BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above referenced subcommittee held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 via Zoom meeting.

Present were: Councilor Anthony Harrington, Chair, Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown, Rickford Kirton, Shamar Mahon

Also present were: Camilla Hillian, Director of Social & Youth Services, David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services, Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services, Sharon Mann, Bloomfield Beautification Committee, Chair, Paula Jones, Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee, Chair, and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Guest was: Deidra Riggs, Senior Program Director, Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth and Family Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Discussion regarding potential collaborations with Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth and Family Center

Councilor Harrington introduced Mrs. Deidra Riggs, Senior Program Director at the Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth and Family Center who gave a brief overview of youth programming and initiatives offered at the YMCA.

There ensued a detailed discussion on how the Town of Bloomfield could potentially collaborate with the Wilson-Gray YMCA Youth and Family Center.

The committee discussed potential costs for collaboration with Town of Bloomfield youth, transportation, financial assistance and a review of existing Town programs and activities.

Report from Town Staff and Committee Chairs

Social & Youth Services

Mrs. Camilla Hillian, Director of Social and Youth Services provided a status report of Social & Youth Services programs and services.

Social Services Programming

- Department of Social Services announced the launch of the DSS mobile app to help residents better connect with services

- It’s not too late to apply for Energy Assistance – Heating, Utility and Water assistance continues to be available through Community Renewal Team and Operation Fuel. Call Social & Youth Services at (860) 242-1895 for additional information.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Family Size</th>
<th>CT Energy Assistance</th>
<th>Operation Fuel</th>
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<tr>
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- Unite CT also continues to accept applications for up to $15,000 of rent assistance and up to $1,500 towards electric bill. Visit [https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT](https://portal.ct.gov/DOH/DOH/Programs/UniteCT) for further information.

- Youth Adult Council in need of 2 additional volunteers to serve on board. Meets 1st Tuesday of every month at 6:00 pm. Also in need of a Town Council Liaison.

- **Summer Youth Employment** – Partnership with Chamber to develop additional work sites for our youth.

- **Black History Gallery Walk** - Located on the 1st floor of 330 Park Ave. Take a self-guided tour to learn more about African American leaders. Created by Project 330 Youth Leadership Group.

- **Valentine’s Day Floral Gram** - Send someone you love a floral gram for Valentine’s Day. The kit includes a fresh floral arrangement and a DIY card craft. Limit one per household. Pre-registration by 2/7/22 required. For Additional Information contact Angelica Thompson, Youth Services Coordinator at 860-242-1895.

- **Books Celebrating Black Excellence** – In celebration of Black history month Youth Services has a variety of books for all ages, written by African American authors. Books are available in the lending library, located in the lower lobby of 330 Park Ave. Stop by and pick up a free book today.

- **Bloomfield Police Department Youth** – Now recruiting youth in 7th – 10th grades. This is an opportunity for Bloomfield youth to partner with the Bloomfield Police Department and Bloomfield Youth Services for an exciting in-person program that will focus on Team Building, Character Building, Leadership and Community Service. Contact Tiffany Wright, Assistant Youth Services Coordinator for more information at (860) 242-1895.

**Youth Services Programming**

**Current Trends in Youth Substance Abuse Workshop. In Partnership with The Governor’s Prevention Partnership**

Date: March 10, 2022  
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Zoom

The workshop will cover the following:

- Current drug trends  
- Opioids  
- Fentanyl

Youth Services will continue to have group conversations with their youth groups around substance use
Connecting with the schools to provide a drug prevention workshop/assemblies

Past workshops with Hidden in Plain Sight – Teen bedroom simulations to teach parents / providers what to look for.

Annual Local Prevention Grant through Amplify – Alcohol, Tobacco, other drugs (ATOD)

Partnerships with Bloomfield Public Schools, PD, Youth Adult Council, other towns.

**Leisure Services**

Mr. David Melesko, Director of Leisure Services provided a status report of Leisure Services programs and services.

- Assisted with the planning and implementation of the Mask and test kit giveaway that the Town provided to the residents.
- Began summer concert prep by setting dates: Thursday, June 23rd – August 25th
- West Indian Celebration scheduled for Thursday, July 28th 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Rain date Tuesday, August 2nd
- Working on the sound quote for concerts and events.
- Sponsorship letters went out in mid-January we currently have commitments for two gold sponsors at $1,000 each and two Silver sponsors at $500 each.
- Started working on securing food trucks for the summer concerts series for 2022.
- Scheduled Pool Maintainer for AFO training in March of 2022.
- Attended Camp Section meeting via Zoom with other Park and Rec. Departments from across the state topics discussed were increase in min. wage and hiring of summer employees.
- New session of Afterschool for 5th-8th graders begun and runs through the end of the school year.
- Attended the Alliance for Bloomfield Children monthly meeting via Zoom.
- Completed grant narrative for 7th and 8th grade Youth Academy in partnership with Carmen Arace Middle School.
- Winter programs start dates were pushed back two weeks because of the COVID surge. All programs are currently running with good attendance.
- Summer applications closed for returning staff. Applications for new staff opens on Feb. 1st.
- Nature Lecture Series 2022 kicked off on January 5, 2022 discussing “Fishers of Connecticut”. The webinar was well attended with 115 participants, which was followed by another successful webinar held on Wednesday, February 2nd at 6:00 p.m. about Bald Eagles with over 100 registrants pre-registered for the lecture.
- Reviewed the splash pad bids and followed up with vendors and references. As a result, the project was awarded to JA Construction. The project scheduled will be discussed at our kick-off meeting.
- Ice skating began at Filley Pond on January 25th thanks to support from the Department of Public Works and Center Fire District. Ice skating safety signs have been put in place and continuously be monitored by Public Works as temperatures fluctuate.
- The New Recreation Basketball League began skill evaluations; the evaluations were held on Wednesday, 1/19 and Saturday 1/22. The league will have six teams in grades 3rd-8th. Games will begin during the month February and will be on played on Saturday’s.
• The Rockwell Park quotes have been received by three potential firms; Fuss & O’Neill, Weston & Sampson, and BSC Group. The Rockwell Park Planning Team has completed an initial review and will continue with the review at our next meeting to be held during the week of February 7th.

**Senior Services**

Mrs. Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director of Senior Services provided a status report of Senior Services programs and services.

Senior Services January Events

• Started new folk dancing class (six-week program).
• Retirement/farewell reception for Helen Drohan (the public health nurse liaison to the Senior Center).
• Began preparation (with AARP Tax Aide coordinator) for upcoming federal and state income tax season.
• Caregiver and Bereavement Support Group meeting.
• Woman of Hope discussion group resumed.
• Distribution of face masks and COVID-19 test kits at elderly housing sites (in collaboration with Social & Youth Services).

**Coming up in February:**

• Food Share distributions on February 8th & 22nd.
• AARP Tax Aide program begins on February 2nd (every Wednesday through April 13th).
• A Matter of Balance (4-week, 8-session) research-based falls prevention program.
• Paint Night Party with Leisure Services at 5:30 on February 11th
• Valentine’s Day Luncheon at noon on February 14th
• Women’s breakfast at 9:30 am on Friday, February 18th
• Moveable Senior Center Rainbow Lunch (via Zoom) on February 24th
• Men’s breakfast at 9:30 am on Friday, February 25th

**Alliance for Bloomfield Children (ABC)**

Ms. Gail Nolan, Director of the Family Resource Center (FRC) gave a brief status update the various programs that they oversee:

• Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
• Early Childhood
• Diaper Bank
• Uniform Exchange
• School Readiness Council
**CEEC**

Mrs. Paula Jones is the Chair of the Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee. Mrs. Jones was not present at this meeting, however she did submit a written report from CEEC. (See detailed report attached)

** Beautification Committee **

Mrs. Sharon Mann, Chair of the Bloomfield Beautification Committee (BBC) gave a brief overview of various projects that have been completed in the past quarter.

It was an active December with the Leisure Services Department, the BBC obtained a grant from the Hartford Audubon Society to clean up the area at Farmington River Park. The BBC created a new entry way into the park, plantings were donated and the bluestone from the home to be demolished will be used in the new walkway.

It was also noted that a new bike rack will be installed.

The BBC is in Spring Work mode preparing landscaping plans for all public parks managed by them.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

** Approval of Minutes **

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to approve the minutes from December 14, 2021.

** Adjournment **

It was moved by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown, seconded by Councilor Mahon and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.
Conservation, Energy and Environment Committee’s (CEEC) Community Services Subcommittee February 8, 2022 Report

The Committee meets the second Thursday of each month from 4:30 – 6 pm and is meeting virtually via ZOOM until further notice. The CEEC engages in a wide variety of projects and education initiatives aimed at improving and conserving the environmental quality of life for Bloomfield residents. This report covers CEEC activities that occurred since the last meeting of the Community Services Subcommittee (December 14, 2021).

CEEC met on January 13th and is in the process of prioritizing areas of focus and initiatives to work on. The Committee will continue this exercise of setting priorities at our next meeting on February 10th.

Priority Setting - General themes include the following:

- We will look at all issues through the triple lens of Climate Emergency, Equity & Environmental Justice, and Public Health.

- Proposed areas of focus fall into three broad categories:
  - Energy – Promote energy efficiency programs (potential partnering with Operation Fuel); Renewable energy (solar); Infrastructure for EVs (more charging stations).
  - Waste Management (“trash” problem) – Proper recycling (plastics); composting programs (Seabury has recently acquired a commercial composter to process the Community’s food waste); anaerobic digester.
  - Conservation & Environment – Continue to support TREES FOR BLOOMFIELD Initiative (in partnership with BBC and Town departments); continue to monitor bird/wildlife populations; more environmentally-friendly landscaping practices (for the Department of Public Works, businesses, developers, residents).

Climate Emergency Resolution Update - The Town Council approved this resolution in May 2021. One of the actions called for was the development of a long-term plan to phase out greenhouse gases generated by Town activity by 2030. Funding was included in the FY 2021-22 Budget for the Town to hire a consultant to help with plan development. In January the “Energy Plan” RFQ was finalized. The next step is for the Environmental Planner to review any responses (with CEEC’s input).

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Below is a link to a relevant “Viewpoints” article published in the CT Mirror on Jan. 7, 2022:

- Environmental justice resolutions for 2022
  - CT Mirror. “A new year is always a great time to spur new action. When that year is following the hellscape that has been 2020 and 2021, we’re all desperate for a positive change. To me, that must entail action and policy for more life and good health. This resolution is a set of 10 salutogenic (health-promoting) ideas that are simple in nature, albeit complex in practice, intended to advance environmental justice: [see article for more on each idea]"
    - More robust tree canopies in urban areas...
    - More accessible farmers markets, community food hubs...
    - More equitable public transportation...
    - More pollinator gardens and wildfloweral...
    - More renovation of abandoned buildings...
    - More remediation of brownfields...
    - More green energy...
    - More education on climate change...
    - More climate resilient infrastructure...
    - More power to the people...