

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
August 19, 2024

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, August 19, 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

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.

Park Plan update: Secretary Pranger informed the board the first public hearing for the five-year park plan will be held on September 16th at 6:30 p.m. The board will meet with Region 3A at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the results of the surveys. Second public hearing will be held on October 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Resignation of Member Maley: Secretary Pranger informed the board the Town Council approved Doug Maley's resignation from the Park Board at the August 12th board meeting. President Wilkinson asked the board members to brainstorm for a new member and email her with possibilities.

Softball/Baseball-Secretary Pranger informed the board the season is over. The league did not clean up the building at the end of the season and the fire department had to do it before their event. President Wilkinson stated we need to meet with the league in the winter and go over the rules and tell them they have to clean out the building the night of their last game or practice.

Fire Department Fundraiser: Held on August 9th-softball fundraiser for the Noble County Animal Shelter. They had good attendance. They cleaned the concession, bathrooms and pavilion area. President Wilkinson informed the board. The fire department would like to use the drive and parking lot for hose lay out on September 6th. The board approved the use as the pavilion is not rented.

Region IIIA update 5 five park plan. Secretary Pranger passed out the QR Code for the 2nd survey and encouraged the board members to share it with their family and friends. 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.

Port-a-Johns: Do we need more port-a-johns located near the food trucks next year?

President Wilkinson stated it would be good to have two by the food trucks-maybe move the one from the top of the public access over.

T-Shirt's for Board Members: Member Coe distributed the shirts to the board before the August 10 Chautauqua Day's tournaments.

Kelly Park

- a) **Pickleball and Cornhole Tournaments on August 10th.** President Wilkinson stated we had 16 teams for the Pickleball and 16 teams for Cornhole. Cornhole ran well-discussed how we determine which category teams should be playing in-organizers informed Tina its on the honor system. 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. Board agreed the times are good for both tournaments and our advertisement was good. We do need to obtain our sponsors earlier in the year in order to have the sponsors on the flyers and banners made so the winners can have their pictures with the sponsor banner. **2024 Sponsors: NCD \$300, B and J Specialty \$250, Arrow Fence-\$250,Shepherd's-\$500, Howard Murray-\$100, BZ Autos-\$100, Aggregate Systems-\$500, Fruition-\$250 Total \$2250-needed \$2000 for Cornhole. DeMuyt Masonry sponsored the \$150 for pickleball winners. FYI: for Pickleball we need to purchase balls and buckets.** It was suggested the Park Board hold a couple more pickleball tournaments throughout the summer.
- b) **Green a-lawn bill:** weed and mole control for both baseball diamonds. Member Coe made a motion to approve the bill for \$450. Second by Member Martin. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Grant Park

Nothing on the agenda.

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

Due to the resignation of the Member Maley the opening of the dog park has been postponed. President Wilkinson will contact the Lion's Club to find out if they might be interested in a shelter or canopy be purchased and put over the bench with their donation or do a small opening. Secretary Pranger stated they make benches with covers-we can look into the cost. Member Coe stated we need to have plaque made to honor all the work Doug Maley did in the park.

Sycamore Park

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

Lakeside Park

- a) Work has begun on ½ court basketball and pickleball. Needs the backboard and net installed and the lines for the courts. Should be complete in a couple of weeks.
- b) The board agreed the lady statue should be located inside the triangle of the sidewalks down by the lake and have plantings added to the triangle.
- 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. 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 to install native Indiana trees along lake this fall or have Hulen's plant them.

Gaff Park Trail head:

- a) **Concert(s) in Gaff Park:** Friday, September 6, 2024, President Wilkinson contacted Stacy Stork and she is booked she will play from 6-8 pm. Food Trucks- 5-8 pm. Ed's Fish and More and Tyrod's Dogs and possibly Coterie Pizza. The board requested the banner be installed and the flyers need to be distributed. WE need to get the word out to everyone.
- b) The board stated we need to replace the Autumn Blaze Maple Tree we lost this spring and add a guard to new tree to keep deer off.
- c) **New Sign in Gaff Park:** Member Martin asked if we could install a sign in Gaff Park to match the other town's 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. Asked to include a bicycle and musical notes to the Gaff Sign and replace the sign at Lakeside damaged in the storm.
- d) President Wilkinson informed the board the installation of the musical Equipment has been installed. President Wilkinson stated we have a request to move a bench out by the bells. Secretary Pranger informed the board we can install concrete pavers under the bench for easier mowing. We will need pavers for the statue. **Need to discuss pathway around and possible landscaping in the middle-with ARC.**
- e) **Trail project** in progress, asphalt has been laid, topcoat applied, waiting on the installation of signage, ADA ramps and pavement markings. Project will be completed by the end of August.

CELCBRATION IN THE PARK 2025: The board discussed doing a first Friday Concert series with food trucks on June 6, August 1 and September 5. Secretary Pranger suggested we start planning this fall and work on sponsors for the event next winter so we can do a poster with all the concerts and perhaps include the Chamber Lyrics events to help offset the advertising costs.

2024 Budget

Park Donation Account	\$27,881.68
#119-Park Maintenance	\$ 3,800.00
#135-Contractual	\$ 3,500.00
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 2,356.84
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 3,679.40

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Rome City, IN 46784

#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 2,551.94
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 3,035.73
#430-Park Improvement	\$14,686.26
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$12,066.07</u>
Total	\$45,676.24 +27,881.68=\$73,557.92

Town/Park Project \$15,000.00

Encumbered: asphalt basketball court Lakeside Pk:\$28,500

Next Meeting: September 16, 2024

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

Respectfully Submitted:


Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary

Old Items

Kelly Park

- *Replace baseball back stop or reinforce-on hold- fill in hole around manhole behind home plate.
- Look into reconstruction of tennis courts for future planning.
- *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

- *Hold until 2024-Concrete pads under bleachers.

Lakeside

- 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.
- 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.