

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

AGENDA

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81142307919?pwd=mwudvbslOBP6bzecRxmpyoQuEmqboR.1>

YouTube @TOWNOFROMECITY

Monday, August 17, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

Rollcall & Minutes of the Last meeting.

Concerts in Gaff Park-Good, Bad and Ugly update. The Wingmen on August 7-Food Truck

- Joel Wilkinson-social media update?-Concert flyers and Pickleball and cornhole Tourney's August 8
- Baseball: Dustin-discussion on additional baseball diamond and dirt for Grant diamond (flag area Grant that needs the dirt and guys will deliver). When will Restrooms, concession stands and storage areas be cleaned for the season? Banners down and stored.
- Still waiting on contact from Brightspeed*Discuss Contract extension with Brightspeed for telephone hut and ground-No contact information on document-

Kelly Park

- Updates or additions for the Pickleball Tournament for 2027 and Cornhole Tournament for 2027 Need sponsors/Prizes**\$200, \$100, \$50 Make Boards for 2027 / banner for sponsors.**
- Baseball additional diamond for T-ball?

Grant Park

- Walkway installation from Parking lot to Dog Park-Construction date?
- Ideas for 2025-26: add pavilion over existing concrete pads and add Entrance off Canal Rd. Approach Amy Maley (fundraise\$?) and Lions Club keep asking for ways to help with the dog park-should they be invited to a meeting to brainstorm?

Dog Park

Pulver to change entryway bricks to concrete slab-bricks to be inlaid in the concrete. Waiting on Construction date?

Sycamore Park

- Conservancy to remove partially dead cottonwood. Hoping to add another small Sycamore this fall.

Lakeside Park

- Lady statue: work with GSP for plants and design-Hope to plant more this fall
- Mulch received-the guys are installing it in sections around the equipment as they have time.

Gaff Park

- Next Level Grant Approved the amenities for purchase - Pranger finished purchasing items. Need canceled checks to close out.
- Purchase more musical items or meet with ARC?
- Waiting on Pulver to discuss locations of paths and cost. (Should we get quotes on paving parking lot? If so, do we want the same design?)

Miscellaneous-Nothing for the agenda

Park Donation Account	\$31,505.13	
#1119-Park Maintenance	\$4,605.66	
#1135-Contractual	\$ 1,501.67	
#1234-Park Supplies	\$ 1,553.23	
#1341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 3,661.80	
#1352-Park Light-Don't spend		\$2,937.08
#1362-Park Repairs		\$3,872.76
#1430-Park Improvement		\$27,844.27
#1442-Park Equipment		\$16,385.86
Total		\$62,362.33+ 31,505.13=\$93,867.46

Adjournment -Next Meeting: September 21,2026

Encumbered funds: walkway for Dog Park by Pulver.

Park Board Member	Appointing Authority	Date of Terms
Tina Wilkinson	TC President	1 st Monday of January
John Martin	TC President	1-6-2025 TO 1-1-2028
Open Seat	TC President	1-2-2026 TO 1-1-2029
Dustin Hicks	TC President	1-5-2024 TO 1-1-2027
Open Seat-Rep. of Library or School Board	Governing Board	5-12-2025 TO 1-3-2028

Pursuant to IC 5-14-9 Section 6; above is a roster of the current Rome City Park Board members, names, appointing authority and their elected terms.

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR THE MEETING DESIGNATED ABOVE AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE UP TO AND INCLUDING THE CONCLUSION OF THE DESIGNATED MEETING

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
August 17, 2026

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, August 17, 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-social media manager

- a) Concerts in the Park: The Good, Bad and Ugly update: Board determined we only need one food truck per concert. Discuss moving the Gospel concert to Sunday afternoon (maybe Sunday of Chautauqua August 8)-Need to discuss with Val Ritchie. Discussed moving June 4th event from the first Friday due to Graduation weekend. July event to be on July 9th and back up date July 2nd. Possible groups for concerts in 2027 Stacy Stork, Matt and Joe, Wallen Road, Joey Vasquez, The Wingmen or Sunglasses. Discussion on whether to move concerts to Saturday from Friday night no decision made. Coordinate with Fire Department and Legion to avoid scheduling conflicts. Contact Fire Department to use their facility in the event of inclement weather. Discuss getting sponsorship for the concert series or for each band. Need to have bands locked in by January and sponsorship by March. President Wilkinson stated we might be able to borrow Kendallville Stage for our events.
- b) Social Media Update: Joel Wilkinson informed the board we are getting significant engagement on recent posts including the pickleball and cornhole reel which reach 1500 views. The post for Dustin and Desi Hicks-citizens of the year- 9,000 views. Facebook advertising campaign collected data for the concerts which included reach, impressions, and demographic data. The ads were effective in reaching the target audience. Joel did note some technical glitches with the mobile viewing and registration process for the tournaments. He will address them for future events.
- c) Baseball: Dustin Hicks stated he will take care of cleaning the restrooms and concession stands to ready for season closure. (Dustin asked the board to explore the possibility of adding an additional baseball diamond (200' to 225') in Kelly Park where the football field is located, since they had so many kids participating this year they didn't have anywhere to practice once the games started.) The board discussed installing a practice field on the old soccer field. Dustin stated they will need a backstop for the practice field. It was suggested to contact Jason Mead in Kendallville to ask for guidance on field layout and construction options. He stated he will flag the Grant Park diamond so the town employees can add the dirt. He will let Pranger know when the flags are set. Dustin stated the tractor still needs to be looked at it has a few hydraulic leaks.

- d) Brightspeed Contract: Still waiting on contact from Brightspeed regarding the new contract
- e) Chautauqua America 250-Stone's Trace-Regulators did not camp due to the high heat.

Kelly Park

- a. **Scoreboard Controller upgrade** -We just need to install new bulbs in the board. Dustin will investigate the bulb size and let Pranger know
- b. Chautauqua: August 8 pickleball tournament. Mixed partners can include children 14 years and under. Limit to 12 teams. The board discussed adding an open male tournament after the mixed tournament from 10-noon. Joel used a computer bracket for the tournament, and we wrote on the whiteboard as you couldn't read the monitor due to the sunlight. Prizes for the tournament: Ask Fruition, Shepherds, Howard Murray, Arrow Fence and Aggregate Systems. **1st \$200, 2nd \$100 and 3rd \$50.**
- c. Chautauqua Cornhole tournament: 2026 local players-Novice. The Board discussed purchasing five boards for next year so the boards and bags will all be the same. The board mentioned contacting Trey Ritchie, he knows a person who makes board. We will use the app for brackets. **Need Prizes/sponsors-Fruition, Shepherds, Aggregate Systems, Howard Murray, Arrow Fence): 1st \$200, 2nd \$100 and 3rd \$50**
- d. Tennis/Pickleball court -President Wilkinson asked Pranger to order benches with legs to install on the courts.

Grant Park -Dog Park

- a) Walkway and entrance (\$3,564) to Dog Park approved waiting on start date from Pulver Asphalt.
- 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. Lions Club is interested in project for the dog park.

Sycamore Park

- a) Port-a-john set until October
- b) Conservancy to remove damaged cottonwood tree and replacing with Sycamore Tree.

Lakeside Park

- a) Lady statue plants-Work with GSP Tiffany on plants and locations.
- b) Playground Mulch to be installed in sections as the town guys have time.

Gaff Park/Trail head:

- a) Next Level Grant-In progress: Pranger finished purchasing amenities-waiting on canceled checks to close out grant.
- b) Board needs to determine where to locate the ADA path from the parking lot to the restrooms. Then Pranger can get quotes for installation. Pranger asked if they want the paths in concrete or asphalt. Concrete would match
- c) The board asked Pranger to obtain quotes to asphalt the parking lot in Gaff Park
- d) Wilkinson noted the weed barrier and mulch have not been installed around the Gaff Park Sign. Need to contact Rhonda Steinecker with ARC to have this project completed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

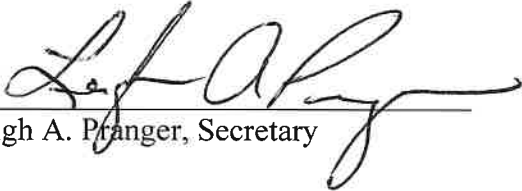
President Wilkinson stated we need to update the friends of the park sign on the south end of the Kelly Park Pavilion. She met with Brian Anderson, Hoosier Signs, he can up a completely new sign. The old one is faded and looks bad.

2026 Budget

Park Donation Account	\$31,505.13
#119-Park Maintenance	\$4,605.66
#135-Contractual	\$1,501.67
#234-Park Supplies	\$1,553.23
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$3,661.80
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$2,937.08
#362-Park Repairs	\$3,872.76
#430-Park Improvement	\$27,844.27
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$16,385.86</u>
Total	\$62,362.33 + 31,505.13=\$93,867.46

Next Meeting: September 21, 2026

Member Martin made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted: 
Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary