CARLISLE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING

The Carlisle Parks and Recreation Board met on March 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stuart Community Center. The following board members were present: Whitney Baker, Pam Fowler, Jordan Heckman, Katie Maxwell and Eric Oakman. Chairman Bob Schmidlein was absent.

Borough Council Liaison, Brenda Landis, was in attendance. Parks and Recreation Director, Andrea Crouse, Recreation and Pool Manager, Kristin Zeigler, and Parks and Recreation Secretary, Melinda Hench, were also present.

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order by Director Crouse at 7:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
Minutes of the February 6, 2020 meeting were presented and approved. Oakman/Fowler

DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Vultures in Thornwald Park
Parks and Recreation staff has received complaints from a few residents about vultures roosting at Thornwald Park, near South College Street. The birds’ droppings are messy and foul smelling. The droppings are damaging the trees and may be harmful to pets. There are approximately 200 Black or Turkey vultures at Thornwald Park. The birds are destructive. They peck at building materials and items found in nearby yards. The vultures also pose problems at the Ridge Street water tower where the acidic droppings are damaging the tower and posing a hazard to Water Resource and cell tower employees.

Staff consulted the USDA to determine a course of action. The birds, their nests and eggs are protected. The USDA proposed eradicating the vultures through harrassment over a period of 10 evenings. The procedure, which includes the use of lasers, air horns, paint balls and pyrotechnics, would cause the vultures to move elsewhere. The cost of eradication is about $6,800 for labor and supplies.

Valley Meadows Sinkhole
A sinkhole has been discovered in the swale at Valley Meadows Park. Public Works is repairing the sinkhole, using the inverted filter approach, which will allow water to continue to flow through the swale.

In addition, Public Works is putting in a retention pond at Valley Meadows to alleviate some stormwater issues. Park Maintainers are removing rocks from the surface of the lacrosse fields.
2019 Pool Report
Kristin Zeigler, Recreation and Pool Manager, presented the 2019 Carlisle Community Pool Report. In spite of significant issues with the main pump prior to opening day, 2019 was a great pool season. Excellent weather and experienced leadership contributed. Daily admissions, pool memberships and concessions revenue were up. Total revenue was at an all-time high. However, maintenance costs also increased due to purchasing the new pump, replacing the main drain covers and repairing the water slide.

Good lifeguard training led to a strong safety record with few water rescues or first aid issues. Unfortunately there were 17 behavior incidents, primarily with older kids, teens and young adults disrespecting pool staff and patrons. Eleven minors were suspended from the pool due to rule violations. The concession stand was broken into and burglarized after hours. The perpetrators were caught on camera and prosecuted.

Kristin explained that park maintainers have converted the concession stand to a vending hut for the 2020 pool season. Staff has selected A-1 Vending to supply the food and machines. Prices are reasonable and some healthier options are available. Staff hopes to supplement the vending options with food trucks at times.

OLD BUSINESS
Shade Tree Committee
The 2020 budget includes $7,000 for the Shade Tree Program. There are 13 applications for the Spring Street Tree Program. Staff is currently managing that project. Andrea is working with Public Works and the Borough Manager on a new Sidewalk and Street Tree Program to assist property owners faced with sidewalk issues due to tree root growth.

ADJOURNMENT
Following a motion, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Baker/Oakman