

## ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting  
May 21, 2024

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Tuesday, May 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

Members Absent:

Doug Maley

Roll call a quorum was present.

Interested parties in attendance: No one in attendance.

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

**Softball/Baseball**-Secretary Pranger informed the board they had started games and we had to open the restrooms in Grant Park for T-ball.

**Region IIIA update 5 five park plan.** Region 3A sent the first draft of the Park plan for review. 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.

**Update on Chautauqua Committee:** No one was able to attend as the meeting was held during the day. Rhonda Steinecker, committee chair stated she will send out the minutes to keep everyone informed.

**Food Trucks and Fireworks**-Saturday July 6, 2024: Set up 4-4:30 p.m. and serving 5-10 pm or later-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.) President Wilkinson asked the member to follow up with their truck: confirm date, times, size of rig and if they want to leave early. Secretary Pranger informed the board that the Front Street Road Closure was approved by the Town council on May 13, 2024. The board discussed a QR code with a poster showing the fundraising for the new playground in Lakeside Park to be displayed for the park events this summer. Secretary Pranger stated the Chamber has a sandwich board we can use to put the sig on.

**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-President Wilkinson brought in the update banners for the event. The board discussed asking for band sponsors.

**Park Cleaner:** President Wilkinson stated Amanda Angrasario 260-557-6949 will be cleaning the restrooms for the season. She started on May 1<sup>st</sup>. President Wilkinson asked about the Gaff Park restrooms. Secretary Pranger stated the deputies have been closing them at night and Marshal Hoffman had been opening them in the morning. President Wilkinson asked if we could have the restrooms opened earlier in the morning as sometimes, they are not being unlocked until 10a.m. Secretary Pranger stated she will have the Utility employees open them at 7:00 a.m. when they arrive to work.

**Kelly Park**

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board they need to request funding for the tennis/pickleball court from the Town council at the June or July TC Meeting. The board stated they will attend the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. They asked Secretary Pranger to see if she can get another quote.
- b) **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. 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. (Shepherd's, Spidel Iron and Metal, Howard Murray) Leigh Pranger will contact BZ Autos, Aggregate Systems, Fruition, Howard Murray and Precision Medical. John Martin will contact Shephard's. (Arrow Fence, Max Platt, R & S Boats, West Lakes, K-ville Iron and Metal)**
- c) Secretary Pranger this is on hold until we refurbish the tennis courts. 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 May meeting to start the planning and find out what she will need to make this happen.
- d) On hold until meeting with the Town Council in July: Secretary Pranger informed the board about a product we can use on the tennis courts to possibly get more life out 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. 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 July Town council meeting to make sure it gets in the budget.
- e) Grimaldi Circus contacted Secretary Pranger about doing a performance this summer. Pranger told them to send an email with more information i.e. area needed, types of performances, will animals be used...

**Grant Park**

Secretary Pranger informed the board that three signs were installed at all the openings to the baseball field, stating the field is for children 11 years and younger. Hopefully this will address the complaints from the neighboring properties.

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

Secretary Pranger informed the board she has not heard back from Doug Maley on the progress of the Dog Park she has sent several emails. The emails included a date for completion of the entry way bricks, someone to clean up dog poop before the mowing crew comes in. The board expressed their disappointment in the lack of communication and him representing the board without the board's knowledge with Doug Maley and stated they wanted the Town Attorney to send a letter to Mr. Maley to accept his resignation from the board. The board discussed finding a contractor to finish the installation of the bricks and any other things that need to be completed.

Secretary Pranger informed the board that the Lions Club will be donating \$200 towards the Dog park.

The board discussed the lack of grass in the park. Secretary Pranger stated she checked with Quality Lawn Care, and they have an overseeder. The board stated they will look into overseeding and possibly aeration of the soil this fall. President Wilkinson brought up the issue with the dog poop with the mowing crew. She stated Quality lawn care is picking up the poop prior to mowing, we should just pay him to clean it up. Member Martin made a motion to pay Quality Lawn Care \$50 every time he mows the dog park. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

#### **Sycamore Park**

Secretary Pranger informed the board Sycamore Park was cleaned of trash during the April Dam inspection.

#### **Lakeside Park**

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board she made some changes and corrections to the first draft of the new park plan and sent it back to Region 3A. She told the board to send and changes they have directly to the Region 3A.
- b) Pulver Asphalt Paving-installation of a 1/2 court basket/pickle ball with lines \$28,500. The installation will be in late June.
- 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.
- e) 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 been completed.
- b) Secretary Pranger informed the board that the pine tree has been relocated to the east of the message board. Secretary Pranger informed the board that the hard wood tree we planted by the parking lot has died from deer rubbing on the trunk. Need to replace with a guard on new tree-town guys to remove tree and will plant replacement in the fall.
- c) Still in Progress: 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) President Wilkinson informed the board the installation of the musical Equipment will be delayed to the end of June. 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. **Need to discuss pathway around and possible landscaping in the middle.**
- e) Trail project in progress, hoping for asphalt by the end of June.

**2024 Budget**

Park Donation Account \$27,572.58

#119-Park Maintenance \$14,961.05

#135-Contractual \$ 4,000.00

#234-Park Supplies \$ 2,760.11

#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend \$ 3,977.52

#352-Park Light-Don't spend \$ 3,487.01

#362-Park Repairs \$ 4,564.60

#430-Park Improvement \$15,000.00

#442-Park Equipment \$12,066.07

Total \$60,816.36 +27,572.58=\$88,388.94

Town/Park Project \$15,000.00

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

General Discussion:


Member Coe said the board should have Rome city Park Board shirts to wear for events, so people know who to talk to if the have questions. Member Coe stated she will check into a couple T-shirt printing places and get back with the board.

June 8<sup>th</sup> concert- Town guys to put up banners (Big banner goes on ARC sign). Need to make the signs two sided for next year's event. Secretary Pranger passed out concert posters to the board to be delivered to the local businesses.

Next Meeting: June 17, 2024

Member Coe a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Second by Member Martin. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

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.

**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 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.