

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
November 20, 2023

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, November 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m., held in the Rome City Town Hall. Called to order by President Wilkinson.

Members Present:

Leigh A. Pranger-Secretary
John Martin

Tina Wilkinson
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.

Softball/Baseball-Secretary Pranger informed the board the softball league will be sending out flyers to the RC School to be sent home over the holidays along with the 2024 sign-up sheet.

Tina's Term-President Wilkinson's term will be up on the board in January. Secretary Pranger asked if she is willing service another four-year term. President Wilkinson stated yes.

Park Cleaner's: Secretary Pranger informed the board the Ritchie's contacted her and let her know they will be moving to Kendallville so they will not be able to clean the restrooms next year. She asked the board for help in finding a replacement.

Region IIIA update 5 five park plan. Secretary Pranger forwarded copies of the survey and we made changes. The survey will be ready for distribution within the next couple of weeks.

Letter from Citizen: No response. Secretary Pranger forwarded the letter to the board by email. The letter is about the state of the parks and the need for a better playground in Lakeside Park and Sycamore Park. She offered her help in fund raiser for the park equipment. Member Martin submitted a response letter for the board to review, letting her know the town has 5 parks and Co-vid19 derailed our plans to upgrade Lakeside Park. We are in the planning process to start fundraising and designing the new play equipment. The board invited her and a parent to attend the next meeting to discuss ideas.

Planning-Concert(s) in Gaff Park: June 1st and August 3rd, 2024 Discussed possible Bands-Whoa Man, Wallen Road, Mason Dixon Line. Food Trucks

Pickleball and Cornhole Tournaments on August 10th.

Kelly Park

- a) The Mommy and me and toddler swing have been ordered.
- b) Quotes from K & M Asphalt -Kelly Park tennis court-resurfacing and painting - \$24,895.00. Pulver Asphalt Quoted-Mill and resurface-\$20,000, Full Depth

Replacement- Mill 4" off and replace with 2.5" base and 1.5" surface with paint and lining. \$89,500.

- c) Trash can lids: Secretary Pranger informed the board the lids have been reduced.
- 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 January or February 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. Maley made a flyer to announce the park is open. Secretary Pranger 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) Quote from 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 ½ 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 ½ court. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.
- b) Playground upgrade: Midstate Recreation submitted designs of the playground. The board discussed the cost and stated we will need to pare back the project as the cost is quite high. They asked if Wendy can attend our next meeting or attend by Zoom. They would like to add some additional freestanding pieces to fill in the rest of the area. President Wilkinson stated she will contact, 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 or next fall.

Gaff Park Trail head:

- a) The board discussed expanding the parking lot to the north. Secretary Pranger submitted the a 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 the plastic ties as they do not hold up to the weather.
- b) No overnight Parking approved by Town Council. Secretary Pranger stated she will order the sign.
- 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.

2023 Budget

Park Donation Account \$24,524.13

#119-Park Maintenance	\$(1644.75)
#135-Contractual	\$ 250.00
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 2,120.40
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 199.58
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 2,138.26
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 0
#430-Park Improvement	\$ 6,561.08
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$10,785.85</u>
Total	\$20,410.42 +24,524.13=\$44,934.55
Town/Park Project	\$14,584.22

Cost for new Swings-\$2,933.93

Member Martin a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53p.m. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting: Secretary Pranger asked the board to move the January meeting due to the holiday. Member Martin made a Motion to move the January meeting to Tuesday, January 16th. Second by Member Coe. All in Favor-aye. (Reminder regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. and Zoom with Wendy at 6:00 p.m.)

Respectfully Submitted:



Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary

Old Items

Kelly Park

- a) *Replace baseball back stop or reinforce-on hold- fill in hole around manhole behind home plate.
- b) Look into reconstruction of tennis courts for future planning.
- c) *Secretary Pranger informed the board the sports complex had horseshoe and shuffleboard courts and Strawser Brothers did the work.

Grant Park

- a) *Hold until 2024-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 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.