

## ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting  
February 27, 2023

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, February 27, 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                      Bridgett Coe  
John Martin

Roll call a quorum was present.

Interested parties in attendance: Kerry Miller, Ron and Nicole Henschen.

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

President Wilkinson addressed the Henschen's and Kerry Miller with the letter received from the Town Attorney stating they are against using public property for private individuals use, in addition, should a pier be placed and an accident occur the town will be dragged into the lawsuit since the pier is attached to public property. They advised against granting access for private piers. President Wilkinson then read a letter from the town's liability insurance company stating pier accidents are one of the highest number of claims they incur. They advised against granting access for private piers. Secretary Pranger submitted to the board the original discussion with the Park Board and Town Council in 1993, from DNR Recreation asking the piers be removed as the park board was in violation of the Land, Water Conservation grant they received to develop the park. After some discussion Member Martin made a motion to deny the request to allow private piers in Lakeside Park. Second by Member Coe. 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. They have scheduled their cleanup day for April 8 from 1-3 p.m.

### Kelly Park

- a) Discussed Keypad locks. The board decided to only do the concession doors on both buildings. Secretary Pranger to schedule with Snyder's Lock and Key and get an updated quote to install the keypads. 260-347-5774
- b) \*Kelly Park Playground-wheelchair swing frame arrived for Spring installation- to get out quotes for concrete pad.
- c) \*Replace baseball back stop or reinforce-on hold- fill in hole around manhole behind home plate.
- d) Look into reconstruction of tennis courts for future planning.
- e) \*Secretary Pranger informed the board the sports complex had horseshoe and shuffleboard courts and Strawser Brothers did the work.

- f) \*The board stated we need to plant trees around the playground for shade during the summer months. ARC said no to the Spring Fling auction but will consider a donation to plant trees.
- g) \*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.

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

The board discussed the Dog Park. Member Maley stated he will be attending R&S Boats show this weekend and handing out information on the dog park.

The board discussed having the lawn treated for fleas and ticks and they directed Secretary Pranger to check into cost of application.

Member Maley informed the board he spoke with NIPSCO regarding trees for the dog park to replace the trees they removed in the parks. NIPSCO will plant 6 trees. The board left the location of the trees to Member Maley. Member Maley brought up Arbor April 28<sup>th</sup> and possibly having the RC School come out the day of the planting and we can get trees to give to the kids for participating. Member Maley stated he will contact Principal Green to see if something can be worked out.

Member Maley passed out copies of the dog park flyer and the brick fundraiser. Pranger informed the board the flyer and the brick fundraiser are on the website and they will keep track of the donations and who is making them. Member Maley informed the board Olivia Ruff (sheepdog)-anything is pawsible 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. Secretary Pranger contacted our insurance company they stated a dog park is included in our coverage at no additional cost. See attached email from Ramer Insurance. Member Maley is working on getting trees donated for the off-leash area and the other 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) Need to order new spring animal either a motorcycle or horse.
- 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) \*Hold until 2024-Concrete pads under bleachers.
- d) The board discussed the spring animal and suggested a horse or motorcycle for the replacement of the airplane. Secretary Pranger will order.

**Sycamore Park**

- a) Member Maley stated he would like to see more Sycamore Trees in Sycamore Park. Pranger stated we need to look into removing at least one cottonwood tree per year until we get them all cut down.
- b) Pranger passed around a flyer from Rent-Fun Kayak-Bikes-paddleboards. This company will bring the kayaks to the park and board is responsible for the upfront cost of \$18,000, with a 5 year agreement. The board then discussed the location of unit. They discussed

Lakeside Park in front of Sylvan Manor and then thought we might have a bunch of people congregating in the boat access, this would not be good. The board discussed installing a small boat launch at the east end of Lakeside Park. This sounds like a better location. The board also discussed Sycamore Park; however, the Little Elkhart river is not classified by the state a river for boating. This was put on hold until we can decide the best location and have the proper amenities to support it.

### **Lakeside Park**

- a) Member Maley presented the board with a quote for a 12' black vinyl coated fence around the half-court basketball court (a pickle ball court with a pull-out net) in the amount of \$14,250. He noted the yellow basketball post will be used as an anchor post for the fence, we will need to paint it with black metal paint. Member Maley stated he will look into finding someone to bore through the concrete to install the basketball goal on the north side. Member Martin made a motion to encumber funds from this year for the construction of the fence in 2023. Second by Member Maley. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.
- b) Secretary Pranger stated the striping and crack-filling, should be done prior to the installation of the fence. Pranger contacted Jeremy Fox again and hopes to have a quote for the March meeting. This will be on the existing concrete parking lot. Member Maley stated he is speaking with Tiger Coating to get a quote for the crack fill and striping-\$6,000.
- c) 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.
- d) American Rebuilders painted the merry-go-round and the guys have installed it.
- e) Playground upgrade: Look into cost of adding a climber to the play area and rubberized coating on the ground. Pranger distributed the Summit Catalog for the board to look at different climbers.

### **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 install the sewer grinder station and the drinking fountain soon as possible, 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 Design plaque for water fountain-Sylvan Lake Association. Pranger is looking into a sticker to be placed on the fountain showing the sponsor.
- 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.** 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, music-contact American Legion and Sylvan Cellars for suggestions on bands. Maybe hire band that is playing at Sylvan Cellars to play during the day and then play at night at Cellars. Update-Y's Guys Yard Games Check with Ice Cream shop about mobile ice cream unit or running a special for Park Celebration that weekend.

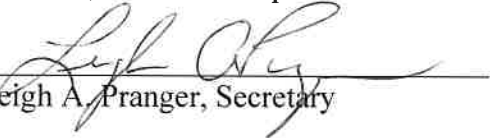
Update-Fireworks and Food Trucks July 1, 2023-Party on the Patio\*, Street Tacos, ~~house of Brisket~~, Hitchin' Kitchen\*, Hotdog vendor, Kona ice\*, dessert vendor-Fundraiser for 2024 Playground at Lakeside Park

ARC meeting with Park Board -President Wilkinson and Member Martin informed the board they attended the meeting and stated the park board is willing to do an activity for Chautauqua. The board discussed a movie in the park on Friday, August 11 at Gaff Park. Perhaps the Library would be willing to put on the show. Pranger advised the security lighting will need to be changed so the screen can be seen during the twilight. Member Maley stated he can install alternative lighting. The board also discussed having a pickleball, cornhole, softball and/or 3 on 3 basketball tournaments. Member Coe suggested getting a breakfast food truck for the tournaments.

Member Coe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Second by Member Maley. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary