



Town of Sykesville

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Town House

Stacy Link, Mayor

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager

Jennifer Livesay, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Kavaloski, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2025 REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION

The Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC) meeting was held on Thursday, MARCH 27, 2025. Commissioner Ries called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Town House Conference Room.

PRESENT: Commissioners Alex Ries, Amy Poet, Chris Sevick, Nick Sheets, and Billy Shifflet. Council Member Elizabeth Guroff

ABSENT: Dan Gilbert and Eric Valenstein

STAFF: Drew Rittenhouse, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

MINUTES:

- February 27, 2025

MOTION: Commissioner Ries motioned to approve the February 27, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Shifflet seconded the motion.

It was decided to table the minutes until the April 24, 2025 meeting, as two members were not in attendance at the February 27 meeting.

BUSINESS:

- Events

- **Easter Egg Hunt**

This event is on April 18. Volunteers should arrive at 8:30 A.M. for setup. The Mayor will be at the event. The new sound system will be ready and used. There was a discussion about the starting locations for the different age groups.

- **Scav "EGG" enger Hunt**

Commissioner Ries announced that she will take the suggestions provided by the other Commissioners and will determine a word. The eggs will be hidden on the morning of the Scav "EGG" enger Hunt. Drew Rittenhouse, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, explained that he will attempt to hide the eggs at parks within walking distance of Main Street.

- **Clean Up Day**

The cleanup will be focused on the Shannon Run Park area and will involve picking up trash and staining benches. Commissioner Sevick has volunteers signed up for this event. Mr. Rittenhouse will give a

nature walk after all the trash is picked up. Volunteers should arrive at 10 A.M.

- **Skate Jam**

Commissioner Ries announced that the owner of Shrimptown Skate Shop is no longer available on May 10. There was a discussion about hosting the event without him or rescheduling. Mr. Rittenhouse suggested communicating with the owner to see if any of his employees could participate as judges. Commissioner Sevick will reach out to her volunteers.

- **June 14th Concert**

Commissioner Ries explained that The Band Shop signed up and is willing to help however they can for this event. Commissioner Poet suggested letting Lee from the Band Shop determine the timing for the number of players who sign up. This is also a Movie night, and the goal is to have the concert be for about an hour or an hour and a half before the movie starts (5:30 P.M. to 7 P.M.). Commissioners Poet and Sheets will be the points of contact for the Band Shop for this concert.

- **Sound Equipment Upgrade**

Mr. Rittenhouse explained that The Band Shop owner, Lee Hirschmann, came to the Town House to look at the existing SPARC sound equipment and will provide a quote for different options for upgrading.

- **Sykesville Cinema**

- **October Movie**

Commissioner Ries explained that the movie that was chosen, Casper, was not available. The replacement movie is Beetlejuice.

- **Sponsor Application and Level Changes**

Mr. Rittenhouse explained that the sponsorship levels have changed slightly. He explained that the Bronze level is \$75 per movie, and the sponsor can choose at which movie they want their advertisement shown. Silver level is at every movie for the season. Gold level is the whole season but with the ability to change their slides. Sponsors who submit videos must be no less than 15 seconds and no more than 30 seconds. There was a discussion about having sponsors for the Visit from Santa event.

- **Pickleball**

Mr. Rittenhouse presented the idea of renting pickleball equipment instead of the creation of permanent pickleball courts. The basketball court by the Linear Trail on Kalorama Road will be used for the pickleball rental court. It would be two-day rentals so the person could have the equipment for the weekend. The Commission was favorable to the idea.

- **DSC Collaborations**

Mr. Rittenhouse announced that he attended the DSC's first walking tour of the season. They have offered the use of their drone with a price that is currently unstated. They asked for use of the movie night equipment for small things they want to show. Commissioner Shifflet suggested allowing the DSC to use the old screen and sound equipment instead of using the newer screen and new upgraded sound equipment.

There was discussion about staffing a table at the Farmers' Markets. It was determined that it would be nice to have a table on occasion, but not every Sunday.

TOWN UPDATES:

- Mr. Rittenhouse explained that the Linear Trail Parklet has been approved by the County. A landscape contractor has been contacted for the concrete pad. Once that is poured, the equipment will go up.
- Mr. Rittenhouse has added a page to the Town's website for the Cinema Sponsors.
- The new "Park Rules" signs have been posted in Millard Cooper Park. 25 signs were ordered, so they can be placed in every park.
- All events that have the snack shack open have received their health department permits.
- There are four Sycamore trees in Millard Cooper Park that are dead. An arborist has been consulted, and there has been discussion about the trees and all the trees in Millard Cooper Park. Mr. Rittenhouse is attempting to plan an Arbor Day celebration with tree plantings.
- New fencing has been ordered for around the splash pad. The fencing will be up two weeks before Memorial Day.
- Little Sykes Railway inspection has been scheduled for April 29.
- Picnic Tables have been purchased and added to the pavilions in Millard Cooper Park.
- Howard County has a Soft Landing – Pollinator Planting at South Branch Park, which is an area for pollinators to land.
- Mr. Rittenhouse showed a SPARC program of events that he created. The Commissioners offered several suggestions, including adding South Branch Park and enlarging the map.
- Mr. Rittenhouse will be attending the health and wellness fair at Springfield Hospital and will man a table for SPARC.
- Mr. Rittenhouse announced that the Town has received their Tree City USA designation for the second year in a row.
- There was a discussion about limiting the Splash Pad for only Town residents and to open the snack shack during Splash Pad hours.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before SPARC, Commissioner Ries motioned, and Commissioner Valenstein seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski