

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board held a meeting Thursday, February 1, 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 and Eric Oakman.

Parks & Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse and Recreation Assistant, Kara Landis were also in attendance. Board member Jennifer Love and 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 Curtis Stevens.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Minutes from December 7, 2023 meeting were approved.

Stevens/Bratton

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At the December meeting, a resident attended to explain about an unruly group of 12-14 year olds using the equipment inappropriately at Fort LeTort. He asked that signage be placed prohibiting bikes, skateboards and scooters. Director Crouse created Fort LeTort playground rules signage that states the prohibition of bikes, skateboards and scooters, along with other rules. The signage will be installed by Public Works.

A Boy Scout continues to work on the Story Forest project for LeTort Park. He is currently awaiting approval from his council. He has an anticipated completion of May 2024. The book selected for this project is Priscilla and Her Pals in the Park by local author Pat LaMarche.

Director Crouse briefed the Board about the scope of work for the Comprehensive Recreation Parks and Open Space Plan to be submitted to DCNR for a planning grant. The scope of work will ask consultants to look at all operations of the parks and recreation department as well as make recommendation for the Recreation Fee in Lieu Ordinance, Shade Tree Ordinance and identify vacant and distressed lands and provide policy recommendations for reuse.

NEW BUSINESS

Curtis Stevens presented the idea of placing Chatty Benches around town and/or in borough parks. PBS NewsHour featured Britain's chatty benches for the December 25, 2023 broadcast. The benches are popular in Europe. The idea is to provide the space (bench) that individuals can seek out if they want to talk to someone. It's shown helpful to combat isolation, loneliness and mental health. Some individual perspective from Board members was that the idea was interesting and that it might be a good idea for intern to work on or to work with a girl or boy scout project. It was also mentioned that it might be appropriate for some type of health service program to be involved. Marv Salsman suggested placing bat boxes in borough parks to reduce mosquito population. There was discussion on whether bat boxes were needed in borough parks but he will gather information while he is visiting the Rotary in Florida.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Baker/Oakman

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Stuart Community Center. Any member that is unable to attend is asked to notify Andrea Crouse.