

Berlin Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 14, 2026

Location: Berlin City Hall

Attendees: Tony Valliere, Bernie Martel, Alex Terry, Natalee Croteau, Crystle Dickinson

Approval of Previous Minutes:

Meeting minutes from July 9, 2026, were approved by commission members on August 14, 2026.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

I. Open Gym Policy for School Year

- The Berlin Recreation Center will offer open gym programming for children in sixth grade and above during the school year.
- **Eligibility**
 - i. Open gym is available to youth in sixth grade and above.
 - ii. Any participant under the age of 18 must have a completed registration form on file before participating.
- **Registration & Attendance**
 - i. A parent or legal guardian must complete a registration form for each individual under the age of 18 who wishes to participate in open gym.
 - ii. The Berlin Recreation Center will continue to utilize a sign-in and sign-out sheet for all participants attending open gym.
 - iii. Participants are expected to sign in upon arrival and sign out when leaving the facility.
- 3 Strike Rule
- The Berlin Recreation Center will implement a Three-Strike Rule to promote safety, respect, and appropriate behavior during open gym.
 - i. Participants will receive up to three behavioral strikes for violations of Recreation Center rules or expectations.
 - ii. Staff will document each strike and communicate concerns to the participant as appropriate.
 - iii. Upon receiving a third strike, the participant and their parent/legal guardian will be informed that the participant is no longer permitted to attend open gym.
 - iv. The Recreation Center reserves the right to address serious or unsafe behavior immediately and may take action beyond the Three-Strike process when necessary to protect participants, staff, or the facility.
- **Open Gym Hours**
 - i. Open Gym Hours: 1:00PM – 4:30PM

- ii. Open gym hours may be adjusted by the Berlin Recreation Center based on staffing, facility availability, holidays, special programming, or other operational needs.

II. Timeline on School & Recreation Programs

- The Berlin Recreation Center will work collaboratively to coordinate youth recreation programs with Berlin Elementary School athletic programs, with the goal of creating a consistent pathway for youth participation in sports.
- The Recreation Department will serve as a feeder program for Berlin school athletics, with the primary focus on introducing children in Kindergarten through 2nd grade to a variety of sports in a safe, affordable, and developmentally appropriate environment.

i. Fall Programs

The Recreation Department will offer or coordinate:

- Soccer – Kindergarten through 2nd Grade
- Field Hockey – Kindergarten through 2nd Grade

Programs will focus on fundamental skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and creating a positive introduction to organized athletics.

ii. Winter Programs

The Recreation Department will offer:

- Co-Ed Basketball – Kindergarten through 2nd Grade

The program will emphasize fundamental basketball skills, teamwork, participation, and enjoyment of the sport.

The Recreation Department will also explore the possibility of re-establishing a youth ski program through Wildcat Mountain, as well as exploring opportunities to improve the youth hockey program.

iii. Spring Programs

The Recreation Department may offer introductory sports mini-camps throughout the spring.

Mini-camps may include exposure to different sports and activities based on community interest, facility availability, staffing, and available partnerships. Potential offerings may include:

- Baseball
- Softball
- Pickleball
- Tennis

iv. Summer Programs

The Recreation Department will coordinate and explore summer athletic opportunities, including:

- Soccer – NCYSL
- Baseball
- Softball
- Tennis

Summer programming will be developed based on available facilities, qualified instructors/coaches, community participation, partnerships, and funding.

III. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- **Summer Program Review**
- **Halloween Event**
- **Hockey Program: Outline what program will look like**
- **Open Gym Update**
- **Fall Sports Update**

Future Meeting Schedule:

The Recreation Commission voted to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 4:30 PM at Berlin City Hall.

Scheduled meeting dates include:

- September 10, 2026
- October 8, 2026
- November 12, 2026
- December 10, 2026

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Crystle Dickinson
Recording Secretary