

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Present Committee Members were: Councilors Seldon 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 the Back to School Fun Fair

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

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Social & Youth Services

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

- There was a Volunteer Reception “Hawaiian Luau” in the Senior Center hosted by Youth Services.
- The Juvenile Revenue Board (JRB) grant in Youth Services has ended with DCF. DCF has decided to regionalize services.
- Bloomfield Public Schools wrote and received a federal grant to administer after schools programs.
- The program for the administered by the After School grant will end on June 13, 2014.

- The Police & Youth grant was renewed for another year!
- The Bloomfield Youth Action Club collected approximately \$800.00 from their April fundraiser “Moving for a Cure” for the Lupus Foundation.
- Youth Services will host two Mini-Camps, Peer Power Plus and an adventure camp in July.
- Summer Camp financial assistance is available to low-income families.
- The United States Postal food drive held on May 9, 2014 collected 10,465 pounds of food.
- The deadline to apply for the Renter’s Rebate Program is October 1, 2014.
- The department is in need to purchase a new van to transport clients for various programs.

Leisure Services - Parks and Recreation

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

- The Summer Concert series will begin on June 12, 2014 with the Bloomfield High School Choir and Band. The series will run through July 31, 2014, ending with the West Indian Celebration. All concerts will be held on the Town Green across from Town Hall, with the exception of the West Indian Celebration.
- The pool pre-season will begin on June 16, 2014 with a condensed schedule from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. The pool will officially open on June 21, 2014. The sandblasting of the pool has been completed. The first staff training will begin on June 6, 2014 with a retreat to Coventry.
- The Master Parks Plan has been finalized. A presentation to the Town Council will be scheduled in the near future.
- The Community Gardens are open with approximately 20-25 plots available for planting.

- The electronic message boards have been very busy with all upcoming events in May and June.
- The concession stand quote for 330 Park Avenue was submitted for review of the committee. Mr. Melesko reported that Mr. Ben Whittaker, Director of Facilities and Mr. John Lawlor, Director of Public Works recommendation with a kiosk stand with plumbing would cost approximately \$80,000 to install. Mr. Melesko will explore the cost of possibly recruiting vendors to offer concessions for various sporting events and activities held at this location.

There was brief discussion of committee members regarding the actual usage of having concessions available for patrons. Mr. Melesko stated that he would explore the option and request feedback from other local parks and recreation departments through the list serv. The committee also agreed that additional research is needed to coincide with the Master Parks Plan as well.

- The Memorial Day Celebration was a huge success. This event, this year was the largest parade in the past ten years. Approximately, 32 service units participated, the weather was great, town residents, visitors and businesses owners were delighted to be a part of this event.

Senior Services

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

- Mrs. Huyghue-Pannell reported that the seniors were so excited about participating and the creativity of their float in the Memorial Day parade.
- On June 2, 2014, the Senior Center will welcome an Intern from Holy Cross. She will begin a sign language class, which will provide fine motor skills with seniors.
- The Mother's Day event was very successful. It was sold out again this year.
- The Father's Day event will be held at the Senior Center on June 13, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. There are currently 25 individuals signed up. Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager will be the guest speaker.

- The 2nd Annual Casual Prom was held with students from the University of Hartford with a Casino Theme. Seniors were very excited to participate, dance and enjoy social interactions with one another.
- The 16th Annual Senior Artists Exhibition will be held on June 4, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Beautification Committee

Mrs. Jane Low, Chair of the Beautification Committee reported that all plants have been planted for all town memorials and garden beds. On Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 9:00 a.m., the committee will begin their main planting around town. Mrs. Low also indicated that the police station landscaping needs refurbishing with a complete overhaul.

The landscaping renovation of Filley Park and the Town Green is ongoing. Mrs. Low stated that this committee will continue to serve as an advisory entity for these respective projects.

Mrs. Low stated that she continues to recruit volunteers to join her committee. There are currently five volunteers who are truly committed to the mission of the Beautification Committee.

Clean Energy and Conservation Committee (CEEC)

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

- Solarize, Bloomfield entered into an inter-town challenge with Simsbury, Farmington and Bloomfield. At the time, Simsbury is in the lead with the amount of homes committed to going solar for their energy needs.
- The Home Energy Solutions Audit program will continue to contribute \$25.00 of all homes signed up in Bloomfield for energy efficient alternative sources.
- The committee continues their support of the ongoing progress with the East Coast Greenway initiative.
- The committee discussed options in developing a recycling drug disposal program. They discussed the Police Station as option. The Community Services committee discussed other possible alternatives due to the architectural design of the police department, i.e. – privacy and proper disposal.
- Alternative options are under review for valuable usage of the LaSalette or the Hawk Hill property. It was suggested that a winery on the property, as designated as open space.

- The Lisa Lane Farm will celebrate the purchase as town owned land on September 20, 2014. The land is currently being used as an urban farming initiative to supply local produce to its residents and visitors.
- The committee thanked Mr. Dave Melesko for his active role in the Earth Day Celebrations.
- CEEC will participate and advertise for Solarize – Bloomfield at the Summer Concert series as well as the Back to School Fun Fair event on Saturday, August 23, 2014.
- The following Public Events to promote Solarize – Bloomfield will be held at:
 - P. Faith McMahon Library – June 3, 2014
 - Prosser Library – June 25, 2014

There is a huge push to advertise and make residents aware of the limited time offer with rebates from the State of Connecticut. The program is only for 20 weeks and ends on September 30, 2014.

The committee has designed a program with RGS and Mr. Joe Rodriguez – Agri-Science Teacher at Bloomfield High School. The program is designed to teach students how to use Google Maps to identify the best areas for maximum solar areas. It will also identify homes that fit the profile to receive literature promoting solar alternative energy. The students will be compensated for part-time employment as well as learning about solar energy.

OLD BUSINESS

Back to School Fun Fair

Ms. Donna Banks reported that many vendors have signed up to participate in this year's event. Ms. Banks discussed the option of streamlining the back pack giveaway. It was suggested to do pre-registration to receive back packs. The committee also discussed alternatives for handling on-site registration if needed.

Applications are currently being accepted at Social & Youth Services, Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Applications will be accepted until, Friday, August 22, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Seldon, seconded by Councilor Neuwirth to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.