

# **Borough of Wildwood Crest Tourism Commission Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

**Crest Pier Recreation Center**

Meeting called to order by Brian Cunniff at 4:05 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 Press of Atlantic City and the Cape May County Herald.

Roll Call:	Don Cabrera, Mayor/Commissioner	present
	Joanna Lacivita	present
	Dennis Hall, Tourism Commission	present
	Lester Klayman, Tourism Commission	present
	Frank Basile, Recreation Supervisor	present
	Brian Cunniff, Asst. Rec Supervisor/TDC secretary	present

A quorum is present.

Joanna Lacivita was welcomed as the newest member of the TDC. Brian Cunniff and Mayor Cabrera explained the TDC's functions.

Mayor Cabrera stated that the TDC still needs another member now that Chrissy Casiello has resigned and that the borough also needs to appoint a resident representative to the GWTIDA advisory board.

Mayor Cabrera made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 2023 TDC meeting as presented. Lester Klayman seconded the motion. Motion approved by 3-0 vote. Dennis Hall abstained, citing that he did not get a chance to review.

Brian Cunniff stated that the three Seward Johnson sculptures had displayed for the summer are due to be picked up sometime in November. Dennis Hall asked what the TDC paid for the sculpture rentals. Brian Cunniff responded that the cost was \$7,000. Mayor Cabrera added that the TDC will need to make a decision on what to do for next year with the sculptures.

Mayor Cabrera stated that the second phase of construction at the Crest Arts Pavilion is due to begin before the end of the year now that the borough has received a \$1.043 grant from the county open space program. Second phase will include improve landscaping, fire pits, a stage area, bike racks, EV charging stations and two new parking lots on each side of the building. Mayor Cabrera stated that future Seward Johnson sculptures could all be placed there rather than throughout the borough should the TDC wish to rent again in 2024.

Dennis Hall said he can't thank the borough enough for saving the building. Joanna Lacivita stated that her daughter is currently enrolled in the art class there and that there is a great atmosphere to the building. Brian Cunniff stated that there are two new featured artists on display for the month of October. Frank Basile stated at least one artist is already booked for November as well.

Brian Cunniff added that a Christmas season event has been added to the building on Sunday, Dec. 10, and will be run by the Creative Arts Council. Mini tree decorating contest included in that event. Frank

Basile added that the community holiday tree that was on the beach at Rambler Road last December will be moved to the Heather Road beach due to the construction on the beach patrol building at Rambler.

Brian Cunniff stated that the Seafarers Celebration on Sept. 23 was cancelled due to inclement weather. Just second time in 30 years that has happened. He added that the fall yard sale on Saturday, Oct. 7, was also affected by a poor weather forecast but that the event was held anyway and it did not rain on the day of the event. Attendance and participation were down, however.

Brian Cunniff stated that attendance at the September live music shows at Centennial Park was up compared to Septembers past.

Brian Cunniff stated that the borough's holiday tree lighting event will be held Friday, Dec. 1, at 5 p.m. Was listed as 6 p.m. in borough calendar but request came in to move the event earlier due to the Jaycees Christmas Parade the same evening.

Mayor Cabrera stated that the borough has received a proposal for a company to run the Crest Best Run Fest on Oct. 5, 2024. Financial commitment from borough would be \$15K. Borough would provide in-kind services with DPW, police and public safety. Race company would get half of all sponsorships, borough gets other half. Borough will apply for GWTIDA funding. New event would be owned by borough and will get renamed.

Mayor Cabrera asked the members if the TDC members are on board with the event. Denis Hall made a motion to support the event. Lester Klayman seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously. Mayor Cabrera stated the event would include a 5K race and a 10-mile race both held the same day. Registration and packet pickup at the Crest Arts Pavilion.

Brian Cunniff stated that he is exploring hosting two youth baseball tournaments at Higbee Field in 2024, one in spring and one in fall. Would bring a lot of people to town during shoulder seasons. Will apply for GWTIDA funding.

Joanna Lacivita asked if the scoreboard at Higbee Field was working. Brian Cunniff responded that it was working at the very end of the season. Mayor Cabrera stated there is an electrical issue in the board itself and added that GWLL president Ricch Hans is working to try to get someone to donate a scoreboard. Right now, it's in Little League's hands. Brian Cunniff stated that he will follow up with Rich Hans.

Mayor Cabrera said funding is in place to improve beach entrances north of Rambler Road through Morning Glory Road. Would include 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.

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 by 500 to 1,000 feet. 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. Potential new design being discussed by fishing pier committee.

Dennis Hall exited the meeting at 4:36 p.m. due to a scheduling conflict.

Meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.