

**OFFICIAL MINUTES
SYKESVILLE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
January 28, 2021**

Present: Eric Valenstein Alex Ries
 Chris Sevick Bryan Troast
 Nick Sheets

 Stacy Link, Council Liaison
 Joe Cosentini, Town Manager
 Jana Antrobus, Staff Liaison
 Kerry Chaney, Town Clerk

Absent: Billy Shifflett

Call to Order

Alex Ries, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion was made by Chris Sevick and seconded by Nick Sheets to approve the November 19, 2020 Minutes as presented. All voted in favor.

Business

Buddy Bench

Kim Bolte on behalf of Girl Scout Troop 2946 presented a project the girls have been working on. A few years ago, this troop built the Little Library for the Schoolhouse and now have a new idea for the Town. They have been collecting bottle caps for a 6', 200 lbs., rainbow-colored Buddy Bench to earn their Silver Award, to promote anti-bullying and friendship while also helping the environment. Over the past 12+ months the girls have collected nearly 200 lbs. of caps. They are getting close to trading in those caps for a bench and the girls would love to place the bench in a Sykesville park, preferably South Branch Park or Millard Cooper Park. They need to complete their project by the end of the school year.

Town Staff input:

- The bench will be secured on a concrete slab.
- Staff requests specs for the bench to share with Public Works who will be responsible for pouring a concrete slab.
- Staff will also visit other parks and provide a few options of location for the girls to choose from.
- Plan to have a decision by the next SPARC meeting.

Park Rules

Staff is requesting input from the Committee regarding the use of Town parks for profit based on the following from the Town's Code.

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Town Code Chapter 11 §111.5 G.

For-profit activity in Town parks shall be prohibited, except: when a reservation permit is obtained from the Town, or for uses in connection with a Town-sponsored event. All other appropriate licenses, pursuant to the Town Code or other applicable law, must be obtained in conjunction with any uses falling within the foregoing exceptions to such prohibition.

The question arose from a request to use a park to conduct paid yoga classes. Currently, the Town does not have a permit for such use and in the past has discouraged uses in the parks for profit. A recent review of the code prompts staff to evaluate and determine if the code needs updating or to create a permit. The Committee unanimously agreed to allow the “For-profit activity in Town parks”. Staff will create the permit and present to the committee for input.

2021 Event Calendar (Approved)

Easter Egg Hunt at Millard Cooper Park

- April 2 at 10:00am

Park Cleanup

- April 24 - Rain Date May 1

Farmer’s Market (2nd Sunday May through October)

- The Committee agreed instead of SPARC members attending the Farmers Market they would create marketing material to be displayed at the DSC tent. Eric Valenstein noted he has volunteers to create material. Chris Sevick will create signup sheets for each movie and cleanup events. Nick Sheets and Eric Valenstein volunteered to setup and take down displays. Schedule to be determined.

Marketing Material to include but not limited to:

- Posters of movies and concerts
- Spring and Fall Park Cleanup Events
- Community Service Hours signup sheet
- Volunteer signup Sheet

Movie (15 minutes after sundown)

- June 12 – Lorax – Environmental Activity
 - July 10 – Princess Frog – Piney Run Presentation
 - August 14 – Toy Story 4 – Forky Craft
 - September 11 – Karate Kid – karate Demonstration
 - October 9 – Nightmare Before Christmas – Costume Contest
- Eric Valenstein will manage the activities.

Music Festival 12pm to 7pm

- October 2
- Rain Date October 16

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Fall Cleanup and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

- September 18 – Rain Date September 25

Events to discuss at on future agenda.

- Movie themed activities
- Skateboarding Competition
- Let Freedom Ring Parade July 3
- Trick or Treat on Main October 23
- Santa's Arrival December 4

Music Festival

- Stage rental costs from Elite Tents for a 12x16 stage would be \$500.
- Elite Tents offers a co-sponsorship.
- Eric Valenstein offered to donate a home build stage.
- Band interest appears good.
- Cooper Park is a good location due to its many amenities that include: Electricity, Snack Shack/bathrooms, ADA accessibility, and parking at Sykesville Middle School.
- Additional details to discuss at a future meeting: Stage removal, band schedule, food trucks, and stage sponsorships.

Event Photos

The idea of creating a SPARC Calendar using photos from events and use of the parks and trails was discussed. All agreed to continue this discussion.

Town Updates

- Splash Pad is under construction and planned to be completed by Memorial Day.
- Steps will be installed along the slide at Cooper Park.
- The Town received a Program Open Space Grant that will be used for improvements to the Linear Trail. Any remaining funds will be used for improvements to the exercise equipment along the trail.

Open Items

- Cart and Trap Purchase
- Test New Movie Screen
- Marketing Ideas

Adjournment

There being no other business, Bryan Troast motioned and Chris Sevick seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Jana Antrobus, Staff Liaison