

Egg Harbor Township Board of Recreation Commissioners Meeting
EHT Community Center 5045 English Creek Avenue
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234

REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

7:00pm

Chairwoman Toni-Lynn Rispoli called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Recreation Director Richard Audet read the opening statement pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:	Toni-Lynn Rispoli	Present
	William Warrell	Present
	Justin Riggs	Excused
	Charles Gallagher	Present
	Paul Weldon	Present
	Kevin Stetser	Present (arrived at 7:11 pm)
	Amy Smith	Present
	Paul Trinkle	Excused

Also present were Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet, Recreation Program Manager Dena Danz and members from the public.

Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

A motion was made by Gallagher/Warrell to approve the minutes from August 9, 2017. Minutes were approved by all in attendance.

EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups

BMX Association President Stan Russ was in attendance and addressed the commission during the youth group portion. Mr. Russ stated that the BMX season will be ending in November. They are currently doing local races only and will have a large scale race on Veterans Day Weekend. Mr. Russ advised the commission that Philly Pump track was coming to visit on Saturday. EHT BMX is sending 4 members to the Special Olympics for their strider program, they been working on a state wide strider program with the Special Olympics.

Mr. Russ stated that the track was looking good, and that he was working with Director Audet on the new starting gate.

There were no other youth groups in attendance at the meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. William Gary was in attendance to address the commission in reference to his granddaughter. Director Audet advised the commission that he received an email from EHTYO President, Dominic Branca in reference to a Cape Taxi Cheerleader who moved out of town. Mr. Branca was asking what they should do, since the child no longer lived in EHT. Director Audet researched the situation and after speaking with Mr. Gary and Mr. Branca, it was determined to be in the child's best interest to allow her to finish the season with EHT. There were extenuating circumstances in reference to why there was a move out of the district that led to this decision.

Director Audet advised Mr. Branca that this issue was going to be addressed by Mr. Gary and the Commission this evening and asked that representatives from EHTYO attend. Mr. Branca advised Director Audet that they were all set and he felt that they didn't need to be there. Mr. Branca spoke to Mr. Gary prior to the meeting to let him know that his granddaughter was all set and could continue to cheer until the end of the season.

After Director Audet advised the commission what transpired, Mr. Gary advised that he was in attendance to ensure that his granddaughter could continue to cheer until the end of the season. They are currently working on the residency issue and they have reached out to Egg Harbor City in reference to obtaining a waiver for Cape Cheer.

Vice Chairman Weldon asked if any cuts were made to that would allow this child to hold a spot on a team that a resident was cut from. Director Audet responded in the negative. He advised that the squad can carry up to 25 cheerleaders and he was told that they are currently at 18.

Mr. Gary was advised that this decision was only for this season and that if the child lives out of town next year she would not be able to register. Mr. Gary advised that he was aware of that and that they just wanted to keep the consistency for their grandchild for the remainder of this year. In addition to that Mr. Gary advised even if she lived in town next year, she more than likely would not sign up because this is two years in a row now that they have had issues with EHTYO and coaches.

Vice Chairman Warrell asked Mr. Gary to speak with Coordinator Jen Shaw about the competition side of it and how allowing this cheerleader to stay would affect them. Mr. Gary stated that he and his wife have spoken with Mrs. Shaw and they already addressed this issue. Without the waiver from Egg Harbor City, she would not be able to compete in any competition, but could cheer on the sidelines during games. Mr. Gary said that the family was OK with that because of other issues his granddaughter has.

Mr. Gary advised that their main concern was that his granddaughter be allowed to finish out the season on the football sideline.

Vice Chairman Warrell asked if not having her cheer in the competitions would interfere with other cheerleaders learning their routine. Mr. Gary advised they discussed this with Mrs. Shaw and she said they would make arrangements that would have the least amount of impact on the rest of the routine and the remainder of the cheerleaders.

Director Audet advised that he spoke with the Egg Harbor City Coordinator about a waiver and that he will be following up with her tomorrow.

Chairwoman Rispoli advised that she received numerous phone calls in reference to this issue. She stated what was brought to her attention was that EHTYO was concerned about allowing a non-resident to participate in the rec program, not travel program. Chairwoman Rispoli responded that due to extenuating circumstances this was being granted, however, she also addressed that it should have started with the commission and that EHTYO should not have gone directly to Director Audet.

Going forward, Chairwoman Rispoli advised Mr. Gary that when dealing with coaches and decisions that affect your children, get the information in writing.

Commissioner Stetser stated that at the EHTYO board meeting that EHTYO was against this. Vice Chairman Warrell advised that they were following their bylaws and that we cannot fault them. However, he stated that once a decision was made, it should have ended there.

Chairwoman Rispoli stated that EHTYO should have made a decision instead of sending it Director Audet. If anyone then had an issue with their decision they could have appealed it to the Commission. Since that was not done, a decision to allow this child to cheer based on extenuating circumstances was made by Director Audet, and he has the support of the commission.

Commissioner Stetser agreed, and he was surprised that no one from EHTYO was in attendance if they had an issue with the decision.

Chairwoman Rispoli stated that we have made decisions like this in the past with baseball. She was a resident when she joined, and due to extenuating circumstances her family needed to move out of the district and that she didn't displace another from the squad. She asked the rest of the commissioners to weigh in with their thoughts. Commissioner Gallagher had no thoughts on it, Commissioners Stetser, Weldon and Vice Chairman Warrell already addressed their concerns and opinions. Commissioner Smith advised that she agreed with Director Audet's decision. She said that it was done in good conscience to avoid any emotional setbacks for the 6 year old child involved. She advised that a decision has been made and that team parents need to let it go.

Chairwoman Rispoli asked Director Audet to put the decision in writing to EHTYO that the child could finish the season. Director Audet advised that was already done. Chairwoman Rispoli asked for a follow up email advising EHTYO that the Recreation Commission was in approval with the decision made. She also stated that the bashing needed to stop, as this was negatively impacting a 6 year old child.

Thomas Urbanack, 100 Locust Ave addressed the commission. He said he used to deal with wrestling and that he was there in support of Mr. Gary and his granddaughter. Mr. Urbanack stated that back in the day wrestling used to issue waivers all the time to allow kids to wrestle where they wanted, especially if their guardians lived in two separate locations. Mr. Urbanack also stated he may be interested in coming back to help coach wrestling.

Jen Shaw, EHTYO Cape Cheer Coordinator arrived and addressed the commission in reference to this issue. Mrs. Shaw stated that she had no issue with the child staying in the program. Before this issue was brought to the Commission, Mrs. Shaw stated she was working with the family. The issue began because members of EHTYO felt they were not following their bylaws by allowing her to continue to cheer. They even referred back to the Recreation Commission bylaws. Mrs. Shaw asked who makes the decision. Chairwoman Rispoli responded back that EHTYO Board should have made a decision and not referred it to Director Audet for his determination.

Director Audet addressed Mrs. Shaw, stating that he made the decision based on the best needs of the child involved. He said he reviewed the entire situation and since EHTYO President Branca was asking what to do, he made a decision.

Chairwoman Rispoli advised Mrs. Shaw, that Mr. Branca should have been reaching out to the commission through his liaison and not directly to Director Audet. Vice Chairman Warrell advised that Director Audet has discretion to make decisions and advise the Commission after that. He advised that this board communicates well and Director Audet has the discretion to approve and advise.

Mrs. Shaw asked if EHTYO made a decision, and the decision was no who then would overturn it? Chairwoman Rispoli advised that if that occurred, and an appeal was made to the commission they could overturn it if they felt it was wrong.

Chairwoman Rispoli explained that Director Audet can also make decisions, however it still needed to come to the Recreation Commission for their approval or if they didn't agree, they could overturn it.

Mrs. Shaw advised that there are many parents going back and forth on this issue. Mr. Warrell stated that during that meeting, the President of EHTYO should have addressed them stating it was being discussed. Commissioner Smith stated that parents are talking about this, however, they do not know the circumstances around it and that the EHTYO Board should have addressed the parents telling them they were working with the family.

Mrs. Shaw asked what she should say if she is questioned on this subject any more. Commissioner Smith advised that she should tell them they followed their bylaws and that it went to the Commission for their decision. Vice Chairman Warrell advised her that she can tell them that the Recreation Commission felt there were extenuating circumstances to allow the child to continue and that if anyone still has an issue with this, they can address it with the Recreation Commission.

Commissioner Smith also stated that communication needs to be open between EHTYO President and Commissioner Stetser who is the EHTYO Liaison.

Chairwoman Rispoli advised that the policies were put in place so as not to take outside residents who would take spaces from Township residents, not for residents who joined and had to relocate due to extenuating circumstances.

Commissioner Weldon stated this should not have even made it to the commission. He felt that this issue should have been handled and a decision should have been made at the organizations level. However, since that was not done, the commission has rendered a decision and parents can address them if they have an issue with it.

Chairwoman Rispoli thanked Mrs. Shaw for coming in and addressing the commission and for working with the family.

Commissioner Stetser advised that EHTYO was going to push back on the commission and the Recreation Department because they are upset with Director Audet and his decision.

Commissioner Weldon advised that issues like this chase good coaches away because they don't feel like their board will support them. Commissioner Stetser agreed. He stated that good people are leaving because of the board. He said in the meeting one member accused another of stealing money from the stand. This has caused people to step down. Things are out of control.

Commissioner Stetser advised that even though he is the liaison for EHTYO, Mr. Branca was refusing to discuss information with him because of miscommunication that was being sent around the organization. Commissioner Stetser advised that there are still inappropriate things going on down at the fields that Mr. Branca will not address. There are still people smoking and drinking, and Mr. Branca refuses to advise those doing this to stop. Commissioner Stetser said he is tired of sitting back and watching his hometown implode. This is broken and it needs to be fixed. We have good people who are refusing to step up because of who is sitting on our boards.

Commissioner Weldon stated the issues start at the top. The Recreation Commission needs to deal with discipline and decisions and get the boards back under control.

Old Business

Director Audet provided the commission with an update for the ongoing capital projects. He advised that the amphitheater cover installer is expected back on location on Monday and that the project should take approximately three weeks to finish. We will also see to the stone veneer and electric being installed once the cover is up. Director Audet is hoping the project will be completed in October.

Quotes are due for new handrails and new steps for the amphitheater shortly and that the dedication of the project will take place next year.

Vice Chairman Warrell asked why we went with concrete steps instead of steel grates. Director Audet said we were fixing what is already there. Chairwoman Rispoli asked Director Audet not to pay the bills until the project is complete and accepted.

Director Audet advised that the BMX start gate is currently in the bidding phase. He said they have one quote that needs to be changed from euros to dollars. He advised that this is a fall project and that they will do their best not to interfere with their Veterans Day race. President Stan Russ said that it was OK, as long as they have dirt and that it's level, they will race. In addition to the start gate, they need to fix the concrete ramp and build a box for the starting gate. The project would hopefully be completed by the start of next season, which according to Mr. Russ would begin around March 25th.

The next project is Street Hockey. The bids for this project will be going out tomorrow. It is hopeful to get the asphalt work performed through our Roads contractor. The bid calls for purchasing new hockey rink system and installing it onto the new asphalt surface.

Childs Kirk Memorial Park Field #2 project is underway. Public Works will be demoing and we will be going out to bid for new fencing, dugouts and field repairs. This contract should be awarded around October 6th.

Chairwoman Rispoli asked about the new fencing for lacrosse/football field. Rick advised that this project will come from Parks O&E not from Capital. Vice Chairman Warrell asked to nix the netting. During the off season when this has to be stored there is potential for the netting to be destroyed. Director Audet advised that right now we are looking at a 6' fence at the split rail fence location.

Vice Chairman Warrell advised that we need to look at field #7 netting for the left side, but we should wait to see how the 6' fence works.

Use of Parks Facility Requests

A use of facility for Shires Park was received from NFL Flag Football for 10/1/17-11/19/17. Director Audet advised NFL Flag Football what would be needed as far as fees and certificate of insurance. Director Audet advised the commission they are a commercial entity and would be charged for field use according to our policy. Commissioner Weldon and Vice Chairman

Warrell made the motion to approve the use of facility and all members were in favor. NFL Flag Football has been approved and Director Audet will advise them of what is needed and the cost.

Commissioner Stetser asked if all youth groups should be asking for use of facilities for their special events such as fundraisers and tournaments. Director Audet advised that they all should be filling out the use of facility forms so that we can approve and we know who is using the fields. It is a good way to track how many times the fields are used and helps with public works on their maintenance schedule.

Director's Report

Director Audet advised that EHT Jr. Wrestling has not turned in financial statements in close to 2 years. He stated that the last report was when the new board came in and opened a new account after Peggy Smith and Greg Dix stepped down. Since this time, there have been no financial reports from Wrestling.

Director Audet said that they were asked at the February meeting to supply this information and have been asked numerous times since then. Director Audet advised that he even emailed the treasurer asking for this information by September 1st and still nothing has been turned in.

Chairwoman Rispoli stated they are non-compliant and Director Audet said that stern action is needed to be taken at this time. Director Audet said that a treasurer's report is needed and in this case and with the history of Wrestling we need them to go to a CPA and get a financial audit completed. This needs to be done by the end of October or the use of facilities they have requested for the building will not be granted.

Chairwoman Rispoli asked that a letter be sent to the entire wrestling board advising what we have been asking for, addressing that it took six months for the schools to be paid and that this lack of response is affecting other groups. In addition they should be required to attend the 9/27 meeting to address these issues.

Commissioner Smith agreed, she stated that when parents put money into a group, they should know where the money is going and that is not the case if financials are not turned in.

Commissioner Stetser stated that there are other issues as well; he advised that Mr. Scannell who coaches in Galloway and is the Head Coach at Absegami still has not been able to obtain a waiver for his son. All Mr. Scannell wants is for his son to wrestle for him.

Commissioner Weldon advised that we should deny their use of facilities until they address this issue. Commissioner Stetser agreed that it also shows the Board of Education that we are not playing around with the groups that don't pay their bills in a timely fashion.

Chairwoman Rispoli advised that on 8/9 at the recreation meeting Mrs. Driscoll stated that the check would be delivered the next day. The check was not received by the BOE office until 8/21.

Chairwoman Rispoli stated that in the past Bob Lincoln and Wanda Schafer used to run wrestling as a recreation program. They agreed to let it become a club and allowed Peggy Smith and Greg Dix to run it. It may be time to take it back. Director Audet stated he wasn't sure that was best course, but Recreation will do what is needed. We need someone from the organization to step up. Chairwoman Rispoli responded that maybe Mr. Caiazza would be interested in coaching it under the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Smith requested that due to the circumstances and the fact that it has been this long since we have seen financials that maybe Recreation needs to pick the CPA that Wrestling is to send their books to for the audit. All other Commissioners agreed.

Commissioner Weldon stated that Street Hockey and other organizations are in the same boat. He said that if their treasurer leaves there is no guidance on how to maintain the books and what needs to be done. We should look into giving a breakdown to all organizations of what is needed to be turned in and when.

Director Audet advised that the financial guidelines are in the Recreation Commission's sponsored youth groups policies and procedures manual.

All Commissioners in attendance were in agreement that a letter needed to be sent to wrestling, in the letter they are being required to attend the 9/27 Commission Meeting. The Meeting will be advertised for a 6pm Special Meeting to address the issues with wrestling's financials.

Commission Members were reminded to attend the meetings of the youth groups so that misinformation is not put out there. Chairwoman Rispoli reminded everyone that the groups should be turning in their rosters, schedules, practice times, coaches, financials and whatever else is requested by Director Audet. This information should be turned into recreation prior to the start of their seasons.

Chairwoman Rispoli mentioned that the forms came up when a baseball player was injured and forms were not turned in. We need to confirm that the kids are registered prior to providing the parents with the supplemental insurance information. Director Audet said that there is an appendix in the manual that has incident/accident report forms attached to it.

Commissioner Weldon stated he went to the baseball meeting and that the one coach who was asking about non-resident players did not come up. Chairwoman Rispoli stated again, this is another reason we need their rosters, how do we know they just didn't take outside residents without coming to us.

Director Audet mentioned that the topics tonight show that it is just as important for the commission members to attend the youth group meetings as it is for them to attend commission meetings.

Director Audet advised that there were some additional issues with Baseball. He has spoken with people in reference to how they are treated by the board. One person advised that over 20 kids have left that played for EHT last year because of the five guys running the program. Said person stated it was their way or the highway. Director Audet also advised that Program Manager Danz has spoken to numerous parent who were upset over decisions and actions made by the Baseball Board. Director Audet asked her to elaborate.

Program Manager Danz advised that she spoke with some parents during the summer that were upset, there were coaches who were accused of cheating, there were coaches who left because of how they were treated by the board. In addition to that Rec tryouts and evaluations are not fair, the same two teams always end up in playoff and it needed to be fixed. Program Manager Danz stated that good coaches are leaving because they do not want to deal with what parents are referring to as the "Power 5".

Commissioner Smith addressed the commission as the Lacrosse Liaison. She stated at this time there are no issues. They are working on their bylaws and they have received approval for the Sunday fall league. She advised that Andrew Gargan was stepping down and that Mike Price is the new Vice President.

Lacrosse bylaws are going for a second reading and will be supplied to the commission for their review. They are also working on drafting an incident report so they have a paper trail. Director Audet said they could use the one in the Recreation Manual if they would like.

Commission Smith mentioned that Andrew Carpenter was looking for additional coaches and that Lacrosse will be doing winter training at Athlete's Arbor in Linwood. It should also be noted that they do not need to address the number of players on rosters in their bylaws, as the number and age groups you can play in are governed by the league they play in.

Chairwoman Rispoli addressed the commission with the complaints that have been received about the bathrooms at Veterans Park. Director Audet stated he was asked by Mrs. Savistano to have the bathrooms cleaned more frequently. Director Audet advised that public works is doing all they can, however when no one at the fields is monitoring the bathrooms, kids are destroying them by stuffing things in the toilets and clogging them. A procedure may need to be created addressing when the bathrooms will be unlocked.

Commissioner Stetser stated maybe we need to address the bathrooms like a gas station does. Maybe they get the key from the snack stand every time someone needs it and that the organizations should be policing them throughout the day to ensure they are not being destroyed.

New Business

Capital Budget Workshop - Six Year Capital Plan 2018-2023 is attached to these minutes. The items listed on the worksheet are in the process of being discussed and the dates for the projects are tentative and each project can be changed or deleted based on the desire of the Commission to move forward with other projects.

Commissioner Smith advised she would like to see a skatepark. Other Commissioners agreed that this would be a good project to either replace Castle Park with when it is due to come down or find another location, maybe near the BMX pump track. This project should be bicycle and skateboard friendly.

Other items discussed by Director Audet, were that Wrestling mats should be pushed back a year. We need them to comply with financials prior to moving forward with any requests. In addition to that, Director Audet said that Deputy Administrator Matt von der Hayden was working on an ADA grant that would possibly bring walking paths to Canale Park and Veterans Park.

Director Audet went through the six year plan with commission members and addressed the BMX starting gate, Childs Kirk Memorial Park Field 2 Rebuild, and Veterans Park LAX Field 3 were already being designed and bid on.

Commission members agreed at this time to remove the lacrosse field scoreboard. Commission Members were asked to review the remaining document and make notes to be discussed at the 9/27 commission meeting.

Correspondence

The following are attached and made part of these minutes

- EHT Baseball Financial Report
- EHT Baseball Minutes 6/8/17
- EHT Baseball Minutes 7/6/17
- EHT Street Hockey minutes 6/20/17
- EHT Street Hockey minutes 7/17/17
- EHT Street Hockey Financial Report
- EHT Street Hockey Board of Directors
- EHT Lacrosse minutes 7/12/17
- EHTYO Memo on coach suspension
- EHTYO Atlantic Cheerleading Coach list
- EHTYO Revised Bylaws
- EHT Junior Wrestling Minutes 4/25/17
- EHTBMX Minutes 8/9/17

Chairwoman Rispoli remarked about the EHTYO minutes/bylaws. She stated that the word Private/Volunteer Organization should not be there. They are not a Private entity. This should read Independent Organization.

Chairwoman Rispoli also remarked on baseballs financials asking for a specific break down on what the Money for Coaches was for. Was this umpire money?

Commissioner Weldon was asked to explain the floating blue line in the hockey minutes and if the Women and Adult leagues registration money goes to EHT Street Hockey. Commissioner Weldon explained the rule change, and that EHT Street Hockey keeps the registration money for the two leagues in question. This pays for officials and equipment for both groups.

Chairwoman Rispoli stated that baseball has changes to their bylaws that the commission needs to review and that they need to approve. She questioned the attendance policy changes and the fact they are adding outside players to the bylaws. These bylaws need to be reviewed and discussed in further detail. Commissioner Weldon stated that baseball believes that since they are a 501(c)3 organization that the Township has no right to oversee them. Director Audet mentioned this to Administrator Miller and Administrator Miller advised that due to a sponsored youth group's use of Township fields that the Township has a right of

authority over the group's policies and operations, including their bylaws. The 501(c)3 deals with fundraising efforts for the organization allowing donations to be tax deductible as well as other aspects.

Chairwoman Rispoli addressed the commission in reference to the football coach that had been suspended; EHTYO suspended Coach Fox from Coaching until 12/31/2017 and from his board position until February of 2018. Commissioners asked if they felt this was sufficient since Coach Fox who coaches in two other sports that are sponsored under the Recreation Commission. Chairwoman Rispoli stated that the Commission has the authority to remove Coach Fox longer if they felt it was in the best interest of the children and teams involved.

Commissioner Stetser stated this is an example of what is broken within our youth groups. With this case Coach Fox needs to know that he needs help. Director Audet stated that one possibility would be to lengthen the suspension of the coach for one year (until 8/21/2018).

Commissioner Stetser agreed, in the best interest of the kids, Coach Fox should be suspended for one year. Director Audet stated this suspension would be for all volunteer duties. Commissioner Smith agreed to the one year suspension, she stated at this time it is not safe for the children to be around him. The commission agreed that if Coach Fox could show that he has changed and received help for the issues at hand his suspension could be revisited. The matter would be discussed further at a future meeting, no motion was made.

Tabled Matters

Six Year Capital Budget 2018-2023 to be discussed at next regular meeting.

Public Comment

No public spoke during this time.

Adjournment

Commissioner Stetser / Vice Chairman Warrell to adjourn the meeting at 10:11 pm. All in favor.

Minutes as heard by Program Manager Dena Danz.

Dena Danz for Secretary Justin Riggs

Chairwoman Toni-Lynn Rispoli

<p>These minutes were approved at the September 27, 2017 regular meeting of the Board of Recreation Commissioners.</p>
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