

Town of Sykesville  
Parks and Recreation Meeting Minutes  
Monday, July 18, 2003

**Present:**

Frank Robert            Bob Martin            Susan Dolan            Jeannie Nichols            Debbie Ellis

**Opening:**

The meeting began at 7:15 p.m.

Susan opened the meeting stating that since the departure of Lynne, the P&R Committee will be "less formal" with regards to minutes and agendas. Susan and Jeannie will be reviewing and organizing all files so that when a coordinator is hired (which could be early next year) there will be greater understanding of what we have been working on and what we need.

**Public Concerns/Issues:**

The basketball "ban"; see new business (below)

**Town Council Report:**

The Town Council will be meeting on September 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the basketball hoop ordinance. Jeannie will be contacting the Gazette and Eldersburg Eagle to clarify that it is the Town Council who will be addressing public concerns regarding the ordinance and not P&R.

**Committee Reports:**

Pool: Frank stated that the meeting is set for August 27 at 9:30am with James Emr at the Town House. Frank has received via emailed the questions the Town Council has asked we address.

**Programs and Events:**

The P&R committee discussed each event, the date it will fall on in 2004 (for the schedule) and if the event will be continued.

**Family Fun Day update:**

Susan and Jeannie have set a date of Saturday August 30<sup>th</sup> at Susan's house to discuss Family Fun Day. Susan will call to invite Lili Kaufman and Jeannie will call to invite Jennifer Schultz. Jennifer is a resident who has extensive experience in organizing events and may have an interest in assisting P&R in getting the event sponsored next year. This event will be continued and a date is set for July 10, 2004.

**Concerts in the Park update:**

Jennie stated that the event had its most successful year. There were approximately 130 people at the first concert followed by an attendance of about 80 at the next 4 concerts and the last concert (in which is rained) were about 60. The snack bar grossed a total of \$500.00 during the concert series. Jeannie will be writing a note of thanks to the Gazette for sponsoring this event. Jeannie will ask the Gazette to sponsor the event next year. There was discussion on whether we can increase the event to 8 concerts but after consulting the summer 2004 schedule it appears that we will only be able to have 7 concerts with an 8<sup>th</sup> event just for kids on Wednesday July 7<sup>th</sup> – it will be part of Stories in the Park as well as a promotional opportunity for Family Fun Day (July 10, 2004)

**Stories in the Park:**

Overall the Stories had good attendance according to Jeannie and Frank. There was discussion about possibly having storytellers read two stories – one for children up to the age of 3 and a second story that would be a bit more advanced for children up to 5-6 years old. The Committee can explore this further with the Eldersburg Library. This event will be continued in 2004, every Wednesday with a start date of June 2 (when preschool summer break begins).

**Halloween Event:**

P&R has decided to not hold a Halloween event this year. Jeannie reminded the Committee that the event started out with the Business Association but P&R took it over. Since the event consumes administrative

time, which we no longer have available to us and since public attendance has been minimal, P&R will not promote or hold an event for this holiday this year. Jeannie will contact the Business Association and see if they would like to do something. If so, we can discuss what part we may want to have at that time. Susan suggested if offer to provide them with the materials and supplies we have remaining from the past Halloween events.

**Christmas craft:**

Given the success of this event in the past few years, we will continue to host this event but Committee members are reminded that they need to help. Jeannie offered to be the greeter as patrons enter the Visitor Center and keep the crowd to a reasonable size inside the Center. Susan will continue to assist the children and order the necessary supplies for the Cookie Craft. Additional assistance will be necessary to make the event successful. We will discuss this event in more detail at our October meeting.

**Golf event:**

Frank stated that he has spoken to Richard Doxen who has declined the purchase of a whistle but instead requested a battery for the train. The battery is estimated at a cost of \$380.00. Frank has advised Richard to get the final price and order it if it does not exceed the estimate. After it is ordered he will need to contact Frank who will get a PO from Jeannie to pay for the battery. If the cost of the battery exceeds the estimate, Richard will contact Frank who will bring this matter up with the P&R committee again. The Golf event will be continued in 2004 with Frank as Chair.

**Town Yard Sale:**

With some modifications this event will continue. There was discussion about providing maps and requiring residents to register their homes and having uniform signs in town. The outcome of the discussion is that we will address it again, but for the interim, the event will go on as it has on the weekend prior to the Town's Spring Cleaning. We will inform residents that P&R will advertise the event in the Gazette and Sun papers. If we can get organized this year we will also provide maps, placed at the three or more main streets in town, affixed to uniform "yard sale" signs and placed in a Plexiglas or plastic bin (similar to those used by real estate companies). The map will be a street map of the town with dots indicating which homes have registered for the yard sale. This of course will not prohibit other persons from putting up yard sale signs, but we would offer the signs for free and it would help patrons move through town.

**Softball:**

Jeannie will contact Kevin.

**Easter Egg Hunt:**

This event will continue. The date will be April 9, 2004. More discussion will follow in a future meeting.

**Bike Rodeo:**

Jeannie will talk to the Chief for a date.

**Facilities/Projects:**

**Cooper Park playground** will have new equipment installed on or about October 6. There was discussion about how the park is being paid for and the pathway the Town has requested be a part of the "new" playground area. This is the monetary breakdown:

\$44K - grant money	\$78K - total funds
<u>\$34K</u> - program open space	-12K - cost of asphalt pathway
\$78 total available funds	<u>-50K</u> - cost of playground equipment
	\$16K - remaining funds available

There was discussion about the remaining \$16K. At the present time the funds will remain in the P&R account.

**New Business:**

Basketball meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Debbie commented that the manner in which the Gazette covered the Town Council meeting makes it seem like the P&R meeting will be to discuss the ordinance. Since that is not a topic for the P&R, Jeannie has offered to contact the paper directly and make sure the Town Council meeting and the P&R meeting address two different issues. There was discussion about the need to maintain order at the P&R meeting and that Town Council members are present. Susan requested that Town Council members not attend the meeting, as it would take away from the very function of the P&R Committee

– which is to take town input and make recommendations to the Council. Frank agreed that there would be no reason to have a P&R meeting if the Council were present. Jeannie will talk to the Council about this matter.

Regarding the P&R Committee having control, Debbie suggested we provide a clear format for the meeting, starting with clarification of our agenda in the town's newsletter. The P&R Committee prepared a short memo, which Jeannie will get to Mary Buckley for placement in the newsletter. Susan has prepared a few items to distribute to those in attendance at the September meeting. One is a group response sheet (being sent to members via email for review and editing) and the second is a statement from the P&R committee about the meeting and an outline (versus agenda) of how the meeting will progress from an understanding of the issues of basketball hoops to the more heated topic of where to place basketball hoops. This will also be sent in draft form to all P&R members.

The meeting adjourned at 10pm.