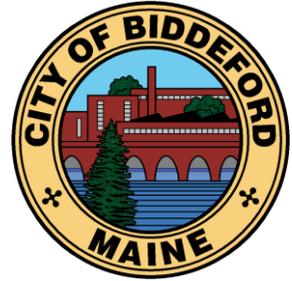


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Biddeford to Form Strategic Plan Steering Committee *Citizen Volunteers Needed to Serve*

“The Biddeford City Council recently established the creation of the City’s first Strategic Plan as one of its highest goals,” Mayor Alan Casavant announced on Tuesday. The first step in creating that plan is to appoint a steering committee.

The steering committee will be made up of 13 members. “While many of the seats will be appointed by various boards, committees and other organizations, three members will be from citizens in the community that desire to shape the critical direction of the City for the next three to five years,” added the Mayor.

Strategic Planning in local government has become more popular in the few years. Based on a common practice in the business world, communities that have well developed strategic plans are more successful in achieving positive results.

The proposed members of the committee will include:

- 3 members of the public
- An appointee of the Planning Board
- An appointment of Heart of Biddeford
- An appointment of the Downtown Development District
- An appointment of the School Department
- An appointment from the Chamber of Commerce
- An appointment of UNE
- 2 members of the City Council or their designee(s)
- The Mayor or his designee
- A member of the City management team

“We expect that it will take between twelve and eighteen months to complete the work of the steering committee,” stated Jim Bennett, City Manager. “Based on my experience, the committee would meet between a dozen to two dozen times during the process,” he added.

‘We are very pleased that our City Manager has hands on experience in leading communities through the strategic planning process. His work with the City of Westbrook led that City to be recognized as a Best

Practice by the International City/County Manager's Association (ICMA)," commented the Mayor. "Jim also worked on the City of Lewiston's and the City of Presque Isle's plans."

Citizens that are interested in serving should express their interest by completing a volunteer form. Forms are available through the City Clerk's office. It is also available on the City's website

http://www.biddefordmaine.org/index.asp?SEC=8437CCB4-8EC5-4697-8665-C3D2EF725D35&Type=B_BASIC

Additional questions can be directed to City Manager Jim Bennett – jbennett@biddefordmaine.org or his Executive Assistant Josie Bicknell – jbicknell@biddefordmaine.org by March 11, 2016.