

**BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

**Present Committee Members were:** Councilors Seldon, Washington and Neuwirth

**Also present were:** Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Camilla Jones, Director of Social & Youth Services, Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Center, David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services, Jane Low, Chair of Beautification Committee, Marie MacDonald, Chair of CEEC and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council.

**Guest:** Ms. Donna Banks, former Town Council member and Chair of Community Services Subcommittee

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was moved by Councilor Washington, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of January 7, 2014.**

**REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

*Social & Youth Services*

Mrs. Camilla Jones, Director of Social & Youth Services reported the following updates of the department:

- On March 1, 2014, Youth Services sponsored an International Black History Event with seniors and youth.
- CASAC Youth Regional Conference will be held on Friday, March 28, 2014. The focus of the conference will be centered on mental health and sexuality.

- In January 2014, the department provided energy assistance services to 178 individuals. Operation Fuel funding was also exhausted. The department received an allocation of \$30,000.
- Food Bank donations are currently low. A purchase was made at Foodshare of non-perishable items and meats. Approximately, 265 individuals utilized the food bank in February 2014.
- The United States Postal Food Drive will be held on May 10, 2014. Please encourage all residents to participate as the donations benefit the local Bloomfield Food Bank.

### Leisure Services - Parks and Recreation

Mr. David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services reported the following updates of the department:

- Saturday programming began in mid-January to the end of March. All pre-school and early childhood sporting program enrollments has been very successful. Some of the programs offered are Hoop-It-Up and Tiny Feet (soccer).
- The Bloomfield Lacrosse pre-season clinics began in January 2014 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> are eligible to participate.
- The Little Chef's Program has also been very successful in their 8-week program.
- The Memorial Day Road Race is currently in its planning stages. The race will be publicized in the Runner's World magazine. In addition, invite letters for the parade will be sent in early April. Mr. Melesko is also looking for a veteran to speak and tell their story for Memorial Day celebration.
- On March 5, 2014 at 2:30 p.m., Bloomfield Public Schools will sponsor "Marcus Cooper Day" at Bloomfield High School.
- The "Welcome to Bloomfield" banners will be removed by late March. The American Flags will be installed prior to the Memorial Day parade.
- Outdoor field requests have been received. The fields are behind schedule for firmness due to the cold weather and thaw.

- A meeting was scheduled by Mr. Jonathan Thiesse, Town Engineer for March 26, 2014 to conduct a walk-through of the Town Green regarding redesign options.
- Little Leagues registrations have begun. Currently, registrations are low and have been for the past few years.
- Concert letters and sponsorship materials have been mailed for participation with “Summer Concerts on the Green”.
- A connectivity meeting of the Master Parks Plan will be held on March 6, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at 330 Park Avenue. This meeting will be sponsored by Fitzgerald & Halliday, a consultant company assisting with the town’s plan to connect parks with walkers and cyclist.
- The Health & Wellness Fair was held on March 1, 2014 from 10:00 – 2:00 p.m. Attendance for this event was relatively low over the four hour sponsored timeframe.

Mr. Melesko also gave a brief update of programming and activity at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course. The Golf Subcommittee passed the annual budget for the course. In addition, there was a brief discussion regarding developing strategies to increase patron activity at the Tap Inn Restaurant.

Councilor Neuwirth stated that the public should be made aware of various activities. He also suggested that there should be more signage promoting the restaurant at intersections in the area of the golf course. It was noted that renovations of the outdoor tent area would be ideal use for a banquet facility.

### Senior Services

Mrs. Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services reported that the following updates of the department:

- The Senior Center completed work for their 5-year National Re-Accreditation. The staff thanked the Town Manager, Town Council and other town departments for their continued support.
- The “Best Loser” program continues to be very successful. There are currently 18 participants who meet once a month to fellowship and provide support to each other. The staff has decided to give out three gifts at the end of the challenge. Firestone will also offer free oil changes to every participant in the program.

- AARP Services began tax preparation on February 5, 2014.
- There were a couple of missed Foodshare distributions due to inclement weather. The staff thanked Social & Youth Services as well as Leisure Services for assisting in distribution during school closures.
- Triumph Actuation Systems is a local company that has agreed to adopt another room at the Senior Center to renovate. They have chosen Ida's Shoppe to renovate for seniors.
- The warming center is open when there are harsh winter temperatures per request of Governor Malloy.
- On March 5, 2014, a group of 18 seniors will travel to Hawaii.
- On March 6, 2014, seniors will attend a taping of "Better Connecticut" at WFSB – Channel 3.
- A new program entitled "Painting on the Green" will be co-sponsored with Social & Youth Services and Leisure Services. The program will take place during the spring and summer months.
- A mini concert will held at the Senior Center in collaboration with Prosser Library on August 26, 2014.

#### Beautification Committee

Mrs. Jane Low, Chair of the Beautification Committee reported that the plants have been ordered for all town memorials and garden beds. On Monday, May 19, 2014 the committee will begin their planting around town. They will inquire with the Bloomfield High School – Agri-Center for their assistance. Mrs. Low will also contact Triumph Actuation Systems regarding their commitment towards beautification efforts.

The planting remaining around town will occur on the last day of June 2014.

#### Clean Energy and Conservation Committee (CEEC)

Ms. Marie MacDonald, Chair of the CEEC reported the following updates:

- There is a second attempt to rollout the Home Energy Solutions audit program. The committee is currently reviewing language to approve for postcard mailings.

- The Town of Bloomfield has been selected as a “solarized” town to participate with Solarize CT. The committee has a list of current town residents with solar panels already installed on their homes. They will be considered as “solar ambassadors” for the program. The committee will meet to finalize the selection on a vendor for town installation for the 20 week program.
- Kevin Gough continues to provide information to the committee with status updates regarding the Greenway and the Farmington River Watershed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *Donated Gifts to the Town of Bloomfield*

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager presented to committee members with a DRAFT Policy for Memorial Gifts/Donations.

After review of the policy, Mr. Melesko suggested to consider having standardized “benches” for example to keep aesthetics and costs consist throughout town.

Councilor Seldon requested clarification of non-designated monetary memorial donations. It was noted that this term refers to “wills or trust fund allocations”.

**It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to recommend the adoption and approval of the Memorial Gifts/Donations policy.**

### *Proposal for a Concession Stand at 330 Park Avenue*

Mr. Dave Melesko, Director of Leisure Services gave a brief update regarding the research of providing concessions stand services at 330 Park Avenue.

A meeting with Mr. John Lawlor, Director of Public Works and Mr. Benjamin Whittaker, Director of Facilities determined that it would be more cost effective to setup a semi-permanent kiosk. However, it was also suggested to present an analysis of kitchen renovations and kiosk presentation.

**It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to postpone the discussion regarding the Concession Stand at 330 Park Avenue.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Back to School Fun Fair***

Ms. Donna Banks gave a brief history and description of the Back to School Fun Fair. She presented the initial budget figures to the purchase of book bags. It was also stated that the food was donated by friends and family with no cost to the town.

In addition, department heads from Social & Youth Services, Senior Services and Leisure Services presented their preliminary budget figures for contribution made to support this event.

It was estimated that approximately \$8000 is needed to make this event a success.

**It was moved by Councilor Neuwirth, seconded by Councilor Seldon and voted unanimously to recommend to the full Council to allocate \$8000 to the FY 2014/2015 Town Budget for purposes to support the Back to School Fun Fair.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Councilor Seldon reminded committee members to send various upcoming community events prior to Council meeting for reporting to the general public.

He also stated that he was very pleased with the policy on Memorial Gifts/Donations to the town.

Mr. Melesko and Mrs. Low will follow up with the request to memorialize the late Sandy Belliveau.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**It was moved by Councilor Washington, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**