

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
October 21, 2024

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, October 21, 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: Patrick Rorick with Region 3A and Diane Scott-Noble County Parks Board.

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

Patrick Rorick from Region 3A was present to discuss the 5-year park plan. He stated they will submit the draft to the DNR in November the DNR will give feedback in January. Another open house citizen input will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2024, to review the action items: goals, objectives and funding sources. He noted all proposed upgrades will have to meet ADA requirements.

- a) New Member recruitment-The board was encouraged to come up with two names for a new park board member in 2025. Secretary Pranger said she would go through the Lake Directory and ask Jenny Dunderman-Town Deputy Clerk and Cheryl Clifton-Town Council member to see if they can suggest a few people. Review organizational membership, Chamber, SLA, ARC AND LIONS CLUB.

Update on Chautauqua Committee: President Wilkinson stated, nothing is happening with this committee no scheduled meetings.

Kelly Park

- a) Secretary Pranger sent out a selection of picnic tables for the board to review. Pranger informed the board we might have an issue with the money we encumbered at the end of last year to pay for the basketball court in Lakeside Park. Pranger suggested we hold off on making any purchases until the November meeting.

Grant Park

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board we had a citizen contact our social media page requesting a paved pathway to the dog park for ADA compliance. The board will investigate this for 2025 or 2026.

Dog Park -Opening of Park-September 7th:

- a) The board asked Pranger to look up benches with covers. Pranger forwarded the board a selection of covers and benches with covers. This is on hold until we find out what is going on with the encumbrment.
- b) The board discussed purchasing an additional dog station to be place at the edge of the parking lot to decrease the amount of dropping from the parking lot to the dog park.

- c) President Wilkinson discussed installing a drive entrance off Canal Road with a small parking lot for the dog park. This would provide closer parking and cost less to install a paved pathway for ADA.

Sycamore Park

Pranger informed the board that the large Sycamore Tree along the upper east side of the park will have to be removed for the upcoming SR9 bridge repair project. Pranger is in the process of obtaining quotes from tree services. Once the tree is removed the town sign will be moved to the area where the tree was located o guard rail can be installed for the upgraded bridge. Work projected for 2026.

Lakeside Park

- a) Work is complete on the ½ court basketball and pickleball court. Backboard and net installed. Lines completed. Pickleball net 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 she applied for a playground grant and was waiting to hear back. Pranger 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 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) Old basketball goals removed from the parking lot.
- f) Discussed getting a landscaper to install native Indiana trees along lake this fall or have Hulen's plant them. On Hold until we see the money situation

Gaff Park Trail head:

- a) **Concert(s) in Gaff Park:** Board stated there November meeting will be a work session on concerts and food trucks for 2025. Pranger informed the board the \$100 donations were sent out to both Ed's Fish and More and Tyrods Dawgs thanking them for coming out.
- b) Pranger informed the board the Autumn Blaze Maple Tree will be planted this week and they will add a guard to the new tree to keep deer off.
- c) **New Sign in Gaff Park:** President Wilkinson asked Secretary Pranger to contact Miller's Sign Company to find out when they will arrive.
- d) President Wilkinson informed the board the installation of the musical Equipment has been installed. President Wilkinson stated we should move former Town Council Gary Furlow's bench out by the bells. Secretary Pranger informed the board we can install concrete pavers under the bench for easier mowing. **Need to discuss pathway around and possible landscaping in the middle-with ARC.**
- e) **Trail project** completed except for some signage. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at in progress, asphalt has been laid, topcoat applied, waiting on the : pm in Gaff Park.

f) The board informed Pranger to close the Gaff Park restrooms November 15th or 22nd depending on the weather.

CELEBRATION 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	\$28,951.68
#119-Park Maintenance	\$ 3,050.22
#135-Contractual	\$ 3,500.00
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 2,304.89
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 3,679.40
#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	\$44,874.51 +28,951.68=\$73,826.19

Town/Park Project \$15,000.00

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

Next Meeting: November 18, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING ON PARK PLAN:

Diane Scott with the Noble County Park Board was present to discuss the items she has heard people are interested in seeing in parks. Pickleball, Disc Golf and water-based recreation- possibly install a kayak kiosk at public access. She also stated they use their Noble County Parks website to help disperse the information out for the municipal park boards. President Wilkinson stated we need to review the town's website to see if the Park section needs to be updated.

Suggestions:

1. Bike racks at all the parks with the new trail going through town.
2. Zip line feature added to the new playground or Kelly Park.
3. Dog Park to install a bench with a shade covering.
4. A small 6 to 9 holes Disc golf course added to Kelly Park.
5. Install a sled box in Gaff/Sycamore Park for winter sledding.
6. Exercise station around the new playground in Lakeside Park.

Member Coe a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:25 p.m. Second by Member Martin. 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- fill in hole around manhole behind home plate.
- b) Look into reconstruction of tennis courts for 2025.
- c) *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 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.