

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMISSION

August 5, 2015 MINUTES

Attendees: Fairfield, Messina- Excused, Director of Recreation Audet, Gallagher, McComb, Fiedor, Riggs, Rispoli (7:23), Warrell, Weldon, Committeewoman Pfrommer, Deputy Mayor Hodson, Township Administrator Miller

(Minutes as heard by Commissioner Riggs)

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 July 15, 2015 meeting. Commissioner McComb seconded. Minutes were approved, 6-0.
4. Presentations/Public Comment:

Bi-Annual EHT Youth Groups' Presidents Presentation with Township Staff and Officials.

Recreation Director-

Rick Audet introduced himself and reminded all to attend meetings throughout the year. He also introduced the Recreation Commission, Committeewoman Pfrommer, Deputy Mayor Hodson, and Twp. Administrator Miller. Rick reminded the Youth Group Presidents in attendance of the field rotation plan, approved coaches list, youth groups' policy and procedures manual.

EHT Youth Organization-

President Dominic Branca reported the fields that were shut down are open and look great. The lights are up and thanked all who were involved in making that happen.

EHTYS-

President Kathleen Glick advised the commission that there are no travel teams left. They are trying online registration and they had a table at National Night Out. They would like to open the boundaries to surrounding communities to be able to sign up.

She voiced concerns about consistency with Township resident rule throughout other sports in the Township. Kathleen reported the players have signed up for other teams outside EHT. Rick asked if they have contacted the former players that have moved on to teams outside the township. Christine Gras from Soccer voiced the struggles of trying to recruit township residents and staying competitive. Commissioner McComb explained the history of the softball program here in EHT. Chairman Fairfield explained recreation is first, but will try and help find a solution. The Recreation Commission will take their concerns under advisement. Drew Garden from Lacrosse offered suggestions through blocking them from going to other towns and registration pricing.

*Secretary Rispoli assumed duties at 7:33pm.

EHT Travel Basketball-

President Cameron Bell stated that Travel was started for a higher level of play for the participants. He stipulated that the Junior Cal League requires that the participants play for the town with which they reside.

EHT Street Hockey-

Courtney Humphrey stated that security is an issue at the courts. Recently three police reports were filed due to vandalism. She asked whether an awning could be built over the stand window to help with the cold.

Commissioner Rispoli asked whether ceiling fans could be installed in the stands of Softball and BMX/Street Hockey. The heat in the concession stands is oppressive. Public Works Supervisor Gioconda indicated that an exhaust fan was installed at Childs-Kirk. However, Administrator Miller and PW Supervisor Gioconda agreed to assess the situation.

EHT Soccer-

President Gras indicated that there are approximately 644 participants in EHT soccer. The fields look great and the grass is fantastic. However, Soccer has no facility or decent bathrooms. One porta-potty does not work at Canale Park. Christine asked whether Recreation would provide additional portable toilets, preferably two units per field. Township Administrator Miller advised that the Township can approve additional units. As for a facility, the plans for Canale Park improvements are at least three years away. Administrator Miller suggested that keys to the amphitheater bathrooms be given to the Micro coaches. However, they must be responsible to insure that the bathrooms are secured prior to leaving the fields. Christine advised

that the coaches do not want the responsibility of opening and locking the amphitheater bathrooms. Rick Audet stated that he would have the bathrooms opened and also locked by our tennis staff during the tennis lessons schedule, therefore the bathrooms will be open on Saturdays until 12 noon through November 14.

EHT Lacrosse-

Vice President Drew Gargan expressed his gratitude for the installation of the lights on field 5. Fall Lacrosse will be played on Sundays. Drew advised that Andrew Carpenter is now the president.

EHT Wrestling-

President Peggy Smith advised that Wrestling's by-laws are being worked on with help from Vice Chair Messina. Peggy advised that Wrestling will utilize the auxiliary gym on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

EHT BMX-

President Stan Russ advised that there is considerable flooding near the motor boards and finish line. He advised that the drains are clogged. The drain pumps are not connected. Stan asked whether a drainage ditch much like a French drain could be constructed to alleviate the problem.

He also inquired about an Ansell system. Administrator Miller advised that the new buildings were built without this system.

Stan complained about areas near the track that were not weed wacked in places where a lawn mower could not go. Peter Miller advised that corrective action will take place.

Stan asked for help in re-paving three turns on the track. He explained that they are chipping away due to weather and wear. He indicated that he was working on getting the asphalt donated but would need equipment to spread it.

EHT Baseball-

President Brian Hawkes indicated that field 3 needs a lot of work on the berms.

Administrator Miller advised that a deep tine seeder will be used and the berms removed. The Football field has been laid out and invited Brian to view it with him.

Treasurer Feinstein advised that rain has washed out the concrete under the first base dugout on field 6. Director Audet will put in a work order to correct the problem.

Kim suggested that all of the groups work together with when ordering portable toilets. He suggested that Director Audet may get a better price if all of the groups work together and have a uniform contract.

He asked whether lights on field 6 were on the six-year plan. It was explained that the six-year plan constantly changes due to changing needs of all of the groups.

Kim asked whether Baseball could put up a shed to house their golf carts.

Administrator Miller advised that permits are needed. Once the shed is install it becomes property of the Township.

Mr. Feinstein advised that the drago box on field 11 leaks. The soft toss nets are 1-2 years old and must be replaced due to vandalism. He asked about the camera project. Commissioner Weldon advised that EHT IT and the Police Department are working on the camera project.

Ed Keil complained that there is no sod on the infield at Bargaintown Park. He stated that the meeting room at Veteran's Park is a disgrace. He asked whether the floors could be grinded and the walls repainted. Public Works Supervisor Sam Gioconda advised that the new bathrooms at Vet's Park were vandalized. Toilet seats were removed. The bathrooms were left unlocked. Coaches did not insure that they were locked.

Proposed No Smoking Ordinance:

Committeewoman Pfromner

Laura indicated that Township Committee is in favor of the proposed smoking ban. She advised that several surrounding towns have banned smoking in their parks and rec fields. Township Committee is looking for feedback from the Youth Groups. Stan Russ felt that a total ban was not good. Many of the volunteers for BMX smoke. He is concerned that BMX will lose volunteers. He asked whether a partial ban or designated smoking areas would be considered.

Kim Feinstein felt that designated areas would present a problem, as smokers would disregard the designated areas. Signs should be posted that smoking is prohibited. Committeewoman Pfrommer will inform Township Committee of the concerns voiced by the youth groups.

5. Old Business:

Security cameras at park facilities-

Commissioner Weldon advised that the EHT Police and IT departments was working together on this project. Wifi is needed at all of the parks. Atlantic Coat Alarm

estimated that the three hockey courts would require 3 transmitters and 12 cameras and cost approximately \$20,000.00.

Policies and Procedures Manual-

Manuals were distributed to the Presidents of the Youth Groups. Their feedback is welcome. It is the intention of the Commission to hear feedback on the manual, make revisions if necessary and then move it along to the Township Committee for it to be made official.

Parks & Recreation Department- Capital Projects-

- Security cameras at the parks.
- Fencing: Childs-Kirk, Veteran's Parks for Softball, Baseball and BMX.
- Tennis court resurfacing at Canale Park.
- Amphitheater Cover. Architect designs are needed. The cover will provide an important amenity which would benefit the Rhythm in the Park concerts, Recreation's Summer Camp and Groups that utilize the stage area.

6. Use of Facility:

South Jersey Diabetes Support Group-

A request to use the walking path at Bargaintown Park on November 14, 2015 from 12:00-3:00 p.m, was approved by a vote of 8-0.

7. Director's Report:

Pickle ball Court-

The grand opening will commence on August 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to the dedication and to learn the rules of the game.

EHT School Board-

Kathy Bechtal and Rick Audet will meet on August 13, 2015 to discuss fees for the use of EHT School Facilities.

Recreation Dance Program-

Township Administrator and Cygnus President Peter Miller proposed that Cygnus take over the EHT Recreation Dance program in January 2016. The Recreation Commission is not in favor of transitioning the Recreation dance program to Cygnus. Chairman Fairfield and Commissioners Fiedor and Rispoli voiced their opposition to this proposal. A sub-committee of Chairman Fairfield and Commissioners Fiedor and

Gallagher was formed. The Recreation Commissioners were in agreement that the Recreation dance program should not be transitioned to Cygnus.

8. New Business:

EHTYO-

A discussion of EHTYO minutes was tabled to the September 16, 2015 meeting.

EHT Wrestling-

Discussion of the EHT Wrestling by-laws was tabled until the September 16, 2015 meeting.

Nature Reserve-

Chairman Fairfield informed the Commission that Commissioner Rispoli was resigning her position as a trustee on the EHT Nature Reserve Board. Chairman Fairfield asked whether anyone would like to assume the position. Since no one was interested, a representative from the Recreation Commission will not serve on the Nature Reserve Board of Trustees.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.