

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting/Park Plan Public Hearing

August 23, 2018

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Thursday, August 23, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. held in the Rome City Town Hall. Called to order by President Tina Wilkinson. Public Hearing opened at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Leigh A. Pranger-Secretary	Tina Wilkinson
Dina Holliday	John Martin
Herman Conley	

Roll call a quorum was present.

Interested parties in attendance: Kelly Morris, Barb Tatman, James and Christine Coe, Barb and Tucker Martin, Abby Coe, Ty Conley

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

Baseball Report: Member Martin informed the board he has not had time to contact Juniper Hills, he will try to have a report for the September Meeting. Secretary Pranger informed the board all the concession stands have been cleaned by Nicole Ritchie. Member Martin stated they will be having a wrap up meeting sometime in September. No word from the Kendallville baseball league to join the three groups to form an EN Baseball League. Need to check into weed/feed for all three fields and find out if we need to do all the parks for it to be effective.

Football Report: Ty Conley stated the Football League will not be playing any games in Rome City and he asked the board if they really wanted the league to utilize the park as it seems they keep putting up roadblocks. He added the Park Board has done nothing regarding his concerns he voiced last year; not enough parking, relocating the goal post, adding a new scoreboard, and installing a window on the west side of the concession stand and finally the ground squirrel issue. President Wilkinson reminded Mr. Conley that he informed the board last fall that the league would not be using the Rome city field for games only practice, stating all the games would be played in Avilla. Therefore, the board did not move forward with any of the issues. She noted, if the league wants to use the field next year an agreement with the Football League and the Park Board will have to be approved before the upgrades will take place. The board then discussed people to contact regarding the squirrels and repairing the field. (Brett Slone-K-ville Sports Complex, Bill Knox-EN grounds maintenance and Terry Sibert-nuisance animal eradicator. The board discussed the need bring in dirt and roll the field after the elimination of the animal and then to weed/feed the field and reseed every year. Mr. Conley estimated they need additional parking for 20-30 cars. The board suggested Mr. Conley check into quotes for scoreboards as the park purchased scoreboards for the baseball and they will for football as long as it is within budget. The board also requested Mr. Conley check into new goal posts and be willing to lay out the field for the correct location of the new goal posts.

Kelly Park

- a) President Wilkinson Stated it would be better to add a sign to the recognition sign or make a new one to place on the playground itself to add Olive B. Cole Foundation. Then reschedule the party when the sign is installed. The recognition of Joe Ackerman for his service on the board will also be celebrated.

- b) Secretary Pranger informed the board the sports complex had horseshoe and shuffle board courts and Strawser Brothers did the work.
- c) Secretary Pranger distributed information on keyless locks for the concession stand. The cost for the keypad will be \$600 and the audit trail and cards to be \$800. The board suggested we check out the website and/or speak to Mr. Shanfelt for more information. They added this is the way to go to reduce the number of keys.
- d) The town guys to install riprap around culvert ends.
- e) Remove dead bush from parking area and install rocks to block entry into grass.

Grant Park

- a) One Dugout completed, need material list to finish the other one.
- b) Enlarge parking along Grant Street between the fence and road.
- c) Concrete pads under bleachers.
- d) Rework field this fall.
- e) Paint dugouts to match concession stand. -Mr. Ritchie will be doing this

Sycamore Park

- a) Conservancy District repaired the tile in parking lot and fix the drainage on the toe of the dam.
- b) Removed large bushes/landscaping around historic sign.
- c) Remake plaque for Eagle Scout Project.
- d) Have trees checked for health.

Lakeside Park

- a) Signage regarding dog poop pickup required.
- b) The bollards have been installed and Secretary Pranger stated the sign are in and will be put up as soon as the guys have time.
- c) Purchase a picture sign of a golf cart with a slash mark to put on bollards.

Gaff Park

- a) Fill in ruts and holes from tree and brush removal along south side of Lions Drive and cut back brush.

President Wilkinson opened the public hearing portion of the meeting for the 5-year park plan. Mr. Tilghman informed the board and participants about the meeting and gathering their feedback on the parks. Mr. Tilghman stated we had 49 surveys returned and he read through the comments from the survey participants. Mr. Tilghman passed out colored dots to the participant and asked them to rate the needs the survey participants noted for the five parks in Rome City. After the exercise we had general discussion regarding the thoughts of the groups for each park. Citizen Barb Martin stated it would be helpful if the park Board installed signage with the park address and possibly a map of the town with the location of all the parks and the mileage between them. An amphitheater was discussed for Gaff Park outside movies, concerts, and speakers with parking along the road. Additional restrooms or a public restroom in town centrally located. Splash Park was brought up however Secretary Pranger stated we do not have a public water system and we would not be able to provide adequate water through a well. A public Beach was discussed extended to the north of the public access ramp. Secretary Pranger stated this is currently under private ownership. There being no further discussion. Member Holliday adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Second by Member Martin. All in favor-aye. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: September 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted: _____

Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary

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