

Borough of Wildwood Crest Tourism Commission Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Crest Pier Recreation Center

Meeting called to order by Brian Cunniff at 4 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
	Joseph Franco, Tourism Commission	present
	Dennis Hall, Tourism Commission	present
	Lester Klayman, Tourism Commission	present
	Bob Patterson, Tourism Commission	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 of the March TDC meeting as presented. Bob Patterson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Brian Cunniff gave an update on beach box rentals. He stated that when all of the new boxes come in there will be approximately 100 more rentals, meaning we will have doubled the inventory from last year. Dennis Hall stated that he believes this is a great service to offer while also bringing in good revenue. Lester Klayman stated that he wonders if the borough can add any more beach boxes without taking away from the natural beauty of the beach if there are too many obstacles.

Lester Klayman asked about the status of financial disclosure forms. Brian Cunniff stated he would check with the borough clerk.

Brian Cunniff stated that the Health and Wellness Expo scheduled for June 17 has been postponed due to the lack of commitment from vendors because of pandemic restrictions. Brian stated that the event has tentatively been scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 14.

Joe Franco asked about the status of 2021 events. Brian Cunniff stated that the recreation department is planning as if all events this summer will occur, hoping that pandemic restrictions will be lifted. Frank Basile added that perhaps the Memorial Day weekend music at Centennial Park could be in jeopardy if restrictions aren't lifted soon.

Brian Cunniff stated that the Borough-Wide Yard Sale on Saturday, May 1, is now being run through the recreation department. Brian stated that as of this morning there were close to 130 already registered. Another yard sale will be held in the fall on Saturday, Oct. 2.

Brian Cunniff stated that the Mayor's Wellness Walk is scheduled for this Saturday at 8:30 a.m. Expecting a good turnout if weather is nice.

Bob Patterson asked about the street sign sales. He added that he hasn't seen any information. Brian Cunniff stated that numerous notices have been placed on the borough website and the borough Facebook page and that the Atlantic City Press and Cape May County Herald have each run stories about the program. Frank Basile stated that more than 500 total requests from about 300 different people have come in. Signs will be distributed to lottery winners at the old library building on the day of the yard sale, along with a food and clothing drive. Mayor Cabrera added that money raised will go toward the preservation of historical artifacts to help keep the historical society theme going on some level when library building is renovated.

Mayor Cabrera said that beach maintenance will begin during the first week of May. He added that the beach bumpouts south of Rambler Road will be created at eight street ends. Two will be done by mid June, the rest in the fall. New decks, new ramps, foot showers, bike racks and benches. Mayor Cabrera stated that many of the materials are on back order due to the pandemic, causing a delay in construction. He added that all wooden beach walkways are being repaired or replaced and that all walkways are being extended an additional 120 feet for this summer.

Mayor Cabrera stated that the upgrade at Sunrise Park are nearing completion. Atlantic City Electric needs to come in and that we are awaiting the water hookup. He hopes to have a grand opening ceremony sometime in June.

Mayor Cabrera said work at Scoop Taylor Park will start soon and continue into June. Project will be done in two phases, some by mid June and the rest in the fall. The gazebo is on back order and won't come in until the fall.

Mayor Cabrera said the parking lot of the pool is being resurfaced and restriped. Should be completed very soon.

Mayor Cabrera said the borough is still awaiting word from the county on the New Jersey Avenue business district project. He'd like to hold another stakeholder meeting in late May or early June. Looking to get Wildwood Linen relocated offshore. He added that the borough has acquired two lots near Wisteria and New Jersey for parking for the area. A pump station for the west wide of the borough could also be placed in one of these lots.

Joe Franco asked who negotiates the pricing on the lots the borough is trying to purchase. The mayor responded that the commissioners meet in closed session to give the solicitor a not to exceed amount. Dennis Hall commented that the homes the borough is looking to buy are eyesores and that this would lead to further improvement of the area.

Mayor Cabrera stated that the borough commissioners are introducing an ordinance at the next meeting that prohibits smoking on all areas of the beach. The borough has also created ordinances to limit cannabis use in public areas and to prohibit distribution services.

Joe Franco stated that he'd like to restart planning the Create in the Crest art festival idea, which was put on the back burner due to the pandemic. He said the Green Team would receive Sustainable New Jersey points for hosting. Joe is hoping that the TDC would support the event. Joe stated that small events could be held across the borough – photography, painting other art classes, etc. Bob Patterson said there could also be a cultural heritage and arts grant available from the county for such an event.

Mayor Cabrera said the Green Team has also presented ideas to create a sustainable park at the current park at Preston Avenue. Would include new landscaping, a new flagpole and lighting. Mayor Cabrera said he welcomed this idea, adding that this park is one of the last in the borough that needs attention.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.