

Borough of Wildwood Crest Tourism Commission Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

Crest Pier Recreation Center

Meeting called to order by Brian Cunniff at 4:06 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 Press of Atlantic City and the Cape May County Herald.

Roll Call:	Don Cabrera, Mayor/Commissioner	present
	Chrissy Casiello, Tourism Commission	not present
	Dennis Hall, Tourism Commission	present
	Lester Klayman, Tourism Commission	present
	Bob Patterson, Tourism Commission	not present
	Frank Basile, Recreation Supervisor	present
	Brian Cunniff, Asst. Rec Supervisor/TDC secretary	present

A quorum is present.

Dennis Hall made a motion to accept the minutes from the November 2023 meeting of the TDC as presented. Lester Klayman seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Brian Cunniff announced the dates of beach box sales – Jan. 25 for those renewing, Feb. 13 for Crest residents, Feb. 27 for the general public. Brian said there will be approximately 25 new boxes, giving the borough about 50 new rental units for 2023. Brian added that we may be getting close to the saturation point with the amount of boxes on the beach.

Brian Cunniff informed the members about the three digital information signs that have been installed – two at Crest Pier and one at the Creative Arts Pavilion. Brian added that there is currently an electrical issue with the one on the Ocean Avenue side of the Crest Pier and that the one at the arts pavilion is not yet operational since there is no electric to the building just yet.

Brian Cunniff stated that there is a soft opening planned for the Creative Arts Pavilion on Friday, March 24, in conjunction with the Creative Arts Council's art contest. Dennis Hall thanks Mayor Cabrera and all involved for saving the building. He believes it is a valuable asset.

Brian Cunniff stated that work has begun on the Little League field, with respect to widening the base paths to make the field playable for travel baseball distance. Work should be complete prior to the 2023 season. Brian added that the recreation department plans to run a tournament sometime this year in an effort to bring teams in from out of the area.

Brian Cunniff stated that the food truck events will be held on four Wednesday dates at Centennial Park to coincide with live music – July 5, July 19, Aug. 2, Aug. 16.

Mayor Cabrera announced that the Crest Best swim and run races are now on hold and won't be held in 2023. He said that Delmo Sports is shifting focus and won't run them. Dennis Hall stated it's a shame to lose them, that the company did a great job but that he has to do what's best for him and his company.

Mayor Cabrera stated that all beach access areas south of Rambler should be updated and complete by the middle of June. If there are delays there will be a hard stop date in mid June and work would be completed in the fall. Work delayed a bit due to issue with Wildwood Water Utility. Last phase is Orchid to Toledo (11 blocks). Mayor Cabrera added that a permit application is in to CAFRA to improve beach entrance areas north of Rambler Road for 2024. There will be no decks, but the entrances would be widened, walkways would be rebuilt and bike racks, foot showers and benches would be added. Dennis Hall stated that he loves the improvements, and added that the water splash park has been a big plus as well. Mayor Cabrera stated that revenue from beach boxes more than covers the water costs for that amenity. Lots of value in improving the parks.

Mayor Cabrera said the same CAFRA permit application includes work at the fishing pier to shave the dunes down to prevent sand from blowing onto the top of the pier. Work is currently being done in house to replace rotting wood. Long-term plans are up in the air due to Army Corps dune plan.

Mayor Cabrera stated that the beach patrol building project work is now out to bid. Project could start within the next month and a half. Would be under construction this summer. Rambler Road will see a lot of construction but borough will do its best to keep it open. The WCBP will operate out of trailers and the Nesbitt Center for this year, with Nesbitt Center tourism activities moving to the arts pavilion. The oversight of the arts pavilion will fall under recreation. Lease opportunity available at arts pavilion for food and beverage. Would be accessible from inside or outside. Lester Klayman asked about the lifeguard boat at Rambler. Mayor Cabrera stated that it would go to DPW. He added that it was out at Sunset Lake for the Christmas decorations.

Mayor Cabrera said there have been requests for a lifeguard or some kind of supervision at the kayak launch at Sunset Lake. Will follow up with more discussion. Frank Basile stated that a buoy system could prevent motorized boats from reaching the dock.

Mayor Cabrera stated that focus will shift to New Jersey Avenue project once the county finishes with Pacific Avenue. He added that the borough has met with the county engineer. Work could start in the spring of 2025. The borough is handling water, sewer service in the fall of 2024. Crest Station theme to help revitalize downtown from Heather to Columbine – medians, turning lanes all up and down New Jersey Avenue in that area.

Meeting adjourned 4:33 pm.