

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting

April 15, 2024

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 5:30 p.m., held in the Rome City Town Hall. Called to order by President Wilkinson.

Members Present:

Leigh A. Pranger-Secretary

Tina Wilkinson

John Martin

Bridgett Coe

Members Absent:

Doug Maley

Roll call a quorum was present.

Interested parties in attendance: No one in attendance.

Member Coe made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Member Martin.

All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Restrooms to open anytime in the next two weeks.

Softball/Baseball-Secretary Pranger informed the board they have one softball team and they started practice this week. T-Ball teams will be coached by Austin Keck.

Region IIIA update 5 five park plan. Region 3A will be working on the first draft of the plan to be presented to the board at the May meeting. They passed out a timeline showing the process: First draft-May meeting, second survey-June or July, first public meeting-September, revise and edit plan-October, Submit first draft to IDNR-November, second public meeting-February 2025, Final Submission to IDNR-April 2025. Mr. Brinkman informed the board that IDNR has expanded the timeline to a minimum of one year so public input can be maximized.

Planning-Concert(s) in Gaff Park: Saturday, June 8 2024 President Wilkinson contacted Wallen Road, \$1000, they will play from 6-8 pm. Food Trucks- 5-8 pm. House of Brisket and Fort Wayne taco truck. Need to have a sign prepared for the event-President Wilkinson brought in the update banners for the event. The board discussed asking for band sponsors. (Shepherd's, Spidel Iron and Metal, Howard Murray) Leigh Pranger will contact BZ Autos regarding sponsorship of the band. **Need to assign person contacting sponsors.**

Food Trucks and Fireworks-Saturday July 6, 2024: Set up 4-4:30 p.m. and serving 5-10 pm or later-Street Tacos, Hitchin' Kitchen, Party on the Patio, Tyrone's Dawgs, Kona Ice, Brewhouse BBQ. (The Trucks are all confirmed for the event, Truck owners to donate \$100 to Park Dept.) Need to request Front Street Road Closure by the Town council.

Park Cleaner's: President Wilkinson stated Amanda Angrasario 260-557-6949 will be cleaning the restrooms for the season. The season will start on May 1st. President Wilkinson stated she will contact Valarie Ritchie to find out what she did cleaning wise last year. \$25 per week per park. Secretary Pranger said she would check on cleaning supplies.

Kelly Park

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board that the playground in Kelly Park has wood chips installed and it looks like we will only need the one load of chips.
- b) **Pickleball and Cornhole Tournaments on August 10th.** President Wilkinson stated she is trying to contact Doug Eby, Hidden Ego no luck yet. Steve Kirkpatrick is confirmed to help with the Pickleball tournament. The board discussed not making the food this year as most participants bring their own. Registration will be at 8:00 a.m. pickleball with the tournament starting at 8:30 a.m. Registration at 8:30 a.m. cornhole tournament starting at 9:00 a.m. Need to work on sponsors for the event. 2023 sponsors:

R & S Boats \$100, B & J specialty \$250, Shepherd's \$500, Fruition \$250, Miller's Super Valu-Food, Outbak Photography-Haunted Trail Tickets. **Need to assign someone to contact sponsors.**

- c) Secretary Pranger informed the board Susan Garringer (lives on the lake) is interested in starting a kids tennis program for one-week next summer. The board stated this would be great, but we would need to get the word out early and asked Ms. Garringer some to the May meeting to start the planning and find out what she will need to make this happen.
- d) Secretary Pranger informed the board about a product we can use on the tennis courts to possibly get more life out of the courts. The product is called Pave Patch and there is a tutorial on YouTube on how to apply. Just need to figure out how much to order.
- e) The board then revisited the cost to have the courts redone. Secretary Pranger checked back in the minutes to do a full depth replacement will be \$89,500 and to Mill down the surface 1.5" and resurface will be \$66,500. Secretary Pranger stated we could encumber funds left from this year that are unused and ask the Town Council for a larger budget in 2025 to repair the court. The board agreed this would be the way to go. Need to ask for more money by the June Town council meeting to make sure it gets in the budget.

Grant Park

Secretary Pranger informed the board that three signs were installed at all the openings to the baseball field, stating the field is for children 11 years and younger. Hopefully this will address the complaints from the neighboring properties.

Dog Park -Change name to Off Leash Area-Location between Kelly Park and Grant Park:

The board discussed Grant Dog Park opening celebration. They would like to have the opening on June 15th from Noon-2 p.m. President Wilkinson instructed Secretary Pranger to contact Doug Maley regarding the progress and if it will be ready for opening on that date.

Member Maley informed Secretary Pranger they had a workday last Saturday they installed the mulch, filled in holes. Mr. Maley couldn't find the grass seed that will be installed this week along with the straw. President Wilkinson brought the plaque for dog poop station donated by Flyaway Bay Kennels. Secretary Pranger gave it to the Town guys to install this week. The Lions Club will be donating a bench to the dog park. A sponsor plaque will be purchased when we know the type of bench.

The board discussed the lack of grass in the park. Secretary Pranger stated she checked with Quality Lawn Care, and they have an overseeder. It might be worth it if we can get it applied in the next week or two. President Wilkinson will check with Quality Lawn Care regarding cost and when they can do the work. The board asked the cost estimate be emailed to them for approval.

Sycamore Park

President Wilkinson informed the board Sycamore Park was cleaned of trash during the roadside clean up last Saturday. They picked up four bags in the park.

Lakeside Park

- a) Pulver Asphalt Paving-installation of a 1/2 court basket/pickle ball with lines \$28,500. The installation will be in late June.
- b) Playground design: after reviewing the design from Midstates and the sale flyer. The board said we just need to come up with a proposed playground and a cost for fundraising. The end product will change as the board stated they will most likely purchase sale items for the playground. The board decided they would like to install a separate area for 2-5 year olds and 5-12 year olds. The board asked Secretary Pranger to contact Wendy Mink with Midstates to update the layout of the playground so we can use it in fundraising efforts this year.

- c) Playground Fundraising: The board needs to work on obtaining grants to help fund the playground. Noble County Community Foundation, Dekko, and Cole Foundation regarding their grant cycles.
- d) Discuss getting a landscaper to install native Indiana trees along lake this fall.

Gaff Park Trail head:

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board the expansion of the parking lot has started and should be completed within the next 2 weeks. They just need to straighten the railroad ties and install the re-rod.
- b) Secretary Pranger informed the board the pine tree located to the east of the parking lot will need to be relocated for the trail project. The board stated to plant the tree where the bike rack was located.
- c) Member Martin asked if we could install a sign in Gaff Park to match the other town signage. President Wilkinson stated she will ask her husband Jim Wilkinson to give us a quote to have the sign done in 2024. The board agreed this would be a nice addition to the park and tie all the signage together.
- d) President Wilkinson informed the board the installation of the musical Equipment will be installed the end of May or first of June. Advance Rome City approached her about adding musical items to Gaff or Lakeside Parks. They directed Mrs. Wilkinson to Tinker Tunes out of Michigan. They do a circle of bells to the tune of Amazing Grace. You hit the bells as you walk around the circle. The board approved the addition of the Tinker Tunes to Gaff Park to be located to the east of the parking lot along Lions Drive.
- e) Trail project to start moving dirt the end of this month. The 811 locates have already been called in for the project.

2024 Budget

Park Donation Account	\$27,572.58
#119-Park Maintenance	\$14,961.05
#135-Contractual	\$ 4,000.00
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 2,760.11
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 3,977.52
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 3,487.01
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 4,564.60
#430-Park Improvement	\$15,000.00
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$12,066.07</u>
Total	\$60,816.36 +27,572.58=\$88,388.94
Town/Park Project	\$15,000.00
Encumbered: asphalt basketball court Lakeside Pk:	\$28,500

General Discussion:

Member Coe said the board should have Rome city Park Board shirts to wear for events, so people know who to talk to if they have questions. Member Coe stated she will check into a couple T-shirt printing places and get back with the board.

Member Coe also stated we should develop a QR code for the Lakeside Playground Equipment Project and have a stand or poster to put up at events for donations.

President Wilkinson stated she will ask Joel Wilkinson if he can develop posters for each of our events.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2024

Member Martin a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:


Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary

Old Items

Kelly Park

- a) *Replace baseball back stop or reinforce-on hold- fill in hole around manhole behind home plate.
- b) Look into reconstruction of tennis courts for future planning.
- c) *Secretary Pranger informed the board the sports complex had horseshoe and shuffleboard courts and Strawser Brothers did the work.

Gaff Park-) Sled Box: The board discussed the idea of a Free Sled Box in Gaff Park. President Wilkinson brought proposal from Albion Parks Department about installing a free sled box for the kids to borrow a sled and then leave it in the box when they are done. No decision was made.

Grant Park

- a) *Hold until 2024-Concrete pads under bleachers.

Lakeside

- a) Member Maley showed the board his power point on items that might be considered for the playground area. Musical Flowers \$1600, Xylophone \$6000, Musical Bench. He showed the board play equipment in the shape of a boat-the board expressed interest to keep with the lake theme. Exercise Stations for adults and kids could be added along the sidewalk. Secretary Pranger showed the board a new catalog from Summit Supply with ideas for a musical park or adult workout stations.
- b) The board requested Pranger look into a possible grant for the installation of a small boat ramp at the east end of Lakeside Park. Pranger stated there is money available through Land & Water Conservation funds for this type of project. Boat ramp for kayak, canoes, and paddleboards-Land Water Conservation Grant

*location for President Furlow's bench-Pranger suggested it be installed between the pine trees at the public access-There will be room we will need to place a concrete or asphalt pad.

Sycamore Park

On Hold-The board discussed the need for a hitching post in Sycamore Park so the Amish quit tying their horses to the trees. Secretary Partner suggested we contact the Amish bishop and ask them to maintain a poop station, so the manure is not leaching into the Little Lake. President Wilkinson stated she might have a contact. The board also stated if a hitching post is installed someone needs to be responsible for cleaning up the horse waste-this can also be discussed with the Amish.

Miscellaneous Business: The board discussed member ethics and stated they would like the Town Council to pass a policy that background checks be performed for all board members prior to appointment. Any board member arrested for a felony will be automatically placed on a leave of absence from the board until the court hearing. The board members' seats are to remain open and not filled until a determination is made in court. Secretary Pranger stated she will forward their concerns to the Town Council for their input and possible policy update.