

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
October 20, 2025

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting and opened to livestreaming on Monday, October 20, 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
Bridgett Coe

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) Social Media Update: Joel Wilkinson informed the board he has completed pictures and drone footage of Grant, Gaff and Lakeside Parks. His drone has been sent in for repair, and he will complete the rest of the parks when the drone is returned. He asked Dustin to forward pictures of the baseball team. Secretary Pranger stated she will send him pictures of the tennis court paving and asked that he put out a notice that the tennis courts are under repair until spring of 2026. Joel stated he is still working on a list of park board accomplishments for 2025 and will add to the Facebook page when completed.
- b) Baseball: Dustin Hicks practice will be done this week. He stated he set the base distances for Tball, and baseball and he will take in the bases from both parks when the weather cools. He stated they had great feedback and lots of interest from the board participating at the Trunk or Treat event held at the Rome City Elementary (500 kids participated)-they distributed flyers for the 2026 season and treats. He noted many people thought we didn't have a baseball program any longer.
- c) Brightspeed Contract: Still waiting on contact from Brightspeed. Secretary Pranger informed the board about the contract renewal with Brightspeed on the building located at the Northeast corner of Kelly Park. She stated she researched the contract to find out how many renews are left on the contract. The contract originated in 1985 with renewals it has subsequently been renegotiated two times with two five-year renewals per contract. This will be the second extension on the 2016 contract and will be up for renegotiation in 2030 for new contract in 2031. The board stated the amount in the contract needs to be increased quite a bit as we are only collecting \$3500 per year on the lease and perhaps negotiate less years for renewal, maybe every three years with two renewals. Secretary Pranger informed the board that the renewal form had no contact information on the document, and it took awhile to research, the board directed Pranger to hold this until we receive another notice which might have contact information.
- d) July 4th Food trucks-The board discussed locking in the food trucks for the 2026 event. John Martin to contact: Mamazoni's, Party on the Patio. Dustin Hicks: Drop it like it's Tot. Tina Wilkinson: Roaming Kitchen, Kona Ice, Tom's Coffee, See me Rollin', Black Sheep if rollin' doesn't want to participate. Bridgette Coe: Street Tacos, Brewhouse and

Carey's Cakes. We had 8 trucks this year and have room for 2 additional trucks. Other trucks to contact: LuPita's, Ed's Fish and More, Mad Cat Lemonade, Taco's and More, Hoosier Mama, My Guys Fries, Gringo's Tacos, Tyrodz Dogs.

- e) Ad in CVB Tourism Map: Secretary Pranger informed the board the CVB will be putting out 10,000 copies of map. The cost to participate is \$261 for an ad 3.75x1.5 or \$280 1.75x1 on Front Cover. Or the board can join with the Rome City Chamber a get the back cover for \$520. The board stated if the Company will let us split the space that will be the way to go. Secretary Pranger will check and email the board with the information.

Close Restrooms for the season: Due to the nice weather the board decided the restrooms are to be closed the week of Halloween.

Kelly Park

- a. Chautauqua PICKLEBALL Tournament: President Wilkinson asked if the board would be interested in holding an early summer pickleball tournament in June 2026 and the Chautauqua August event. President Wilkinson to ask Daryl DeMuyt if he will show us how to set brackets. If we know how to do that then we will just need to fundraise Prizes.
- 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 discussed moving the tournament to Gaff Park or downtown street but then we (the board) would need to be at another event. The board decided to keep it in August during Chautauqua in the morning coinciding with the Pickleball.
- c. Tennis court replacement to be done this fall and the painting of the courts will be done in the spring. The board stated they want an agreement in writing stating 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 presented the board with figures from the Superintendent on purchasing the fencing needed for Kelly and Grant Parks to store this winter and installed in the spring. The cost for Kelly Park tennis courts is \$7000 and Grant Park \$1,500. Member Martin made a motion to approve the purchase of the fencing for up to \$8,500. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.
- e. Member Hicks asked again if a bollard or large rocks can be placed at the start of the pathway to the concession stand to stop people from using the road for access. Member Martin made a motion to purchase a bollard for up to \$400. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Grant Park

- a) Member Hicks asked that a parking bumper be located in front of the access road to the concession stand.
- 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

Bench with a cover has been installed. In the future any benches need to be installed facing south or east.

(Secretary Pranger distributed Amy Maley's email to the board regarding the dog park discussion from the August meeting. Mrs. Maley submitted a picture of the proposed dog statute

she would like to install in honor of her husband Doug Maley who developed the park. She also attached pictures of the dog park in Shipshewana which has two separate sections for large and small dogs. The fence between the two sections also includes privacy screening so the dogs cannot see the other dogs. She noted the fence post in the southwest corner of the gated area in the dog park is where Doug had anticipated installing the fence to the south to separate the dogs. She further suggested a large rock be installed for the dogs to jump on and possibly a digging area if we can figure out how to keep cats out of it. The board stated their approval for the installation of the statute in honor of Doug.) The board asked everyone to keep their eyes out for a big rock to put in the dog area.

Sycamore Park

The dying Sycamore Tree in parking lot has been removed.

Lakeside Park

- a) Lady statue plants-ARC's gardeners replanted area with donated plants hopefully they will live. Member Martin reported the area needs to be weeded. GSP Tiffany stated she may plant some bulbs in the area this fall.
- b) Pickleball net is still in operation.

Gaff Park/Trail head:

a) Joel Wilkinson researched lighting options for Gaff Park. He presented two options from Sweetwater Sound in Fort Wayne, Single Light bar with stand \$389 and the power pack is purchased separately: two light bars with stand and a power pack. The board decided to purchase the second option for \$839. Member Martin made a motion to approve the purchase of #2 option for \$839. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried. Pranger will order the lights. The board asked Pranger to look into the cost of a pull down sun shade to put up behind the band to block the sunlight. Pranger stated she will measure the area to see what size we will need.

b) Plan Concert Series for 2026: The board decided to do concerts on June 5th-Gospel-Need sound system-Tina will contact Val Ritchie, July 10th-Todd Herendeen or Country??, August 7th-The Wingmen-Food Trucks to confirm Tyrodz Dogs and Gringo's Tacos. The board stated they need to work around the Sylvan Cellars -Local Legends and Dapaplooza scheduled for June 26 and 27, 2026.

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 November Agenda-Discussion to rent Gaff Park pavilion for the 2026 season

f) Waiting on Pulver to discuss locations of paths and costs.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

- A) ARC tree tribute work in progress.

- B) President Wilkinson asked if anyone has knowledge of an event being held on Mark Plassman's property at the end of Sylvan Point on July 4th by Ken Cook. No one had heard anything.

2025 Budget

Park Donation Account	\$32,148.51
#119-Park Maintenance	\$ 6,182.11
#135-Contractual	\$ 949.00
#234-Park Supplies	\$ 2,598.36
#341-Park Insurance-Don't Spend	\$ 3,738.70
#352-Park Light-Don't spend	\$ 2,680.28
#362-Park Repairs	\$ 4,924.09
#430-Park Improvement	\$27,038.16
#442-Park Equipment	<u>\$13,992.43</u>
Total	\$62,103.13 + 32,148.51=\$94,251.64

Next Meeting: November 17, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Member Martin made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:22 p.m. Second by Member Coe. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Leigh A. Pfanger, Secretary