

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
November 17, 2025

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting and opened to livestreaming on Monday, November 17, 2025, 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

Members Absent:

Bridgett Coe

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

- a) Social Media Update: Tina Wilkinson informed the board Joel cannot make the meeting tonight and updated the board. He will be doing an end of the year wrap up post in December. It will feature the work the board and activities the board did this year. He is working on a January kick off for 2026 board introduction, events and activities. This will include highlights of each park and what each park offers. In May he will start, Did you know? Posts on Facebook. The board discussed having Joel make up posters and a postcard with the calendar of events to be distributed to catch the citizens not on social media. The board stated this would be a good idea.
- b) Baseball: Dustin Hicks stated he thinks we will have enough for 10U, 12U and 2 t-ball teams next year. The board offered to allow baseball posts on the Parks page to get the word out to more parents the league is active again and looking for players. The board discussed softball teams for 2026. Softball seems to be going through the traveling team phase with less kids playing in the local leagues. The board asked Dustin to contact Melissa Prater, Baseball/Softball board President, to find out the contact over the whole league and to schedule a meeting in January to start registration for 2026 season. Dustin stated they will be using Google Docs for team information, scheduling, and game listings. Dustin to contact Joel to see if the baseball registration can be run through the Parks Facebook page.
- c) Brightspeed Contract: Still waiting on contact from Brightspeed regarding the new contract
- d) 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 serving from 6p.m.-10 p.m. Tom's Coffee-NO
Trucks Confirmed:
Roamin' Kitchen-Yes
See Me Rollin'-Yes

Brewhouse-Yes

Party on the Patio-Yes

Carey's Cakery-Yes

Street Tacos-Yes

Trucks to Contact:

Tina-Kona Ice and Mad Catz

John-Hoosier Mama, Mamazoni's

Dustin-My Guy's Fries, Busco Beans, Drop it like it's Hot

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

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, My Guys Fries, Gringo's Tacos, Tyrodz Dogs-has commitment with Lagrange 4H. Request Road closure at May Town Council meeting.

- e) Ad in CVB Tourism Map: Secretary Pranger showed the board the mock-up of the advertisement as we were able to split the cost of the back cover with the Rome City Chamber of Commerce for a cost of \$260 each.
- f) Restrooms were closed for the season, the week of Halloween.

Kelly Park

- a. Chautauqua PICKLEBALL Tournament: The agreed to do a kickoff to summer pickleball tournament on June 6, 2026, along with the Chautauqua August 8 event. President Wilkinson to ask Daryl DeMuylt if he will show us how to set bracket and what number of participants. We will need to fundraise for Prizes for both events.
- b. 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.
- c. 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. Pranger informed the board that we can fit four pickleball courts in the area of one of the tennis courts we removed. The board discussed where to locate the gates for each court. After some discussion the gates will be located on the south side of the court in the southwest corner of the west courts and the southeast corner of the east courts. Pranger asked for a motion to approve the additional work. Member Martin made a motion to approve four pickleball courts and one tennis court. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried. The courts will be painted by May 1, 2026, so the courts are ready to be used as soon as possible. Benches to be installed on the new tennis courts in spring.
- d. Pranger informed the board they purchased the fence from Alpha Builders in Shipshewana, and the price came in at \$5,552.14. The additional fence we will need for the added two courts will come in below the original motion for the fence. The board told Pranger to get the additional fence at Alpha to do the four courts.
- e. Pranger informed the board the street employees found a bollard and will install it in the spring.

Grant Park

- a) President Wilkinson asked the board if they want to have the leaves picked up in Grant and Lakeside Parks. Member Martin made a motion to approve the additional funds for leaf clean up. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion carried.
- b) Ideas for 2025: add a pavilion over the existing concrete pad, install paved pathway from parking lot to Dog Park for ADA, fencing inside the dog park to separate small and large dogs, add entrance off Canal Rd.

Dog Park

- a) Fence to separate small dogs from big dogs has been purchased and will be installed in the spring.
- b) The board asked Pranger to obtain quotes on pathways to the dog park.
- c) The board requested Pranger order an additional bench with cover to place in the small dog park area. Pranger stated she will send out the price of the last bench to the board so they know the cost.
- d) The board asked everyone to keep their eyes out for a big rock to put in the dog area.

Sycamore Park

Nothing for the agenda.

Lakeside Park

- a) Lady statue plants-To be spruced up this spring.ds to be weeded. GSP Tiffany stated she may plant some bulbs in the area this fall.
- b) Pickleball net needs to be taken in for the winter.
- c) Pranger informed the board we can purchase additional mulch to finish the play area. The board instructed Pranger to order the amount necessary to finish the area.

Gaff Park/Trail head:

a) Pranger informed the board the lights and sunshades have arrived and asked Joel Wilkinson to check to make sure they are the correct ones.

b) Plan Concert Series for 2026: Concerts confirmed: June 5th-Gospel-Need sound system-Tina will contact Val Ritchie, July 10th-Todd Herendeen, August 7th-The Wingmen
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.

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

d) On hold until ARC installs paved path. **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. (Park Bd. To pave additional path to restrooms)

e) President Wilkinson asked Pranger to add to the January Agenda-Discussion to rent Gaff Park pavilion for the 2026 season

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- A) ARC tree tribute work in progress.
- B) July 4th event to be held on Mark Plassman's property at the end of Sylvan Point on July 4th by Sylvan Lake Association. Pranger informed the board the SLA will be asking for large donations for the fireworks and then the donors will receive dinner under a tent at the point and a viewing of the fireworks, along with bus transportation from Mother of Mercy to the site.

2025 Budget

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Park Donation Account | \$32,148.51 | |
| #119-Park Maintenance | \$ 4,433.01 | |
| #135-Contractual | \$ 649.00 | |
| #234-Park Supplies | \$ 2,262.35 | |
| #341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend | \$ 3,738.70 | |
| #352-Park Light-Don't spend | \$ 2,435.91 | |
| #362-Park Repairs | \$ 4,924.09 | |
| #430-Park Improvement | \$26,818.16 | |
| #442-Park Equipment | <u>\$13,992.43</u> | |
| Total | | \$50,745.26 + 32,148.51=\$82,893.77 |

Member Martin made amotion to cancel the December 15, 2026 meeting. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting: January 18, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

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