

ROME CITY PARK BOARD

Regular Meeting
September 15, 2025

The Rome City Park Board held their regular meeting and opened to livestreaming on Monday, September 15, 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: Joel Wilkinson

President Wilkinson informed the board the mowing of the parks is on hold and will only be mowed, when necessary, due to no rain in the forecast.

Social Media Update: Joel Wilinon informed the board the Park Facebook page now has 114 followers. Our posts are reaching 1200 and we received 44 likes. He stated we now have the ability to put out polls/surveys if the board would like to find out the public opinion on an idea. The board discussed whether we can tag the bands and the food trucks to get more exposure for our events. Joel stated this is something we can do for our concert series next year. President Wilkinson asked he can add a list of park board accomplishments for 2025 and add it to the page. He will work on this and bring the list back to a future meeting.

Baseball: Dustin Hicks updated the board the bases at Grant Park have been installed. The baseball board will be participating in the Trunk or Treat at the Rome City Elementary-they will distribute flyers for the 2026 season and treats. Hoping to build so excitement for the program. He noted his team will hold a scrimmage on October 5th and 11th at 4:00 p.m. in Kelly Park. He noted 10U will have rule changes for the 2026 season. Secretary Pranger informed the board she had a community service person clean and organize in the Kelly Park Concession. Dustin asked that the lock between the concession stand, and the storage area be changed to a safety bar with hasp lock to keep people from accessing the equipment area. Secretary Pranger will have the town employees add the lock.

Bright speed Contract: Secretary Pranger informed the board about the contract renewal with Bright speed on the building located at the Northeast corner of Kelly Park. She stated she researched the contract to find out how many renewals 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.

Close Restrooms for the season: The board decided the restrooms are to be closed October 13th.

Kelly Park

- a. Chautauqua PICKLEBALL Tournament: Pranger informed the board she sent out thank you's to the sponsors of the tournament. President Wilkinson asked if the board would be interested in holding an early summer pickleball tournament in June 2026. Add for discussion at the October meeting.
- b. Chautauqua Cornhole tournament: Canceled for this year. Need to reorganize for 2026 into local players.
- 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.
- d. The board directed Pranger to obtain quotes for new fencing around the tennis courts.
- e. Member Hicks asked 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.

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.

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. Pranger will obtain a quote to extend the fence for the small dog area with the screening added. 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 will be removed in September.

Lakeside Park

- a) Lady statue plants-ARC's gardeners replanted area with donated plants hopefully they will live. Member Martin reported the plants were still living.
- b) Playground equipment installed along with 300-40lb bags of plastic mulch around the structure and the tetter-totter. The board stated we need to install the mulch around the rest of the equipment as money provides.
- c) Pickleball net is still in operation.

Gaff Park/Trail head:

- a) **Concert September 5-The Wingmen-70's, 80's, 90's.** The board stated the band was great, but we did not have participation from the community for the event. The board stated there is just too much going on in the area in September and suggested we do not have a concert in September.
- b) Plan Concert Series for 2026: The board decided to do concerts on June 5th-Gospel-Need sound system, July 10th-Country??, August 7th-The Wingmen. The board stated they need to work around the Sylvan Cellars -Local Legends and Dapaplooza.
- c) The board stated we need to install lighting under the pavilion to see the band better. Secretary Pranger asked the board to decide what type of lighting they want instead of the flood lights. Strip lights in the rafters were suggested.
- d) Next Level Grant-Pranger purchasing amenities-bicycle repair station, signage, bicycle are, bike racks, trail counter, etc...
- e) 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)
- f) Pranger waiting on Pulver for costs on pathways to pavilion, water fountain and musical bells.
- g) President Wilkinson asked Pranger to add to the October Agenda-Discussion to rent Gaff Park pavilion for the 2026 season

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.

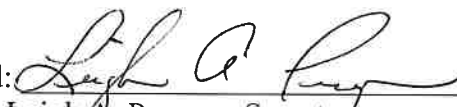
2025 Budget

Park Donation Account	\$32,148.51
#119-Park Maintenance	\$ 6,182.11
#135-Contractual	\$ 1,286.50
#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	\$62,440.63 + 32,148.51=\$94,589.14

Next Meeting: October 13, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Member Martin made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. Second by Member Hicks. All in favor-aye. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted:


Leigh A. Pranger, Secretary