BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

EDUCATION, WORKFORCE, YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above reference subcommittee held on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting format via Zoom webinar virtual platform. The in-person location was Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Councilors' Present: *In-Person*: Michael Oliver; ***via Zoom:*** Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Councilor Shamar Mahon and Darrell Goodwin

Councilors' Absent: Elizabeth Waterhouse

Zoom Attendees: Alvin D. Schwapp Jr., Town Manager; Mayor Anthony Harrington.

Others present: *In-Person*: Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; India Rodgers, Director Operations and Communications; Warren Plummer, Director of Information Technology; Camilla Hillian, Director Social and Youth Services; Yvette Huyghue-Pannell, Director Senior Services; Dave Melesko, Director Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services.

Councilor Oliver called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Announcements and Presentations

Councilor Oliver introduced himself as the Chair and provided a high-level overview of the purpose of the Education, Workforce, Youth Development, and Community Services Subcommittee. He discussed possible opportunities within Makerspace CT providing programming options for youth and young adults.

Addition to the agenda- It was moved by Councilor Mahon and seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to add the Approval of Minutes to the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

SENIOR SERVICES

Mrs. Huyghue-Pannell, Director Senior Services was pleased to report on a wide range of community and senior services programs, including successful food distributions, cultural outings, and holiday events, many offered at no cost to residents through partnerships and donations. She noted that participation exceeded expectations for several initiatives, and additional wellness, tax assistance, and recreational programs are scheduled in the coming months. Community support and grant funding continue to enhance services provided to residents.

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Councilor Goodwin praised staff for their work and shared that Hartford Stage Theater expressed interest in partnering to offer seniors opportunities to attend scripted theater performances. He stated he would follow up with staff to help facilitate this potential collaboration.

SOCIAL AND YOUTH SERVICES

Mrs. Hillian, Director Social and Youth Services, provided a monthly update on the completion of the 2026 Season of Giving, distributing over 125 Thanksgiving baskets and holiday gifts to 190 children, assisting residents with health insurance and energy assistance enrollment, and supporting housing stability through United Way funding. Youth Services updates included the start of parenting workshops and after-school programs, a sold-out Disney on Ice trip on January 15, and the transition of the Juvenile Review Board to the Youth Diversion Team effective January 1, 2026. The department also noted plans to launch free youth mental health counseling in February and preparation for the 2026 Summer Youth Employment Program has begun.

Mr. Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager, requested an update on warming center services in anticipation of an upcoming cold weather period. Mrs. Huyghue-Pannell reported that warming centers continue to operate at 330 Park, providing a safe, warm space with recreational and social activities, though increased usage has created staffing and budget challenges. The Town Manager noted that these services illustrate the importance of municipal funding in supporting essential community needs and thanked the staff for doing an extraordinary job for doing business and bringing continuous awareness to the town.

Mrs. Hillian, concluded with noting that seniors may apply for the Aging in Place Safely Grant, which provides up to $5,000 for minor home repairs. Interested residents were advised to contact the Minority Construction Council at 860-882-0675, noting that the application deadline has been extended to January 15, 2026.

PARKS, RECREATION, & LEISURE SERVICES

Mr. Melesko, Director Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services, provided an update on the ongoing work on the Rockwell Park planning project, with preliminary plans under review by relevant departments to ensure long-term usability and maintenance. Updates were also provided on facility improvements at 330 Park Avenue, including the creation of a dedicated youth game room, flooring upgrades, and continued planning for seasonal programs and events. Additionally, recent events were reviewed, future programming outlined, and discussions noted regarding adjustments to the after-school program and early preparation for summer hiring.

Mayor Harrington and Mr. Melesko shared that the Bloomfield Board of Education is collecting gently used professional clothing for students to wear for interviews and work-related activities. Mayor Harrington encouraged community donations, noting the positive impact similar programs have had in workforce development. In addition, Mr. Melesko mentioned that the library will offer a related class to help participants prepare for interviews and professional opportunities.

It was moved by Councilor Mahon, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to approve October 6, 2025 and October 14, 2025, meeting minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Goodwin, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lloyd and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

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