

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
February 24, 2020

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 5:30 p.m., held in the Rome City Town Hall. Called to order by President Tina Wilkinson.

Members Present:

Leigh A. Pranger-Secretary
John Martin

Tina Wilkinson
Bridgett Coe

Members absent:

Roll call a quorum was present.

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

Interested parties in attendance: Diane Scott, Ruby Ramey, Roberta Stone-all representing ARC and Scotty Ritchie.

Secretary Pranger informed the board she sent a letter to Tye Bloomfield informing him he is no longer on the board. Secretary Pranger reported she did not hear anything back from Mr. Bloomfield. President Wilkinson stated we need to find another board member.

Lee Ritchie-Secretary Pranger will contact Mr. Ritchie to see if he will maintain the restrooms in Kelly Park this year.

Park Clean-up-The board scheduled the park clean up for April 18, 2020 from 1-3 p.m.

Baseball Report: President Scotty Ritchie informed the board they have started sign ups for both the baseball and softball leagues. The league will have a booth set up at the School Carnival on Friday, March 13th from 5-7 p.m. He informed the board he is talking with the school honor society to see if they can help with Park Clean up day and painting the batting cages uprights. Mr. Ritchie asked what are the board expectations from the Baseball League? President Wilkinson stated cleaning of the concessions and restrooms after each game and end of the year cleaning, banner removal, and base pick up to take place after the last tournament or with one week. Mr. Ritchie stated he will have a year end meeting this year and the work can be done after the meeting. The last tourney normally takes place the week of July 6th. Mr. Ritchie stated they will have 10U, ¼ , ½ pint, not sure we will have enough for 8u this year. Softball is looking at 2 teams this season. President Wilkinson informed Mr. Ritchie that the board has been working on the mole and ground squirrel situation over the last year and they hope to see and improvement this season. President Wilkinson asked about the pile of dirt located on north side of the field outside the fence. Mr. Ritchie stated they use the dirt to fill in holes and to mix with the field dry. MR. Ritchie asked about having the fields sprayed for weeds and having the edge of the outfield scraped down. Secretary Pranger asked that Mr. Ritchie mark the edge of the area he wants scraped with spray paint and she will have the town employees use the bobcat to do the work and then apply weed killer. President Wilkinson asked for the names and phone numbers of each board member in charge of the parks in case there is a problem and we need to get ahold of someone. Secretary Pranger informed Mr. Ritchie the town guys will be installing the box drain to help eliminate the problem with the water pooling around home plate. Mr. Ritchie asked

about the excessive weeds which are growing in the diamonds, we never had this issue with grass in the diamonds until they were redone last year. Secretary Pranger will contact Hochstetler Landscaping to find out what is going on with the all the weed growth. **REPORT ON FIELDS:** Mr. Ron Hochstetler said the dirt should have been drug at least once a week after the season was over to prevent the weeds. He asked that I take pictures of the fields and send them to him. He suggested we get on the fields to drag this week or next and to do the first drag with the nail drag and then apply weed killer let it set and then drag the field at least two or three more times this week.

Football Field- President Wilkinson informed the board she will send a letter or email to Mr. Ty Conley informing him the board is still open to discussing the use of the football field for fall 2020. Mr. Conley will need to contact President Wilkinson when he will be attending a meeting.

ADA Compliance- Secretary Pranger stated the main items we need to complete for this year is a New sink faucet in Kelly Park Restroom and handicap signage and parking spaces.

Squirrel and Fertilizer Issues: President Wilkinson stated we won't know until spring if the ground squirrel round up worked. The board discussed the cost of fertilizing last year and decided we should continue with spring fertilizer and hold off on the fall fertilizer; also, to stop any additional fertilizer to the football field. Secretary Pranger stated she will contact Green-a-lawn to tell them to hold on the fall fertilizer-except for the dandelion spraying after the first frost. The board may need to do another ground squirrel round up to keep on top of the squirrels.

Kelly Diamond H2O issue: Secretary Pranger informed the town employees will install the box drain. Then we can see if the 2 x 8 boards still need to be installed along the backstop. Secretary Pranger stated she will have the town employees install a small French Drain at the outlet of the bored line to keep the water from lying on the surface of the park.

Kelly Park

- a) New roofs on buildings in Kelly Park. Secretary Pranger informed the board we only received one quote even though five contractors were contacted. President Wilkinson open the quote from Strawser Brothers construction, the cost to roof the concession stand and the pavilion 5,725 and 2-Dugouts \$1050 for a total of \$6,775. The board requested Secretary Pranger to discuss this cost with the town employees to see whether this is a fair price since we did not get any other quotes to come in. Member Coe made a motion to table the roof quotes until the March 23rd meeting. Second by Member Martin. All in favor-aye. Motion carried.
- b) Movie in Kelly Park- Secretary Pranger informed the board the movie will reschedule in the spring. The board discussed the installation of a night light on the top of the restrooms closest to the tennis courts. The board stated this can be installed whenever the town employees have time to do the work.
- c) Spring 2021- The board discussed moving the handicap swing to along the paved pathway, so the wheelchairs can access the swing. Secretary Pranger will look into the ADA regulations. Member Martin stated we will need to install mulch on both playgrounds in the spring of 2020
- d) Secretary Pranger informed the board the sports complex had horseshoe and shuffle board courts and Strawser Brothers did the work.
- e) The town guys installed stone around the culvert for the path leading to the restrooms. President Wilkinson stated they still need to install rocks outside the culvert under the parking lot.

- f) The board stated we need to plant trees around the playground for shade during the summer months.
- g) Secretary Pranger stated the addition to the concrete pad for the bleacher in Kelly park will have to wait-we can enlarge the pad and add the base stone. The water fountain at Kelly Diamond will need to be relocated in order to move the bleachers. Secretary Pranger stated she will have the town employees look into it, possibly move the fountain to the corner of the pavilion.
- h) Rebar needs to be pounded back down on the landscape timbers around the playground.
- i) Four benches used for the Vietnam wall have been donated to the Park Department-the board decided to place two of the benches around the playground area in Kelly Park and one on the south side of the play area in Grant Park and one at Lakeside Park by the Play area. President Wilkin son stated we can install two the benches to Gaff Park for the improvements the town would like to do for the Bike Trail
- j) The board discussed the ongoing water issues with playground. The board suggested a small berm be placed on the west side of the playground. Possibly install a French drain in front of the culvert to divert some of the incoming water. Secretary Pranger stated she has added this to the town employees work list.

Grant Park

- a) Weed spray parking lot and add more stone in Spring 2020
- b) Enlarge parking along Grant Street between the fence and road.
- c) Hold until 2020-Concrete pads under bleachers.
- d) Hold until 2020-repaint doors on the concession stand-contact American rebuilders-will need something to put over doorways when getting painted.
- e) Spring-Member Martin stated we will need 2 more gallons of the block sealer and paint rollers to do the last bathroom Park Clean-up day.

Sycamore Park

- a) Have trees checked for health.

Lakeside Park

- a) Secretary Pranger informed the board, people are trying to use the small dog station to throw away their trash and it is causing the bag to be spilt. The board approved they move the trash can in the second concrete area closer to the station- to eliminate this problem.

Gaff Park-Trail Head for Noble Trails

- a) President Wilkinson welcomed ARC to the meeting to discuss Gaff Park. President Wilkinson informed the group the park board just completed a five-year park plan and the vision for Gaff Park included an amphitheater, restrooms, pavilion, parking lot, power, picnic tables, benches etc.... ARC stated they would like to help with the development of the Park and Trail Head. To start this spring with a port-a-john, benches and picnic tables is a doable project. A bike rack was mentioned so visitors can lock up their bikes and walk up town to the ice cream shop, subway etc.... President Wilkinson stated the installation of a night light would be beneficial. Secretary Pranger stated we need to have someone inspect the posts on the pavilion to make sure they are in good condition to add restrooms. President Wilkinson asked for a copy of the new park plan and a list of expenses we have discussed for Grant Park for the March 14th community meeting.

- b) Noble Trails: Secretary Pranger informed the board that Noble Trails has paved the trail from 900 N to Lions Drive and will apply the topcoat this spring. Secretary Pranger informed the board Rome City Housing authority Director stated we will need to enact eminent domain in order to obtain the parcel we need from them. She stated the board will not fight us on it. Due to this news, Secretary Pranger stated the new route will run through Gaff Park and loop to the north east to connect into the existing side walk, through the recycling area and then to the public access and on to Sylvan Point then up to the old gas station across the State Road 9 bridge and on the top of the dam to Northport Road. Secretary Pranger stated she will set up a meeting with Mrs. Bolander regarding her property. The only area of the trail to be multi use will be the top of the dam. Secretary Pranger stated she will be sending out the quotes this month for the trail work on the parcels we currently own.

Gaff Park Trail head: The board discussed the installation of a small parking lot, restroom facilities in the pavilion, benches and picnic tables for trail user to rest. Secretary Pranger gave the board the information Superintendent White gathered on the cost of a grinder station and tank. The board discussed the pros and cons of one bathroom as opposed to two. They decided it would make sense to install two for future growth. They then discussed the cost of the upgrades and the construction of the trail. The Park Budget will not sustain the cost and fundraisers will have to be done.

Fundraising for Bike Trail:

The board discussed fundraisers for the new trail.

1. Send out letters to property owners.
2. Have a Dinner/Dance at the Legion this Summer
3. Car Show
4. Golf Outing
5. Rib Sale at Miller's Super Valu
6. Apply for Grants

President Wilkinson asked the board to review the work items in the 5-year plan and then list what items you want the park board to work on in the next five years.

Secretary Pranger informed the board she will be on vacation on March 16th and asked that the meeting get moved back one week. Member Martin made a motion to move the March meeting to March 23rd. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Member Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted:


Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary