, 1059 Ocean Heights Avenue, and Kim Collins, 325 Zion Road, were present from the EHT Girls Softball board to ask about Field 2 project. They said that during the reconstruction the field was not crowned properly and that having been shut down since last September has been a huge nightmare for them in scheduling. Kathleen showed pictures of infield flooding after heavy rains recently and said that some of the sod outside the fence area is brown. All the new sod inside the fence is green and has taken hold. Kathleen said that field 5 now floods badly now as well. Rick Audet stated that he will follow up with Public Works to finish the project as soon as possible and fix any issues that are present. Toni Rispoli stated that the field issues are due to the old Lennox dump upon which the fields were built. Amy Smith stated that the fields are not being maintained correctly and doesn't understand why it can't be done right. Kathleen stated that the Township spent a lot on the new fencing and asked why Public Work did all the field work. Kevin Stetser said that if Public Works gets the resources they need then we might have better results. Bill Warrell stated that the problem is at the engineering level, the project wasn't designed correctly. Paul Hodson stated that we need to do more bore and perc tests. The problem is the soil type and the old clay molds in the soil that does not allow it to drain properly. Paul Hodson stated we need a better drainage system. Toni Rispoli stated that the irrigation was not checked properly before the sod was laid. Kim Collins spoke about the 12u and 10u travel teams and players playing up. Toni Rispoli stated that we allow non-residents to play on travel teams on a case-by-case basis and that it could be a safety issue to play up at 12u level.

**VIII. Public Comment**

None.

**IX. Old Business**

a. Revision to 2018 Capital Projects Plan

Toni Rispoli spoke that at the last Recreation Commission meeting, it was decided as a group to not include a \$100,000 line item towards design and engineering for a future Tony Canale Park field expansion project. Toni stated that she wrote a letter to Mayor and Committee to that effect. The Commission discussed that many of our fields are in poor shape and that we should not look to expand our facilities without being able to properly take care of what we have now. Toni Rispoli stated that the fields in Berlin are much better than ours and get just as much use. We seed and don't fertilize.

Toni Rispoli stated that the capital projects memo that the Director turned in to the Administrator was wrong in that it listed it from the Recreation Commission also. The Recreation Commission said no to the \$100,000 line item although it was listed in our six year plan request the past few years. Laura Pfrommer suggested that she and Paul Hodson would take this issue back to the Township Committee and Administrator. Paul Weldon suggested that Public Works meet with the high school ground employees on the success they have had with their fields, they spend around \$1000 per acre. Laura Pfrommer stated that our game fields should be in very good condition and we should start there. The Commission discussed the Public Works staff, how many they

have on staff for fields, and how are they organized. The idea to assign PW staff to one park and keep them responsible for their one park was discussed.

Laura Pfrommer said that we have knowledge in this town that we need to tap into, the challenge is how large our parks are and how much space and fields we have to care for. We also need to stay off the fields as necessary to allow for the proper rest and growth of turf. Paul Weldon stated we are not ready for new fields. Kevin Stetser stated that we haven't proven that we can do it right. Toni Rispoli asked the Commission if they are in agreement with her letters, this needs the support of all the Commission. Bill Warrell asked why the Township is designing parks expansion when they haven't heard any input from the Commission.

b. 2017 Capital Projects (ongoing)

Rick Audet stated that the west hockey court rebuild project was nearing completion as the asphalt repair had been performed and the line painting and electrical work is scheduled.

**X. Use of Parks Facility Requests**

a. Starshield Entertainment Group Canale Park Amphitheater 8/18 or 8/25

The Commission reviewed the park use request of the amphitheater for the Starshield Entertainment Group. The event is to benefit The Ability Experience, a national non-profit serving people with disabilities. The Commission had concerns on the stated size of the event listed as 1000-5000 people and various questions on how the event will be organized and run.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To table the Starshield Entertainment Group park use request until the Commission receives more information about the event and determine whether the event requires a special event permit.</b> Motion made by Bill Warrell. Seconded by Christine Gras.
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

**XI. Director's Report**

a. Letter to Baseball and Softball re background checks

The Parks and Recreation Director informed the Commission that he sent a warning letter to the president of the baseball and softball associations as it came to the attention of the background check appeal board that a coach had coached for them in 2017 without being on the approved coaches list. The Director also called and spoke to them on the matter and reminded them of the Township ordinance.

**XII. New Business**

Toni Rispoli informed the Commission that the high school is hosting the SJ Edge Clinic from 4-7pm this Sunday. She also stated that the high school is running and field hockey camp this summer, Toni handed out flyers for the camp to the recreation program field hockey players. Toni Rispoli discussed the Parks and Recreation Director's decision to not allow a high school baseball camp sign to be hung in our community center lobby. Rick Audet explained that we have flyer holders for our sponsored youth groups and schools to place flyers in a holder. Also, he explained that every decision he makes to the greatest extent possible has to be made the same for many more youth groups who could possibly ask. It was a matter of aesthetics in the lobby and being consistent for all groups who ask or we could face a situation where there are dozens of mismatched signs hung in our lobby. Rick Audet told the contact from the high school baseball camp that he could post a flyer in our holder and we could mention it on our Facebook page. Toni Rispoli asked the name of the organization partnering with Parks and Recreation to offer a baseball camp this summer.

Kevin Stetser mentioned to the Commission that the travel basketball coach discussed in the past two meetings has in the past been relentless in recruiting kids from EHT to his private school. Kevin stated again his stance that we can't continue to give people an avenue to recruit kids to out of town schools from our EHT youth sports groups. Towns like

Vineland have been successful in getting everyone on the same page that it's wrong and how they try to keep athletes in district. There was a discussion on coaches who work out of town and our operations.

### **XIII. Correspondence**

#### EHT Youth Group Minutes

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| A. Baseball Association – last received 3/1/2018 | F. Soccer Club – 3/13/18, 4/10/18                 |
| B. BMX – last received 4/16/2018                 | G. Street Hockey Association – 2/5, 3/12, 3/26/18 |
| C. Youth Organization – last received 12/6/17    | H. Travel Basketball – 4/12/18                    |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – last received 2/27/18         | I. Youth Softball – last received 1/14/18         |
| E. Lacrosse – 4/3/18                             |   |

#### Handouts

- A. EHT Baseball Association game schedule and league roster (on file)
- B. EHT Letter and Pictures re field conditions
- C. PW Buildings and Grounds Summary Report 4/18/18
- D. EHT YO 2017 audit reports
- E. EHT Baseball 2017 Financials Report (on file)

The Commission reviewed all minutes and correspondence as submitted.

### **XIV. Tabled Matters**

None.

### **XV. Public Comment**

None.

### **XVI. Adjournment**

Recreation Commission chair Toni Rispoli adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

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

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Toni Rispoli, Chairperson

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Rick Audet, Parks and Recreation Director

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These minutes were approved at the June 13, 2018

Recreation Commission Meeting

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