# EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMISSION JULY 15, 2015 MINUTES

Attendees: Fairfield, Messina, Audet, Gallagher, McComb, Riggs, Rispoli (7:25), Warrell, Weldon (7:02), and Committeewoman Pfrommer. Fiedor excused.

- 1. The Regular Meeting of the Egg Harbor Township Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:00pm.
- 2. Pledge of allegiance.
- 3. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes:

A motion was made by Commissioner Warrell to accept the minutes as presented for the June 10, 2015 meeting. Vice-Chair Messina seconded. Minutes were approved by a vote of 5-0-1 (Fairfield abstained).

4. EHT Youth Group Presentations / Public Comment:

# **Public Comment**

Kara Driscoll spoke to the Commission as a parent in the EHT Jr. Wrestling Program. Ms. Driscoll presented to the Commission what she feels are significant issues and concerns within EHT Jr. Wrestling that need to be discussed with the Commission and hopefully remedied. Ms. Driscoll stated that she feels the wrestling club's bylaws are not properly written nor are they being followed appropriately by the executive board members. The bylaws were not read at two consecutive meetings prior to being approved. According to Ms. Driscoll, there are four executive members of the board who are trying to control the board, the meetings, and the organization as a whole and that the other members of the board are not up to speed on the bylaws and additionally their input and concerns are not being heeded or addressed.

Ms. Driscoll stated further concerns of hers including: the board is trying to improperly vote in a new coach who is also an executive board member, there have been no nominations for board members in the past two years, the vice-president position had not been filled for nearly one year, there are supposed to be 10 board members and there are only seven right now, the 5/19/15 minutes that were turned in to the

Recreation Director contains information about her that amounts to a personal attack as no other names were mentioned in the minutes. Kathy Fiedor, Recreation Commissioner and liaison to the Jr Wrestling Club, has tried to address the minutes, the vote on the summer session did not allow for absentee or email votes, there are contradictions in the bylaws regarding how head coach and board member are appointed, and the board does not want to follow the bylaws that are in place.

Ms. Driscoll stated that she wants the Recreation Commission to step in and revise the bylaws as necessary. Vice Chair Messina stated that he will attend the next meeting of Jr. Wrestling and try to lend assistance and that the club is relatively new and some of the issues can be attributed to growing pains. Vice Chair Messina wishes to get all board members and interested parties in the room at the same time and look at the bylaws line by line.

Kurt Driscoll, Jr. Wrestling Club head coach, stated that since stepping down as President to become the head coach, he has faced constant badgering and challenges from the executive board members. He stated that he asked the board about forming a bylaws subcommittee he was told "thanks, but no thanks." Mr. Driscoll stated that the Treasurer is acting as the President and making all of the decisions for the board.

Ms. Driscoll stated that new board members are trying to step up and help and are being turned away by the executive board members.

Vice Chair Messina stated that once the bylaws get figured out the group should be able to resolve the other issues. This is an opportunity to clear things up on the bylaws and reduce the level of frustration. Vice Chair Messina stated that he and Commissioner Fiedor will try to create a positive direction for the wrestling club board with the goal of making it fair for everyone and ensure we take care of the children in the program.

Recreation Director Audet stated that the Commission needs to take action to assist the wrestling program and, if it's found to be needed, create proper bylaws. He thanked Carmen and Kathy for their willingness to help.

## **EHT Youth Group**

#### EHTYS-

Kim Collins and Kathleen Glick advised that EHTYS has a new treasurer, Joe Veltrie. They anticipate utilizing on-line registration commencing with Fall Ball. They asked whether the Commission had any insight on how to use credit cards in the stand. Commissioner Warrell suggested Square-pay or PayPal. All organizations must follow PCI compliance with regard to credit cards. Commissioner Rispoli advised that a land line did exist in the old building. EHTYS will need to check to see whether a connection to this line still exists. Commissioner Weldon indicated that Street Hockey utilizes PayPal. He suggested that EHTYS contact other EHT Youth Groups to determine whether they accept credit cards in their stands and how it is set up.

Kim Collins asked about the Procedure Manual. Director Audet explained that the manual will be distributed at the August 5, 2015 meeting. Wherein, we will be looking for feedback from the Youth Groups and Peter Miller, Township Administrator.

#### 5. Old Business:

# Security cameras at park facilities-

Commissioner Weldon advised that EHT's IT department has been updated concerning the camera project. Atlantic Coast is the company with whom the Police Department works. An update will be provided at the August meeting.

# Parks and Recreation ongoing Capital projects-

Director Audet suggested that the \$60,000.00 budgeted for engineering for the expansion of Canale Park be removed from the 2015 capital project, as it is something that we are not ready to implement. Mr. Audet presented an updated Capital Projects Budget that would best utilize our current year's \$150,000 funding. Projects that need our attention are refinishing the Tennis courts at Canale Park (\$30,000.00), Surveillance at the parks (\$65,000.00), Fencing at Childs-Kirk and Veteran's Parks (\$25,000.00) and a roof/cover over the Amphitheater Stage at Canale Park (\$55,000.00). All were in agreement by a vote of 8-0.

#### Department of Health inspections-

Commissioner Weldon advised that Jill Mills will inspect the various concession stands.

# **Street Hockey-**

When asked by Mr. Audet, Street Hockey President Crowley stated that their organization would like court decking when possible down the road. Mr. Fairfield had asked Mr. Audet to confirm this for the Commission so that future capital projects budgets could possibly fund such projects. However Street Hockey Association and the Commission felt that we need to

protect and repair the existing courts first before new improvements are made. The West Court is in need of repair. There are concrete barriers supporting the hockey boards with a ratchet strap at one area of the court. This requires attention prior to purchasing new decking. At this point of time decking has been removed from the Capital until a later date. Structural problems need to be addressed and the courts need to be maintained as well as receive the surveillance cameras.

#### 6. New Business:

## **Childs-Kirk Playground-**

Work on the two playgrounds will commence in August. Director Audet indicated that a compliance audit will be conducted to insure that the installer meets or exceeds the safety standards. Director Audet advised that a split rail fence will be installed between the road way and playground. Commissioner Rispoli suggested that a more sturdy form of fencing be used instead as to mitigate potential intentional damage to the fencing.

## EHTYO-

Commissioner Weldon advised that an independent audit has been requested of EHTYO financials by individuals involved in Football. It has not been determined whether EHT Police Department or the Atlantic County Prosecutors Office will be involved.

# **EHT Travel Basketball-**

Mr. Messina addressed the Commission stating his concern on one of our recognized youth groups being a travel sports only organization. The Commission agreed that a meeting will be set up with President Bell, Chairman Fairfield, Vice-Chair Messina, Director Audet and Commissioner Rispoli.

#### 7. Use of Facilities:

# **EHTYS Key Club**-

A request to use the Amphitheater and Volleyball Courts at Canale Park on August 14, 2015 was approved, with conditions, by a vote of 8-0. The vote is contingent upon compliance that a Chaperone (adult) make the request, a proper certificate of insurance is filed with Parks and Recreation, the park is cleaned after their use, and the time be changed to 1-4 pm.

# 8. Correspondence:

# EHTBA-

Correspondence was received from EHT Baseball Association requesting that the Recreation Commission and the Director of Recreation handle the matter of the baseball coach who had been removed from the Approved Coaches list. The Director of Recreation mailed correspondence back to EHT Baseball that although the Township deemed the coach ineligibile, it is then a matter for EHT Baseball to handle the matter as a board and follow their own bylaws the same as if it was the board themselves who had suspended a coach. Commission was in agreement that the coach be removed from the list of eligible coaches, as per the Kids Safe background check. At this time, said coach is not eligible to coach any sport in the EHT Youth Groups until his matter is resolved.

All Youth Group Presidents will be reminded to check the background checklist on a by-monthly basis to assure that their coaches are in compliance.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 p.m.