

Parks and Recreation Committee members:

Julia Betz, Town Council Liaison
Billy Shifflett, Co-Chair
Katie Johnson, Co-Chair
Chris Sevick
Ivy Wells
Cole Holocker, Youth Liaison
Janet Jacobs
Pete O'Neal
Irma Bast (Town Treasurer)



**Sykesville Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC) Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2012, 7:00 p.m.**

In attendance:

Julia Betz
Billy Shifflett
Katie Johnson
Chris Sevick
Ivy Wells
Irma Bast
Cole Holocker
Janet Jacobs

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair, Billy Shifflett.

A group working on forming a Freedom Trail connecting Sykesville to Eldersburg has asked for a SPARC representative to attend their meetings. Julia will look into this.

A citizen has approached SPARC with the idea of having a community garden. She will attend SPARC's February meeting with details and ideas. She will be referred to the Main Street Design meeting as well.

There has been an inquiry about potential dog obedience classes. Billy will follow up with it.

Three of the bluebird houses on the linear trail have been destroyed or have disappeared. SPARC will look into having them replaced, and possibly put in new locations.

Katie will be organizing the Annual Easter Egg Hunt which will be held on Friday April 6, 2012 at 10 a.m. in Millard Cooper Park for children ages 2 - 8. A microphone and speakers will be used this year. Volunteers will stuff and hide the eggs. The Easter Bunny will be there, and the eggs will be filled with treats. SPARC will avoid hiding the eggs in the woods.

Approximately half of the park rules signs have been successfully installed in the parks. The other half should be installed within the next few weeks. The Beach Park fence is in need of approximately 3 new posts and 12 rails. The top of the slide there needs to be looked at as well. It was discussed that when the fitness stations on the Linear Trail are mulched, that it would be beneficial to lay weed barrier landscaping fabric first.

A local Boy Scout built 6 benches and 3 picnic tables for his Eagle project to be placed in South Branch Park. SPARC would like to have a certificate presented to him from the Mayor.

Improving the weigh station to be a snack shack was discussed. Whether this could be a CIP should be determined.

Newsletter items are due on February 10, 2012. Concerts in the Park, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Sykesville Cinemas movie schedule, recreational equipment that can be rented, a May 19 Special Olympics Inspiration Walk and Family Fun Day to be held in Cooper Park, the new benches and picnic tables, and a volunteer update will be submitted by SPARC members to Billy by Feb. 6.

SPARC members will look around at other parks and recreation sites to get ideas of how we can create a SPARC link from Sykesville.net. A QR code could be used to direct interested parties to the site.

The budget for the portable toilets at South Branch Park needs to be discussed. SPARC has need for them from May – August for events, but there is probably a need for year-round coverage due to the new skateboard activity at the site.

A marketing strategy for selling advertisements for Sykesville Cinema's four summer movie events was developed. Interested sponsors can inquire by e-mailing parks@sykesville.net. SPARC members will be presenting a sponsorship options pamphlet soon, once the movies to be shown have been finalized.

The next SPARC meeting will be held on February 23, 2012 at 7 p.m..

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.