

# EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP RECREATION COMMISSION

## NOVEMBER 23, 2015 MINUTES

### Attendees:

Fairfield, Messina, Audet, Gallagher, Riggs, Rispoli (7:09 p.m.), Stetser, Warrell and Weldon (7:05 p.m.) Fiedor excused absence.

1. Swearing in:

Commissioner Kevin Stetser, Alternate II, was sworn in by Chairman Fairfield.

Commissioner Justin Riggs, Regular Member, was sworn in earlier in the day by notary clerk.

2. Pledge of Allegiance 7:03 p.m.

3. Minutes:

October 14, 2015 minutes were approved by a vote of 4-0-2 (Fairfield and Stetser).

4. Presentations/Public Comment:

Pickle Ball-

Bill Gianetti addressed the Commission summarizing the sport of pickleball, its participation in Egg Harbor Township, and recent history of the Township's courts and programs. Mr. Gianetti continued by asking to utilize the Community Center's main gym for pickle ball.

He asked for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with expanded hours, although they could be flexible on their schedule of use. Bill offered ideas on how to accommodate additional courts in the main gym and that he would provide the additional nets for the courts. Bill stated that the auxiliary gym did not adequately address the needs of the players. One court did not suffice, as the waiting time between games was long.

Director Audet explained that the main gym is used for other programs during the day. Open gym use for adults and pre-school programs which he intends to expand.

Director Audet indicated that there are numerous lines on the gym floor. Adding more lines would confuse the young participants that play Basketball and Volleyball. Putting additional tape on the floor could pose as a safety issue and there is no funding available to paint the floor. Additionally, adding four pickleball courts in green tape to the gym surface would make the court look confusing and messy. Chairman Fairfield asked about the financial component. Mr. Gianetti said that paying to play was not an issue. No one has complained about the fee to play at the Community Center.

Several EHT residents spoke about pickle ball. Helen Hudson asked about programs for seniors. Director Audet described the various bus trips, cooking, and fitness programs offered at the EHT Community center. Mia Campo asked whether the pickle ball program could be extended to late afternoon. Mike Fitzpatrick explained that it is the fastest growing sport, not just for seniors and is a lifetime sport. Tony Morris asked if the present program could be expanded to Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Dayne Solar plays in an advanced league. He explained that it is difficult to get enough playing time with only one court. In Ocean City, he can play six to eight games within two hours. He pleaded for more courts. Gerry Saken inquired whether there was any time that the main gym wasn't being used.

Chairman Fairfield explained the Recreation Commission's voting procedure. He advised that the Commission will take the request under advisement. The Recreation Department and Commission quickly worked together to provide three courts at Delilah Oaks Park and an indoor court at the Community Center. No other group has received such quick action. Commissioner Warrell added that, as new organizations develop, growing pains occur. Bill added that the responsibility of the programs fall under Recreation. Chairman Fairfield agreed with Commissioner Warrell's assessment and added that daily activities commencing at the Community Center fall under the direction of Recreation Director Audet. The dialogue heard concerning the need for additional courts will be taken into consideration. Director Audet stated that he is not inclined to change his decision at this time as he is taking into account all of the various programming and operations needs of the Township and our community center and not just one specific user group. Mr. Audet stated that the program as currently constituted allows eight players to play in a two hour session which he and the pickleball players had all previously agreed was sufficient.

#### EHTBA-

Manny Aponte, EHTBA Voting Member, apologized to Vice Chair Messina for the lack of respect and decorum shown to him at a previous EHTBA meeting. Vice Chair Messina stated that he accepted the apology.

Manny inquired about capital improvements made by the individual organizations. He spoke of installing lights on field 6 and repairing/replacing the batting cages, which are capital improvements. Going forward, at all EHTBA registrations, Manny advised that perhaps parents/guardians can be notified that a portion of the registration fee will go toward capital improvements. Should the parent/guardian decide that they do not want to contribute to capital improvements, they may opt out of paying the additional fee.

Director Audet stated that Township Committee, Public Works and some of the Recreation Commissioners are amenable and open to the concept, though he mentioned again that all capital and/or park improvement projects must obtain prior approval from the Township and the Township must carefully consider future expenses that such projects entail. Careful thought and deliberation of such projects must be first submitted to the Recreation Commission. Should the Recreation Commission endorse such a project it will be presented to Township Committee for their approval. Chairman Fairfield advised that the Policy and Procedure committee (Fairfield, Messina, Audet and Rispoli) will meet with members of Township Committee. Language will be agreed upon and placed in the manual. Commissioner Rispoli emphasized that all groups must present their ideas to the Recreation Commission for approval first. The groups are not to circumvent the Recreation Commission. Endorsed projects will be only be presented to Township Committee via the Recreation Commission.

5. Old Business:

EHT Softball Sunday League-

Kathleen Glick, President, inquired whether a decision had been reached with regard to EHTYS continuing to host Fall Ball at Childs-Kirk Park. Director Audet explained that in allowing all of the multi-town games to be played only in EHT sets a precedent for all organizations. Director Audet also stated his opinion that the "Home Games" clause of the Policy and Procedure Manual is in the best interests of the Township and again all youth groups need to be treated the same.

On page 16 of the Policy and Procedures manual under Home Games, it states "When EHTYGs coordinate with other agencies to create a regional game schedule involving multiple towns, the EHTYG president shall ensure that there is an equal amount of games hosted in EHT as are hosted in other towns." Director Audet reiterated that he and the Recreation Commission will not allow the Fall Ball program to be materially hurt by this decision and that we would work through a modest solution noting that the program has been in existence for many years. He suggested that EHTYS find one other town to host some of the games. Kathleen stated that she asked all of the towns involved in Fall Ball to send a letter to the EHT Recreation Department advising whether they had fields available in the Fall.

Seven league presidents sent letters to Director Audet stating that they did not have available fields. Director Audet confirmed that he received the letters. However, he wanted the letters to come from the respective towns' Administrator or Recreation Director, Recreation Commission chair (noting that some towns do not have each

position) not from the league presidents. President Glick expressed her dissatisfaction. She felt that Director Audet was not clear when asking for the letters. She further stated that it took an enormous amount of time for her to contact the leagues and ask for the letters. Commissioner Rispoli volunteered to contact the various township administrators or recreation directors. President Glick stated that it was not necessary for Commissioner Rispoli to do this as she “was no longer a part of EHT Softball.” Commissioner Warrell expressed his disappointment with the attitude of EHT Softball. He indicated that help was offered and declined. Director Audet reaffirmed that Fall Ball will not go away or be negatively affected in a material way, and the letters being asked for could be turned in by June if necessary. A compromise and small change to the program is in order. Recreation must avoid setting compromising precedents.

#### EHTYS Clinics-

Kim Collins, Vice President, advised that Softball has taken the advice of the Recreation Commission. They are moving forward with clinics. A pitching coach has been found and EHTYS will host pitching and catching clinics at one of the EHT schools. Incrediballs will be used for the clinics.

#### Non-resident participation-

Chairman Fairfield stated that the decision to allow non-residents to participate on teams is a dead issue. The 100% residency rule for under 18 year old leagues will remain intact. He is not willing to compromise on this issue. Adult leagues, 18 and up, will continue with the 80% rule of residency.

#### EHT Junior Wrestling-

Cara Driscoll, Voting Member, addressed her concerns over Wrestling’s by-laws. She feels that the by-laws are not being followed.

Kurt Driscoll, Head Coach, stated that the number of participants for wrestling is way down. There are only 42 wrestlers in the program when there are normally 90.

Kurt said that President, Peggy Smith, sent emails out to the parents of the wrestlers encouraging them to join Orchard South. This is a program at the High School.

Commissioner Riggs advised that Kathy Bechtel is looking into the use of facility for Orchard South.

Kurt indicated that EHT Junior Wrestling had two weight scales. One is broken and the other has disappeared.

Chairman Fairfield feels that intervention is necessary. A request to attend the December 9, 2015 Recreation Commission will be sent to the Wrestling Executive

Officers. Their presence is required. Should the EHT Jr. Wrestling Board not adhere to their by-laws, it may revert back to a program under the governance of Recreation. Commissioner Warrell added that consequences for not following directives should be imposed. The fact that registration money had not been deposited in over two months was unacceptable. All money should be deposited within 48 hours. The hand-written minutes were addressed numerous times. Wrestling was informed that their meeting minutes must be typed. He concurred that Recreation should take over the program if their by-laws are not followed.

Chairman Fairfield appointed a Wrestling sub-committee (Fairfield, Messina and Rispoli).

#### EHTBA-

Brian Hawkes, President, indicated that the berm on field 3 needs to be removed and the outfield brought up to the appropriate height. Baseball will work in conjunction with Public Works. Baseball is responsible for the infield, mound and home plate. Public Works will take care of the berm and outfield.

Chairman Fairfield indicated that field 3 is a collaborated effort by Public Works and Baseball. Both need to work together. Once the project is completed Baseball and Public Works should sign off that all the work was completed satisfactorily.

Brian advised, based on his conversations with Director Audet, that Public Works will have electricity run to the blue "bin" or Conex box by March 1, 2016. Building official, fire inspector, and public works director were all consulted on this project.

#### Six Year Capital Budget Plan-

A review of the six year plan was discussed. It will be re-visited at the December 9, 2015 meeting. The completed document will be forwarded to the Township Administrator.

#### Current Capital Projects Update-

2015 Capital Improvement projects remain unchanged. Three bids were received for the tennis court resurfacing project. Fencing work at Vets Park and Childs Kirk Park has commenced and will be finished soon. A RFQ was sent out to local architects for the design of Tony Canale Park amphitheater cover.

#### 6. Use of Facility Requests:

##### EHT Men's Ball Hockey-

A request to use the North and East Courts on Sunday nights from 10/18/15 through 10/18/16 was approved by a vote of 8-0. The league must present a team roster. They have submitted proof of insurance.

**7. New Business:**

**Commissioner sworn in-**

Commissioner Paul Weldon, Alternate I, was sworn in by Chairman Fairfield.

**Coach of the Year-**

Tabled until the December 9, 2015 meeting.

**Recreation Commission Meeting dates for 2016-**

A tentative meeting schedule was reviewed. Any changes will be discussed at the December 9, 2015 meeting.

**8. Correspondence:**

**Non-resident Baseball Coach-**

Barry Inman and his son requested the opportunity to coach his grandson/son's baseball team. The request was denied by a vote of 8-0. Non-residents may not coach. However, a parent/guardian may coach provided the child resides in EHT. Such a coach may only participate on the team to which the child is rostered. Approved by an 8-0 vote.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.