

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

REGULAR MEETING - MINUTES
Wednesday, October 10, 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.

IV. Roll Call:

Toni Rispoli, Chair - Present	Amy Smith - Present
William Warrell, Vice Chair - Present	Paul Trinkle - Present
Charles Gallagher - Present	Christine Gras (Alt. 1) - Present
Paul Weldon – Present (arrived at 7:13pm)	Jonathan Parker (Alt. 2) – Present
Kevin Stetser - Present	

V. Reading / Acceptance of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting September 12, 2018

Motion	To approve the Recreation Commission's 9/12/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Kevin Stetser
Vote	Motion carried 7-0 (Gras voted in place of Weldon.)

VI. EHT Recognized Youth Sports Groups

Kathleen Glick - EHT Youth Softball President, 1024 Ocean Heights Avenue, requested that the Commission approve a non-resident coach for the 12U travel team. The coach being requested is Leonardo Miranda of Mays Landing. There are 3 12U travel teams this season and this would be the only non-resident coach on any team. Mr. Miranda informed the Commission that since his daughter is on the team he wanted to help coach. Mr. Miranda has prior experience coaching girls softball.

Motion	To approve the non-resident coach as requested by EHT Softball. Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Amy Smith
Vote	Motion carried 7-0

Ms. Glick updated the Commission on Youth Softball's plan to renovate the old storage building into a one story structure. There is a building contractor in the Youth Softball organization who is drawing up the plans. He intends to remove the second story and install a fiberglass roof. The first floor of building is in good shape and there is electric. Ms. Glick was informed that softball would need to turn these plans into the Parks and Recreation Director who would take them to Town Hall for initial review prior to any approvals and the permitting process.

The Commission closed the Youth Sports Groups presentations section of the agenda.

VII. Public Comment

Ryan Connerton, 1059 Ocean Heights Avenue, spoke to discuss a concern he had with the Youth Organization's policy on cheerleading uniform replacement cost. Mr. Connerton stated that during the season he had lost his daughter's uniform and was informed that it would incur a replacement cost of \$350. He wanted to speak to the Commission on this matter after having tried to speak with the YO president and Cheer coordinator. Toni Rispoli stated that she did invite the YO board members to our meeting to address this issue but they were unable to attend. Mr. Connerton contacted the cheer company and was informed that the most expensive uniform they carry is \$179. Mr. Connerton said that he had a previous issue with Ms. Savastano when he switched his son from Cape to Atlantic football league. Mr. Connerton stated that he was treated rudely by the YO board members. Bill Warrell explained that the replacement cost is higher because it is a deterrent from people losing or intentionally failing to turn the uniform back in to YO, and there is a lot of time and cost that goes into to replace uniforms. Mr. Connerton stated that his registration form listed a replacement cost of \$350.

Mark Mensch, 258 Sea Pine Drive, EHT Jr. Wrestling Club Vice President, requested that the Commission approve two non-resident coaches Dane Tabano and Mike Caizza. Mike Caizza has over 30 years of experience coaching wrestling and is the former EHT High School head coach. Mr. Tabano owns Apex Wrestling and wants to help the program by assisting in the kids training at his facility. Mr. Caizza also introduced two 19 year olds who want to help coach and asked the Commission what is required for them to become approved coaches in the Township.

Motion	To approve the non-resident coaches as requested by EHT Jr. Wrestling Club. Motion made by Christine Gras Seconded by Paul Weldon
Vote	Motion carried 7-0

Joe Olivieri, 120 Carmel Drive, introduced himself as the EHT Soccer Club Vice President. He is in attendance tonight due to an appeal of a soccer club board decision that is being made.

Brian Cieslak, 126 Azalea Court, is appealing a recent decision made by the EHT Soccer Club board on his removal as a coach, to the Commission. Mr. Cieslak stated that he has been a coach for 13 years and has had no issues or complaints during that time. He recently had an argument with a team parent that became heated. Mr. Cieslak stated that EHT Soccer Club President Matt Bailey told him after the incident that he broke the coaches code of conduct; however Mr. Cieslak feels that the matter was not handled correctly per the EHTSC bylaws. He stated the board did not have a formal meeting on his removal as coach and that the board did not follow their proper procedures. Mr. Cieslak stated that a board member, Nathan Schaefer, walked by the argument and did not intervene to help as he should have as a board member. Mr. Cieslak stated his belief that this board member needs to be removed as well as any of the parents involved in the confrontation. Mr. Cieslak is appealing the decision that was made by the EHTSC board to the Recreation Commission and asks that he be reinstated as a coach on the team. He further stated that he wants justice to be served and asked why the parent code of conduct is not being followed.

Toni Rispoli stated that Brian Cieslak has been suspended for the fall season only, that is her understanding. Christine Gras stated she spent many years developing the soccer club bylaws and Brian was not terminated as a member but was removed for the remainder of the season and that Brian could reapply for the spring.

Joe Olivieri, 120 Carmel Drive, stated that he met with Brian at the practice field along with Matt Bailey. He stated that the mother who was in the alleged argument with Mr. Cieslak had already left the facility in tears. Mr. Olivieri stated that Mr. Cieslak years' with the club are not questioned. He met with the parents and coaches, there was an emergency executive board meeting. Mr. Cieslak can reapply to coach again in the spring.

Lisa Cortese, 17 Imperial Drive, spoke on her interaction with Coach Cieslak. She stated the coach approached her car, voices were raised, and her daughter was in the car. Amy Smith asked about the “24 hour” Rule in regards to emailing a coach after a game.

There was a discussion on a person alleging a phone call was made to a parent by Mr. Cieslak, Mr. Cieslak argued and has a phone record that the phone call was made to him.

Amy Smith stated that given the information we were provided at the meeting it appears that EHTSC’s decision was made in the best interest of the players. She stated that the cooling down period hasn’t happened yet. Ms. Smith further stated that Mr. Cieslak was still visibly upset about the situation and she did not think it would be beneficial for him to return to the field at this time and put himself in a situation that was still so emotional. This was not in judgment of Mr. Cieslak personally. She recommended revisiting it in the spring.

Toni Rispoli informed Brian Cieslak that he did violate the coaches code of conduct and the appeal being discussed and decided upon tonight is only on his removal as a coach for the remainder of the fall season. Mr. Cieslak stated that he would never coach for EHTSC again, nor would he allow his daughter to play for EHTSC. Toni Rispoli responded to Mr. Cieslak that “It is your prerogative not to coach for EHTSC, however it is a shame that you won’t allow your daughter to play. She obviously loves the game.” Mr. Cieslak replied:” Yes, it is my prerogative.”

Karen Prendergast, 45 Circle, stated that she didn’t want all in attendance to lose track of the fact that they are 12 year old girls, it should only be about the girls and what is best for them for the remainder of the season.

Jessica Ortiz, 120 Ingram, stated that her daughter saw Brian Cieslak yell at the team mom. She wants the team to stay together.

Joe Martin, 39 Mountain Lane, stated that he knows Brian Cieslak and that he is a phenomenal coach and that he should have only been suspended for one game. Joe stated that the soccer club board needs to suspend Nathan Schaeffer also for not intervening appropriately. Mr. Martin stated that he has not seen these alleged behaviors from Mr. Cieslak ever.

Jamie Pauls, 107 Second Avenue, stated that she witnessed the confrontation between Brian and the parent in the parking lot and went on to describe the alleged argument. She further stated that she has never seen a coach act like this.

Brian Cieslak stated that his daughter won’t come back and play on the team.

Melissa Axelson, 201 Easton Court, stated that the board addressed the complaint in an executive session.

Toni Rispoli stated that it is unfortunate that this occurred and they tried to meet with this teams’ coaches and make it work in the spring. The Recreation Commission did not have a motion called for the appeal made by Mr. Cieslak thus affirming the decision made by EHT Soccer Club.

VIII. Old Business

a. 2018 Capital Projects

Parks and Recreation Director Rick Audet summarized the status of all 2018 capital projects for the Commission. The security cameras, tennis court resurfacing, baseball field fencing, and hockey court lighting projects are all completed. The Recreation Improvements line in the capital budget is in progress as we are working on specs for our irrigation and well project in order to go out for a public bid.

b. Revision to Facility Use policy fee structure for use of amphitheater

Rick Audet, Parks and Recreation Director, reminded the Commission of the idea to incorporate use of the amphitheater into the facility use policy and fee schedule, thus charging a fee for all non-Township uses of

amphitheater. The Commission asked Mr. Audet to bring a revised copy of the facility use policy and procedures manual to the next Commission meeting for their review.

c. 2019-2024 Capital Projects Plan Draft

The Recreation Commission reviewed a preliminary six year capital projects plan draft document. Bill Warrell stated that we need to get a second gym built in the community center. He stated that we can leave the football field expansion project in the budget but we should also budget for a second gym. The Commission discussed the use of the schools for gyms. The Commission discussed the best use of the proposed Canale Park fields expansion project.

Rick Audet reviewed the list of projects that have been completed as well as the remaining projects on our capital projects plan. The Commission discussed each project and the timelines for the capital plan. Mr. Audet will bring a revised plan to the next Commission meeting for further review.

IX. Use of Parks Facility Requests

A. EHT Street Hockey Tournament Veteran's Park 10/12-10/14/18
Rick Audet stated that EHT Street Hockey will host a tournament October 12-14.

B. Women's Ball Hockey Veteran's Park 9/12-11/14/18

Motion	To approve the facility use request for the Women's Ball Hockey League as presented. Motion made by Bill Warrell Seconded by Amy Smith
Vote	Motion carried 7-0.

C. Triple Crown Baseball Bargaintown Park 9/23, 9/26, 10/24

Motion	To approve the field use request from Triple Crown baseball contingent upon the Director ensuring all field use policies are followed. Motion made by Charlie Gallagher Seconded by Christine Gras
Vote	Motion carried 7-0.

X. Director's Report

Rick Audet informed the Commission on three upcoming events: Volunteer's Day, Halloween Spooktacular and the Holiday Craft Fair. Mr. Audet stated that the Program Manager may need a Commissioner to help judge the costume contest.

XI. New Business

a. None

XII. Correspondence

EHT Youth Group Minutes

- A. Baseball Association – 8/2/18
- B. BMX – last received 4/16/2018
- C. Youth Organization – last received 4/11/18
- D. Jr. Wrestling – last received 3/27/18
- E. Lacrosse – 6/13/18
- F. Soccer Club – 10/9/18
- G. Street Hockey Association – 9/10/18
- H. Travel Basketball – last received 7/17/18
- I. Youth Softball – last received 7/9/18

Handouts

- A. EHT Baseball Association Volunteers List – fall 2018
- B. EHT Soccer Club – Addendum to Bylaws Heat Guidelines, Lightning Safety
- C. Letter to Youth Group Presidents re Clarify Policy on Background Checks and Alcohol
- D. YO email and estimate page re: cost of replacement uniform
- E. Emails re EHTSC removal of coach for season

It was reported to the Commission that an EHT Baseball Association travel team was advertising a Beef and Beer fundraiser. The Commission asked Rick Audet to contact the president to look into the matter and make sure that our rules and regulations are being followed as it pertains to alcohol at an event where children are present.

XIII. Tabled Matters

XIV. Public Comment

None.

XV. Adjournment

Motion	To approve the 10/10/18 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. Motion made by Charlie Gallagher Seconded by Christine Gras
Vote	Motion carried 7-0.

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

Toni Rispoli, Chair

Rick Audet, Director of Parks and Recreation

These minutes were approved at the November 14, 2018 Recreation Commission Meeting.
