

# Ventnor raises fees for renovated fishing pier

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**VENTNOR** — It will cost more to use the newly renovated fishing pier this year, as the Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted an ordinance Thursday night to raise the fees over a few objections from residents.

The city spent about \$3.2 million to refurbish the aging pier, which reopened last July 4.

Resident and pier member Catherine Basile protested the fact that the yearly fee for senior citizens more than doubled.

"I'm on a limited income, and I don't have that kind of money," Basile said.

Commissioner Stephen Weintrob said he sympathizes with her plight, but the renovation costs have to be met. Because some of the money for the work was obtained from the state, the law does not allow them to charge non-residents more than those who live in Ventnor.

"It's not fair to other homeowners to have to pick up the cost of your fishing," Weintrob said.

The commissioners deliberately made the one-time use fee high so that regular users aren't disturbed by tourists who don't care for the pier the way the locals do and may not be familiar with safety precautions in a fishing area, Weintrob said.

Resident Norman Klinger protested the fact that the daily fee is the same whether one wants to take a short stroll or spend the entire day fishing.

"I think this is a means of discouraging people from walking to the end of the pier," Klinger said, even though a good portion of the structure is open to the public at no charge.

Summer resident Paula DeLuca asked if the commissioners had investigated sell-

ing licenses to vendors to sell refreshments and other items to help recoup the cost of the renovation.

The plan is in the works but is a long process because the state government is involved, Weintrob said.

The new fees to use the fishing pier are:

■ Yearly pass with fishing privileges, adults ages 18 to 61 —

\$175 if bought by May 31, \$225 if purchased June 1 or later.

■ Yearly pass with fishing privileges, seniors ages 62 and older — \$150 if bought by May 31, \$200 if bought June 1 or later.

■ Yearly pass with fishing privileges for children ages 10 to 17 — \$40.

■ Yearly spectator pass — \$40.

■ Daily rates — \$20 for adults 18 to 61, \$10 for seniors and

children 10 to 17.

In other business, the commissioners introduced an ordinance revising the regulations on the city tennis courts. Fees will be \$7 per hour between 8 a.m. and noon and from 5 to 8 p.m. The courts would be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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