

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

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

7:00 pm

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m.

III. Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act

IV. Roll Call: Robert Fairfield, Chair - Present Charles Gallagher - Present
Carmen Messina, Vice Chair - Excused Justin Riggs - Present
Toni Rispoli - Present Paul Weldon - Present
Kathy Fiedor - Excused Kevin Stetser - Excused
William Warrell - Present

Rick Audet – Director of Recreation

V. Reading/Acceptance of Minutes

a. Minutes – October 12, 2016

Commissioner Gallagher made the motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Warrell seconded the motion. By a vote of 5-0-1 (Commissioner Riggs abstained) the minutes were approved.

VI. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups Comment

EHT Soccer-

President Christine Gras inquired whether any progress had been made regarding non-residents participating on EHT Youth Sports.

Joan Gras, Christine's daughter asked to speak. Joan explained that she is 14 years old and was not able to play due to not enough players for the team. She explained that if the Recreation Commission would allow non-residents to play, she would have a team with which to play. She does not want to go to another town to play, even though she was invited by another team to play. Joan wanted to continue playing for EHT. Joan stated that it was not too late to help her sister and asked that the Recreation Commission to allow non-residents to play. She added that in doing so it would allow EHT Soccer to survive.

Christine Gras indicated that each week new work is being done on the fields. Recently fields 3 & 4 were dug up. Soccer was not made aware of the work. Director Audet advised that an irrigation line broke and needed to be repaired. He will remind Public Works to notify the Recreation Department of any work on the fields that may affect the group's game/practice schedule. Rick will advise the President.

Rick indicated that the sewer lines should be in at the end of the week.

BMX-

Stan Russ, President, advised that the Vertan's Race will commence on November 12, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

He asked for barriers to be placed for the trash. The Pump Track is a great asset and new faces using it.

Stan thanked all of the volunteers who helped with the turns and pump track. He expressed his gratitude for their tremendous effort. Stan asked if a turning lane can be constructed turning into Veteran's Park.

EHT Jr. Wrestling-

President Nikki Franklin thanked Recreation for the mat tape which should cover them for a few seasons. She expressed Wrestling's desire to have a building to practice 5-6 days a week. It is difficult sharing the Auxiliary gym with Karate and moving mats into the Multi-purpose, they need a place to hold additional practice.

Director Audet advised that the purchase of another mat will come under the Recreation Commission's Capital Budget. As for the old mats, he will look into the protocol for selling or disposing of them.

EHTYS-

Mariaelana D'Agostino, Treasurer, indicated that Softball is pushing for an 80/20 split for non-residents. She stated that it would make EHT teams more competitive. EHTYS is trying to get back the players who left to participate on travel teams, many of which are pitchers and catchers. They are actively trying to bring the program back. Babe Rule allows players from other towns to participate in their Extreme program.

Street Hockey-

Gary Adams stated that the West Court is unplayable. He inquired about the East Courts refocusing of the lights and whether the North Court would be lighted. Rick Audet advised that the refocusing on the East court should take place soon. As far as the additional lights on the North Court goes, Musco has been contacted. LED or Halo lights are being discussed.

VII. Public Comment opened at 7:20 p.m.

Eric Gonzales spoke about non-residents playing Soccer in EHT. Eric stated that there isn't enough players for the EHT Raiders team. They only have 12 players and could use non-residents to complete the roster.

Christine Gras stated that a sub-committee was formed in October 2015 to look at non-residents participating on EHT teams. She said since it was approved for adult teams, it should be extended to the youth teams. She asked when the Commission would discuss non-resident participation. Christine continued asking why resources are invested in the fields but not the players. Christine stated that it is now time to allow non-residents to participate.

Commissioner Warrell asked how many teams were short players. Christine said the U14 team has nine players and needs five more. Other teams are short every weekend. The Soccer Board does a good job with the teams, but they need more players.

Matt Cross asked what is wrong with an 80/20 split to make up the difference.

Chairman Fairfield Green Acres is our next project. It will entail outside group use of EHT fields. The sub-committee and Commission need to address issues that benefit everyone. EHT has a policy that was enacted years ago forbidding non-residents to participate on the Youth Organizations. Peter Miller, Township Administrator, acknowledged that this policy exists. The Recreation Commission will need to look at it and make an assessment. Green Acres may be the way for groups to use non-residents.

Kathleen Glick, EHTYS President, said not allowing non-residents to participate does not help the Youth teams.

Commissioner Warrell said that every organization has special needs. There is no blanket rule. Residents must play Rec.

Director Audet spoke about Green Acres. He is presently drafting a fee schedule that will be reasonable and consistent. We will work with EHT sponsored groups, yet can't be exclusive. The Recreation Commissions biggest complaint is the conditions of the fields and the need to close them for rest and work projects.

Mariaelana D'Agostino, EHTYS Treasurer, said that specific needs must be addressed. She indicated that nets need to be placed on field 5, first base line. Foul balls fly over the fence into the parking lot and have caused damage to parked cars.

- **Public Portion was closed at 7:58 p.m.**

VIII. Old Business

a. Policy & Procedures Subcommittee (Non-Resident Coaches)

Chairman Fairfield presented a pilot program for non-resident coaches. The drafted language specifies that this is a pilot program for a period of one year, wherein it will be assessed prior to granting the policy to continue. If approved, this policy will not affect Youth Group by-laws.

Commissioner Warrell made the motion and Commissioner Weldon seconded it. By a vote of 4-2 (Gallagher and Fairfield) the pilot program allowing non-resident coaches was approved commencing on January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

b. **2016 Capital Projects Update**
Nothing to report at this time.

c. **Six Year Capital Plan**
A Special Meeting will be conducted on November 30, 2016 to discuss the Six Year Capital Plan.

IX. Use of Facility Requests

a. Bargaintown Park Baseball Field. 5/7/16-8/8/17 NJ Baseball Teams
The request was filed and tabled.

X. Director's Report

1400 trees will be planted throughout the Parks.

XI. New Business

a. 2017 Recreation Commission meeting calendar.
Tabled until the December meeting.

XII. Correspondance

EHT Youth Group Minutes

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Baseball Association -9/1/16, 10/6/16 | F. Soccer Club – 9/13/16 |
| B. BMX – 10/25/16 | G. Street Hockey Association – 9/21, 10/11/16 |
| C. Diamond Cheer | H. Travel Basketball – last received 9/8/16 |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – 9/27/16 | I. Youth Softball – last received 3/28/16 |
| E. Lacrosse – 9/14/16, 10/12/16 | J. Youth Organization – last received 8/17/16 |

Handouts

- a. EHT Baseball Financials 10/6/16
- b. B. Grounds Department work summary 11/9/16
- c. BMX financials 11/9/16

XIII. Tabled Matters

XIV. Public Comment re-opened at 8:12 p.m.

Lori Oberman expressed her thanks for voting to allow non-resident coaches.

Russ Stan requested signs indicating that Surveillance cameras were in use at all of the field houses.

- **Public Portion was closed at 8:17 p.m.**

XV. Adjournment 8:18 p.m.

Motion was made by Commissioner Riggs	Seconded by Commissioner Warrell
Vote	6-0