



City of Biddeford
Recreation Commission
February 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM
J. Richard Martin Community Center
Room 2

Join Teams Meeting

Online [https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/29448217195502?p=Ruh00I3SDTg
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Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 294 482 171 955 02

Passcode: 47Nj9mL3

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - 2.a Minutes November meeting
3. Recreation Department Report
 - 3.a Staff update: Brian Dunphe- Facilities and Outdoor Programs Coordinator
4. Community Group Liaison Updates
 - 4.a Kim Cochrane, Biddeford Softball League, Field updates
5. New Business
 - 5.a Request from Mayor- naming of Park at 315 Main St.
6. Other Business
 - 6.a Rec Bond Neighborhood meetings- updates and calendar
7. Public Addressing the Commission
8. Adjourn

Recreation Commission Minutes

November 19, 2025

Present: Kathryn Lagasse, Julianna DiTomasso, Peter Harrison, Andy Kaherl, Lucas Scott, Lauren Giddings

1. Call to Order- The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM
2. Minutes- Moved by Lauren and seconded by Andy to approve the Oct. 22, 2025, minutes- 6-0 motion passes.
3. Recreation Department Report- Lisa shared the current program numbers, Recreation Bond next steps. Budget season is upon us, and the staff is currently working on their budgets. CIP requests were due in early November.
4. Community Group liaison updates- None
5. New Business:
 - a. SWOT analysis- Kathryn asked the group if a SWOT analysis would be beneficial to the commission. Many agreed.
 - b. Feedback from Rec. Staff: Kathryn shared the following feedback she received from Recreation Staff:
 - i. For RC members to be public advocates for the department
 - ii. Work to ensure we have adequate resources

Discussions took place about ways to help with the feedback. The Commission asked if one staff member could attend each month so that the commission could ask them about their job and have a discussion on ways to help them do their job better, more efficiently, etc. Lisa will bring this up at the next Staff meeting. Also discussed- getting information about Recreation Dept through schools on their digital platforms, have meetings at local businesses, become actively involved in events such as the Maine Backyard Campout in July. Do a "Staff Spotlight" or "Facility Spotlight" on social media.

6. Other Business- none
7. Public Addressing the Commission- None
8. Next meeting: Wednesday, December 17, 2025 6pm JR Martin Community Center, room 2
9. Adjourn- Motion by Julianna, seconded by Peter to adjourn at 6:56pm PM. 6-0 motion passes.

LaFountain, Liam

Lagasse, Kathryn

Thompson, Lisa;Woods, Abigail;Dever, Truc

Dear Kathryn,

I hope all is well. I am writing to ask that the Recreation Commission consider initiating a process to rename the park currently known as “315 Main Street, located at the corner of Elm and Main Street.

Over the past several months, I have been in conversations with residents who are interested in seeing greater investment and care directed toward this park, beginning with giving it a proper name. As part of that effort, I would encourage a process that engages the public, with particular attention to gathering feedback from residents who live in the surrounding neighborhood and those who regularly use or interact with the space.

As this work moves forward, I would ask that the Commission avoid considering names tied to a specific individual or family. Instead, the Commission may wish to explore names that reflect shared values, civic ideals, or broader themes that resonate across the city, alongside place-based considerations. The intent would be to arrive at a name that is inclusive, forward-looking, grounded in public input, and perhaps even aspirational.

If helpful, I would be glad to talk through timing, process, or community engagement strategies in more detail. From a planning perspective, having a recommended name to propose to the City Council for formal adoption by June 2nd or earlier would be ideal.

Please let me know if you need any additional information from me, and thank you for considering this request. I am also CC'ing Councilor Woods to this email, who has been appointed as the non-voting City Council liaison to the Recreation Commission for this term.

Thank you for all the work you do on the Recreation Commission.

Best,

Liam

Liam P. LaFountain

Mayor of Biddeford

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