

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board held a meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Stuart Community Center.

The following board members were present: Chairman, Bob Schmidlein, Curtis Stevens, Whitney Baker, Marvin Salsman, Chris Bratton, Eric Oakman and Jennifer Love.

Parks & Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse, Borough Council Liaison, Jackie Roos, Recreation Assistant, Kara Landis and Jason Pote, Borough Field Operations employee were also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Schmidlein at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF MARCH 2024 MINUTES

Minutes from the March 7, 2024 meeting were approved.

Stevens/Salsman

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Several punch list items remain for the Fairground Avenue Linear Park Project. Completing punch list items will pave the way for removing the fence and moving forward with the soft opening and eventually the grand opening during the summer months.

The Board also discussed the graffiti on the Skate Spot and suggested graffiti containing profanity and vulgar drawing to be covered up. Installing a mural in the bowl could serve as a way to celebrate skate culture, showcase local artists, and deter vandalism.

The Pump Track at Valley Meadows Park is near completion, pending favorable weather conditions. An official grand opening is expected to take place in the summer.

Joe Bott, from Boy Scout Troop 180 in collaboration with Bosler Library and Parks and Recreation will be installing the Story Forest at LeTort Park in May. The Story Forest will be installed around the perimeter of Fort LeTort. Public Works will help with the installation of the 22 posts in the first week of May.

Director Crouse has been working with Kiwanis member, Mike Cornfield, to install a donated Little Library in Letort Park. The Little Library will be strategically placed near public view within the park. This ensures that it's easily accessible and visible to park visitors.

Director Crouse reported the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Park and Open Space grant application was submitted to DCNR via the portal on April 2, 2024. Decisions regarding the grant applications are expected in December 2024.

Erik Smith is volunteering his time and leading an effort to remove ivy from the trees in Thornwald Park. His clean-up is scheduled for April 13 & 28, 2024. Ivy can be detrimental to trees, as it can smother and weaken them, making them more susceptible to diseases and storm damage.

NEW BUSINESS

Curtis Stevens announced on April 27, 2024, a local 4H group will be doing a litter clean up at Letort Trail near LeTort Park.

Recreation and Community Center Manager, Kelsey Paul was recognized and awarded the Outstanding New Professional Award at the PRPS (Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society) conference in March 2024. This is a significant achievement, highlighting her contributions and excellence in the field of recreation and parks. The Parks and Recreation Board commended Kelsey for receiving this prestigious recognition.

OLD BUSINESS

Addressing the concerns of the local pickleball group at Letort Park, Director Crouse received an estimate for trees to be pruned due to their concern of debris on the courts from five hemlocks and five yews near the courts. The tree company proposed to prune these trees thoroughly, from ground to sky, for a total cost of \$1500. This pruning is intended to mitigate the debris problem effectively. However, the P&R Board decided against allowing the pruning proposal. This decision stems from various reasons, including concerns about the cost and potential impact on the trees.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

The Shade Tree Committee will host an Arbor Day event at Valley Meadows Park on April 24, 2024, from 8:45 am to 10:30 am with a group of students from Carlisle High School. With the Mayor having signed a proclamation, this formal declaration marks the importance of Arbor Day and the Borough's commitment to tree planting and conservation.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Stevens/Salsman