Minutes not yet approved.
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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
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BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

GOVERNANCE, POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above-mentioned subcommittee held on Monday, June 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in a hybrid meeting format via the Zoom webinar virtual platform. The in-person location was Council Chambers, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee Members present: ***In-person:*** Mayor Anthony Harrington, Chair; Councilor Todd Cooper, Vice-Chair; Councilor Joseph Merritt (6:05 p.m.) ***via Zoom:*** Councilor Suzette DeBeatham-Brown; Councilor Darrell Goodwin.

Committee Members *absent:* None

Also present: ***In-person:*** Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; Latonia Tabb, Clerk of Council; India Rogers, Director of Operations & Communications; Jon Colman, Director Building & Land Use; Warren Plummer, Director of Information, Technology and Innovation; Darrell Hill, Director of Finance; ***via Zoom:*** Deputy Mayor Cindi Lloyd; Denise Robidoux, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Goman + York.

Absent: Alvin D. Schwapp, Jr., Town Manager; David Melesko, Director Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services.

The meeting begin at 6:01 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

ROCKWELL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Mayor Harrington presented the Rockwell Park Improvement Project update on behalf of Director of Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Services David Melesko. He reported that the $4 million Community Investment Fund (CIF) Round 4 project remains on schedule for completion in August 2027, with permitting substantially complete, design work progressing, and bid documents expected to be released later this year.

The project remains within budget, with no reported issues, risks, or concerns. Improvements include new basketball courts, walkways, parking enhancements, a gathering pavilion, community gardens, and coordination with the adjacent Greenway walking and bicycle path project.

DISCUSSIN AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE TOWN'S BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS APPOINTMENT PROCESS- STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP)/POLICY

Town Councilors discussed the proposed Boards and Commissions Appointment Process SOP, with members expressing concerns regarding the absence of the proposed evaluation rubric and the potential for the process to become overly burdensome for applicants and Council members. Director of Operations and Communications India Rogers explained that the rubric had not yet been developed and noted the need to finalize the appointment process, as approximately 150 volunteer applications and numerous pending appointments remain outstanding.

Following discussion, committee members agreed that additional review was needed and expressed support for referring the matter to a reinstated Committee on Committees for further consideration and recommendations.

It was moved by Councilor Goodwin, seconded by Councilor Cooper and voted unanimously to table this item for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION TO REINSTATE COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE- COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councilor Merritt and seconded by Councilor Cooper and voted unanimously to open the floor for discussion.

The Town Councilors had discussions and asked for clarification regarding the timeframe, interviews, and councilor's involvement. The question was called by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown.

It was moved by Councilor Cooper, seconded by Councilor DeBetham-Brown and voted unanimously to reinstate council subcommittee- committee on committees.

DISCUSSSION ON COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND (CIF)

Director Coleman reported that the Town is finalizing a revised Community Investment Fund (CIF) application seeking approximately $12 million in state funding, with submission scheduled for that week. He noted that the Town has secured numerous letters of support from Town Council members, the state delegation, and local businesses. Coleman also advised that responses to the related development RFP have been received and are under review; however, due to procurement requirements, discussion of the process remains limited while bids are being evaluated.

UPDATE ON CONGRESSIONAL GRANT APPLICTION

Director Coleman reported that the Town submitted congressional grant applications through the offices of Senator Blumenthal and Congressman Larson. While the application submitted through Senator Blumenthal's office was not selected, Bloomfield advanced in the competitive process for a $4 million grant through Congressman Larson's office. Denise Robidoux advised that a funding decision is not expected until after the summer due to the federal review process.

DISCUSSION REGARDING BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Mr. Jon Colman, Director of Building & Land Use, provided a report covering provided updates for April and May on several economic development initiatives, including the submission of a revised $12 million Community Investment Fund (CIF) application, ongoing federal grant requests, the Town Center Plan, Plan of Conservation and Development, and various commercial and residential development projects. He also reported on economic development efforts, upcoming ordinance revisions, Sustainable Connecticut recertification, and current permitting and construction activity throughout the Town.

Councilor DeBeatham-Brown inquired about the Town's approach to complying with the State's housing requirements and whether Bloomfield could develop its own housing plan rather than having one imposed by the State. She also asked about funding sources for the proposed small business microloan program and suggested exploring opportunities for pop-up business spaces to help small businesses establish a presence in the community before transitioning to permanent locations.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Finance Director Darrell Hill presented the Town Manager's report in the absence of Town Manager Schwapp. He reported that the administration is preparing to close out Fiscal Year 2026, planning for summer activities, and preparing for Fiscal Year 2027 pending the outcome of the upcoming budget referendum. He also encouraged all registered voters to participate in the budget referendum.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. (online) Erin Barringer, 28 Kenmore Road, thanked staff for their work on the proposed Boards and Commissions SOP and encouraged the Council to move forward with finalizing the appointment process. She expressed concern about delays in filling board and commission vacancies, noting that many residents are willing to serve and urging the Council to advance the process so appointments can be made in a timely manner.

2. Sharon Furman, 2 Skinner Drive, asked questions regarding the timeline for notifying applicants to Town boards and commissions and whether existing committees have input into the selection of new members. She was advised to submit her questions to the Council Clerk for a response at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Cooper, seconded by Councilor DeBeatham-Brown and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.