

## ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting  
June 17, 2024

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., in the Rome City Town Hall. Called to order by President Wilkinson.

Members Present:

Leigh A. Pranger-Secretary  
John Martin

Tina Wilkinson  
Bridgett Coe

Members Absent:

Doug Maley

Roll call a quorum was present.

Interested parties in attendance: Scott Harman and Dawn Marshall with the Noble County Bicycle Club-asked for support of the club and asked about a banner to be installed next to the Marshal's banner in Gaff Park promoting bicycle safety and the wearing of helmets with joint promotion of the Bicycle Club and the Rome City Park Board. The board gave their permission for the installation of the banner. Mr. Harman stated a promotional picture will be taken with club and park board members for social media and the News-Sun. They requested the park board members check out their website at [ncbicycleclub.org](http://ncbicycleclub.org) and to like their Facebook page. They informed the board the club meets every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. for a fun ride at Tractor Supply in Kendallville. They will be holding a 5K and a 20K run/walk on September 28, 2024, from 8am-3pm at Gene Stratton-Porter. Lastly, Mr. Harman asked if the bike rack could be moved closer to the parking lot in Gaff Park for easier access. The board stated they would check into relocating the rack and they thanked Mr. Harman and Ms. Marshall for attending the meeting.

Member Coe made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Member Martin. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

**Softball/Baseball**-Secretary Pranger informed the board the girls softball team held a sleep over at in the park last Friday.

**Region IIIA update 5 five park plan**. Secretary Pranger informed the board we should be hearing from Region 3A as it is time for the 2<sup>nd</sup> survey to be sent out. The board requested Pranger make contact with them about the survey questions. Region 3A sent the first draft of the park plan for review. 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.

**Update on Chautauqua Committee**: President Wilkinson stated she has not received minutes nor heard when the next meeting will be scheduled.

**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.)

402 Kelly Street

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President Wilkinson asked the member to follow up with their truck: confirm date, times, size of rig and if they want to leave early. Secretary Pranger informed the board that the Front Street Road Closure was approved by the Town council on May 13, 2024. President Wilkinson asked the board about contacting a donut truck as we do not have any desserts type trucks. The board approved the ask, the more the merrier. The board discussed a QR code with a poster showing the fundraising for the new playground in Lakeside Park to be displayed for the park events this summer. Secretary Pranger stated the Chamber has a sandwich board we can use to put the sign on. President Wilkinson will work on a QR code and a fundraising poster. President Wilkinson stated NCD will be providing the trash cans for the event again this year. Secretary Pranger asked if Sherry Hazlett could set up a bake sale stand for the event. She has a handicapped daughter and needs to raise funds for a new lift. The board discussed it and didn't want to make other non-profits in town upset if we didn't allow them to set up. It is a fundraiser for the parks. They suggested she ask Miller's or Mr. Kitchen for a place to set up. Pranger informed the board the port-a-johns will be located in the same places as last year. President Wilkinson stated we need to contact Pepperoni's and tell them they should put up a banner stating they are selling pizza by the slice.

**Park Cleaner:** President Wilkinson stated Amanda Angrasario 260-557-6949 will be cleaning the restrooms for the season. She started on May 1<sup>st</sup>. President Wilkinson asked about the Gaff Park restrooms. Secretary Pranger stated the deputies have been closing them at night and the street employees have been opening them in the morning. The board then discussed the need for the restrooms to be locked as we haven't had any problems so far this year. The board stated just to leave the restrooms open unless we have problems then we will have to go back to locking them.

### **Kelly Park**

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board they need to request funding for the tennis/pickleball court from the July 8<sup>th</sup> Town council meeting. Secretary Pranger checked back in the minutes for Pulver's 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 July Town council meeting to make sure it gets in the budget. They asked Secretary Pranger to see if she could get another quote-checking with Niblock. On hold until we refurbish the tennis courts. 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 to attend the May meeting to start the planning and find out what she will need to make this happen.
- b) **Pickleball and Cornhole Tournaments on August 10th.** President Wilkinson stated she heard back from Doug Eby, Hidden Ego we are set for cornhole, he asked to move the tournament later in the day. Pranger stated we might run into issues with the parade line up starting at 11:30 am and parade start at 1:00 p.m. President Wilkinson said we need to do two cornhole tournaments one for pros and one for amateurs to make it fun for everyone. We will need to raise \$2000 for prizes and payment to Doug Eby for running the tournaments. Steve Kirkpatrick has backed out of helping with the Pickleball tournament. Checking with Daryl DeMuyt (possible sponsor -DeMuyt Masonry) and Jim Sheffield to see if they can help or know of anyone. 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 get out flyers for the tournaments-CLC, hidden Ego, Wolcottville School, LaGrange Park and Kelly Park, and Augusta hills. 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. (Shepherd's, Spidel Iron and Metal, Howard Murray) Leigh Pranger will contact BZ Autos, Aggregate Systems, Fruition, Howard Murray and Precision Medical. John Martin will contact Shephard's. (Arrow Fence, Max Platt, R & S Boats, West Lakes, K-ville Iron and Metal) Procured: Tina Wilkinson-NCD \$250 and B and J Specialty \$250.**

- c) Grimaldi Circus contacted Secretary Pranger about doing a performance this summer. Pranger received an email from Grimaldi stating they would arrive on August 21, 2024 and do two performances on Thursday, August 22, 2024, in Kelly Park. They need an area of 120x120 for their tent set up. They would pack up the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. They stated they will partner with a local non-profit and give 30% of their sales to them. The park board stated they will partner with them, depending on the time invested, for the playground fundraiser. Member Martin made a motion to allow Grimaldi Circus to use Kelly Park on August 21 and 22. The board asked Pranger to look into the what will be required by the board.

### **Grant Park**

Pranger informed the board the outside water spigot was changed out due to being difficult to shut off.

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

Doug Maley asked for the bricks to be moved to the dog park so the entryway can be installed. Pranger had the town guys put the bricks inside the fence. President Wilkinson suggested a shelter or canopy be purchased and put over the bench. Pranger stated they make benches with covers-we can look into the cost.

### **Sycamore Park**

Secretary Pranger informed the board that the town guys are checking the area for trash every other week.

### **Lakeside Park**

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board she made some changes and corrections to the first draft of the new park plan and sent it back to Region 3A. She told the board to send and changes they have directly to the Region 3A. President Wilkinson asked Pranger to check on the second survey for the park plan with Region 3A.
- b) Pulver Asphalt Paving-installation of a 1/2 court basket/pickle ball with lines \$28,500. The installation will be later this summer.
- c) Secretary Pranger had forwarded the updates to the playground design to the board, that were made by Wendy Mink with Midstates. 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.

- d) 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.
- e) Discussed getting a landscaper to install native Indiana trees along lake this fall or have Hulen’s plant them.

**Gaff Park Trail head:**

- a) Review of 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. Discussed moving the event to the Friday before East Noble graduation. We had more participation then. Need to stick with local food trucks as the Fort Wayne Taco truck canceled the night before the event. Thankfully able to get Street Tacos back.
- b) Secretary Pranger informed the board that the hard wood tree we planted by the parking lot has died from deer rubbing on the trunk. Need to replace with a guard on new tree-town guys removed the tree and will plant replacement in the fall.
- c) Still in Progress: 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. President Wilkinson stated the cost for the stonework will be \$2000, the work won’t be able to be done until this fall. (Member Martin stated he will help.) Member Martin made a motion to approve the stonework for the Gaff Park sign. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion carried. The board directed Pranger to contact Miller’s signs in Lagrange to get a quote on the sign for the next meeting.
- d) President Wilkinson informed the board the installation of the musical Equipment will be delayed to the end 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. **Need to discuss pathway around and possible landscaping in the middle.**
- e) Trail project in progress, asphalt has been laid, topcoat won’t be applied until after July 4<sup>th</sup> due to heavy truck son the dam for the fireworks. Project will be completed by the end of July.

**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:

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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.

President Wilkinson brought up having another concert in the park on the Sunday of Chautauqua or a Friday in August or September. She will check with Chautauqua to see what they think.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2024

Member Coe a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Second by Member Martin. 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.