

Borough of Wildwood Crest Recreation Commission

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Crest Pier Recreation Center

Meeting called to order by Brian Cunniff at 5:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Reading of the Sunshine Ordinance – In compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231 P.L. 231 175, the notice requirements have been classified as to the time, place and date of holding said meeting by posting notice of the same on the bulletin board in borough hall and by mailing the same to the Gazette Leader and the Herald.

Roll Call:	Don Cabrera, Mayor/Commissioner	present
	Toni Fuscellaro	present
	Bryan Vasti	present
	Salvatore Volpe	present
	Frank Basile, Recreation Supervisor	present
	Brian Cunniff, Asst. Rec Supervisor	present

A quorum is present.

Toni Fuscellaro made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2023 meeting of the Recreation Commission as presented. Bryan Vasti seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Frank Basile reported that the Crest Pier is back open for its usual fall hours, after having a limited schedule in September due to maintenance. Open rec hours are in place. He added that he expects some indoor pickleball players to begin filtering in next week as the weather turns cooler.

Frank Basile announced that a Zumba fundraiser for Love of Linda in conjunction with Breast Cancer Awareness Month will be held at the Crest Pier on Saturday morning, Oct. 21. Frank added that staff member Nick Holland is again coordinating the annual pink T-shirt sale for Love of Linda.

Frank Basile stated that, as usual, October is a very busy month for condo rentals. At least one pretty much every weekend all month. There is also a possibility of a birthday party rental on Sunday, Oct. 22.

Frank Basile announced that tryouts for the Wildwood Islanders basketball program that competes in the South Shore League will be held sometime in early to mid November. Info on tryouts will be going out to the schools shortly.

Frank Basile stated that the recreation department hosted an art class for local children at the Crest Arts Pavilion. Seven children registered. Program concludes next week. The arts pavilion also has two new featured artists in the building for this month. At least one booked for November as well. Good to see different kinds of art on display in the building.

Frank Basile stated that the Creative Arts Council is hosting a mini holiday tree decorating contest through the Crest Arts Pavilion. People pay \$15 for a 20-inch tree and take it home to decorate. Decorated trees are to be brought back to the building and will be judged at the Create in the Crest Holiday Jubilee on Sunday, Dec. 10.

Will have Christmas- and holiday-related activities at that event. Dorothy Kulisek will be featured artist/speaker at the event, along with Russ Simmons.

Bryan Vasti asked when the holiday tree lighting event will be. Brian Cunniff responded that it's scheduled for Friday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m., which is a change from the 6 p.m. that was listed on the borough calendar due to the Jaycees Christmas Parade that is scheduled for the same evening.

Frank Basile stated that the TJ Hunt Memorial Foundation will stage its 5K walk/run on Thanksgiving morning out of the Crest Pier for the second straight year.

Tore Volpe asked how the borough made out with the Seafarers Celebration after it had to be canceled due to weather. Frank Basile responded that this was only the second time in 30 years the event had to be canceled due to weather. Frank added that while we were able to cancel a lot of the entertainment for the event, we still lost about \$10K in expenses due to the cancellation. Considering some kind of credit for 2024 extended to vendors who had already paid for 2023.

Tore asked if there was a way to reschedule the event. Brian Cunniff responded no, because the bands, vendors and fireworks company, to name a few, most likely wouldn't be available on another date at such short notice. Frank Basile asked for suggestions on how to credit vendors. Bryan Vasti said he thought a 50 percent credit would be fair. Tore Volpe agreed. Fran Basile stated he was considering crediting \$75.

Mayor Cabrera updated the members about the ongoing construction at the pool. The new roof is on, the pool itself has a new coat of plaster but repairs need to be made to a severed suction line. That has caused a little bit of a delay. Probably looking at a mid November opening.

Mayor Cabrera stated that Phase 2 of the Crest Arts Pavilion reconstruction is ready to go out to bid. This phase covers all of the exterior. If all goes as planned, construction could begin in December and everything would be complete by May. Small stage, plush landscaping, firepits, bike racks, tables, chairs, additional parking, EV charging stations and more included. Borough has been awarded a county open space grant of \$1.043 million. Tore Volpe asked if the borough will make money on the EV charging stations. Mayor Cabrera responded ye, and that the EV stations will be fast charging.

Mayor Cabrera said the borough is receiving a grant to repair the surfacing at the splash park at Sunrise Park.

Tore Volpe stated that he believes some work needs to be done to upgrade the batting cages at Higbee Field. Mayor Cabrera stated that some is left over from when work was last done on the field and that it could be used for that.

Mayor Cabrera stated that beach entrances north of Rambler Road through Morning Glory are due for upgrades. Funding is in place for foot showers, bike racks, benches and the widening of beach access ramps. Basically the upgrades would include everything at the street entrances south of Rambler except for the decks. Work to begin in January and hopefully complete by June.

Tore Volpe asked Mayor Cabrera if the borough has a grant writer. Mayor Cabrera stated it depends on where the grant is coming from. Borough uses grant writers for some projects, the borough's engineering company for others and sometimes, especially for recreation, the borough writes itself.

Mayor Cabrera stated that a new fishing pier at Heather Road may be built over the new dunes that will be installed by the Army Corps of Engineers. Borough will look to widen and make longer into the water. Grants could come from New Jersey transportation trust fund and county open space. Army Corps has already indicated the borough will receive a \$2 million credit since the current pier would be lost.

Mayor Cabrera stated that the new Crest Best Run Fest, most likely under a new name, would return on Oct. 5, 2024, after being canceled for 2023. Event to include 5K and 10-mile runs. Borough would own the event. More details to come.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.