

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

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

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

Parks & Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse, Recreation and Pool Manager, Anne Mitzel and Recreation Assistant, Kara Landis were also in attendance. Borough Council Liaison Jackie Roos did not attend.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Schmidlein at 7:00pm. Bob moved to permit Marv Salsman to attend via telephone. The motion was seconded by Eric Oakman.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2024 MINUTES

Minutes from February 1, 2024 meeting were approved. Stevens/Bratton

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Anne Mitzel, Recreation and Pool Manager provided the Board with the 2023 Pool Report. She went over operational and statistical data from the 2023 pool season. Discussion for the 2024 pool season also took place. In 2024, the pool will be open daily from 12pm – 7pm, YMCA swim lessons will be offered again, a new vendor is handling the vending machines, a CCP Teen Night is planned and special events and food trucks are on tap for 2024. Parks and Recreation Board members provided suggestions for the upcoming season. Whitney Baker suggested an evening glow swim for a special event and Jennifer Love suggested renewal incentives for increased memberships. Marv Salsman suggested gift cards but Anne Mitzel confirmed the Parks and Recreation already sells them. Anne will look into renewal incentives and evening swim options.

Director Crouse presented the idea of becoming a Bird Town. The idea was presented to Borough Council by the Executive Director of Bird Town during the February Borough Council Workshop Meeting. Borough Manager, Susan Armstrong assigned Director Crouse to take the lead on this. Bird Town Pennsylvania's mission is to work with local municipalities to promote community-based conservation actions to create a healthier, more sustainable environment for birds, wildlife and people. Director Crouse explained that a Committee, a Resolution passed by Borough Council and an Application approved by Bird Town are the first requirements of becoming a Bird Town.

The Parks and Recreation Board was in favor of Director Crouse moving forward with this effort. Marvin Salsman indicated that he would be interested to serve on the Committee. Curtis Stevens suggested that we involve LeTort Regional Authority for recognition of the work they already do. Jennifer Love suggested we involve St. Pat's school as they just unveiled a new STEAM wing. Chris Bratton suggested we involve the Dickinson College Sustainability Department.

Chairman Bob Schmidlein signed a Parks and Recreation Board Letter of Support for the upcoming DCNR grant submittal of the Comprehensive Recreation Parks and Open Space Plan. The grant is due April 3, 2024. DCNR will make the decision on all grants in November 2024. If approved, an RFP will need to be created and a study committee will be established to provide guidance and review of all work of the comprehensive plan.

NEW BUSINESS

The Carlisle Area Pickleball Association (CAPA) would like to install a concrete pad, benches and a shade shelter on the west side of the pickleball courts at LeTort Park. They also requested to install a sidewalk connecting the new pad around the north side of the court to the northeast gate assuming they could procure the funding. In order to install the sidewalk, they have requested to have the trees removed on the north end of the courts. CAPA feels the trees provide little shade and continually drop needles and cones on the court, which cause slipping issues.

The Parks and Recreation discussed the issue and would like to give CAPA the go ahead to proceed with getting prices for a concrete pad, benches and a shade shelter on the west side of the pickleball courts at LeTort Park. However, the idea to extend the sidewalk to the northside gate is not something the Parks and Recreation Board is in favor of due to the cutting down of the trees on the north side. Instead, Parks and Recreation will look at removing deadwood from the hemlock and yew trees and trimming the branches above the courts.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION

A property owner was recently sent a street tree violation letter for cutting down two street trees without following the proper protocol. The property owner will be assessed a \$600 fine for the removal of two street trees without a permit. The property owner has thirty days to pay the fine or request a hearing before the Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board. In the absence of a timely payment or request for a hearing, the Board will be required to exercise its authority to enter a lien on the property for the cost of the fine, plus attorney's fees and interest.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Love/Oakman