

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
June 22, 2026

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting on Monday, June 22, 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: Rhonda Stienecker and Joe Ryne with Advance Rome City (Tree Tribute Program), Joel Wilkinson-social media manager

- a) Tree Tribute Program: Joe Ryne with Advance Rome City passed out new brochures and paperwork pertaining to the Tree Tribute Program for Advance Rome City (ARC). President Wilkinson informed ARC the Park Board has drawn up their guidelines for participation in the tree program.

Guidelines are as follows:

1. Tree plantings are to be in Spring and Fall only. To reduce having to water the trees and to accommodate the town employees' schedule.
2. The Park Board will designate the placement of the trees.
3. Outside of planting the tree, Park Board nor town employees will be involved in maintenance.
4. All communication will be run through a Park Board meeting or with the Town Manager.
5. ARC will need to attend a Park Board meeting at least one month ahead of when they want the tree planted, to confirm expectations and locations to plant the trees.
6. No requirements of the town employees to attain and plant the trees unless approved by the Park Board and Town Manager.
7. Park Board to limit the number of trees to be planted per year. For 2027: 5-trees in spring and 5-trees in fall.
8. Any plantings and flower beds which are not being maintained and looking nice the Park Board will remove.

The Park Board discussed the above guidelines with ARC. Rhonda Stienecker, ARC President thanked board for the clear guideline for the future of the tree program. She stated the ARC group is maxed out on maintaining flower beds in town and did not foresee expanding unless they can get more volunteers to join. Mr. Ryne stated he would like the board to look into other trees aside from only allowing Native Indiana trees in the parks as it is hard to find a local nursery that stocked them. The board stated they would still like to limit the trees to natives. Mr. Ryne stated he will meet with Hulen's to see what kind of trees they stock and what will work with the board's requirements. He will forward the list of trees to the board. The board discussed mulch added to the trees. Pranger asked who is responsible for mulching around the tree once it is planted? Ms. Stienecker stated ARC should be doing the mulching. Mr. Ryne stated perhaps ARC

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. Dustin mentioned a tree to be planted in Tucker's memory in the park. He will check into this.

- d) Brightspeed Contract: Still waiting on contact from Brightspeed regarding the new contract
- e) July 4th Food trucks: 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 6:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Following trucks stated NO: Tyrods Dogs, Tom's Coffee, My Guys Fries, Drop it like its hot, Kona Coffee, Kona Ice, Cheeky Chick-Hibachi, Roamin' Kitchen-No Trucks Confirmed:
See Me Rollin'-Yes
Brewhouse-Yes
Carey's Cakery-Yes
Mamazoni's-Yes
Mad Cat Lemonade/Coney Dogs-Yes

Party on the Patio-Yes
Lupita's-Yes
Busco Beans-Yes

Truck arrival time: Tina will be there at 5:00 p.m. for set up. Serve at 6:00 p.m.

We have 8 trucks this year and have room for 2 additional trucks. Other trucks to contact: Black Sheep Ice Cream, Ed's Fish and More, Taco's and More, Hoosier Mama, Gringo's Tacos.
** Road will be closed for the SR9 Bridge Project (Request Road closure at June Town Council meeting) Leigh will contact Avail Portable Toilets to bring 2 units for July 4th.

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

- f) Chautauqua America 250-Stone's Trace-No word from ARC on the location of the Regulators.

Kelly Park

- a. PICKLEBALL Tournament-Canceled Pickleball Court June 6th, due to lack of participants and under (Destiny Carpenter-possible helper) **Need prizes, ribbon and scissors at town hall. Joel will set up registration and do flyer.**
- b. Chautauqua: August 8 pickleball tournament. Mixed partners can include children 14 years and under. Limit to 12 teams. President Wilkinson to ask Daryl DeMuylt if he will show us how to set bracket and what number of participants. **Need prizes and banner.** Suggested prizes for the tournament: Pepperoni- \$50 Dock's Landing \$30 or Lickity Split-\$30, Sylvan Shores-\$20 **or 1st \$200, 2nd \$100 and 3rd \$50**
- 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. Pranger stated Mr. Morley cannot make the board any cheaper than buying them on Amazon. Pranger and Hicks stated they can bring their boards, and the Park Board has one in the basement. The board instructed Pranger to purchase the boards and bags. The board agreed to buy professional bags and sent the type to Pranger to purchase. Joel Wilkinson stated there is an app for the tournament brackets. **Need Prizes (suggestions-Fruition, Precision Medical, Shepherds, Aggregate Systems, Howard Murray, Arrow Fence) and Banner Prizes: 1st \$200, 2nd \$100 and 3rd \$50**

2026 Budget

Park Donation Account	\$31,428.23
#119-Park Maintenance	\$9,681.07
#135-Contractual	\$ 2,574.17
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 2,255.45
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 3,879.58
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 3,263.69
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 3,872.76
#430-Park Improvement	\$53,441.86
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$17,545.33</u>
Total	$\$92,634.33 + 31,428.33 = \$124,062.56$

Next Meeting: July 20, 2026

Member Martin made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:35 p.m. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted: _____
Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary