

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
September 16, 2024

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, September 16, 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: Sandra Tamez and Patrick Rorick with Region 3A.

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

- a) Softball clean up-Pranger informed the board the concession stands and restrooms have been cleaned for the season. President Wilkinson stated we need to meet with the league in the winter and go over the rules and tell them they have to clean out the building the night of their last game or practice.
- b) New Member recruitment-The board was encouraged to come up with two names for a new park board member in 2025.
- c) Discuss donation to Joel Wilkinson for doing the event flyer's, social media and help with the photo booth for the season. President Wilkinson recused herself from the discussion due to a conflict of interest. Member Coe made a motion to approve a \$100 donation to Joel Wilkinson for all his help this year. Second by Member Martin. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried. The board then discussed having Mr. Wilkinson help with social media for the Park Board in 2025 in a paid capacity. The board suggested we have Mr. Wilkinson come to the November 18th meeting to discuss what this would cover. Secretary Pranger will contact him.

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

Kelly Park

- a) Secretary Pranger reminded the board we were going to purchase a couple of picnic tables per year until we reached full capacity. The board instructed Pranger to look into the cost for the next meeting.
- b) Secretary Pranger told the board she sent thank you letters out to the Kelly Park Tournament sponsors.

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 look into this for 2025 or 2026.

Dog Park -Opening of Park-September 7th:

The board discussed the opening, everything went well. We had a pet parade-prizes for Most Original, Cutest, Funniest, and Best Trick, photo booth, served hot dogs, chips and water. The board presented Amy Maley with a certificate for her husband Doug Maley for creating and building the Dog Park. Performed a ribbon cutting ceremony with Amy Maley, the Park Board

and the Lions Club for their donation and help with the Dog Park Opening. The winners of the parade: Most Original: Amy Maley with Olivia and Lauren-Shepherdess and sheep, Funniest: Evelyn Buchanan with Ellie-Police Officer, Cutest: Stan and Nancy Loos-Missy-Cow, Best Trick: Jeff and Tammy Mishler-Bentley. A plaque was placed at the Dog Park recognizing Doug Maley's vision of the Dog Park.

The board discussed any future events should take place during Chautauqua or in conjunction with the Fire Department Animal Shelter Fundraiser.

Sycamore Park

Secretary Pranger informed the board that the town guys are checking the area for trash every other week.

Lakeside Park

- a) Work has begun on ½ court basketball and pickleball. Backboard and net installed. Waiting on the lines to be painted for the courts; should be complete in a couple of weeks.
- b) The board agreed the lady statue should be located inside the triangle of the sidewalks down by the lake and have native ground cover planted in the triangle.
- 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. 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) The board asked that the old basketball goals be 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:** Friday, September 6, 2024, President Wilkinson contacted Stacy Stork, and she is booked she will play from 6-8 pm. Food Trucks- 5-8 pm. Ed's Fish and More and Tyrod's Dawgs. Coterie Pizza backed out on Wednesday of the event. Banners, flyers and social media posts completed. The attendance was not great for this event-possibly due to football season starting. The board discussed making a donation to the food trucks since the event was not well attended and we want them to come back for future events. Member Martin made a motion to approve a \$100 donation to both Ed's Fish and More and Tyrods Dawgs thanking them for coming out.

b) The board stated we need to replace the Autumn Blaze Maple Tree in October to avoid having to water the tree. Need to add a guard to the new tree to keep deer off.

c) **New Sign in Gaff Park:** Secretary Pranger passed out a quote from Miller's Sign Company to replace the Lakeside Park sign damaged in a summer storm and a new Gaff Park Sign for a total of \$6,900. Member martin made motion to approve the Miller's Sign Quote for \$6,900 Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried. The board agreed this would be a

nice addition to the park and tie all the signage together. President Wilkinson stated the cost for the stonework will be around \$2000, the work won't be able to be done until this fall. (Member Martin stated he will help.) Secretary Pranger asked if the stonework includes the work to be done to the Lakeside Park and the Gaff Park Signs. President Wilkinson stated she will get official quotes for the stonework on both signs for the next meeting.

d) President Wilkinson informed the board the installation of the musical Equipment has been installed. President Wilkinson stated we should move formed 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. We will need pavers for the statue. **Need to discuss pathway around and possible landscaping in the middle-with ARC.**

e) **Trail project** in progress, asphalt has been laid, topcoat applied, waiting on the installation of signage and pavement markings. Project will be completed by the end of September.

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: October 21, 2024

Public Hearing on 5year park plan, 6:30 p.m.

Interested Parties in attendance: Sheryl Prentice-KPC media and Andres Shrock-owner on Kerr Island.

Miscellaneous Business:

Region 3A 5 yr-Park Plan update: Secretary Pranger informed the board the second public hearing will be held on October 21 at 6:30 p.m. Region 3A went over the timeline of the plan 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.

Sandra Tamez and Patrick Rourke, Region 3A updated the board and on the results of the second survey: 58 responses. Seasonal use of the parks-possibly due to the lake and seasonal owners.

Most important was more pickleball courts, update playgrounds, outdoor exercise equipment and install dog park.

The board stated their frustration with getting the word out to people on the new things taking place in the parks, tournaments, concerts, dog park and musical area. WE have used flyers, Facebook, banners, and the town digital sign along with the Chamber Calendar of events.

Member Coe stated she thinks we need to spend more time on the organization and planning to get the word out in spring about the summer activities.

The board asked Mr. Schrock what he uses in the parks and what he would like to see be added.

Mr. Schrock stated they use Lakeside Park as it is within walking distance of their home. He said the kids like to climb and run. They use the slides, swings, and he sees a lot of kids using the merry-go round.

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