

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board met on Thursday, September 3, 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Stuart Community Center.

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

Borough Councilor Jackie Roos, Parks & Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse, Recreation and Pool Manager, Anne Monko and Recreation Assistant Kara Landis attended.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES

Minutes from August 6, 2026, meeting were approved.

Stevens/Bratton

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Crouse shared that the department received funding from the Rotary Club of Carlisle to support landscape improvements. Most of the funding will be used at the Carlisle Community Pool to enhance the pool's front landscape beds by refreshing the river rock, planting a new tree, and purchasing and installing planters and planting them with native plants between the street and sidewalk of the main parking lot. Two additional trees will be planted in borough parks.

Comprehensive Recreation Park and Open Space Plan Project Manager Joanne Shelly has resigned from evolveEA, and Kathryn Schlesinger has replaced her. Parks and Recreation staff expect to receive an updated narrative draft for chapter one soon. A community open house is planned for November at the Stuart Community Center. The Open House dates will be included in a Parks and Recreation flyer advertised in the borough's quarterly utility billing statements, reaching over 5,400 accounts.

The honeybees have returned to the same tree at Lindner Park. Heavenly Honey, a local beekeeper, came to remove the bees and recommended installing a swarm box. The box would be placed approximately 15 feet up the tree to encourage the bees to settle inside the box rather than on the tree trunk. Honeycomb is placed inside the box to attract the swarm.

In August, six additional signs outlining the Borough's 6-foot leash and pet-waste cleanup ordinances were installed at LeTort Park. Board members suggested adding pet-waste bag stations at Borough parks to encourage visitors to clean up after their pets.

Shade Tree Committee

The 2025 street tree survey is in the final stages of completion with any unresolved tree issues being monitored for completion. The 2026 street tree surveys from Shade Tree Committee members were due September 1, 2026.

Bird Town Committee

Anne Monko updated the Board on bird related programs provided by the Parks and Recreation Department as part of Bird Town. She reported on the programs offered for both children and adults, including Backyard Birding, Bird Watching Walking Tours, and World Migratory Bird Day.

Bird Town meetings are held quarterly on the second Monday of the month, with the next meeting scheduled for October 12. There are also currently positions available for residents interested in getting involved.

Marv Salsman shared information about the free Merlin Bird ID app, which is offered by the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology.

Ms. Monko also discussed the new Bird Habitat Recognition program. The program recognizes properties that provide habitat for birds through features such as bird shelter, food, water, and nesting areas. Residents can apply for recognition and obtain a Bird-Friendly Habitat sign. A \$30 fee is assessed to cover the cost of the sign and placed on the Pennsylvania Audubon Council listing. Progression through Bird Town certification levels require a certain number of new properties to be recognized each year. Bronze requires three new properties, Silver requires five and Gold requires seven.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Crouse explained to the Board that Borough Manager Susan Armstrong reached out to Dr. Colleen Friend, Superintendent of the Carlisle Area School District, regarding the status of Letort Elementary School. Manager Armstrong reaffirmed to Dr. Friend that from the Borough staff perspective the site has great potential for the Borough to explore, but staff also recognize the School District may have other programming needs or interests.

Director Crouse will share any updates from Borough Manager Armstrong with the Board as they become available.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Love/Salsman

The next Carlisle Parks & Recreation Board Meeting will be October 1, 2026, at the Stuart Community Center.