

## ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting  
March 18, 2024

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, March 18, 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: Matt Brinkman and Patrick Rorick-Region 3A.

Member Martin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Member Coe.

All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

**Park Clean -up-** President Wilkinson informed the board that quality Lawn Care will be cleaning up the leaves and fallen limbs in Kelly and Grant Parks. So there is no need for a cleanup this year.

**Softball/Baseball-**Secretary Pranger informed the board the registration continues until Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, the board will meet that night to determine if we have enough players for teams. She stated we will definitely have a T-Ball team and Austin Keck is heading that up.

**Region IIIA update 5 five park plan.** Matt Brinkman and Patrick Rorick updated the board on the five-year park plan process. They stated we had 95 surveys responses received. They reviewed the responses from the survey with the board, nothing out of the ordinary stood out. They will be working on the first draft of the plan over the next couple of months and will have the draft ready for the May meeting. They passed out a 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.

**Planning-Concert(s) in Gaff Park: Saturday, June 8 2024** President Wilkinson contacted Wallen Road, \$1000, they will play from 6-8 pm. Food Trucks- 5-8 pm. House of Brisket and Fort Wayne taco truck. Need to have a sign prepared for the event-The board asked Leigh to look for the park celebration banner and President Wilkinson will take it to Hoosier Signs in Kendallville for updates. Concert in the Gaff Park-Food trucks 5-8 and Band 6-8 June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The board discussed asking for band sponsors. (Shepherd's, Spidel Iron and Metal, Howard Murray) **Need to assign person contacting sponsors.**

**Food Trucks and Fireworks-Saturday July 6, 2024:** Set up 4-4:30 p.m. and serving 5-10 pm Street Tacos, Hitchin' Kitchen, Party on the Patio, Tyrone's Dawgs, Kona Ice, Brewhouse BBQ. (The Trucks are all confirmed for the event, Truck owners to donate \$100 to Park Dept.) The board discussed how late we will require the trucks to stay. They determined the truck that can stay should stay until 10 p.m. start of fireworks. Trucks need to let the Park Board know if they will be leaving early so they can be lined up correctly to get out. Need to request Front Street Road Closure by the Town council.

**Park Cleaner's:** President Wilkinson asked how much we paid the cleaners per occurrence? \$25 per week per park. The Ritchie's cleaned a couple of times a week and always before the weekend. President Wilkinson stated she is not interested in cleaning and possibly Sarah Ackerman or Sarah Geurs would be.

**Kelly Park**

- a) The Mommy and me and toddler swing have been installed.
- b) Secretary Pranger informed the board that the playgrounds in Kelly and Grant need wood chips added. She informed the board one semi load of wood chips will arrive the week of April 1<sup>st</sup> at Kelly Park. Once that load is distributed, she will order another load from Pallet 1 in Shipshewana.
- c) **Pickleball and Cornhole Tournaments on August 10th.** President Wilkinson stated she is trying to contact Doug Eby, Hidden Ego no luck yet. Steve Kirkpatrick is confirmed to help with the Pickleball tournament. The board discussed not making the food this year as most participants bring their own. 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. Need to work on sponsors for the event. 2023 sponsors: R & S Boats \$100, B & J specialty \$250, Shepherd's \$500, Fruition \$250, Miller's Super Valu-Food, Outbak Photography-Haunted Trail Tickets. **Need to assign someone to contact sponsors.**
- d) 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 April meeting to start the planning and find out what she will need to make this happen.
- e) Secretary Pranger informed the board about a product we can use on the tennis courts to possibly get more life off of the courts. The product is called Pave Patch and there is a tutorial on YouTube on how to apply. Just need to figure out how much to order.
- f) The board then revisited the cost to have the courts redone. Secretary Pranger checked back in the minutes to do a full depth replacement will be \$89,500 and to Mill down the surface 1.5" and resurface will be \$66,500. Secretary Pranger stated we could encumber funds left from this year that are unused and ask the Town Council for a larger budget in 2025 to repair the court. The board agreed this would be the way to go. Need to ask for more money by the June Town council meeting to make sure it gets in the budget.

**Grant Park**

Secretary Pranger informed the board she received a text from Mr. Ben Castle who lives across the street from the baseball diamond. Mr. Castle stated older teenagers were using the diamond and a softball was hit over the fence and into his yard. We had issues years ago with this and the park board installed a taller fence and put-up signs stating this diamond for 11 years old and younger. Older kids and adults need to use Kelly Park. Mr. Castle stated he checked the fence and did not see any signs. So, someone must have taken them down. The board instructed Secretary Pranger to order two new signs to be placed by the dugouts.

**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 2025. Mr. Maley asked for mulch, top dirt, grass seed and straw for a workday at the Dog Park. The board advised the money is in the donation account for the items he needs. Secretary Pranger will get with him to the delivery location. President Wilkinson will get the plaque for Flyaway Bay Kennels as they donated the money for the dog station. Mr. Maley said the Lions Club will be donating a bench to the dog park.

**Sycamore Park**

Nothing for the Agenda

**Lakeside Park**

- a) Pulver Asphalt Paving-installation of a 1/2 court basket/pickle ball with lines \$28,500. The installation will be this spring.

- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) Discuss getting a landscaper to install native Indiana trees along lake this fall.

**Gaff Park Trail head:**

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board the expansion of the parking lot has started and should be completed within the next 2 weeks.
- b) No overnight Parking sign has been installed.
- 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) President Wilkinson informed the board that Advance Rome City approached her about adding musical items to Gaff or Lakeside Parks. They directed Mrs. Wilkinson to Tinker Tunes out of Michigan. They do a circle of bells to the tune of Amazing Grace. You hit the bells as you walk around the circle. The board approved the addition of the Tinker Tunes to Gaff Park to be located to the east of the parking lot along Lions Drive.
- f) Secretary Pranger informed the board she received the quote form Myer's Plant Health to treat the Arborvitae \$180. Member Coe made a motion to approve Myer's Plant quote for \$180 arborvitae in Gaff Park. Second by Member Martin. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

**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

Next Meeting: April 15, 2024

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

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary