**Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Committee**
**Meeting Minutes**

There was a meeting of the above-mentioned committee held on **Monday, February 2, 2026, at 5:00 pm.**

**Committee members present:** Louis Blumenfeld, Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair, Paula Jones
**Absent:** Shenda James, June O'Connor
**Others:** David Melesko, Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

**Old Business**

**Rockwell Park**

- Project is on pace, with project planning and details being finalized. Continue to hold bi-weekly meetings
- Update from VHB (engineering firm) on the Tyler Street and Rockwell project forthcoming at our next meeting; meeting rescheduled to next Thursday due to the Town Engineers scheduled time off.

**LaSalette Park**

- Walk-through conducted with Peter Russell to assess the Universal Trail condition; focus on invasive species removal using machinery from past Arbor Day Foundation grants.
- Budget shifts proposed: Move funds from supplies to contractual services for park maintenance (e.g., invasives at La Salette, Farmington River Park).
- Frequency of invasives removal: Ideally annual, but resource-dependent; advocacy for funding through operating budget.
- Invasive management to expand beyond LaSalette Park, look into private funding opportunities to address invasive at Farmington River Park.

**Filley Park**

- There has been no ice skating to date. With storm clean-up nearing completion, we hope to open up the pond for ice skating during the week of February 2.
- The was robust discussion around the Village Improvement Association. Members of the committee agreed to move forward with reformation and will collaborate with the appropriate parties to accomplish this task.

**Donation Policy Revision**

- Review of draft policy for handling donations (e.g., benches, memorials).
- Key changes: Replace "public hearing" with "hearing at a public meeting" to avoid statutory implications.
- Appeal process: Department can appeal committee decisions; final appeal to Town Council.
- Minimum requirements for donations discussed; low risk of challenges anticipated.

- Motion to approve the revised policy (with date corrections from 2025 to current and minor references): Approved unanimously after review.

**New Business**

**Parks Master Plan Update**

- Discussion on updating the 2014 Parks Master Plan; proposed a new plan in year 5 of the 5-year capital budget (around 2030-2031).
- Current initial – Update the parks section by focusing on a brief summary update for 2026: Snapshot of accomplishments, changes needed, and strategies/actions.
- Review POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development) for alignment; input on parks-related sections.

**January Report**

- New flooring installed in the meeting rooms and kitchen areas.
- Game room setup in progress: Wall partitions, gaming systems, billiards, ping pong, foosball.
- Health and Wellness Fair planning with Matthew; seeking commitments from instructors.
- Summer series sponsorship letters sent; bands being finalized (6-7 currently lined up).
- CRPA conference attendance next week.
- Program offerings released; summer staffing begun.
- Updating operating procedures for after-hours and weekends, including emergency protocols.

**Committee Comments**

- Tree City USA: Notification received that DEEP approved the application; Arbor Day Foundation expected to rubber-stamp. Volunteer hours from Sharon's work included in reporting.
- Maplewood Project: Interest confirmed from Jess Krajowski (CCSU) for volunteers/students; FRWA (Farmington River Watershed Association) open to providing grants/funds for trees and materials. Plan to refine structural plan and pursue.

**Public Comments –**

- none

**Approval of Minutes**: Paula Jones moved to approve the January 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair with all in favor.

**Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.