

**Parks & Events Committee
Minutes
March 17, 2008**

Attendance:

Ivy Wells, Jennifer Kelly, Sue Dolan, Billy Shifflett, Chris True, Frank Robert and Chris Sevick.

Introduce New Member:

Frank Robert introduced new committee member-at-large, Chris True. Chris will serve as the alternate to the Budget Committee if Jen Kelly cannot attend a meeting.

South Branch Park discussion:

The need for electricity in the park was discussed and if the town will be able to provide food and concessions. Billy would discuss with Ron Esworthy. Ivy Wells will contact Howard County and Matt Candland to determine if the town can sell food on the Howard County side of the bridge. A concern in providing food on the Carroll County side of the bridge is the inconvenience of patrons having to walk back and forth – all the activity is in the park on the Howard County side but the food is on the Carroll County side. It would be ideal to have it in the same location.

The organizer for the Apple Butter Festival has requested Parks and Events to assist in any entertainment that can be provided during their events and if we would be interested in hosting any of our events with them.

The Apple Butter Festival runs the last Sunday of the month from June to October.

It was determined that the Halloween event can be held in conjunction with the October Apple Butter Festival and that the second Shakespeare Factory workshop day can be held on the July Apple Butter date. Ivy Wells was to look into scheduling bands to play on the other Sundays of the festival but electricity became an issue again.

Ivy suggested musician Danny Reaves music to entertain kids.

The issue of who would pay for music entertainment was brought up. We have not put any money aside in our budget for entertainment to cover the Apple Butter Festival.

The town is moving forward with Destination Sykesville. Ivy is the liaison. Parks and Events need to determine how much can we do to help this group.

Park Maintenance

Billy generated a list of items to discuss with Ron Esworthy and will schedule a meeting with him – he will email the committee when the date is set.

Some of the concerns included:

Beech Park – missing gate and needs mulch

Cooper Park - sewer smell on the night of the events - by 8 pm there is a foul odor and very wet ground near the restrooms; additional lighting is needed at Playground; and all outlets need to be checked.

Bloomfield Park- Ron recently had a bench built and wanted feedback – thus far all feedback has been good overall with a few questions regarding the construction such as would the bench be sealed so it can weather well.

Extension of Trail behind Beach Park/ Windswept and Autumn Sky Court so that residents can walk into town without walking on the road.

The Pond on the linear trail is infested with mosquitoes.

Advertising

It was discussed what locations around town & Eldersburg make the best advertising spots:

- Main Street
- The Weigh station
- Sandusky/ RT 32 intersection
- Snack Shack at Freedom Park, Eldersburg Elementary, and Cooper Park
- Obrecht Ball Park
- CCChannel TV
- Flyers at Gas Station
- Post Office and Visitor Center
- Town Website
- Town House
- Little Sykes Railroad
- Mass Email thru town
- Police department
- Merritt
- Bulletin Board at Library

Frank will prepare a one-page calendar listing all Park and Events dates for the year.

Events

Events for the Fiscal year 2008-2009 were discussed.

The Committee discussed options regarding the traditional Family Fun Day. After much discussion it was agreed to incorporate the events with the Shakespeare in the Park weekend, which is already scheduled for July 26-27th. It was determined that this new focus would also lend itself to a new name for the event. It was decided that the July event would now be called the **Sykesville Family Festival**. This event will include: The Shakespeare 2 day Festival by Tom Delise, several inflatable/interactive games; entertainment and a few other small games suitable for all ages.

The **P&E Movie Night** will be held in conjunction with The Sykesville Police Dept to help them financially for their National Night out against Crime. The event will be held at Cooper Park on August 5th. Parks and Events will provide a band before hand.

The **Concerts in the Park** series is almost set. The series kicks off on Friday

July 11th and runs every Friday, for 6 Fridays, ending August 15th. Ivy Wells will update the Committee as the bands are confirmed and run the advertising through the Gazette.

Jen Kelly will organize a **Back to School Concert Night** for August. The target audience would be middle school aged kids.

Jen will also organize a **Homecoming Concert** targeting Century High School students and would immediately follow the homecoming parade in Sykesville.

Jen Kelly will discuss offering **Story Time in Park** on Wednesdays with A Likely Story. The story time would run August through Sept.

The Golf Outing will be held April 18th this year and if successful will be held in April 2009 with all proceeds going back to Parks and Events for future events.

Other 2009 Events include:

Halloween costume contest with Apple Butter Festival

Easter Egg Hunt

Christmas craft

Christmas/Holiday house contest

These events will be held if funding and additional volunteers can be obtained.

It was agreed to try and upgrade events and cut the “small stuff”

Other:

Dry Erase Board needed for the Concession Stand at Cooper Park

The Committee needs to begin looking into the cost of banners Jim with Punch

Communications may be a company to consider for banners.

The meeting adjourned at 10pm. The next meeting of the Parks and Events Committee was announced for April 21st at 7pm in the Town House.