BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a special meeting of the above referenced subcommittee held on Wednesday, March 6, 2018 at 7:00 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: Deputy Mayor Rickford Kirton, Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services, David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services, Camilla Hillian, Director Social & Youth Services, Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager Marie MacDonald, Chair of CEEC and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent were: Councilors Jennifer Marshall-Nealy and Elizabeth Waterhouse, Donna Banks

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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:

- Partnership with the PTO at Metacomet Elementary School for “Lunch Bunch”.
- Transportation will be offered to seniors that are interested in attending the “Annie” Production at Bloomfield High School

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

- Regularly scheduled events include the low vision, caregiver and bereavement support groups, foot care clinic, AARP safe driver class, Men’s breakfast and Red Hot Honeys.
- AARP tax aide volunteers assisted nearly 140 tax payers despite the fact that the first day of appointments had to be canceled due to inclement weather. All those who had appointments were rebooked and the coordinator added another day to the overall schedule in an effort to accommodate as many people as possible.
- Senior Services partnered with Leisure Services for another successful paint night party. In addition, they have begun collaborating with them on some new daytime activities: 55+ basketball/shoot around; Intergenerational Wii Bowling and Pickleball.
- During the month of February, there were 164 volunteers who provided 757 hours of service to the Town. The approximate number of individuals that entered the Senior Center were 3,230.
The department also provided transportation for 85 out-of-town medical appointments and 24 passengers went on mall trips (including a weekend trip to Middlebury Consignment). There were 13 riders that took advantage of a weekend trip to Lenny & Joe’s Fish Tale Restaurant in New Haven.

**Social & Youth Services**

Mrs. Camilla Hillian gave a brief update regarding programs and events for Social & Youth Services:

The Renter’s Rebate Program will begin on April 1, 2018 through October 1, 2018. The Town is responsible for funding up to $250,000 for this program. The State has plans to reduce this amount from the ECS grant allotted to the Town for education. In addition, the grant amounts approved for clients will be slightly reduced. The Town of Bloomfield completed approximately 400 applications last year, totaling $200,000.

The State of Connecticut – Department of Education decided to transfer an unfunded state mandate to local Youth Service Bureaus. The town will now began to receive FCSN and Truancy referrals from the Board of Education. Mrs. Hillian requested statistics from the high school to determine the level of impact this mandate will have on the department. There may be a possibility to request more staffing based on the number of referrals.

Mrs. Hillian informed the subcommittee about the level of crisis cases received in the department over the past few months. These cases are definitely multi-layered with a variety of services needed for stabilization.

Mayor DeBeatham-Brown inquired about possible funding from the Board of Education to assist with referrals for FCSN and truancy.

**Leisure Services**

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

Leisure Services was awarded a grant from the State Department of Education and Bloomfield Board of Education to facilitate an After School Program for 7th and 8th graders. Approximately, 47 students are currently enrolled in the program. The goal is to reach capacity at 75-100. This program began on February 12, 2018 and will meet Wednesday, Thursday and Fridays. In addition, this grant provide an opportunity to purchase 12 Chromebook computers to foster the STEM program and offer expanded education/recreational activities.

The application deadline to file for summer hiring is February 8, 2018. The positions for Lifeguards were reposted again, not much on a response on the initial posting.

The Summer Concert Series schedule is near completion. The season will kick-off at Celebrate Bloomfield on Friday, June 1, 2018 with a mini concert from the Bloomfield High School Choir.

Mr. Melesko gave a status update on the following park projects:
- Farmington River Park – scope of work was released and due back on March 24, 2018.
- LaSalette and Lisa Lane - scope of work was released and due back on March 9, 2018.

The planning for Earth Day activities and events are underway. There will be an Earth Day Poster Contest for Pre-K through 12th grade, Neighborhood Clean-Up and rain barrels.

Memorial Day Celebration planning has begun. The vendor has been secured for the Road Race.

Summer Camp offerings have changed for this year. The department will administer two camps, Lil Rec’ers (5-9 years old) and the Rec’ing Crew (10-13 years old). Both camps offer one week session (9 weeks) at $110.00 per week. There is a discount of $10.00 per week for early registrants prior to June 1, 2018.

Conservation Energy and Environment Committee (CEEC)

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

The Town of Avon initiated a 5 town cooperative on a project, possibly Sustainable CT. The committee will discuss this item in length at their next scheduled meeting. Ms. MacDonald is unsure if the individual assigned to this committee should a paid staff person or an elected official to act as Chair.

The next Shred Day is scheduled for April 14, 2018 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Beautification Committee

There is no report from this committee. Mrs. Jane Low resigned her position as the Chair of the Beautification Committee after serving over 20 years.

2018 Back to School Fun Fair

The Back to School Fun Fair is scheduled for August 18, 2018 from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Melesko presented the 2017 budget and expenditures for the program:

- Entertainment - $4,825
- Backpacks - $4,000
- Tents - $1,850
- Ice Cream - $1,260
- Giveaways - $1000

In addition, there were 42 vendors who participated last year. No fees required.

Mayor DeBeatham-Brown requested a preliminary budget for this year’s event.
**Other Business**

The Branding/Marketing Committee met twice since the initial meeting in January. Mayor DeBeatham-Brown reported that a student from the University of Hartford is interested in completing their Independent Study to develop a marketing plan for the Town of Bloomfield.

At the next meeting, there will be a presentation by Civic Lift CT. They may get help with funding from various community organizations and the town.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.