

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board held a meeting on December 3, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. by video conference. The following board members were present: Chairman Bob Schmidlein, Whitney Baker, Pam Fowler, Jordan Heckman, Katie Maxwell, Eric Oakman and Michael Smith.

Borough Council Liaison, Brenda Landis, was present. 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 November 5, 2020 meeting were presented and approved. Oakman/Baker

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Winter/Spring Recreation Programs and Fees

Director Crouse presented the 2021 Winter/Spring Program Guide. Due to Health Department mandates, the community center is operating with reduced capacities. Face masks are required for all activities. The restrictions will most likely impact enrollment. A new Track and Field program was added at the request of Ed Boardman, Carlisle High School's track coach. The program will be held at Mooreland Athletic Field.

A resolution to approve the program and rental fees for the Winter/Spring Session will be on Borough Council's Consent Agenda on December 10. Modest increases have been made to community center and pavilion rental fees. The Shaffer Cabin rental fee has been raised more significantly, from \$130 to \$175 per day. In addition, the security deposit was raised from \$100 to \$200. This past fall, several renters failed to clean and remove trash, and staff did not return their security deposits. The \$100 security deposit did not fully cover the cost of cleaning by park maintainers. The rental fee for LeTort Park's Main Pavilion was raised from \$60 to \$75 per day, due to the renovation of the rest rooms during the summer. Rental fees for ballfields and sports fields increased slightly.

Staff is not yet advertising or selling memberships for the Carlisle Community Pool. Daily admission fees will increase by \$1. The cost of admission for children and seniors will be \$6 for borough residents and \$8 for non-residents. Adult admission will be \$8 for borough residents and \$10 for non-residents. Andrea is hopeful that the pool will open this summer, but the decision will be dependent on COVID-19 mandates relating to capacity and sanitation.

Currently, COVID-19 regulations allow indoor parties and meetings at 10% of facility capacity and rentals for sports at 50% capacity. Staff has put in place special protocols for Grace Baptist and YMCA basketball leagues. Masks are required and the number of spectators is limited. Demand for gym space is high with many coaches reserving the gym for youth sports practices. Staff has been actively enforcing the mask mandate for all programs, including adult volleyball

leagues, Pickleball and Soccer Open Gyms. Keeping up-to-date with state mandates and developing safety protocols have been very challenging.

NEW BUSINESS

Trees and Shrubs Available

Brenda Landis announced that she has acquired a variety of tree and shrub seedlings. She is looking for places within the borough where they can be planted. Staff will consider whether some can be planted in borough parks.

Butcher Family Tot Lot

There was discussion about Butcher Family Tot Lot which members had visited since the last meeting. Several members had positive memories of using the park in years past. The park is well-maintained and seems to get a lot of use by residents of the SoSo neighborhood. New playground equipment and a street light were installed in 2015. There was some concern that neighbors are not able to keep watch on the park very well since the park is bordered by backyards, garages and alleys. There has been some vandalism and loitering after dusk. People have also deposited their household trash in the receptacles.

Bob recommended that members visit Spahr Tot Lot before the February board meeting. Andrea is seeking recommendations for improvements to the park.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Fowler/Schmidlein

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for February 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by video conference. Any member who is unable to join the meeting is asked to notify Andrea Crouse.