Londonderry Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes Date: May 11, 2026

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order. A motion to start the meeting was made, seconded, and approved by all present.
- **Attendance / Roll Call:** Art Psaledas, Bill Manning, Mike Campo, Mike Bartlett, Bob Corning, Kevin Foley, Kristina Ciarametaro, Deb Paul, and Doug Cole.

2. Approval of Minutes

- The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

3. New Business & Updates

CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Update

- The deadline to submit CIP projects for field facilities and recreational use was May 1st.
- A number of projects were submitted using research and input from local sports leagues regarding priority needs and what has worked well in the past.
- A rough draft review with CIP members and the town manager is scheduled for May 18th to fine-tune the submissions. Further updates will follow next month.

Basketball Courts & West Road Field Facility

- **Progress:** The basketball court project is moving along well. The DPW is currently helping to clear the tree line from overgrowth. Once cleared, the shed will be relocated to that area.
- **Fencing & Access:** Fencing will be installed around three-quarters of the perimeter, featuring a double swing gate for maintenance/mowing access, as well as an ADA-compliant entry path. The path will consist of an asphalt paving path leading to the courts.
- **Court Surface:** A 6-inch drainage pipe is being installed through the swale. Large boulders near the upper softball fields are being broken up and removed. The court will feature blue and red paint surfacing before the lines and nets are put in.
- **Opening Event:** The target completion date is June 5th. The commission plans to host a mini-tournament with food from approximately 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM to celebrate the opening.

Strategic Plan Update

- Workshops are ongoing regarding the rough draft of the strategic plan. The Town Manager presented the draft, and the council has been providing input and asking questions.
- Edits have been added to the newest draft, which is available for viewing. The strategic plan is designed to make the town's broader master plan actionable. It is expected to be open to public comment during the second meeting in June or July.

Skate Park Update

- The skate park is currently being dismantled by the DPW, who removed the metal elements last week for recycling. Progress is temporarily paused while waiting for full dumpsters to be emptied. Once emptied, final demolition should take about one day.
- An inspection of the structure showed that while the 2x4 framing was okay, the plywood underneath the metal had significant holes and rotting. Given that wood skate parks have a 15-year lifespan and this structure was 26 years old (built in 2000 for roughly $75,000), it was well past its utility.
- Public feedback regarding the park's closure has quieted down. The asphalt surface will remain in place for now. The commission is reaching out to the skate park community and vendor companies to assess future project options or potential alternative uses for the property.

Irrigation & Field Maintenance

- **West Road:** The facility experienced its recurring irrigation issues, specifically losing prime. A company was called in to replace a bad foot valve and pipe. Repairs were completed today, and the system is expected to be fully operational tomorrow. The water repair costs are expected to be around $3,000.
- **Lafa Field:** Minor irrigation issues were repaired at a cost of approximately $250.
- **Invoicing:** Future bills related to these issues will explicitly itemize "irrigation" to better track and break down long-term costs. It was noted that having the retention pond as a water source saves the town tens of thousands of dollars compared to buying domestic water.
- **Equipment:** All maintenance equipment is tuned up, well-maintained, and operating correctly.

Staffing & Open Positions

- **Nelson Road Mowing:** Bill Manning was brought out of retirement to assist with mowing temporarily. An applicant who is semi-retired and has prior experience working with Lafa has applied for the role and is considered a good fit.
- **Full-Time Recreation Maintenance Position:** The position to replace Mike Bartlett (Sid) was posted last week. It is a full-time, 40-hour-per-week position

with flexible hours depending on the seasonal schedule, starting around July 1st. The starting salary is just over $64,000 (ranging up to $83,000). During the winter, this position will transition to handling equipment maintenance and winter snow emergencies for the DPW.

4. Recreation Program & Intern Updates

- **Tennis:** The tennis program has started with 27 participants in grades 1–12 under Coach Raman. It is now being run directly through the Recreation Department instead of partnering with the USTA, allowing for higher enrollment numbers.
- **Track & Field:** The 5–8 age group has 42 kids enrolled. The Grand State Track and Field program (ages 9–14) has 21 participants, making it their largest team yet. The state meet will be hosted locally at Londonderry High School on June 13th, which features excellent parking, jumping pits, and local food vendors.
- **Women's Basketball:** A 25+ women's basketball program started last Friday at Matthew Thornton with 24 participants split into three teams. It is a 6-week round-robin format with the goal of expanding it into a full fall league similar to the men's program.
- **Summer Playground Program:** Information is being sent out to families. The co-directors started on May 1st to map out the calendar, theme weeks, entertainers, and senior counselor communication. There are currently 347 kids registered with a waitlist of 20. Enrollment is slightly capped this year due to classroom shuffling at South School to accommodate full-day kindergarten.
- **Voyager Camp:** This 7-week field-trip-based program for ages 11–15 begins on June 24th and has 100 kids registered with a waitlist of 50. Trips include hiking, biking, deep-sea fishing, Patriot Place, and local amusement parks.
- **Funway Playground Volunteer Day:** Organized by Sam (the department intern), 26 volunteers from the Blue Lions cheerleading group successfully spread 60 yards of mulch across the playground.

5. Director Transition Announcement

- It was officially shared that Art Psaledas will step down as Recreation Director on June 30th at 11:59 PM.
- Doug Cole will take over as the official Recreation Director effective July 1, 2026. Art Psaledas will remain available through August 31st to assist with the transition and oversee the summer programs.

6. Adjournment

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.