Lucille called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

Rulanda was asked to introduce herself. She is new to Bloomfield Center for Nursing and is interested in learning how she can partner with the senior center for programming and events.

Old Business:
Marie noted that the senior center has earned its fourth 5-year accreditation. The National Council on Aging published a congratulatory article highlighting the center’s strong points on their website (copy attached to these minutes).

It will probably take several months before the Aging Mastery videos that were created at the senior center will be finalized and released.

Public Comments
Yvette noted that senior services, leisure services and social & youth services are working together to develop a youth employment program, with Bloomfield high school students helping seniors with work at their homes such as raking leaves, shoveling snow, or “tidying up” yards. We do not yet have details. There will be an information meeting with Capital Workforce Partners tomorrow.

Seats for commission members are not due to expire until 2021; however, if any member does not wish to continue, please advise as soon as possible so the process for new candidates can begin.

The proposed meeting dates for 2020 (copy attached) were presented for review. The commission will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month (except for July and August) with the following exception: the January meeting will take place on January 8 because the first Wednesday is New Year’s Day. Paula asked for a motion to accept the schedule. Shirley so moved and Pat seconded. All were in favor.

Yvette noted that in the past senior services has relied on interns to put senior center information on social media; however, as an intern has completed their term with us, no one has been available to keep it up. She would like to have volunteers help us get up to speed on sites such as FaceBook and twitter, and then make timely posts.

The capital budget will be due at the end of this month.

Yvette also noted that we have been told by both the accreditation peer reviewer and town manager Robert Smith that senior services should promote itself and advertise its accomplishments.
Paula asked about Thanksgiving turkey distribution. Yvette commented that there are new challenges this year, as FoodShare is under new leadership and with concerns about food insecurity, has employed new rules and regulations. They also closed the only other mobile site in Bloomfield and directed that we must now open our site to anyone over the age of 16.

Barbara spoke about yesterday’s election. A recount will take place next Wednesday. This is required by state statute when there is a 20 vote (or less) difference between two candidates. She also noted that there were two problems of note with the 330 Park Avenue building polling site. First, only one entrance to the building has automatic doors. Paula advised that this issue is being addressed. The building committee is waiting for pricing for the other three entrances and four restrooms. The second problem has to do with the light sensors. Lights were shutting off in areas that were occupied, an issue because the polls were staffed from well before sunrise until very late that evening. This is happening throughout the building and will be addressed at the November 19 building committee meeting. Barbara also advised that there will be a presidential primary on April 28, 2020.

Yvette acknowledged the passing of Diane Janusz. Many of the commission members knew her either as a senior services employee or member of the Music Makers.

It was asked if the commission will continue to meet in Room 111. At this point, we cannot say for certain because we have to be creative in sharing space. The town manager has noted that he has been receiving concerns that: we share rooms in the building. A question was asked about public works use of space in the human services building. The current plan is for them to use the middle room of what has been referred to as the “BATV space” to house their attic stock for a period of 6 months.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PUR) will present a seminar in the great room at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, November 12. This program is open to adults of all ages. Attendees are asked to bring a recent copy of their Eversource bill, as the presenter will review in detail how to understand your statement.

There was an error in the October minutes; the next meeting date was listed as October 2 instead of November 6. Jeannette made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected; Halesthen seconded. The minutes are approved as corrected.

Peter made a motion to adjourn. Shirley seconded. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:34 pm.

The next meeting will take place at the Senior Center at 12:00 noon on December 4.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Miller
Acting Secretary
Agenda
Bloomfield Commission on Aging
January 8, 2020

Human Services Building
330 Park Avenue (new building)

Commission Members:
Robert Berman, Alfred LeFebvre, Halesteen Graham-Days, Patricia Miller,
Lucille Morisse, Susan Odoms, Barbara Reisner, E. Leon Rivers, Jeannette Rivers,
Shirley Thompson, Gus Walek, Paula Walek, Peter Wilcox

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Old Business

IV. New Business

V. Public Comments

VI. Approval of December minutes
Congratulations to the Marilyn Michaelson Senior Center on achieving National Senior Center Accreditation in September 2019

Posted on October 9th, 2019

Bloomfield is located in Central Connecticut, just 10 minutes west of the state capitol, Hartford. It is easily accessible to Bradley International Airport and interstates 84 and 91. The Town encompasses 26.4 square miles and has a population of 20,000 residents.

The mission of the Marilyn Michaelson Senior Center of Bloomfield, Connecticut, is to serve as a welcoming focal point for the delivery of services to older adults and their caregivers by responding to their diverse needs and interests in a manner that will enhance their dignity, support their independence, health and general well-being, and encourage their involvement in the Senior Center and Community.
The Marilyn Michaelson Senior Center is housed in a brand new beautiful building. The layout, lighting, acoustics and accessibility to the building are wonderful for the programs. This center is tied very tightly to its community. It shares a building with other Human Services so this makes partnering easy and frequent. The center also partners with the CCRCs and HUD housing communities in the same town as well as health services for flu shots, etc.

The Center offers classes and special courses. Typical offerings include bridge, computer literacy, painting, music and fiber arts. There are a variety and range of exercise programs. The Aging Mastery Program along with courses in health, nutrition, entitlement programs are offered and periodically the LGBT Mobile Senior Center visits the center. Travel programs, local transportation, a café and Ida’s Shoppe, a re-sale shop, are also found at the center.

The peer reviewer noted the following strengths of the center:

- Awesome new building!
- Positive atmosphere of staff and guests reflecting a deep knowledge of each other
- Continued success with Aging Mastery Program
- Innovative programming as part of the LGBT Moveable Senior Center
- Programming includes nice balance of active and sedentary, solitary and group.
- Incredible trips including South Africa this Fall.
- Mini-bus Van program is strong and vital.
- Strong partnering with Town Agencies.
• Continued positive articles in the local paper

Consider national accreditation and the self-assessment process to show your governance the important resources that are available to the older adults in your community to age well. Learn how the National Senior Center Standards and self-assessment process can help you achieve excellence at your center.
BLOOMFIELD COMMISSION ON AGING
SCHEDULE OF 2020 MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Bloomfield Commission on Aging meets at The Marilyn Michaelson Senior Center of Bloomfield at 12:00 noon on the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August.

| January 8* | June 3     |
| February 5 | September 2|
| March 4    | October 7  |
| April 1    | November 4 |
| May 6      | December 2 |

*January 1 is a holiday