

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board met Thursday, June 4, 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.

Parks & Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse, and Recreation Assistant, Kara Landis attended.

Whitney Baker and Jackie Roos did not attend.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

Minutes from April 2, 2026, meeting were approved.

Stevens/Salsman

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

EvolveEA, project consultant for the Comprehensive Recreation, Parks, and Open Space Plan (CRPOS) held the first two Steering Committee meetings April 21–22, 2026, at LeTort Park, Goodyear Park, and the Stuart Community Center. During these meetings, evolveEA began conducting an inventory of parks, open spaces, and trails. The Steering Committee and consulting team also discussed the plan's vision, mission statement, and goals, guided by the requirements outlined in the RFP. Director Crouse, Pool Manager Anne Monko, and Community Center Manager Garth Ericson will meet with evolveEA to refine plans for focus groups and key stakeholder interviews. The Parks and Recreation Board will participate as one of the focus groups.

On June 27, 2026, public engagement activities for the CRPOS Plan will take place at both the Summerfair Craft Fair and the Memorial Park Juneteenth Block Party. These events will provide opportunities for residents to learn about the CRPOS Plan, to complete a citizen survey, to gather community input and ensure the plan reflects the needs, priorities, and interests of the parks and recreation system.

A preliminary design plan and survey work for the Thornwald Park amphitheater was approved by Borough Council at their May 14, 2026, meeting. The plan will study accessibility improvements to the amphitheater, an issue that Board member Marv Salsman has raised. The amphitheater is in a rocky area with stormwater runoff challenges. Gannett Fleming will conduct a survey of the park in coordination with the Water Resource Department to address stormwater management and sediment discharge reduction credits. This project is a planning effort and will provide a construction cost estimate upon completion.

At the June 3, 2026, Borough Council meeting, Borough Council approved the replacement of picnic tables for the LeTort Park main pavilion. Sixteen new steel, ADA-accessible tables will be purchased, increasing accessibility and making it easier for wheelchair and walker users to move throughout the pavilion. The new tables will provide seating for approximately 180 people and will be easier to clean and maintain. A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) will cover the cost of the project.

Director Crouse reported that two picnic tables and two benches near the spray pool at Memorial Park will soon be replaced.

Girl Scout Tessa Moyer is creating a mural at the Carlisle Community Pool pavilion as part of her Gold Award project, under the direction of Aron Rook, Skate Spot muralist. The mural's theme, which will be completed in July, focuses on native frogs and tadpoles.

Nineteen trees were planted during 2026 Spring Free Street Tree Planting program as part of the Borough's ongoing efforts to enhance and expand the community's tree canopy. A Touch of Green installed the trees throughout the Borough.

Penn Line Tree Service, Inc, a PPL Utilities contractor, was currently in the Borough performing selective tree trimming services within and adjacent to the electric distribution right-of-way (power lines) to maintain required safety clearances around electrical facilities. Residents were sent property notification letters in advance of the work. PPL operates under the authority of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) and is not regulated under the Borough of Carlisle Street Tree Ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Information published on the Carlisle Area School District website outlined the current configuration of Mooreland Elementary School and Mooreland Athletic Field, as well as plans for upcoming construction. The property is owned by the Carlisle Area School District, while the Borough of Carlisle leases Mooreland Athletic Field for community use.

Under the proposed plans, the softball field, track, and tennis courts will be retained. However, the softball field and running track will be reduced in size to accommodate the new school configuration.

The Board discussed the potential impacts these changes could have on Borough recreation programs and facilities in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The next Parks & Recreation Board meeting will be held August 6, 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Stuart Community Center.