

## ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting  
April 24, 2023

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023 at 5:32 p.m., held in the Rome City Town Hall. Called to order by President Wilkinson.

Members Present:

Leigh A. Pranger-Secretary	Doug Maley
Tina Wilkinson	John Martin
Bridgett Coe	

Roll call a quorum was present.

Interested parties in attendance: No interested parties in attendance.

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

Softball/Baseball-Secretary Pranger informed the board the softball league will only have one team this year and they will be using Kelly Park. Practice to start this week.

July 1<sup>st</sup> Fundraiser: the board discussed the Food trucks who will be attending the event. Fundraiser for 2024 Playground at Lakeside Park

1. Ed's Fish and More-Bridgett
2. Street Taco's-Bridgett
3. Party on the Patio-Doug
4. Hitchin' Kitchen-Tina
5. Brewhouse BBQ-Doug confirmed on May 1st
6. Kona Ice-Tina

The board said they would like to find a BB-que truck otherwise it looks like we have enough for the event. President Wilkinson reiterated to the member that the truck owners know they are expected to make a donation of \$100 to be participant. The board discussed trash cans for the event. Member Coe asked President Wilkinson to contact Noble County Disposal for the trash cans we had last year for the event. The board discussed the location of the trucks to be on Front Street along the parking spaces on the north side. The board discussed the location of the port-a-johns for this year. Secretary Pranger stated they need to contact the Chamber as they take care of ordering and placement of the units for the event.

President Wilkinson stated she would like to do a walk through of the parks for the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Meeting location to be determined.

### Kelly Park

- a) Keypad locks installed on concession stand door.
- b) \*Kelly Park Playground-Pranger to get out quotes for concrete pad for the wheelchair swing. The board told Pranger to check put the school playground swing, they are using a thick rubber pad for the ADA compliance issue. This would be less costly than adding a concrete pad. President Wilkinson asked Pranger to look into the cost of a mommy and me swing to install in place of the wheelchair swing.
- c) The board discussed the location of the trees being donated by NIPSCO and Graphic Packaging. Member Maley stated he will be putting three trees in the new off leash area

and one oak in Kelly Park and two trees in Gaff Park, one sycamore in Sycamore Park. The board discussed the location of the trees around the playground in Kelly Park. It was decided for Member Maley and President Wilkinson to meet at Kelly Park after the meeting to make a decision. Member Maley stated the trees will be planted between now and end of June.

- d) Secretary Pranger informed the board we need to replace the lids on the trash cans at the pavilions in Kelly Park. She is looking into a bubble top instead of the rings. She will bring the quotes to the board.
- e) President Wilkinson distributed a copy of the mowing crews bill to clean Kelly and Grant Parks of limbs and leaves. The cost for Kelly Park is \$100 and Grant Park \$400. After some discussion, Member Martin made a motion to approve the bill for \$500. Second by Member Maley. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried. President Wilkinson stated due to the downturn in baseball/softball we always had the teams clean the parks now we are down to one team using Kelly Park. We need to look at having Grant Park's leaves removed in the fall when the leaves are not wet. The board stated this would be a good idea and it might save some money.

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

The board discussed the Dog Park. Member Maley stated three trees will be planted by NIPSCO, they are contracted with Dogwood Hills to plant the trees. He is working on corporate and brick donations.

Secretary Pranger sent another email to Green -a-lawn for an application cost to treat fleas and ticks, waiting to hear back.

Member Maley informed the board Olivia Ruff (sheepdog)-anything is paw-sible in Rome City, now has a Facebook page to get the word out about the Off Leash area. He asked the board members to friend her on Facebook. Member Maley stated he has a contractor willing to install the fence as long as we buy the material. This will give us a saving of almost 50%. Items needed for the park (Benches, trees, Dog Station, Signage, picnic table, dog exercise stations, fence, water fountain) Member Maley is looking into grants for dog parks.

**\*\*President Wilkinson informed the cost to mow the area may increase due to the additional cleaning from the dog poop. (The board stated the dog park area will only need to be mowed every other week)**

**Grant Park**

- a) Secretary Pranger ordered the horse spring animal.
- b) Secretary Pranger informed the board she is working on park rules to be passed by ordinance. She is checking with other towns to see what kind of rules they have.
- c) President Wilkinson distributed the bill for \$400 to clean the leaves and limbs from the park. She suggested we have the leaves remove in the fall when the leaves are dry. The board agreed.

**Sycamore Park**

- a) Member Maley stated NIPSO will be planting one Sycamore Trees in Sycamore Park.
- b) Pranger informed the board we did not receive the donation of rip rap for Sycamore Park.
- c) Pranger stated we need to look into removing at least one cottonwood tree per year until we get them all cut down.

**Lakeside Park**

- a) Discussion on Lakeside Park half court basket/pickle ball. Member Maley informed the board there is nothing we can put into the cracks in the concrete to fill them for an adequate pickleball court. We would have to add a layer of asphalt over the top of the concrete and even then, the cracks will come back as each concrete square was poured

individually to be able to heave and shift during the freeze and thaw cycle. The board discussed going back to installing a court along Park Drive or next to the fence by Sturdivant's.

- b) Playground upgrade: The board instructed Pranger to contact the play equipment company to begin the design of the playground. First step in working to getting a grant for the equipment. President Wilkinson stated she will contact, Noble County Community Foundation, Dekko, and Cole Foundation regarding their grant cycles.
- c) Pranger asked if the board would like the smaller trees removed along the lake at Lakeside Park as they seem to be dying. Possibly plant new trees in the fall. The board decided to remove the trees and look into planting a different type of tree in the fall.

**Gaff Park Trail head:**

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board we have received the well permit. She contacted Eric Bonar to set up a date to install the well. Mr. Bonar stated he will install the well once the street building is under roof. We must submit well information to IDEM a minimum of 10 days before the well is installed. The well will cost around \$8000
- b) Pranger informed the board the fixtures have been installed in the restrooms. The employees will be installing the sewer grinder station and the drinking fountain this week weather permitting.
- c) \*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.
- d) Need to add sticker for water fountain-Sylvan Lake Association. Pranger is looking into a sticker to be placed on the fountain showing the sponsor. Contacted Phil Jacobs for design of sticker, he will be out this week to look at the fountain.
- e) Member Martin stated he is willing to donate a Reverse osmosis system to Gaff Park for the water fountain. Secretary Pranger said she will have Scott Neukom get in touch with Member Martin on the install.
- f) The board tentatively set the **Park Opening Celebration for Saturday, June 3, 2023.** 5pm-8 pm for food trucks, bank 6-8 pm the Y's guys. Food trucks: Street Tacos, House of Brisket, and Member Maley offered cook hotdogs. Invite local groups so people can find out about their organization, family walk/bike rides-tote bag and water for those that participate Yard Games Check with Ice Cream shop about mobile ice cream unit or running a special for Park Celebration that weekend. The park to provide a cake for the celebration. The board asked Secretary Pranger to send information to Jenna Anderson both events for posters to advertise.

Trail update: Design phase is complete and sent to IDNR for approval and easement paperwork sent to property owners.

Member Coe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Second by Member Martin. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. possible walk through of parks.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
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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.
- d) \*Secretary Pranger stated the addition to the concrete pad for the bleacher in Kelly Park will have to wait-we can enlarge the pad and add the base stone. The water fountain at Kelly Diamond will need to be relocated to the corner of the pavilion in order to move the bleachers.

### 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.