



Town of Sykesville

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Town House

Stacy Link, Mayor

Joseph Cosentini, Town Manager

Jennifer Livesay, Town Treasurer

Kerry G. Kavaloski, Town Clerk

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 REGULAR PARKS AND RECREATION MEETING

The Sykesville Parks and Recreation (SPARC) meeting was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Commissioner Sheets called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the Town House Conference Room.

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauren Hanratty, Amy Poet, Nick Sheets, Chris Sevic, and Eric Valenstein. Council Member Alex Ries

ABSENT: Commissioners Dan Gilbert and Billy Shifflet

STAFF: Drew Rittenhouse, Parks and Recreation Coordinator

MINUTES:

- July 24, 2025 meeting minutes
- August 28, 2025 meeting summary

MOTION: Commissioner Poet motioned to approve the July 24, 2025, meeting minutes. Commissioner Sheets seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Sevic abstaining as she was not in attendance at the July 24 meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Sheets motioned to approve the August 28, 2025, meeting summary. Commissioner Sevic seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A member of the South Carroll Aeromodelers gave a public comment explaining what their club is and what they do in the area. He explained that he will be at the October 5 and the October 26 Farmers' Markets.

BUSINESS:

- **Scouts of America Pack 719 Pancake Breakfast**
Mr. Rittenhouse will gather more information on this topic and will report back to the Commission.

- **Sykesville Cinema – September Debrief, Beetlejuice and Costume Contest**

There were 80 people at The Croods in September. There was a little trouble with the new popcorn machine. It was treated with oil after the movie. There was a request to get a new table or stand for the projector and sound mixer and pins for the speaker stands during the off season.

Commissioner Hanratty suggested getting “order here” and “pickup here” above the two windows of the snack shack. There was discussion of placement for the sign.

The Commission requested a dehumidifier for the 2026 event season.

Commissioners Hanratty, Poet, Sheets, Sevic, and Valenstein will be in attendance. Commissioner Sevic has volunteers.

Judges are secured for the costume contest. Mr. Rittenhouse will get the gift cards for the winners of the contest. The three prizes will be \$25, \$15, and \$10. There will be candy for all participants. The costume contest will start at 6:15 P.M.

Mr. Rittenhouse will place the signs. Commissioner Sevic will get Beetlejuice toppers for the signs.

MOTION: Commissioner Sevic motioned to buy toppers for the movie signs in an amount not to exceed \$25. Commissioner Valenstein seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

- **Fall Cleanup Debrief**

There was a large turnout of volunteers and multiple different activities. The Commission explained that they like having more than just picking up trash at cleanups.

- **Concert Debrief**

The band was excellent, and turnout was great. It is tough to compete with the Vine on Main and their concerts, as the Vine on Main has alcohol. The family friendly aspect of the SPARC concerts is what drives attendance. There was discussion about timing of concerts.

- **Skate Jam!**

Bands have been secured for this event. There will not be a food truck, but Jason from Shrimptown has offered to purchase pizzas and provide prizes.

One speaker and a wireless microphone will be needed for setup. It will be more of an exhibition rather than a competition.

Commissioners Poet, Sheets, and Sevic will be in attendance.

MOTION: Commissioner Sheets motioned to increase the amount paid for the bands to \$300 total. Commissioner Sevick seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion regarding the need for waivers for photography. They are not needed, as it is a public park. Waivers for personal injury are also not required, though an announcement about skating at your own risk will be made.

Snacks will not be sold during this event.

- **October Farmers' Market**

There was discussion of if attendance at the Farmers' Market was necessary, as it is the same day as the Trick-or-Treat on Main event.

- **Trick or Treat**

There was discussion of which Commissioners can attend. Commissioner Sevick has four volunteers for the event. Commissioner Gilbert's son will be asked if he is willing to be Sparky during this event.

The Town is working in conjunction with Tidal Salt for a sensory friendly trunk-or-treat on the same day. There is no need for Commissioners or volunteers at this event.

- **Volunteer Newsletter**

There were no edits for the volunteer newsletter.

- **Sparky Stickers**

Commissioner Sevick asked for the logo to be added to the first design with the walking stick. A combination of the three designs will be ordered totaling up to 200 stickers.

MOTION: Commissioner Valenstein motioned to approve the purchase of a variety pack of 200 stickers. Commissioner Sheets seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN UPDATES:

- **Tree Safety**

Mr. Rittenhouse announced that a tree service will be in Millard Cooper Park in November and will be scheduled to return every six months for preventative pruning and maintenance.

There are several trees throughout various parks that have been identified as dead or dying that will be removed.

- **Minor Playground Equipment Fixes**

Minor spots on the playground at South Branch Park were fixed for safety.

- **Donorbox**

A QR code for donations is being looked into for all aspects of the Town, such as Little Sykes.

- **Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz**

There were 569 observations through iNaturalist during the BioBlitz. Mr. Rittenhouse will work with the iNaturalist team to hone the area into Sykesville during 2026.

There was discussion about including information along the Linear Trail or within the parks using the information about the local pollinators.

- **Council Liaison Updates**

Council Member Ries announced that Council Member Guroff's son is willing to be Frosty during the Visit from Santa event.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before SPARC, Commissioner Sheets motioned, and Commissioner Poet seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Town Clerk Kerry Kavaloski