

Egg Harbor Township Board of Recreation Commissioners Meeting  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ

**REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, December 12, 2018** **7:00pm**

**I. Call to Order**

Recreation Commission Chair Toni Rispoli called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act**

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet read the Opening Statement Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act.

**IV. Roll Call:**

Toni Rispoli, Chair - Present	Amy Smith - Excused
William Warrell, Vice Chair - Excused	Paul Trinkle - Present
Charles Gallagher – Present	Christine Gras (Alt. 1) - Present
Paul Weldon - Present	Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Present
Kevin Stetser - Present	

Note: Kevin Stetser left the Commission meeting at 7:40 p.m. to attend the Youth Organization board meeting.

**V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes**

a. Regular Meeting November 14, 2018

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the 11/14/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Charlie Gallagher
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

Commission Chair Toni Rispoli called for a motion to move Old Business to next item on our agenda. Motion carried.

**VI. Old Business**

a. Appeal by B. Cieslak of EHT Soccer Club Board decision re removal as coach

Brian Cieslak, 126 Azalea Lane, is present to appeal his suspension from the EHT Soccer Club to the Recreation Commission. Mr. Cieslak stated that he met with the Soccer Club board and came back to the Recreation Commission for a different outcome as he wishes to resume coaching the team in the spring. He received an email from the soccer club inviting him to a closed door meeting. He states that he feels like he was blindsided by their decision and the whole meeting and entirety of their decision was based on the status of the team binder which he informed everyone he had shredded the contents of. Mr. Cieslak asked for anyone to point out where in the EHTSC bylaws it states that a head coach must turn in the team binder at the end of the season. He stated that if this is a rule then it should be in the bylaws. He further stated that anyone from the board can print the player cards.

Mr. Cieslak stated that he has an issue with Recreation Commission chair Toni Rispoli staying in the room during the closed meeting of the executive committee. Mr. Cieslak asked Parks and Recreation director Rick Audet if Ms. Rispoli should have been allowed to stay in the room during this meeting or if that is inappropriate. Mr. Audet replied that he didn't see an issue with it and the soccer club executive committee could have asked Ms. Rispoli to step out of the meeting if they had wanted to.

Toni Rispoli stated that Township Administrator Peter Miller contacted her. Mr. Miller advised Toni that she had the right to be in closed session of the executive committee and as well as Mr. Cieslak's meeting with the executive board. Ms. Rispoli reiterated that as the liaison to the EHTSC and the chairperson of the Commission she had the right (and obligation) to attend both meetings. Ms. Rispoli indicated that she did not speak at either meeting. Toni further stated that Mr. Miller advised her that she was not required to abstain from the Commission's vote on whether EHTSC followed their bylaws.

Mr. Cieslak recounted the incident whereby an EHT PD officer showed up at the Cieslak household at 10:30 pm and asked for the team binder. He stated that his wife and daughter were traumatized by this. Mr. Cieslak stated that the soccer club board told him that once he served his suspension for allegedly arguing with a parent he would be reinstated as the coach. He is requesting that the Commission overturn the decision of the Soccer Club board and enable him to be reinstated as the coach.

Toni Rispoli stated that she was the one who asked EHTPD to obtain the EHTSC's binder from Mr. Cieslak. Prior to this phone call to the PD, Kristi Cieslak requested a meeting with Toni Rispoli. The meeting was set for 10/16/18 at 7:00 p.m. In a text message sent to Ms. Cieslak, Toni advised her that EHTSC needed their team binder returned. Toni Rispoli also indicated in the text message that if Mr. Cieslak did not return it by Thursday 10/18/18 the EHTPD would be contacted to obtain the notebook.

On 10/19/18 at 10:19am Toni contacted EHTPD. The chief was not available, therefore Toni spoke with an EHTPD Lieutenant. She advised him of the situation. He said an officer would be sent later that day. At 3:20 p.m. Ms. Rispoli received a phone call from Chief Davis and explained the situation. Chief Davis indicated that Rick Audet sent an email advising that Brian Cieslak shredded the documents. At this point, Toni felt that EHTPD was told to stand down on the order to obtain the binder. There was a miscommunication and an officer was sent to the residence at 10:30 p.m. to obtain the binder.

Toni Rispoli stated that she met with Kristi Cieslak on Tuesday, October 16, 2018 and also informed her that if the book was not turned in that the Police Department would be sent to their house to ask for team binder and document the outcome.

Brian Cieslak stated that he disagrees, stating that if the EHTSC requires the team binder to be turned into to the board, then that requirement should be stated in the bylaws. Since it is not stated, there can be no repercussions for a coach not doing so.

Kristi Cieslak, 126 Azalea Lane, stated that when Brian was suspended on that Thursday that their family was to be away for that weekend and the club had already made new documents for the team. The team binder has never once in the past been returned to the EHTSC. She further stated that Brian always gets rid of all the team materials at the end of each season, and in this case his season was over, thus he disposed of the materials as he had for many years. Toni Rispoli stated that returning the team binder to EHTSC was common sense, as the team's season was not over.

Paul Weldon stated that Brian Cieslak himself said he shredded the team paperwork because he was upset, and Paul asked him if he could admit that this was not in the best interest of the kids. Brian stated that he was ready to serve his suspension for the alleged verbal argument with the team parent and then was brought up on these new allegations regarding the team binder.

Matt Bailey, 107 Cabot Lane, stated that EHTSC bylaws article 6 states that the coach shall be responsible for the team's paperwork. He further asked why Mr. Cieslak would shred all of the paperwork if his intention was to be reinstated as the coach. The EHTSC did not want the binder itself but all of the paperwork it contained and stated that \$15 of the registration fees paid by each family covers the player cards that were shredded. Mr. Bailey stated that EHTSC had to scramble to secure all replacement paperwork in time for the next game. Mr. Bailey clarified that Mr. Cieslak was not suspended for failure to turn in paperwork but instead lost the trust and confidence of the board and the team parents. Coaches serve at the sole discretion of the board and the board interprets and acts on the bylaws in the best interests of the kids.

Brian Cieslak stated that there was email after email but he never officially got anything in writing on the suspension. He stated that a lot of mistakes were made by the EHTSC board. He stated that he wants to get back on the team and coach these kids. Toni Rispoli stated that the bylaws are a guiding document. They do not speak to every single possibility and specific circumstance within the operations of the club.

Kristi Cieslak stated that there were no consequences administered to the parents of the team who broke the club rule on not contacting a coach for a certain length of time after a game. Toni Rispoli stated that the board spoke to both the coach of the team (Darren) and the parents and issued a warning to both and the club handled that matter.

Kristi Cieslak stated that the soccer club board is not following a lot of their own bylaws and that half of the conversations that took place were not put into their minutes. She stated that Matt Bailey was yelling at her during the meeting and asked why a board member is allowed to yell at a parent at their meeting.

Nate Schaffer, 50 Marshall Drive, stated that is did state in the soccer club minutes that Matt Bailey escalated his voice.

Jess Ortiz, 120 Ingram Ave, stated that the best interest of the girls on the team is our bottom line. The team and parents had to scramble to fill out the forms to replace what was shredded and that it was her child's personal information that was destroyed. Mr. Ortiz further stated that shredding the paperwork was vindictive and meant to break up the team.

Joe Martin, soccer club member, stated that Brian's speaking with the parent was just a conversation. He stated that the bylaws should state to turn in the team binders and that the club's do not.

Kevin Stetser asked Mr. Cieslak if he still thinks its ok to shred documents belonging to the kids on the team. Mr. Stetser asked the parents who were in attendance tonight by a show of hands who among them wants Mr. Cieslak to continue as coach of the team. Mr. Cieslak stated that he has emails from some parents on the team telling him they want him to stay but that some of these parents are afraid to speak up with possible retaliation from the club. Mr. Cieslak stated that some parents are now leaving the team. Matt Bailey clarified that Brian is not allowed at this time to be a head coach in the soccer club but would be allowed to be an assistant on another team.

Toni Rispoli stated that the Commissioners have read the EHTSC bylaws and at this time would like each member to weigh in on their stance if they agree with the appeal being made. Paul Weldon said he does not. Kevin Stetser stated that the Commission needs to see concrete information to overturn a decision and doesn't feel like it exists in this case. Paul Trinkle stated to Mr. Cieslak that he should consider accepting an assistant coach spot and work your way back up to head coach one day and to make the most of the opportunity. Jonathan Parker stated that we have heard enough and

the same conversation keeps getting repeated, we only have to now make sure that the coach had his due process. Christine Gras stated that she felt that the EHTSC followed their bylaws but that she would abstain from a vote as she is a parent on the soccer team.

Ms. Rispoli asked the Recreation Commission to render their opinions. Ms. Rispoli indicated that she would not vote and the rest of the Commission would render the decision.

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To confirm that the EHTSC followed their bylaws and to thus deny the appeal being made by Mr. Cieslak.</b> Motion made by Jonathan Parker Seconded by Paul Weldon
<b>Vote</b>	Yes: Weldon, Gallagher, Stetser, Trinkle, Parker. Abstain: Rispoli, Gras. Appeal by Mr. Cieslak denied by 5-0-2 vote.

Ms. Rispoli stated that the Commission is hereby finished with this matter and called for a short break in the meeting.

**VII. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups**

Stan Russ, 3 Patrician Terrace, stated that he turned in the last two sets of meeting minutes for EHT BMX. Their board had missed a few meetings, but the minutes are now posted. Toni Rispoli stated that their board should provide 72 hours of notice in posting any change to a scheduled meeting. Mr. Russ stated that he turned in the end of year financials report for EHT BMX. They have consolidated their funds into one account. He was asked about writing checks for their club, he stated that they generally do not write any checks.

Mr. Russ was proud to announce that EHT BMX has been selected to host a National Race in 2019. The event will take place on Aug 2, 3, 4 in 2019. Rick Audet stated that he would remind all the sports groups who use Veteran's Park to not host any activity during this time. National Night Out is on August 6 and EHT BMX will have to clean up after their event very thoroughly and quickly so that the park is ready for NNO.

Mr. Russ stated that he is very excited to bring Nationals to the Township and has already been in contact with area hotels. Also, EHT BMX was recognized recently at this year's nationals race for participating in the Race for Life and being the track that raised the most money. The EHT BMX track also had a top racing rider this year. Lastly, Mr. Russ plans to contact the school district about parking for the National race. Toni Rispoli stated that if you use the schools for parking you would need a shuttle. Mr. Russ answered that he may be able to get away with just having a drop-off area instead. Toni Rispoli stated that she and the Commission are here for EHT BMX for any help they might need and commended EHT BMX on doing a great job with our track and their operations.

Mr. Russ stated their Treasurer resigned and that they are down two board members. There was discussion on how their bylaws govern the board member elections. Lastly, Mr. Russ stated they have planned their end-of-year party in January. Ms. Rispoli reminded him that there can be no alcohol at the event as kids will be in attendance.

**VIII. Public Comment**

None.

**IX. Use of Parks Facility Requests**

b. EHT Street Hockey      Veteran's Park      10/1/18 – 3/8/19

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the parks use request as submitted by EHT Street Hockey.</b> Motion made by Paul Weldon Seconded by Christine Gras
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

The lights at the street hockey court have been left on while the court is not in use recently. Rick Audet will contact the Street Hockey President about the issue.

**X. Director's Report**

Parks and Recreation Director informed the Commission on two of the 2018 Capital Projects. The tennis backboards have been installed at both Canale and Bargaintown Parks. The irrigation and well project at Canale and Veteran's Park is currently out for bids with a bid opening on December 20. Mr. Audet also stated that the 2019 Winter Programs guide for the Parks and Recreation Department comes out on December 13.

**XI. New Business**

c. Approval of 2019 Recreation Commission meeting calendar

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To approve the 2019 Recreation Commission meeting calendar as presented.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Paul Trinkle
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

It was noted that the annual election of officers will take place at the January 9, 2019 meeting.

**XII. Correspondence**

EHT Youth Group Minutes

- |                                                  |                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| A. Baseball Association – last received 10/16/18 | F. Soccer Club – 11/13, 11/19/18              |
| B. BMX – 11/20, 12/4/2018                        | G. Street Hockey Association – 11/5/18        |
| C. Youth Organization – last received 10/17      | H. Travel Basketball – last received 10/11/18 |
| D. Jr. Wrestling – last received 8/28/18         | I. Youth Softball – last received 7/9/18      |
| E. Lacrosse – last received 6/13/18              |                                               |

Handouts

- A. Street Hockey team rosters, game schedules, coach list, updated bylaws
- B. EHT BMX 2018 financials
- C. EHT Soccer Club Financials – 11/30/18
- D. EHT Travel Basketball Game Schedule

Toni Rispoli named Jonathan Parker as the liaison to EHT Baseball on a temporary basis. The current liaison assignments were discussed. Ms. Rispoli stated that she will look at all liaison assignments early in the new year and may make some changes if it will be of benefit to the Commissioner’s schedules and also our youth sport groups.

The Coach of the Year award nominations were distributed to all Commissioners for their review. The Commissioners are asked to read through them carefully over the next couple of weeks so that we may vote on the winner at the January, 2019 Commission meeting. Rick Audet will email any new ones we may receive prior to the deadline to all Commissioners as well. The winner will be presented with their plaque at the February, 2019 Commission meeting.

Rick Audet will speak with PW manager Sam Gioconda about the old hockey court lights that were decommissioned recently and see if we can repurpose any of them for the BMX track. BMX is requesting more lighting for one of their turns.

Toni Rispoli stated that Commissioners can bring up topics, ideas, issues at our January meeting that they would like to see presented to everyone at the February presidents meeting.

**XIII. Tabled Matters**

None.

**XIV. Public Comment**

None.

**XV. Adjournment**

<b>Motion</b>	<b>To adjourn the December 12, 2018 meeting of the Recreation Commission meeting at 8:50 p.m.</b> Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Charlie Gallagher
<b>Vote</b>	All voted in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

*Minutes as heard by Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation.*

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Toni Rispoli, Chair

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Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation

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These minutes were approved at the January 9, 2019 Recreation Commission Meeting.  
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