

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
January 16, 2024

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 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.

Wendy Mink with Midstates Recreation was present to review and discuss the options she submitted to the board on the new playground for Lakeside Park. Ms. Mink submitted two designs to the board, and they discussed if any of the existing park equipment could be used in the new playground. Ms. Mink discussed the issue with installing the necessary fall protection of 12 inches, where the ground would need to be dug out or wood chips added to the top of the ground with a barrier to hold it in. Depending on why the board decided to install the chips would determine whether anything can be salvaged. The board stated they were taken aback on the cost of the new equipment and Ms. Mink stated we receive a discount, and we are not required to take bids because we belong to Sourcewell. Ms. Mink informed the board that 40% of the cost is in the labor to construct. Ms. Mink asked about the low hanging utility wires running through the park and stated some of the equipment will be in the area and wondered if it could be relocated. Member Martin stated he didn't think it was connected to anything, but he would look into it. Ms. Mink passed out sale flyers to see if anything in the flyer would work to save money. The board asked if her company offers any grants for playground upgrades. She stated no, and suggested land water conservation fund through the state for grant opportunities. The board stated they will review and come up with a proposal at the February meeting and they will get back with her. Ms. Mink stated she will attend the March 18th meeting.

Softball/Baseball-Secretary Pranger informed the board the softball league did send out flyers and sign ups have started.

Park Cleaner's: President Wilkinson asked how much we paid the cleaners per occurrence? Secretary Pranger stated she will look into it and get back with the board. President Wilkinson stated Sarah Ackerman or Sarah Geurs might be interested in the job.

Region IIIA update 5 five park plan. Secretary Pranger informed the board that the surveys were sent out and we have the QR code available at the town hall for anyone coming to pay their sewer bill to encourage them to take the survey.

Planning-Concert(s) in Gaff Park: Saturday, June 8 2024 President Wilkinson contacted Wallen Road they will play from 6-8 pm. Food Trucks- 5-8 pm. House of Brisket and Street Tacos.

Food Trucks and Fireworks-Saturday July 6, 2024: Set up 4-4:30 p.m. and serving 5-10 or 11? Street Tacos, Hitchin' Kitchen, Party on the Patio, Tyrone's Dawgs, Kona Ice, Brewhouse BBQ. The board will start contacting the Trucks to get them on the calendar.

Kelly Park

- a) The Mommy and me and toddler swing have been delivered. Secretary Pranger will have the guys installed when the weather breaks.
- b) **Pickleball and Cornhole Tournaments on August 10th.** The board discussed holding the tournaments and President Wilkinson stated she will contact Doug Eby, Hidden Ego and Steve Kirkpatrick to help with the tournaments. The board discussed not making the food this year as most participants bring their own. Registration will be at 8:00 a.m. with the tournament starting at 8:30 a.m.
- c) 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 come to the February or March 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 the bricks at the entrance will be postponed to Spring of 2024. Mr. Maley stated we can open the park and finish the entryway in the Spring and then have a Grand celebration then. The board agreed. Mr. Maely e made a flyer to announce the park is open. Secretary Prange r will post it to Facebook. We still 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 now working on getting the brick to have them engraved.

Sycamore Park

Nothing for the Agenda

Lakeside Park

- a) 1/2 Court basketball funds have been encumbered from 2023 to 2024. Pulver Asphalt Paving-installation of a 1.2 court basket/pickle ball with lines \$28,500. The board agreed to encumber any funds left in the line items from 2023 to the 2024 budget to install the 1/2 court. Secretary Pranger stated she will ask the Town council at the next meeting. Member Martin made a motion to encumber funds from 2023 to 2024 for the installation of a 1/2 court. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.
- b) Playground upgrade: 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
- c) Discuss getting a landscaper to install native Indiana trees along lake this fall.

Gaff Park Trail head:

- a) The board discussed expanding the parking lot to the north. Secretary Pranger submitted the 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 plastic ties as they do not hold up to the weather.
- b) No overnight Parking approved by Town Council. Secretary Pranger stated signs are waiting on weather to break.
- 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) Restrooms closed for the season.
- e) **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.

2024 Budget

Park Donation Account \$24,524.13

#119-Park Maintenance	\$14,000.00
#135-Contractual	\$ 4,000.00
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 5,000.00
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 4,000.00
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 5,000.00
#430-Park Improvement	\$15,000.00
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
Total	\$65,000.00 +24,524.13=\$89,524.13

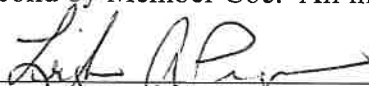
Town/Park Project \$15,000.00

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

Member Martin a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting: Secretary Pranger asked the board to move the February Meeting due to the holiday. Member Martin made a Motion to move the February meeting to Tuesday, February 20th. Second by Member Coe. All in Favor-aye.

Respectfully Submitted:



Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary