

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
February 23, 2026

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, February 23, 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: No one was present

President Wilkinson informed the board member Bridgette Coe has decided not to continue on the board. She asked them to recommend people they think might be interested in joining the board.

- a) Social Media Update: Joel Wilkinson informed the board he completed the flyer for the summer concert series and presented it to the board. Pranger asked that the America 250 logo be added to the Herendeen concert on the flyer. The board discussed the date of the Todd Herendeen concert will it be Friday or Saturday. President Wilkinson will check into this. He is still working on a collage of all the parks along with board introduction, events and activities. He already posted the end of 2025 summary and we had 200 views. He noted he shared the Rome City Baseball post. He asked about when to announce the tennis being under construction this spring and if we have a date for the painting and striping to be completed. Secretary Pranger stated she will need to contact K and L to inquire. He stated he will investigate creating an events page and noted we have two reservations for the Kelly Park pavilion so far this year.
- b) Baseball: Dustin Hicks stated we are getting good feedback on the Rome City Baseball signups post. We have approximately 100 kids signed up. The signups range from 4-T-ball teams, 4 softball teams and baseball teams-2-10 U, 1-8U, and 1-12U. Dustin stated they had their first baseball meeting and will be meeting again next month.
 1. Dustin asked for fill dirt and topsoil to be added to left field.
 2. Asked to remove some of the blocks from the dugouts in Kelly Park. They are too small for the older kids to all fit in the dugout. He noted if we remove the door and sides of the dugouts along two or three rows of blocks on the back side. Then add fencing to the front, and on one side, we can leave the one end open to get in and out of the dugout. We will need to make an opening in the fence for access to the field. The board agreed. President Wilkinson stated she will speak with the stone mason to see what can be remove and still be structurally sound.
 3. He noted we need three refrigerators.
 4. One popcorn machine.
- c) Brightspeed Contract: Still waiting on contact from Brightspeed regarding the new contract

- d) July 4th Food trucks-President Wilkinson presented the board with an idea from the Sylvan Lake Association (SLA) to obtain vouchers for their fundraiser to be used at the food trucks. The board discussed and stated the board can provide contact information for the food trucks to the SLA so they can see if they are willing to accept the vouchers. The board does not want to be involved in reimbursement of the vouchers. President Wilkinson informed the board we need to lock in the food trucks for the 2026 event as it will fall on July 4th. The trucks will be served from 5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Following trucks stated NO: Tyrods Dogs, Tom's Coffee, My Guys Fries, Drop it like its tot, Kona Coffee, Kona Ice

Trucks Confirmed:

Roamin' Kitchen-Yes

See Me Rollin'-Yes

Brewhouse-Yes

Party on the Patio-Yes

Carey's Cakery-Yes

Street Tacos-Yes

Mamazoni's-Yes

Busco Beans-Yes

Waiting for response: Mad Cat Lemonade and Cheeky Chick-Hibachi-Tina

Truck arrival time: Tina will be there at 5:00 p.m. for set up. Serve at 5:30 p.m.

We had 8 trucks this year and have room for 2 additional trucks. Other trucks to contact: Black Sheep Ice Cream, LuPita's, Ed's Fish and More, Mad Cat Lemonade, Taco's and More, Hoosier Mama, Gringo's Tacos. ** Road will be closed for the SR9 Bridge Project (Request Road closure at May Town Council meeting)

Tina stated she will need help with either set-up or closing and we will need to discuss the future of this fundraiser.

Kelly Park

- a. PICKLEBALL Tournament-Ribbon Cutting Tennis/Pickleball Court June 6th, register 8:30 a.m. Tournament starts at 9:00 a.m. Mixed partners can include children 14 years and under
- b. Chautauqua: The agreed to do a kickoff to summer pickleball tournament on June 6, 2026, along with the Chautauqua August 8 event. Mixed partners can include children 14 years and under. Limit to 12 teams. President Wilkinson to ask Daryl DeMuyt if he will show us how to set bracket and what number of participants.
- c. Chautauqua Cornhole tournament: Reorganize for 2026 into local players-Novice. The Board discussed borrowing boards to hold the tournament for novice only. We can use the app for brackets. Fundraise for prizes. The board decided to keep the tournament on August 8 to coincide with the Pickleball tournament. Dustin and John will co-chair this event. Pranger stated she will contact Jay Morley to see if he would be interested in making 7 cornhole boards for the park board. The board agreed to buy professional bags and sent the type to Pranger to purchase.
- d. We will need to fundraise Prizes for all three events, Tina suggests we do smaller prizes for the June 6th tournament and larger for the Chautauqua Tournament. Joel Wilkinson stated there is an app for the tournament brackets.
- e. Pranger updated the board on the Tennis court replacement. The old court has been removed, and the new asphalt has been laid. The painting of the courts will be done in the spring.
- f. Pranger informed the board the street employees found a bollard and will install it in the spring.
- g. Pranger informed the board that the fence has been delivered and will be installed this spring.

Grant Park -Dog Park

- a) Projects for 2026: pathway to Dog Park ADA, 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 fundraiser for dog training areas. Or invite to spring meeting.

Sycamore Park

- a) Pranger informed the board the sled boxes are completed now that we have no snow.
The board asked that RCPB be sprayed painted on the sleds for next season or should we put on R & S Boats and talk to them next winter when we put them out?

Lakeside Park

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

Gaff Park/Trail head:

- a) Sled box Completed. Obtain stickers or spray paint R & Boats for sponsorship.
- b) Lighting for stage stored at Town Hall.
- c) **Plan Concert Series for 2026: Show 6-8 p.m.**
June 5th-Gospel in the Park-need sound system -Tina to check with Val Ritchie.
July 10th-Todd Herendeen-Patriotic show for America 250-7-9 p.m. with a warm-up
TBD 6-7 p.m. Member Martin made a motion to approve the contract for Todd Herendeen, \$500 to reserve the date and \$2,500 the night of the event. Second by Member Hicks. All in Favor-aye. Motion carried. 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. The board discussed renting a stage for the concert. Pranger stated Taylor Rental rents stage sections-we will need to see what size they need-do they want canopies? Power accommodation? Confirm time and date of concert? Do we want to hand out flags at the event.
August 7th-The Wingmen-Classic Rock

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...Pranger to confirm size of gazebo with the size of the concrete pads.
- 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

- A) ARC tree tribute work in progress.

2026 Budget

402 Kelly Street

P.O. Box 338
(260)854-2412

Rome City, IN 46784

www.in.gov/towns/townofromecity

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: March 16, 2026

Member Martin made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:47 p.m. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:


Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary