

CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board held a meeting on May 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. by video conference. The following board members were present: Chairman Bob Schmidlein, Whitney Baker, Jordan Heckman, Katie Maxwell and Eric Oakman. Michael Smith, Pam Fowler and Student Liaison, Jarrett Wilson, were absent.

Borough Council Liaison, Brenda Landis, Parks and Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse, and Parks and Recreation Secretary, Melinda Hench, were 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 4, 2021 meeting were presented and approved. Oakman/Maxwell

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Carlisle Community Pool

Director Crouse gave an update on the Carlisle Community Pool which is scheduled to open June 9. Work is being done to get the pool ready and filled with water. Hiring is underway, but more lifeguards are needed. Staff has scheduled a Red Cross lifeguard training class at the pool. The fees, \$100 for new lifeguard certification and \$75 for recertification, are very reasonable. In addition, individuals who pass the training and are hired at the pool will be reimbursed all but \$25 of the fee. Staff is actively recruiting for the class.

Pool memberships have been selling well. Andrea reminded board members that they are entitled to a free family pool membership.

For the first time, the pool will utilize the new vending hut for concessions. The refrigerated machines will dispense beverages, sandwiches, salads and snacks. A local vending company will stock the machines, including the fresh foods. Outside food is also permitted.

As of the May 6, 2021 meeting, patrons would be required to maintain social distance and wear face masks when entering and exiting the pool, and using the vending hut or bath house. To reduce crowding under the shade shelters, patrons are permitted to bring their own canopies, as space allows. On May 31, 2021, the Department of Health plans to eliminate the 75% capacity restriction. This will make it easier for staff to manage occupancy.

Hand Sanitizer Stations

With CARES Act funds, the borough purchased outdoor hand sanitizer stations for parks and the downtown area. Employees from the Water Resources Department installed ten of the dispensers throughout the borough. The stations will be refilled with hand sanitizer by the Parks Maintenance Department on a regular basis.

LeTort Court Light Fixtures

Andrea reported that the light fixtures at the LeTort tennis/pickleball courts were recently replaced. The materials, which totaled approximately \$3,300, were covered by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Public Works Department provided the labor. The switch from quartz to LED bulbs is expected to save the borough \$1,600 per year. The lights are still coin-operated.

Park Maintenance

On May 3, Bill Porter started employment with the borough as a third Park Maintainer. Typically, the department operates with four employees, one of which serves as supervisor. In April 2020, the department lost its Maintenance Supervisor who has not been replaced due to the hiring freeze. Therefore, Andrea has been supervising the maintenance staff on a daily basis. One employee is currently out on medical leave, so two employees are handling maintenance at the parks, the community center and the pool. A part-time employee has been hired to help with maintenance for the summer.

Shade Tree Committee

On April 30, the Shade Tree Committee held a tree dedication ceremony at Lindner Park in honor of Jimmie George. A Red Oak tree was planted with a bronze plaque. Jimmie's friends and family attended. There were several speakers.

NEW BUSINESS

Recreation Department Update

Staff has been very busy. Men's Softball League games started May 4 and planning is underway for the Sand Volleyball Leagues to be held at Biddle Mission Park this summer.

Some leaders and aids have been hired for the Summer Day Camp program, but more staff is needed. Registration for the Memorial Park program is extremely low. If it does not increase, the program may be cancelled.

Policy for Proposing Park Amenities

Brenda Landis asked about the process of proposing new park amenities, such as a dog park within walking distance of the borough. Andrea explained that the person or group would typically contact the director with their proposal, including possible locations, cost estimates, and funding sources. Eventually they would present their proposal to the board which would determine whether or not to recommend to Borough Council that the concept be explored.

OLD BUSINESS

Bike Lane Survey

As a result of the board's evaluation, striping was replaced along the bike route at the end of April. Six sharrows will be installed during the summer by Public Works crews in the area of W. South Street.

Spahr Tot Lot

The board discussed their impressions of Spahr Tot Lot on East Mulberry Avenue. Members felt that the park lacked a welcoming atmosphere. Suggestions for improving the park included better signage and a path from East Louther Street, improved access to the creek, and encouraging involvement and a sense of ownership among the neighboring residents.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Baker/Maxwell

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board is scheduled for June 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Stuart Community Center. Any member who is unable to attend is asked to notify Andrea Crouse.