

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board held a meeting Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the Stuart Community Center.

The following Board Members were present: Chairman, Bob Schmidlein, Eric Oakman, Christopher Bratton, Curtis Stevens, Marv Salsman and Jennifer Love.

Borough Council Liaison, Cate Mellen, and Parks & Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse also attended. Board member Whitney Baker did not attend. One guest attended, Brian Drake, a Carlisle Borough resident.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Schmidlein called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes from the November 2, 2023 meeting were approved.

Stevens/Bratton

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Drake of E. Louther Street explained a situation that he encountered at Fort LeTort playground. On November 22, 2023, he went to Fort LeTort with his 2-year old around sunset to play around. While there, he encountered a group of youth between 12 and 14 year olds who were on bikes, popping wheelies, using the equipment inappropriately and from his perception, using disrespectful language and being disrespectful inaction. He asked the group to stop but they did not so he called the Carlisle Police. He said a Police Officer came to playground and talked with the youth but the youth continued the bad behavior after the Officer left. While there are general rules about the use of the play equipment, Mr. Drake pointed out there is no signage prohibiting bikes, skateboards or scooters. He asked the Parks and Recreation consider installing signage and a surveillance camera.

The Board had discussion regarding the incident that Mr. Drake described as well as vandalism and trespassing after park hours. Director Crouse will work to install playground rule signs at Fort LeTort and the other playgrounds in the park system. The Board has concern that the tires on the bikes, skateboards and scooters will destroy the surfacing as well as the equipment. The Board also discussed a need to look into a surveillance camera specifically for Fort LeTort.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Crouse told Board members that Borough Council would be voting on the 2024 draft budget at the December 14, 2023 Borough Council Meeting. She listed the projects for the following proposed 2024 Capital Improvement Budget for the Parks and Recreation Department. They include Pool Restroom Upgrades, Pool Water Chemistry Controllers, Parks Maintenance Facility Improvements, LeTort Pavilion Roof Replacement, Community Center Room Refurbishment, HVAC on the second floor of the Stuart Community Center, and the Comprehensive Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Crouse reported the recent clearing at Seven Gables Park is in conjunction with South Middleton Township and their work with Arborist Matt Schrock.

Borough Council Liaison Cate Mellen commented that she attended the Holiday Parade and reported from where she was standing between South and Pomfret streets the parade entries were driving too fast creating huge gaps in the parade. From where she was standing, it was difficult to tell when the parade was ending. The Board suggested to possibly looking at making the route shorter for this particular parade.

Erik Oakman commented that the pump track construction looks great and professionally done. Director Crouse let the Board know that phase 1 of the construction will be complete December 8. Crews will be back in March. The project is anticipated to be complete by March 31, 2024 with opening sometime in the summer.

SHADE TREE

Two street trees from the 2023 fall street tree planting program are yet to be planted because the stumps were not ground to the 18" requirement. Director Crouse is working with different property locations/owners and A Touch of Green for alternate locations.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:47pm.

Oakman/Love

The next Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Stuart Community Center. There is no January meeting. Any member that is unable to attend is asked to notify Andrea Crouse.