BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a special meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Mayor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown

Also present were: Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services, David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services, Camilla Hillian, Director Social & Youth Services, Marie MacDonald, Chair of CEEC, Gail Nolan, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager, Donna Banks and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Deputy Mayor Rickford Kirton, Councilors Jennifer Marshall-Nealy and Elizabeth Waterhouse

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. There was no quorum present.

Report from Committee Chairs

Senior Services

Mrs. Yvette Huyghue-Pannell gave a brief update regarding programming for Senior Services:

- Foodshare numbers have decreased – individual do not want to come in and sign up early
- CRT lunches are doing well
- Mini Bus – Concert Transportation
- Saturday Shopping in town is scheduled for every other month

Senior Center Special Events include:

- Mother’s Day program
- Aging Mastery Program Graduation
- 6th Annual Casual Prom with students from the University High School of Science & Engineering Honor Society
- Sponsored weekend programs to the: Taste of Mystic and Yankee Candle

The following activities listed below for the month of May include:

- The Music Makers performed during the Town’s Memorial Day observances.
- There were more than 80 seniors were guests of Bloomfield Public Schools for the Annual Senior Appreciation Luncheon

Social & Youth Services

Mrs. Camilla Hillian gave a brief update regarding programs and events for Social & Youth Services:
• The department had two successful Food Drives with the United States Postal Food Drive and Public Works (Geissler’s Supermarket). The department collected over 5,000 lbs. of food from both drives.

• Camp scholarship screenings are available for in town summer youth programs.

• A meeting was held with the Resident Council at Coventry Place to assist with advocating for residents to meet their needs.

• The department continues to provide Intensive Case Management for Adult and Youth cases

• The Renter’s Rebate Program will accept applications from April 1 – October 1

• Operation Fuel launched a water assistance program with the Metropolitan District Commission in April 2018

• Youth Services will host a the Younique Summer Camp for 2 weeks beginning June 25 for 6th-9th grades

• A Volunteer Recognition Dinner will be held June 13, 2018 at 5:45 p.m.

• Community Baby Shower will be held on August 11, 2018 from 5:00 -7:00 p.m. at Heirloom Flats

The Family Resource Center (FRC), Alliance for Bloomfield Children (ABC) will provide education to new and expectant mothers, baskets will be provided

Leisure Services

Mr. David Melesko gave a brief update regarding programming for Leisure Services:

After School Programming

• The department ended the 7th and 8th After School Program with a variety of celebratory activities:
  • June 1
  • June 6 – Special Event
  • June 8 – Leisure Services program

Memorial Day Parade

• There were 108 racers this year, the largest turnout ever. In past years, approximately 75-80 racers participated. The department decided to change the route, which may have attracted more racers this year.

Community Gardens

• Lisa Lane – 15 plots – sold
• Reservoir #3 – 13 plots sold
• LaSalette – 18 plots sold – this site will open this week with funding from DEEP to construct this garden in conjunction with Ironwood Partners. This hybrid community garden will offer ground level and raised beds. A purchase order was issued for the water well.

Summer 2018

Summer Camp will run from June 25th – August 24th (9 weeks of programming with weekly sessions)
Summer Camp Pre-registration is being accepted now! The deadline to sign up and receive a discount is June 1, 2018.

Wintonbury Hills Golf Course will also offer golf lessons during the summer months for youth

This summer, Leisure Services will Pilot the ACES Interviewing Program! Mayor DeBeatham-Brown stated that CIGNA is willing to offer their professionals from Human Resources to provide face to face feedback in interviewing skills.

Summer Concerts on the Green series will be sponsored from June 7th – August 9th with various local artists in a variety of music genres will perform on the Town Green every Thursday night beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Other Activities

Town Wide Community Gateway Park Signage has been installed. However, there are some issues with the building signs (post bending and warping) which have been changed to aluminum with composite.

Wintonbury Hills Golf Course - Charity Golf Event is scheduled for September 28th. The purpose of this event is to raise funding for Bloomfield youth programs.

Conservation Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC)

Ms. Marie MacDonald, Chair of CEEC gave a brief update regarding the following initiatives:

- Sustainable CT – It was noted that the Town Manager has not decided who will participate with this program. The requirements state that the Chair of this committee must be a paid town staff or an elected official. If the town chooses to participate, CEEC will volunteer a member to this committee.

- There are three Bloomfield High School students that qualified for the UCONN Natural Resources Conservation Academy Program.

- The Shred Day was very successful with the assistance of youth from Social & Youth Services. Approximately, 9,500 lbs. of paper was shredded.

- Bloomfield is a member of a six town Energy Taskforce. It is a multi-town energy initiative with Avon, Farmington, Canton, Simsbury and West Hartford. These towns will share ideas and initiatives such as: Residential/Commercial energy efficiency campaign, storm water management, elimination of non-organic pesticides and fertilizers on town owned land, food composting, energy tracking software, outreach to private corporations, umbrella RFP for audits, street light conversions

MDC has agreed to report quarterly to CEEC meetings with updates.

Beautification Committee

There is no report from this committee.
2018 Back to School Fun Fair

The Back to School Fun Fair will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Blue Hills Fire Department.

The cost of this program FY 17/18 was $13,268, not including part time staff and full time services. The breakdown of the financials include:

- $4,825 – Entertainment
- $8,443 – Backpacks and miscellaneous items(tents, tables, chairs)

The subcommittee made recommendations to:

- Scale down entertainment
- Donate time
- Vendors will come for FREE
- Place an order for 525 bags

Mayor DeBeatham-Brown suggested to work with $8,000 allotted budget from Town Council for planning of this year’s event. Mrs. Donna Banks, Coordinator of the Back to School Fun Fair stated that a request for funding has been submitted to Board of Education Administration.

Other Business

Mayor DeBeatham-Brown asked about the progress with ordering banners for light posts. There are styles being considered. The official town tagline is Come Bloom with Us!

Mr. Melesko will submit samples for subcommittee review. It was suggested to place banners on Bloomfield Avenue, Filley Park, Park Avenue and Blue Hills Avenue.

Approval of Minutes

There was no quorum to approve the minutes of December 5, 2017, January 17, 2018 – Special Meeting and March 6, 2018.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.