



Town of Sykesville

7547 Main Street, Sykesville, MD 21784

p: 410.795.8959 f: 410.795.3818

townofsykesville.org

Town House

Stacy Link, Mayor

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager

Jennifer Livesay, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Kavaloski, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2025 REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION

The Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC) meeting was held on Thursday, May 22, 2025. Commissioner Ries called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Town House Conference Room.

PRESENT: Commissioners Alex Ries, Dan Gilbert, Amy Poet, Chris Sevic, Nick Sheets, Billy Shifflet, and Eric Valenstein. Council Member Elizabeth Guroff

STAFF: Drew Rittenhouse, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

MINUTES:

- **April 24, 2025**

MOTION: Commissioner Ries motioned to approve the April 24, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion.

The motion carried 6-0-1 with Commissioner Gilbert abstaining as he was not in attendance at the April 24 meeting.

BUSINESS:

- **Steve Polites' Movie Premiere**

Commissioner Ries explained that Steve Polites is a local resident who created a movie called Skate or Hide. There is a request to show it prior to the August Movie in the Park.

Commissioner Sheets explained that he had watched it and found only one incident of crude humor. He expressed concern over the length of the movie, 30 minutes, and having it be too long to show before the August movie.

Commissioner Shifflett suggested showing it during the Skate Jam or showing it at the end of the movie instead of before it.

Commissioner Valenstein suggested showing it during the craft time instead of delaying the start of the movie in August.

It will be advertised with Skate or Hide prior to the showing of the Sandlot.

MOTION: Commissioner Valenstein motioned to show Skate or Hide after the ads but before the movie at the Movies in the Park in August.

The motion carried unanimously.

- **Sykesville Cinema and Concert**

Commissioner Sevic announced that she have volunteers set for the whole season. She will be cleaning the Snack Shack and shopping to restock it for the summer.

Drew Rittenhouse, Parks and Recreation Coordinator, will take over ordering items from Amazon, such as popcorn supplies.

Commissioner Sheets has reached out to the Band Shoppe but hasn't heard back. The Band Shoppe did share the Facebook post about the event. Commissioner Sheets will reach out for confirmation that they will be in attendance and find out the set-up plans for their concert. Lee Hirschmann from the Band Shoppe will assist with the sound system for both the concert and the movie.

Commissioner Sevic will put out signs for the June movie. She will stop by the Town House on June 12 for the signs and the cash box.

- **Appoint Officers**

Commissioner Ries explained that the Commission is supposed to elect a chairperson or chair-people every year. It is her last meeting as a Parks and Recreation Commissioner.

Commissioner Sheets volunteered to be a co-chair. Commissioner Ries nominated Commissioner Poet as a co-chair.

MOTION: Commissioner Ries motioned to elect Nick Sheets to serve as co-chair through January 2026. Commissioner Shifflett seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Ries motioned to elect Amy Poet to serve as co-chair through January 2026. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner Valenstein motioned to elect Drew Rittenhouse as Secretary to the Commission. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- **Farmers' Market**

Commissioner Ries explained that a booth at the Farmers' Market is a great way for the Commission to recruit volunteers and spread information about their upcoming events.

There was a discussion about how many Farmers' Markets that the Commission would like to attend. Mr. Rittenhouse explained that it could be

as few as just one Farmers' Market. He would like to see one a month, if possible. Setup would not be too early in the morning.

Commissioner Gilbert and Commissioner Poet can both staff the table on June 1. Mr. Rittenhouse will reach out to the DSC for the date and will pass along the information to the Commission.

It was decided not to have Sparky at the Farmers' Markets, as the weather will be too hot. There was a discussion about having crafts or something at the table to draw people in.

- **Moonshadow Collective Donation**

Mr. Rittenhouse explained that the Moonshadow Collective is moving into the DSC building. The Town has given them a legacy donation, and the Commission has also given them a donation. They will be an arts and craft makerspace along with a community center type location.

TOWN UPDATES:

- **Outdoor Natural Classroom**

Mr. Rittenhouse showed pictures of the natural classroom progress. He explained that the roof needs to be placed on the structure still, but it has been too rainy for the Public Works crew to install it.

- **Jones Park**

The surface at Jones Park was fixed.

- **Sponsorships/Partners**

Mr. Rittenhouse showed the Gold, Silver, and Bronze Sponsors and explained that their logos are on the Town website. There is a partnership section on the website that Mr. Rittenhouse thinks Moonshadow Collective could be mentioned.

- **Soft Landing and Pollinator Beds**

Nancy Lawson, from Howard County, is working with Mr. Rittenhouse to install soft landing and pollinator beds instead of mulching garden beds.

- **Historic Colored Schoolhouse**

There are three open houses scheduled for June 21, July 19, and August 30 at the Historic Colored Schoolhouse. They each have themes based around Sykesville history.

- **Spotted Lanternfly**

Mr. Rittenhouse placed duct tape around trees in Millard Cooper Park to catch the spotted lanternfly nymphs that are climbing the trees. The spotted lanternflies are invasive and destructive to native plants.

- **ASCAP**

Mr. Rittenhouse explained that the Commission received their ASCAP licenses for the year. They are now able to play music legally.

- **Passive Programming**

Mr. Rittenhouse explained that he created a summer bucket list to draw more people to the parks and also to Main Street without creating a new event. He asked the Commission to send him any information regarding passive activities they would like to highlight on Facebook.

- **Civics Day**

Mr. Rittenhouse explained that the Commission will take over the administration of Civics Day next year.

- **CPSI**

Mr. Rittenhouse passed the Certified Playground Safety Inspector exam.

- **Lure of the Wild**

Mr. Rittenhouse explained that he met with a gentleman who is interested in hosting a day camp in this area. He is working with the gentleman to see if there is an area that could work for his needs.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before SPARC, Commissioner Ries motioned, and Commissioner Sevick seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski