



City of Biddeford
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

September 1, 2026 at 11:45 AM
City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Teams

[Join Microsoft Teams Meeting Online](#)

Or call in by phone: +1 872-242-8054

Phone conference ID: 996 092 766#

Meeting ID: 238 625 203 628 986

Passcode: v5vd7Lc2

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - 2.a August 10, 2026 Meeting Minutes
3. Discussion Items
 - 3.a Hispanic Heritage Month Proclamation
4. Adjourn

August 10, 2026 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Flo, Anne, David, Jamie, Aiden, 1 Member of Public

Excused: Lauren, Syed, Ariane, Breese

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:31 PM.

2. Public Comment

One member of the public introduced herself to the Committee.

The Chair introduced the peacekeepers that were asked to attend the meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes

3.a June 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Aiden, seconded by Jamie, to approve the June 8, 2026 meeting minutes.

Vote: Unanimous

4. Current Events

4.a Member Check-In

The Committee checked in with one another after the events of the past month, specifically the shooting of Biddeford resident, Johan Sebastian Duran Guerrero. Members shared their feelings and reactions to the incident and the City and community responses that followed.

Anne noted that there is a higher level of scrutiny on our community and work. She would like to reach out to some mental health support services for those who are most impacted by the level of scrutiny.

Aiden has a resource list of people and organizations that are offering free or low-cost therapy services for those who have been affected by ICE's presence in the area. He will share this list with the Committee.

David noted that Sweetser's mental health team, in conjunction with the General Assistance office, offered crisis support immediately following the incident.

Flo feels it is hard to talk about long-term projects right now when there is an immediate event to react to. Aiden suggested we could put some of those projects off given the context of current events.

Flo mentioned that there is a concurrent meeting this evening about the City Charter and wondered if the Committee could look at it through a DEI lens. David said that the Committee's perspective would be very valuable to the conversation. He mentioned Council compensation as a topic for the committee to potentially weigh in on.

Flo suggested that we have a member check-in at each meeting.

5. Discussion Items

5.a Review of Proclamations and Observances - September and October

Anne offered to draft the Hispanic Heritage Month proclamation and will incorporate recent events into the language that has been used for previous proclamations.

The Committee discussed the timeline for approval of the proclamation in comparison to the timing of the next regularly-scheduled meeting. David suggested calling a special meeting to approve the proclamation. The Committee opted to have a remote meeting at 11:45 AM on September 1 to approve the proclamation.

5.b Reflection on June Events

Flo thought it was gratifying that this was the first time that the Committee took ownership the Pride flag raising event as the official organizers. She was proud of Jamie for jumping in at the last minute to emcee the event.

Anne thought the Tiger Allies were a highlight of the event. David shared a positive interaction with a kid on a bus driving by. Flo was glad that the event happened on June 1.

David noted that some individuals intentionally rev their engines during the event and thought we could consider closing a street next year. Anne suggested we notify

City staff about the event next year to give them an opportunity to come out and participate for a few minutes if they'd like.

The Juneteenth event netted a profit of \$1,030 after donations. Heart of Biddeford would usually take 3% of the total income from the event to cover their overhead, which would be \$139. The Committee was supportive of making this payment. This leaves \$891 to use for next year's event.

There were 171 registrations with 60 donations coming through, and estimated headcounts indicate that there were more attendees that were present but did not register. There were 21 spoof registrations for the event. Heart of Biddeford received pushback for the verbiage on their EventBrite registration page related to the encouraged donations, and this language will be revisited for clarity.

Flo would like us to keep the award presentation for next year. Members discussed a possible candidate for the award.

5.c Public Restroom Survey

Anne shared information about a rule out of Louisiana requiring people to use the same restroom of the gender that they were assigned at birth. She believes that these kinds of rules and laws are likely to catch on in other places. She noted that this was relevant to the public restroom conversation as well as the Charter conversation.

Flo asked the Committee to read the charter between now and the next meeting if they have time.

David noted that the Charter Revision Commission makes a recommendation on changes to the charter, and voters ultimately adopt the changes they propose. They can either put all of them together in one question to voters or can present different changes individually.

The attending member of the public noted that Better Biddeford is looking to schedule a salon to discuss the charter. She invited members of the Committee to attend.

5.d Request for Feedback on Public Art Master Plan

The Committee received an email from the Public Art Commission seeking feedback.

Jamie attended the Public Art Commission's June meeting. She reported that the Commission talked about their Master Plan and noted that they would like to collaborate more often with the DEI Committee, though they have nothing specific in the queue that they would like to work on with us right now. They mentioned that if our members know artists of diverse backgrounds that are interested in public art pieces, they would like us to refer them to their Commission. Flo noted that a partnership with the Public Art Commission would be fitting as we plan for the June events next year and suggested we invite them to a future meeting.

6. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

7. Second Public Comment

The attending member of the public noted that the old courthouse located on Adams Street has a lobby area that may be suitable for use as a public restroom facility. She encouraged the Committee to reach out to the City and Biddeford Housing Authority to start a discussion about this. She anticipates that a conversation about how to keep them clean and maintained will be the biggest concern and suggested that a plan is made for that before a pitch is made.

8. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:01.

CITY OF BIDDEFORD, MAINE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PROCLAMATION

Designating September 15 – October 15, 2026 as Hispanic Heritage Month

WHEREAS, from September 15 to October 15, we observe Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to acknowledge the emerging influence of the Hispanic community in our City and to celebrate their cultural contributions; and

WHEREAS, the growth of the Hispanic community within our City presents a valuable opportunity to learn from new perspectives, embrace diverse experiences, and forge connections that enrich the collective tapestry of our City; and

WHEREAS, as our community welcomes and integrates members of the Hispanic community, it is essential to cultivate an atmosphere of inclusion; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging the challenges that the Hispanic community faces today, including immigration enforcement operations which have resulted in the preventable death of Biddeford resident, Johan Sebastian Duran Guerrero, it is our shared responsibility to ensure that acting upon bias, discrimination, and stereotypes has no place within our City, as we endeavor to create an environment of equity and acceptance; and

WHEREAS, the support we extend to our Hispanic neighbors is more than symbolic; we reaffirm that all people who live in Biddeford are an essential part of Biddeford's identity, history, strength, and future, and that every person who lives, works, studies, worships, or raises a family in this city deserves to feel safe and to be treated with dignity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Liam Lafountain, Mayor of the City of Biddeford, on behalf of the City Council and the residents of Biddeford, do hereby proclaim the observance of:

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH
September 15 to October 15, 2026

in the City of Biddeford, and urge all residents to join in recognizing, honoring, and standing in solidarity with our Hispanic neighbors.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Biddeford, Maine to be affixed this 15th day of September, 2026.

Liam Lafountain

Mayor, City of Biddeford