

## ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting  
October 16, 2023

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, October 16, 2023 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 Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

**Region IIIA update 5 five park plan.** Secretary Pranger informed the board the contract has been sent to Region IIIA for the new park plan update and she sent the updates of what the park board accomplished on the old plan so they can get started working on the plan. The board asked Secretary Pranger to contact Region IIIA to see when the survey's will be sent out.

**Softball/Baseball.** Secretary Pranger informed the board the softball league will be holding a year-end meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**Closure of Restrooms and concession stand for the winter:** Kelly Park concessions and restrooms closed October 16<sup>th</sup>. Gaff Park to close on October 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Letter from Citizen:** Secretary Pranger forwarded the letter to the board by email. The letter is about the state of the parks and the need for a better playground in Lakeside Park and Sycamore Park. She offered her help in fund raiser for the park equipment. Member Martin submitted a response letter for the board to review, letting her know the town has 5 parks and Co-vid19 derailed our plans to upgrade Lakeside Park. We are in the planning process to start fundraising and designing the new play equipment. The board invited her and a parent to attend the next meeting to discuss ideas.

**Planning-Concert in Gaff Park: June 7 2024** Discussed possible Bands-Whoa Man, Wallen Road, Mason Dixon Line. Food Trucks

### **Kelly Park**

- a) The Mommy and me and toddler swing have been ordered.
- b) Tennis court posts installed.
- c) Contacted K & M Asphalt and Pulver Asphalt for a quote: to reconstruct the tennis courts in Kelly Park and install a half-court basketball court in Lakeside Park. Secretary Pranger will be meeting with Pulver on October 20<sup>th</sup> and will call K&M again. Secretary Pranger submitted a drawing showing the location of the court in Lakeside Park.
- d) Trash can lids: Secretary Pranger informed the board the larger trash can lids can reduced to fit the smaller cans. We will have to pay the labor on the reduction. (Not sure who made the error neither one of us kept the paperwork, so we do not know who is at fault.).
- e) 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

January or February meeting to start the planning and find out what she will need to make this happen.

### **Grant Park**

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

The board discussed Grant Dog Park. Member Maley informed Secretary Pranger they are working the bricks at the entrance. He is working with Brady's Landscaping for the installation of the bricks. He submitted estimated costs for the final items to finish up the park. The signage has been installed along with the poop station. We need to design a plaque for Flyaway Bay Kennels as they donated the money for the dog station. Member Maley stated the brick fundraiser is closed and not working on getting the brick to have them engraved. The board stated we can move a bench from Gaff Park and put it in the dog park. **When do you want to do the official opening of the park? The board stated we need feedback from Member Maley-should we wait until spring or try for November.**

### **Sycamore Park**

a) 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.

### **Lakeside Park**

- a) Install half court basket/pickle ball along the fence by Sturdivant's- The board decided to move it at least six feet off the south line and closer to the parking lot away from the tree on the west side. The pickleball court will be added to the west side of the basketball court. See the drawing attached.
- b) Playground upgrade: The board reviewed the mock-ups from Midstate Recreation and stated they like the pirate ship. They would like to add some additional freestanding pieces to fill in the rest of the area. President Wilkinson stated she will contact, Noble County Community Foundation, Dekko, and Cole Foundation regarding their grant cycles. Cole and Noble Community Foundation have November deadlines with money distribution in February 2024.
- c) Discuss getting a landscaper to install native Indiana trees along lake this fall or next fall.

### **Gaff Park Trail head:**

- a) The board discussed expanding the parking lot to the north. Secretary Pranger submitted the a drawing with dimensions to give to the town guys to do the work. The board reviewed and approved the expansion. The lot will be added to the north side of the existing parking lot the size will be 64'L x 50'W for an additional 12 spaces for a total of 19 spaces. The board stated they want railroad ties used on the perimeter and not the plastic ties as they do not hold up to the weather.
- b) Member Martin stated he installed the Reverse osmosis system to Gaff Park for the water fountain. Secretary Pranger stated this is have to be removed in the winter and reinstalled each spring as it will freeze.
- 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) Well has been approved by IDEM.

**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.

**2023 Budget**

Park Donation Account	\$24,844.13	
#119-Park Maintenance	\$(1235.75)	
#135-Contractual	\$ 4000.00	
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 2,218.03	
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 199.58	
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 2,304.10	
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 0	
#430-Park Improvement	\$ 6,561.08	
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$10,785.85</u>	
Total	\$24,832.89	+24,844.13=\$49,677.02


Town/Park Project \$14,584.22

Cost for new Swings-\$2,933.93

Member Martin a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary

Old Items

**Kelly Park**

402 Kelly Street

P.O. Box 338

(260)854-2412

[www.townfromecity.org](http://www.townfromecity.org)

Rome City, IN 46784

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- 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.
- d) \*

**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.