

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting

April 20, 2026

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, April 20, 2026, 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
Dustin Hicks

Roll call a quorum was present.

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

Interested parties in attendance: Joel Wilkinson

- a) Tree Tribute Program: Joe Ryne with Advance Rome City to discuss planting trees in the Gaff Park. The board expressed they want native Indiana trees planted in the parks and referred Mr. Ryne to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources tree list. Mr. Ryne stated he is having trouble sourcing native Indiana Trees. The board directed him to Hulens on SR 6, Schaller's on Old SR 3 and Myers on US 6 between Ligonier and Syracuse. Mr. Ryne stated they would like to plant a gray Dogwood (Cornus) for Roberta Stone's father and they would like to plant it by the rock on the bike trail on the south side of Lions Drive. Mr. Ryne referred to the board to a letter from an arborist from the City of Fort Wayne stating the soil composition in Fort Wayne is no longer native but more compressed by development and other issues and they are allowing some non-native trees to be planted. Mr. Ryne stated he has sourced three red buds for Gaff Park and requested a board member meet him on site to decide on the planting location. President Wilkinson stated she could meet with him. President Wilkinson suggested Mr. Ryne contact Terry Gaff from Noble Trails to confer on the tree placement by the trail.
- b) Opening restrooms for the season. Member Hicks requested that Kelly and Grant Park concession and restrooms be opened as they have started practice. The board stated we open the Gaff Park and Kelly Tennis Court restrooms on May 1st depending on the weather. Pranger will contact Amanda to clean the units again this year. Pranger noted our first pavilion rental will be on May 16th.
- c) Pranger confirmed with the board that the America 250 group is planning a family picnic in Kelly Park on July 5th.
- d) Social Media Update: Joel Wilkinson informed the board we are getting good feedback on our Facebook posts. The gospel concert will have Grace Notes, Crossing Jordan and Unlikely Disciples. President Wilinson stated we will need an additional group and she will double check if they need a sound company. He is still working on a collage of all the parks along with board introduction, events and activities. Secretary Pranger stated the fencing will be installed by the end of April and the Painting will take place in May.
- e) Baseball: Dustin Hicks stated practice has started. He noted Softball games start on April 27th and baseball May 5th.
 1. Dustin informed the board he has 40 people help with the park clean up on April 12th.
 2. Dustin update on dugouts. They replaced the benches during the clean-up. Pranger stated the doors will be replaced after the block work is complete.

Grant Park -Dog Park

- a) Projects for 2026: pathway to Dog Park ADA, Installing in April-new fence for small dog area, bench for small dog side.
- b) Ideas for 2026: add a pavilion over the existing concrete pad, add entrance off Canal Rd., large rocks for dogs to climb-keep an eye out.
- c) Need plexiglass sign for location of Dog Park to be hung on Baseball fence. -Tina
- d) Meet with Amy Maley for ideas for the dog park-possibly fundraise for dog training areas.
- e) The board discussed issues with people not cleaning up after their dogs, if this continues the board may have to look into putting a code a gate. Pranger stated she saw there is a local business on Facebook that pick up dog poop. If it still is a problem we could have them come once a week before the mowing crew. Wilkinson stated the big tube needs to be relocated after the storm.

Sycamore Park

- a) Perimeter posts have been installed around the parking lot.
- b) Port-a-john placed through October.
- c) Benches along SR9 have heaved over from the frost and need to be removed and relocated to a different location.

Lakeside Park

- a) Lady statue plants-To be spruced up this spring. Work with GSP Tiffany on plants and locations.
- b) Playground Mulch delivered and to be installed this spring.

Gaff Park/Trail head:

- a) Lighting for stage stored at Town Hall.
- b) **Plan Concert Series for 2026: Show 6-8 p.m.**

June 5th-Gospel in the Park- Ed's Fish and More-need sound system -Tina to check with Val Ritchie. Discussed asking Tacos and More.

July 10th-Todd Herendeen-Tyrodz Dogs and Street Tacos-Patriotic show for America 250-7-9 p.m. with a warm-up TBD 6-7 p.m. Pranger informed the board there are a couple of Grants Available to help offset the expense. (Be Noble and Noble REMC) She will look into them. Do we want to hand out flags at the event.

August 7th-The Wingmen-Classic Rock-Gringos Tacos

Food Trucks to confirm for concerts: Street Tacos, Tyrodz Dogs, Ed's Fish and More and Gringo's Tacos. Other trucks to contact: Black Sheep Ice Cream, LuPita's, Mad Cat Lemonade, Taco's and More, Hoosier Mama, My Guys Fries, Party on the Patio, Roamin' Kitchen, Brewhouse, Mamazoni's, See me Rollin', Carey's Cakery, and Drop it like its tot.

d) Next Level Grant-In progress: Pranger purchasing amenities-bicycle repair station, signage, bicycle are, bike racks, trail counter, etc...

e) ARC to install paved paths this spring. **Installation of bench and ladybug drum** waiting until the path is paved. Secretary Pranger showed the board a drawing (from ARC) of the proposed walkway around the outside of the musical bells which will leave the outside of the path to install additional musical pieces and a covered bench.

f) Board needs to determine where to locate the ADA path from the parking lot to the restrooms. Then Pranger can get quotes for installation.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Nothing for the agenda.

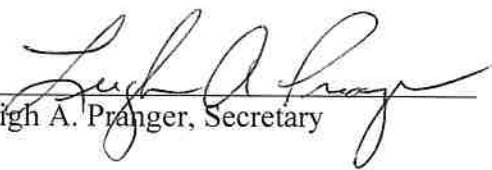
2026 Budget

Park Donation Account	\$32,148.51	
#119-Park Maintenance	\$16,000.00	
#135-Contractual	\$ 4,000.00	
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 3,000.00	
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 5,000.00	
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 4,500.00	
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 5,000.00	
#430-Park Improvement	\$45,000.00	
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$18,000.00</u>	
Total		\$100,500.00 + 32,148.51=\$132,648.51

Next Meeting: May 18, 2025

Member Martin made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:40 p.m. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:


Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary