

## **CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board held a meeting via Zoom on June 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following board members were present: Chairman Bob Schmidlein, Whitney Baker, Pam Fowler, Katie Maxwell and Michael Smith. Jordan Heckman and Eric Oakman were absent.

Borough Council Liaison, Brenda Landis, attended. Parks and Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse, and Parks and Recreation Secretary, Melinda Hench, were also present.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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

### **REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting were presented and approved. Fowler/Maxwell

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **Introduction of New Board Member**

Members welcomed Michael Smith to the Parks and Recreation Board.

#### **Parks and Recreation Reopening Plan**

The Parks and Recreation office is temporarily operating from Borough Hall. Director Crouse and Kristin Zeigler, Recreation and Pool Manager, are working from home. Andrea has been managing the Park Maintainers daily since the Parks Maintenance Supervisor left in April.

Andrea presented the Reopening Plan for Parks and Recreation Facilities that the borough posted on May 22, 2020. The following day, the governor's office issued revised guidance concerning community pools, indicating that they were permitted to open, with restrictions, in the yellow phase. Staff had been working closely with the Borough Manager's office to formulate the plan and decided to retain the guideline that the pool will not open unless Cumberland County enters the green phase by June 8, given the amount of time needed to prepare the pool and hire certified lifeguards. Discussion followed about the difficulties of opening a public pool under the governor's guidance, such as cleaning regulations, social distancing, mask wearing, the risk to lifeguards, the cancellation of lifeguard certification classes and economic factors. Some local pools plan to open this summer, while others have determined that they will not open.

Spray pools and playgrounds in the borough will remain closed in the red and yellow phases. Pavilions are open, but the department is not taking reservations or permitting use of the rest rooms. Per CDC guidelines, tennis and pickleball nets and basketball hoops were taken down in the red phase. The borough reopened these facilities in the yellow phase, with limitations. Athletic fields will not be used for organized sports in the red or yellow phases.

At the June 3 Borough Council Workshop, a proposal was approved to allow the borough's small businesses to use space in borough parks for activities such as fitness classes. They would need to obtain a Park Use Agreement through Andrea.

Staff is working with instructors to start some programs in July at outdoor venues. Plans are being developed to safely run the Memorial Park Playground program and Summer Day Camp, depending on availability of the Community Center, which is currently occupied by Community CARES. The Summer Artist series will take place this summer as a series of virtual concerts. The PA Council on the Arts, which provides funding for the series, has agreed to the virtual format.

In the green phase, staff will begin taking reservations for the gym, multi-purpose rooms and Shaffer Cabin. The capacity of each facility will be reduced according to the governor's guidelines.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Kiwanis Club's Renovation of Fort LeTort**

Director Crouse announced that the Kiwanis Club has decided to postpone the Fort LeTort renovation project until next year.

### **Pickleball Courts**

In November 2019, staff began meeting with pickleball players, Barb Adams, Diane Easley, Jane Rigler and Mike Kline concerning their desire for an increase in the number of pickleball courts in the borough. In 2017, the borough renovated the LeTort Park tennis courts to provide two dedicated pickleball courts and one multi-use court lined for tennis and pickleball, using straps to modify the tennis net. Interest in pickleball has grown locally since that time.

The pickleball players are currently proposing that the remaining tennis court be eliminated and converted to two dedicated pickleball courts. Andrea pointed out that this would be a disadvantage to tennis players who like to play at LeTort Park and would prevent them from being able to play after dark since LeTort is the only borough facility with lighted courts. At a meeting with the pickleball players in March, there was discussion about relining the tennis court to create two pickleball courts on each side of the tennis net. This would allow the playing of tennis or pickleball if portable nets are purchased. Andrea anticipates that the players will want to speak to the Parks and Recreation Board at some time in the coming months.

### **Shade Tree Committee**

Staff has completed the Spring Street Tree Program. Sixteen street trees were recently planted for borough residents.

For the 2019 Street Tree Survey, the deadline for property owners to complete required tree work passed on May 31. Many of the owners who received notice of their obligation to complete tree maintenance have not yet completed the required tree work. Due to the

challenges of the pandemic, including financial hardships, staff is not heavily enforcing the requirements at this time. The Shade Tree Committee has decided to extend the deadline for tree work at least until the end of 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Following a motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Fowler/Maxwell

Since the Parks and Recreation Board does not meet in July, the next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2020. Any member who is unable to attend the meeting is asked to notify Andrea Crouse.