

Chad Burrell brought the **Aug.11, 2026** meeting to order at 7:00 pm cst.

1) Roll Call: Present: John Keigher, Cathy Bilow, Chad Burrell, Jeff Neukomm, & Harlan Geiser

Absent: Katie Stutzman, Josh Scarberry and the Mayor were absent

Several people from the community were also in attendance..

2) Approval of July Minutes:

The minutes from the July 15, 2026 CDC meeting were approved with no discussion.

3) Public Comment: Roanoke Resident John Butler asked that all members sit at the committee table to make it more clear who the members were and cut down on confusion.

4) Update on Compeer Grant

The committee received an update on the Compeer Financial Community Assessment from John Keigher. The representative had previously toured Roanoke and reviewed information submitted by the Village. Members were encouraged to attend the upcoming Village Board meeting, where the findings and recommendations were expected to be presented. More information will be shared with the committee as it becomes available.

5) Jumbo Park Update

Cathy Bilow reported that volunteers continue to weed the park. The sign has been painted, and Jeff Neukomm prepared the area for installation. Once the sign is installed, boulders, additional plantings and fresh mulch will complete the current landscaped section. The work will use the \$5,000 contribution from the Farm Bureau and \$500 from GFL. Members thanked Cathy, Jeff and the other volunteers who have contributed time to the project.

The committee reviewed possible grain bins for use as a future gazebo. A bin has been offered to the Village at no cost. The bin is approximately 30 feet across and appears to be in good condition. Removal was preliminarily estimated at approximately \$5,000, but transportation, storage, reconstruction, the foundation and anchoring costs still need to be determined. The committee also discussed selling or scrapping the panels, augers and other components that would not be used.

A motion was made and seconded to pursue the donated grain bin. Committee members voiced their support. The owner will be told that the committee would like to proceed while final costs and the feasibility of the project are investigated.

Members also discussed creating a larger master plan for the area around Jumbo Park, which could eventually include walking trails, trees, disc golf and other recreational uses. Cathy proposed a memorial tree program on suitable Village-owned property near the park. The committee will need to identify acceptable tree varieties and locations and determine how donations and long-term maintenance would be handled.

John gave an update on discussions with the Hope Center regarding the possibility of creating a broader community foundation. Such a foundation could accept tax-deductible donations,

restricted gifts and endowments for community projects, including Jumbo Park. Any agreement involving Village property would be reviewed by the Village attorney.

The committee also discussed bringing electrical service to Jumbo Park. An engineer is expected to visit the site with Jeff Neukomm around August 20 to determine what would be required and what the project might cost. Members briefly discussed whether a public electric-vehicle charging station could be part of the electrical planning or provide another funding opportunity.

6) Fall Fundraiser

The committee discussed holding a ham-and-bean and chili dinner as a fundraiser for Jumbo Park. A chili cook-off may be considered in a future year, but members agreed that the first event should be kept simple. October 10 was the preferred date, subject to the school being available, and September 26 was also discussed.

Members felt the school could provide a commercial kitchen, indoor seating, parking and protection from bad weather. Jim and Harlan agreed to help lead the planning. The school will be contacted about available dates, and the committee will continue working on cooking equipment, cornbread, permits, pricing, presales, takeout containers, volunteers and a presentation showing the plans for Jumbo Park.

7) Sign on East Side of Town

Landscaping around the east entrance sign will begin when the weather permits. Electricity is available at the site. A quote was received for panels and brackets that would match the sign on the west side of town and will be reviewed.

8) Former Legion Property

John reported that closing on the former Legion property has been delayed because personal property, including a boat and tires, remains in the building. Once the property is cleared and the closing is complete, the Village will own the site and seek bids for demolition. Village representatives continue to follow up with the owner and attorneys. Chad offered to contact the individual responsible for removing the remaining items. Future planning for the property will remain on hold until the purchase and demolition are complete.

9) Any Business Relevant to the Committee

Members discussed placing a donated Christmas tree at Jumbo Park and possibly holding an inclusive community holiday activity. Concerns were raised about duplicating or creating conflict with the privately organized Christmas on Main event. No final plan was formally approved, and the committee agreed to allow more time for consideration and discuss the matter again at a future meeting.

The committee also discussed a possible January event at Jumbo Park where residents could bring live Christmas trees for a community bonfire. Possible fire department involvement, food trucks, hot chocolate, popcorn and a temporary ice-skating rink were mentioned. The idea will be explored further before any decisions are made.

10) Adjournment John Keigher made a motion to adjourn, and Harlan Geiser seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30Pm cst

The next CDC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.