

## ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting  
April 21, 2025

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025 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

Roll call a quorum was present.

Interested parties in attendance: Dustin Hicks and Robert Bair-Noble County Emergency Management.

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

- a. Need New Park Board Member-The board is working on this.
- b. Valerie Ritchie Gospel in the Park- President Wilksinson informed the board that Valerie could not attend the meeting, but she is willing to work with the board on pulling together groups for the event. Group suggestions: Grace Notes, Roy Mosley, Val and Chuck Ritchie, Derek & Marissa, Bluegrass group at the RC UMC fill in during group change over. The board approved the Gospel in the Park event for June 6<sup>th</sup> - 6p.m.-8 p.m. with Gingos Tacos and Roamin' Kitchen Food Trucks.
- c. Joel Wilkinson -Social Media update- Facebook page for the Park Department up and running, working on flyer for Concert Series.
- d. Baseball: Dustin Hicks with True Impact (through Grace Christian Church) baseball thanked the board for allowing him to use the Kelly Park facilities and is working to bring baseball teams back to Rome City. He distributed the schedule to the board and stated they will have a scrimmage on April 29<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>. Pranger asked when the season will be over? Mr. Hicks stated July 12<sup>th</sup>. He told the board he and another coach cleaned up the Kelly Park diamond-replaced the bases, concession stand and bleachers. He stated he will also work on the diamond at Grant Park. President Wilkinsohn thanked him for cleaning up.
- e. Opening of restrooms for the season. The board directed Pranger to have the restrooms opened by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Hicks requested the Kelly Park Concession restrooms be opened for the April 29<sup>th</sup> event. Pranger said she would have the town employees do this. Pranger asked if they wanted the restrooms opened at Grant Park. The board stated, yes but only the restroom towards the parking lot as it is visible from Grant Street and hopefully less vandalism will occur.

### Kelly Park

- a) Chautauqua Cornhole tournament: Should we run our own tournament or have Hidden Ego run it again. The board said we need to get more local/novice players not professional players; it's a small-town event we want our citizens to participate. They discussed trying to find a local person to help run the tourney. This would reduce the large prizes we would need to fundraise. President Wilinsohn stated perhaps one of the Ritchie's might be interested in helping. The board discussed the need to purchase score poles and more cornhole boards for the event.

- b) Chautauqua PICKLEBALL Tournament: President Wilinon with check with Darryl DeMuyt to see if he is willing to run the tournament again this year. Pranger informed the board she purchased buckets and balls for the tournament.
- c) Monthly pickleball tournaments: President Wilkinson to check with Antal and DeMuyt to see if they are interested in running pickleball tournaments throughout the summer months.
- d) Secretary Pranger informed the board the picnic tables for the pavilion and the benches to be installed on the new tennis courts have been delivered
- e) Suggestions for Chautauqua-3 on 3 Basketball and softball tournaments. Keep Corn hole with better definition of what is considered a Novice entry and Pickleball.

#### **Grant Park**

- a) Ideas for 2025: add a pavilion over the existing concrete pad, install paved pathway from parking lot to Dog Park for ADA, fencing inside the dog park to separate small and large dogs, add entrance off Canal Rd.

#### **Dog Park -Opening of Park**

- a) Bench with a cover-delivered. Installation in the spring.
- b) The board discussed the lack of grass in the dog park. They asked President Wilkinson to ask her father if we should run a slit seeder over the park or at least park of the part to get more grass in the park.

#### **Sycamore Park**

Nothing for discussion. Town sign to be relocated to the location of the old Sycamore Tree.

#### **Lakeside Park**

- a) Pickleball net and bench to be installed in the spring of 2025.
- b) The town guys installed the lady statue inside the triangle of the sidewalks down by the lake and native ground cover -stonecrop to be planted in the triangle spring of 2025.
- c) Secretary Pranger informed the board, playground set has been delivered. Pranger informed the board she received an email from Wendy Mink on the new sale playground item for this spring. Pranger forwarded the email to the board for them to review. 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 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. President Wilkinson stated she will contact Wendy Smith.
- 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. President Wilkinson brought pictures of the new playground in Lagrange and thought we might be able to incorporate some of the items they have in our design.
- e) Discussed getting a landscaper/town guys might be able to do this to install native Indiana trees by the new playground once it is complete.

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

- a) **New Sign in Gaff Park:** The board decided the sign should be located where the Gaff Park - rock sign sits and move the rock to the other end of the park by the recycling area. Pragner will have the town employees move the rock and contact President Wilkinson when it is moved so the rock work can begin.
- b) **Installation of bench and ladybug drum** waiting until the path is paved. Secretary Pranger showed the board a drawing (from ARC) of the proposed walkway around the outside of the

musical bells which will leave the outside of the path to install additional musical pieces and a covered bench. (Park Bd. To pave additional path to restrooms)

c) **Trail project** completed except for some signage. Ideas to spend leftover grant funds.

d) **Movie nights for the summer and fall nights.** He stated he will be purchasing the projector for the Marshal office and the Park Board would be able to use it. The board stated that it would be a good idea.

e) **Activate Noble County**-Bike Rally June 9<sup>th</sup> 5-7-Bike Safety and free helmets

f) **Myers Tree Service:** Treatment for bagworms on Arborvitae trees. Member Martin made a motion to approve the bill from Myers Tree Service \$240 to treat the Arborvitae trees. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

**CONCERTS IN THE PARK 2025:** First Friday Concert series with food trucks on June 6, August 1 and September 5.

June 6<sup>th</sup>-Gospel in the park -Valerie Ritchie to help with entertainment. Food Trucks Gringo's Taco and Roamin' Kitchen

August 1<sup>st</sup>-The Y's Guys Food Trucks: TyRod Dawgs and Ed's Fish and More

September 5<sup>th</sup>-The Wingmen Food Trucks: Street Tacos and Party on the Patio

Secretary Pranger informed the board we might need to purchase a music subscription due to the copyrights on music for the concert series. President Wilkinson and Secretary Pranger will look into this.

JULY 5<sup>th</sup> FOOD TRUCKS AND FIREWORKS: Food Trucks confirmed: Street Tacos, Ed's Fish and More, Party on the Patio, Roamin' Kitchen, MaMazzoni's Italian beef, Kona Ice/Coffee, See Me Rolling Ice Cream, Brewhouse BBQ


**2025 Budget**

Park Donation Account	\$31,915.51
#119-Park Maintenance	\$15,760.00
#135-Contractual	\$ 3,900.00
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 4,334.24
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 3,974.14
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 5,000.00
#430-Park Improvement	\$32,000.00
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$14,166.83</u>
Total	\$82,135.21 + 31,915.51=\$114,050.72

Next Meeting: May 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Member Martin a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary

## Suggestions/Ideas for Future

### Kelly Park

- a) \*Replace baseball back stop or reinforce-on hold-
- b) \*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 indefinitely-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 at the musical bells in Gaff Park.

### 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 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.