

Borough of Wildwood Crest Recreation Commission

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Crest Pier Recreation Center

Meeting called to order by Brian Cunniff at 5:04 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	not present
	James Grauel	not present
	Toni Fuscellaro	present
	Zach Ruffo	present
	Frank Basile, Recreation Supervisor	present
	Brian Cunniff, Asst. Rec Supervisor	present

A quorum is present.

Zach Ruffo made a motion to accept the minutes of the last recreation commission meeting in November. Toni Fuscellaro seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Frank Basile reported that the grammar school basketball Island Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday through Sunday, Feb. 20-24, at Crest Pier. This will be the 25th straight year the event has been held at Crest Pier.

Frank Basile stated that the South Shore recreation basketball league will hold its playoffs March 2-3 at the Crest Pier.

Frank Basile gave an update on recent programs. The K-2 indoor soccer league will be held Wednesdays and Saturdays from early March through early April. The Monday youth gymnastics program will wrap up its winter session soon. Spring session to begin in mid March. And the junior basketball program for grades 2-5 will wrap up at the Island Tournament. Frank added that the recreation department ay look to move the junior basketball program to a weekday next winter so as to not conflict with other basketball programs that involve some of the same age groups.

Frank Basile said that rentals of the Crest Pier have been going at about the same pace as previous years.

Frank Basile stated that Crest Memorial has been using the Crest Pier gymnasium for basketball practices this season. Frank stated that he has worked on better communication with Crest Memorial to ensure that all involved know when the school's teams will be practicing in the building.

Frank Basile announced that Laura Farrall has been hired full-time by the recreation department. She will continue with her fitness classes four days per week and will also chip in to help create more wellness programs and initiatives. She also will help with special events and programs, with the fitness classes in the summer and with some administrative duties. She also will obtain pool lifeguard certification so she can pitch in there when needed. Frank added that Laura is another full-time hire from within, similar to Nick Holland and Buddy DeCosta, who also both began in the department as part-timers.

Toni Fuscellaro mentioned that there have been some issues with the basketball teams at Crest Memorial having to cut players after tryouts. She said some parents have complained at school board meetings about kids getting cut. She added that it was brought up that perhaps this was a recreation problem, that the recreation department should be doing more to help in this area. She said it was brought up that there are rec teams during soccer season and there is Little League during baseball/softball season where kids can play if they can't make school teams but that there doesn't seem to be an option for basketball. There are only the Islanders (boys) and Sharks (girls) travel programs, which only take the best kids and are for more serious and more experienced players. Toni said she was asked to bring this up at the recreation commission meeting to see if the recreation department could do more.

Brian Cunniff stated that North Wildwood Recreation used to run a coed grades 6-8 rec league on Saturdays but that numbers dwindled and the league folded. Brian surmised that the rise of the Islander/Shark travel programs came out of this. Brian added that Crest Recreation already offers summer basketball leagues and the junior program for grades 2-5 but that we could look to try to create another recreation league for next winter. Might be difficult to get enough kids to register, since quite a few of the kids on the island are already playing for school and Islander teams. But it could be worth a try.

Toni Fuscellaro added that her solution, if this was an inclusion thing, would be to create a "Crest Crazies" club at the school, where kids could become official fans. They could hold meetings once per month and go to games to support the teams. It would help kids feel included.

Brian Cunniff added that he believes the school teams should be playing many more games than they already do. He said he remembers some grammar school teams playing 25-30 games per season some years ago but that the grades 5-6 teams at the school are now playing only 12-14 games and the grade 7-8 teams only 16-18 games. Brian added that he believes, especially at the grades 5-6 level, that many more games could be scheduled, with some of them serving as "B" games in which players who normally don't get a lot of playing time could get more opportunities to play. Brian said maybe the top 6-7 kids on the team wouldn't play in the "B" games, giving more playing time to younger and less experienced players. This would allow the team to keep more players involved at that age. Brian added that some parents have commented that they have their children play in the Islander/Shark programs because they feel the school teams do not play enough games.

Toni said she would report back to the school board about the discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.