

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board met on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Stuart Community Center.

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

Parks & Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse and Recreation Assistant, Kara Landis attended. Borough Council Liaison Jackie Roos did not attend.

George Dete of 328 W. Willow Street attended as a guest.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Schmidlein at 6:58 pm.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 2025 MINUTES

Minutes from April 3, 2025, meeting were approved.

Stevens/Bratton

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Crouse provided an update on the upcoming mural at the Skate Spot. She has been collaborating with muralist Aron Rook and Jackie Ford from the Capital Area Intermediate Unit (CAIU). The Borough has received a \$1,500 grant to support the mural's creation from the CAIU who in turn receives grant funds from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA) through the Arts in Education (AIE) residency program.

Director Crouse has reached out to the local community for input on the mural's theme. She has shared several concept ideas and is currently seeking feedback to determine what the community would like the mural to depict. The project is slated for July 2025.

George Dete, a resident of W. Willow Street, attended the meeting to further discuss concerns about vultures in the area. He expressed particular concern about businesses in Carlisle Commons on Noble Boulevard leaving their dumpster lids open. Upon a recent inspection, he observed that dumpsters behind the mall had opened, cracked, or missing lids.

Mr. Dete warned that this creates an ongoing food source for vultures, which in turn could attract other birds such as crows, leading to unsanitary conditions. The Board discussed that the monitoring of dumpsters would typically fall under the Borough's property maintenance code.

Carlisle Area School District officials have contacted Carlisle Borough officials to express interest in potentially expanding Mooreland Elementary School onto the Mooreland Athletic Fields, which is owned by the Carlisle Area School District.

The expansion plan is still in the early stages, and no final decisions have been made. As a result, the crack repair and resurfacing of the two, northside tennis courts at Mooreland Athletic Field planned in the 2025 budget have been placed on hold until more information becomes available.

NEW BUSINESS

Jenn Karhnak, on behalf of the Carlisle Diamonds girls' softball league, has contacted Director Crouse to propose a series of improvements to Goodyear Park. The Carlisle Diamonds have estimated their proposed multi-stage upgrade at a total cost of \$50,000.

The initial stage would involve upgrading the dugouts at a cost of approximately \$1,000. Subsequent stages include replacing the existing shed, expanding the concrete pad, and installing electrical service to the shed. The league is also interested in adding an electric scoreboard and field lighting to support evening games.

The Board preliminarily discussed the following about the request: location within the floodplain, ownership status, permitting, lighting impact on nearby housing, and environmental considerations involving the Mully Grub and Letort Springs.

The points discussed by the Board will require further investigation and clarification before any improvements can be approved or initiated. Director Crouse will reach out to Jenn Karhnak for more information.

OLD BUSINESS

Curtis Stevens reiterated concerns about the difficulty and safety risks of crossing Walnut Bottom Road to access Thornwald Park.

Eric Oakman said the intersection of Orange and High Streets, near the subway, is also an unsafe intersection for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Director Crouse informed the group that she serves on the Vision Zero Committee and will share these concerns from the Parks and Recreation Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Baker/Salzman

The next Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be held on June 5, 2025. If any members are unable to attend, please contact Director Andrea Crouse.