

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board met on Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the Stuart Community Center.

The following board members were present: Whitney Baker, Chris Bratton, Eric Oakman, and Jennifer Love. Parks & Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse, Borough Council Liaison, Jackie Roos, and Recreation Assistant Kara Landis also attended. Chairman Bob Schmidlein, Marv Salsman, and Curtis Stevens were absent.

Cate Mellen and Karen Quinn from the United Way of Carlisle & Cumberland County also attended.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Parks and Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse at 7:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2025 MINUTES

Minutes from the February 6, 2025, meeting were approved.

Baker/Bratton

PUBLIC COMMENT/GUESTS

United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County Director of Success By 6, Karen Quinn, addressed the group to seek approval to install a Basics Learning Trail at Valley Meadows Park. The project aims to introduce the 'Children Thrive by The Basics 5' initiative by installing six informational signposts and a seventh post with a lending library.

Ms. Quinn would like to install the signposts along the existing macadam near the pavilion and playground. The signposts would give a brief message and a corresponding activity to be done on the existing macadam walkway.

The project would be fully funded and maintained by the United Way. Eric Oakman raised concerns about overcrowding the park with signposts restricting play and movement.

After discussion, Whitney Baker motioned to approve the installation of the Basics Learning Trail at Valley Meadows with the caveat that careful attention be paid to the placement of signposts. Christopher Bratton seconded the motion.

The motion was approved 3-1.

Baker/Bratton

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carlisle Borough has achieved the Bronze Level through Bird Town Pennsylvania. Recreation and Pool Manager, Anne Mitzel completed the 2024 Annual Report for the Bird Town Committee to earn this designation.

Southside residents have expressed concern about black and turkey vultures roosting in their neighbors. The vultures have been seen in the vicinity of W. Willow, S. College, Mooreland, and Walnut Streets. Director Crouse contacted the USDA to assess the situation. A Cooperative Services Agreement may be entered into, and it is proposed to be on the March Borough Council meeting agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Eric Oakman further discussed concerns regarding projects to parks and does not support adding more storyboards, learning trails, or similar features in our parks unless they are part of a larger capital project that includes park upgrades. Whitney Baker suggested the discussion to be a part of the Comprehensive Recreation Park and Open Space plan. Jennifer Love pointed out the positives of learning while playing and stated that her family enjoys these types of features.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Love/Oakman

The next Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be held on April 3, 2025. If any members are unable to attend, please contact Director Andrea Crouse.