Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes – (unapproved)

A meeting of the Bloomfield Parks and Recreation Committee was held on Wednesday, May 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m at the Alvin and Beatrice Wood Human Services Center.

Committee Members Present

- Louis Blumenfeld
- Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair
- Shenda James

Absent

- Paula Jones

Others Present

- Matthew Mace, Assistant Director of Parks, Recreation and Leisure Services

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I. Call to Order

Chair Louis Blumenfeld called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the April meeting were reviewed. Minor corrections were noted.

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair, seconded by Shenda James, and carried unanimously.

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III. Old Business / Updates

A. Rockwell Project Update

Matthew Mace provided an update on the Rockwell project. The application is currently delayed in the permitting process. David Melesko met Peter Castaldi in the Planning Department to help move the process forward. Approval is anticipated on Monday, May 11, and the committee will be kept informed of progress.

B. Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Donation Policy Revision

A hold has been placed on the donation policy revision. The policy will instead be incorporated into the Operations Procedures and Policy manual and has been submitted for review.

C. Parks – Invasive Management & Park Updates

La Salette Invasive Management Update

On April 22, 12 employees from the Cummins Group volunteered alongside 10 volunteers from the CEEC and the Town Beautification Committee to continue invasive species management work previously supported mechanically by Public Works. Volunteers cleaned areas that equipment could not safely access.

Dave Melesko contracted a vendor to mow the treated areas to help sustain the progress made by volunteers and Public Works. He plans to continue the contract into the next fiscal year beginning July 1.

Farmington River Park Updates

Matthew Mace informed the committee that Farmington River Park has experienced graffiti on recently installed benches, as well as trail damage caused by ATVs and dirt bikes, which are prohibited in the park.

The Bloomfield Police Department responded to multiple incidents. Officers were initially unable to catch a group of ATV riders but later made contact with them during a subsequent incident. The individuals received warnings, and investigation indicated they had entered the park from the Windsor side. The Windsor Police Department was notified.

Chair Louis Blumenfeld shared photographs that were taken by Paula Jones of the graffiti damage, trail damage, and a recently installed bridge that had washed out.

Matthew Mace also informed the committee about a non-chemical invasive management program that currently has funding for 18 days of work.

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IV. New Business

Matthew Mace provided a brief update on the proposed 2027 budget and early retirement packages affecting the department. The Department Director is planning to accept the retirement offer.

He also informed the committee that the proposed 2027 camp fee is $250 per week, pending Town Council approval.

Committee members asked questions regarding:

- Future department structure
- Fee increases
- Summer concert programming

Matthew Mace stated he could not yet comment on future departmental structure but noted that fees would likely increase across the board.

Committee members were assured that the summer concert series remains well supported through sponsorships and a proposed increase to the weekend celebration budget, where those events are funded.

V. Department Reports (February & March)

Matthew Mace provided updates on ongoing departmental operations, including preparations for summer programming.

Hiring interviews for lifeguards and seasonal staff have resumed. The department continues standard preparations for summer operations while awaiting guidance on fee structures for camps and aquatic programming.

VI. Public Comments

No members of the public were present, and no public comments were received.

VII. Adjournment

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A motion to adjourn was made by Nazy Fayaz-Shoucair, seconded by Shenda James, and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Submitted, May 8, 2026

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