

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

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, July 13, 2016**  
**7:00pm**  
**MINUTES**

- I. **Call to Order by Chairman Fairfield at 7:01 p.m.**
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
- III. **Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act** read by Commissioner Riggs.
- IV. **Roll Call:** Robert Fairfield, Chair - Present Charles Gallagher - Present  
Carmen Messina, Vice Chair – Present Justin Riggs – Present  
Toni Rispoli – Present at 7:25 p.m. Paul Weldon – Present at 8:17 p.m.  
Kathy Fiedor - Excused Kevin Stetser - Present  
William Warrell - Present
- Laura Pfrommer (Township Committee Liaison)- Present  
Paul Hodson (Deputy Mayor)- Present at 8:23 p.m.  
Rick Audet (Director of Recreation) - Present
- V. **Reading / Acceptance of Minutes**  
Minutes – June 8, 2016

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Motion to approve the minutes was made by Chairman Fairfield and seconded by Commissioner Warrell.</b>
<b>Vote</b>	6-0-1 vote to approved (Messina abstained)

VI. **Presentations / Public Comment**

**A. EHT Baseball**

Manny Aponte, 304 Yarmouth Road; Paul Sparano, 9 Fairfax Ave.; and, Dr. DeLorio, 5090 Spruce Ave. Manny Aponte stated that an email was sent to the Director of Recreation about issues he is having with EHTBA. Mr. Aponte highlighted the email he sent to Director Audet and the Recreation Commission. Coach Sparano was recently voted out as the 12U Cooperstown Coach. The vote passed with a vote of 16-3. Steve Alverson, Gary Adams and Jim McLaughlin voted to keep Sparano as the Head Coach. Chairman Fairfield asked if the kids tryout for the team. Mr. Aponte stated that they do. Commissioner

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Stetser asked if there is a roster limit. Mr. Aponte replied that it depends on the tournament, but every kid gets to play. Manny stated that there are many ethics violations by the baseball board. Chairman Fairfield asked if they have an up to date by-laws. Director Audet indicated that he had to pull the by-laws off of EHTBA's website, they were never given to or officially presented to the Recreation Commission by EHTBA. Vice-Chair Messina stated that he would look at the date of the by-laws. Mr. Aponte added that these issues have been aired publicly, and is embarrassing to the baseball organization. Mr. Aponte also discouraged the creation of a second 12 U team, but understands that doing so may be the only solution.

Dr. DeLorio offered this is an unprecedented event within the baseball organization. A coach that started with 8U has never been unseated when it was time to go to Cooperstown at the 12U level. Chairman Fairfield asked when the Cooperstown tournament will be held. Manny Aponte responded 2017, but deposits are needed very shortly.

Commissioner Warrell stated this shouldn't be a popularity contest by adults, but should be about the kids. He asked what prompted the change at the end of the 11U season. Manny Aponte, Coach Sparano and Dr. DiLorio indicated that no evidence was presented to warrant the removal of Coach Sparano. Chairman Fairfield inquired who is the person trying to unseat Coach Sparano. Manny responded that it was the assistant coach from the other 11U team, Rodney Velardi.

Coach Sparano expressed his concerns about the fundraising that has been done to go to Cooperstown, and the creation of a second team. Mr. Aponte stated that the money raised would have to be split. He also explained that if there were two teams, a bid would be submitted to guarantee one team a birth, but there is no guarantee that both teams would go. Commissioner Stetser stated that the creation of two teams is not in the best interest of the kids. Dr. DiLorio read a statement about how adults have ruined the experience for the kids.

Coach Sparano highlighted his coaching experience and record. Mr. Aponte expressed his dissatisfaction with the coach who wants to take over the team. Dr. DiLorio questioned the tryout schedule, where it creates a conflict to get on another team if they are cut. Manny Aponte doesn't want two teams, but if that is the compromise he is open to it. He highlighted his email that references remedies to the situation. Commissioner Riggs asked if the ledger provided in the email was a recent balance. Mr. Aponte indicated that it was the balance at the time his email was sent. Chairman Fairfield appointed a grievance committee of Commissioners Stetser, Warrell and Chairman Fairfield.

(Commissioner Riggs wrote the preceding minutes.)

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**B. EHTBA**

President Brian Hawkes indicated that Rodney Velardi coaches at ACCC. He is the individual who was voted in as the Head Coach. The vote was 16-3. Brian stated that the vote was null and void and removed from their minutes. A re-vote will take place in August.

Vice-Chair Messina questioned why the board voted to remove a coach that has been with the team for four years. When the players were asked who they wanted to play for it was unanimous. They all indicated that they wished to continue being coached by Sparano.

Michelle Sabott said that she was glad the players were here and supported their coach. She said she would want her son's voice to be heard in such a situation.

Committee Woman Pfrommer endorsed the grievance committee. She stated that it is a valuable service. Laura expressed her appreciation for all who came to speak. The money issue is a concern.

Guidelines for sports that raise money for specific events, such as going to Cooperstown, should be included in the Recreation Commission's Policy and Procedure Manual. Chairman Fairfield, Vice-Chair Messina and Commissioner Rispoli will work on a draft.

Vice-Chair Messina asked whether there are tryouts for this team. President Hawkes confirmed that tryouts are held every year. Commissioner Stetser stated that the rating system for tryouts must be uniform.

**\*Public portion was closed at 8:13 p.m.**

**VI. Old Business**

**Capital Projects Update – Open Space**

**Canale Park Tennis Court Resurfacing**

Project is complete. Resurfacing of the courts should take place every seven years.

**Amphitheater cover**

The bids came in over budget and were rejected. They were double the anticipated cost. The Architect will submit another design. Bids will go out once the new design is approved.

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**Canale Park Bathroom project**

Bids for the sewer have gone out. The water lines are approved. It is anticipated that the building will be delivered in September.

**Surveillance Project**

The cameras will be purchased through a state contract. Final quote will be presented shortly. Installation of the cameras are to commence in late September.

**BMX turns**

Quotes are being received.

**Childs-Kirk field 3 dugouts**

Quotes are being received.

**North Hockey Court lights**

The lights need to be adjusted with some added. Musco will be contacted to ascertain the cost.

**Recreation Commission By-laws**

Work on the by-laws will continue.

**VII. Use of Parks Facility Requests**

**a. EHTHS Key Club- Tony Canale Park Amphitheater 8/19/16**

Commissioner Rispoli expressed concern that the request was submitted by a student, not the Key Club Advisor. Also, the request does not indicate that any chaperones will be present.

Vice-Chair Messina made a motion to approve the request contingent on re-submission by the Advisor and chaperones are present for the event. Commissioner Riggs seconded the motion. Use of Facility was approved by a vote of 8-0.

**b. EHT Environmental Commission- EHT Nature Reserve Arboretum-Nature Center 9/2 and 3, 2016**

Vice-Chair Messina made a motion to approve and Commissioner Rispoli seconded the motion. Use of Facility was approved by a vote of 8-0.

**c. Director's Report**

**Born Learning Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony- 8/8/16 at 10:00 a.m.**

**New Commission meeting date- August 17, 2016**

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**Shires Park Tot Lot**

Township Administrator Miller discovered that the Shires Park Tot Lot and its' hours of operation was not included in the Township 165, Chapter 2 Ordinance. Vice-Chair Messina made the motion to add the park to the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Warrell. The motion passed by a vote of 8-0.

**d. New Business**

**a. Field Rotation Committee Report**

**Veteran's Park-**

The Field Rotation Committee met with Public Works at Canale, Veteran's and Childs-Kirk Parks. It was determined that Football field #3 will be closed for the 2016 Football season. Football field #5 will have the end zones closed in the 2016 Football season. The field will be lined sideways to practice plays. Repairs to the end zones are necessary.

Baseball field #3 will have a temporary fence installed in the infield. This will be done to discourage football players from warming up in this area prior to their game time.

**Childs-Kirk Park-**

The Field Hockey/Soccer Field will be closed in September. The field hockey program will be relocated to Shires Park until further notice.

**Bargaintown Park-**

The Soccer nets will be shifted to afford grass growth. When the Soccer season ends the nets will be removed.

**b. Policy and Procedure Manual-**

A proposal to change the residency requirement for Adult Leagues was discussed. It was proposed to change it to 51% of the participants must be EHT residents. Chairman Fairfield made a motion to approve the change. Commissioner Warrell seconded the motion. The change was approved by a vote of 8-0.

**\*Public Portion re-opened at 9:08 p.m.**

Erica Messina introduced herself as the new Treasurer for EHTBA. She stated that she was surprised when Rodney Velardi put his hat in the ring to coach the 12U team. Erica expressed concern over serving as the Treasurer and her husband being part owner in a training facility. She wanted to know if there was a conflict of interest, and if so, she would resign. Committee Woman Pfrommer explained that baseball has a potential conflict of interest which can affect their 501c3 and gave a suggestion that they have sealed bids sent to Recreation and opened there.

**\*Public Portion closed at 9:20 p.m.**

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**c. Correspondance**

**EHT Youth Group Minutes**

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| A. Baseball Association– 5/5/16      | F. Soccer Club – 6/7/16                             |
| B. BMX –last received 6/8/16         | G. Street Hockey Association – last received 3/7/16 |
| C. Diamond Cheer                     | H. Travel Basketball – last received 4/14/16        |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – last rec'd 4/26   | I. Youth Softball – last received 3/28/16           |
| E. Lacrosse – 2/2, 2/16, 3/1, 4/5/16 | J. Youth Organization – last received 5/4/16        |

**d. Handouts**

- a. Pickleball letter 7/8/16 emailed by Bill Giannetti
- b. EHT Travel Baseball Letter and Supplemental Materials provided by M. Aponte
- c. Grounds Department summary of work 7/13/16

**e. Tabled Matters**

**f. Upcoming Events**

- g. **Adjournment at 9:25 p.m.** (Motion Riggs/Seconded Chairman Fairfield) 8-0 approved.

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Robert Fairfield, Chairman

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Toni Rispoli, Secretary

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**These minutes were approved at the  
August 17, 2016 Recreation Commission Meeting**

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