

Address Equity Issues" and the other was a copy of the Oakland County Blueprint for Successful Aging. Both were available for review and future discussion.

PRESENTATIONS:

Julie Farkas, Novi Public Library Director, spoke about the Strategic Planning process that the library has been going through. The consultants had sent out a survey in December 2022, and they also had in-person and virtual surveys, as well as a retreat with panelists in their teens up to older adults. The feedback will be used in Library planning and programming. Full survey results are available on the library website.

The library provides a variety of programs and services for the community. They work closely with many of the care facilities in Novi and have been able to go into the centers to offer presentations, learning sessions, and book discussions. They also offer a books by mail program that allows Novi residents to receive books and materials by mail when they are unable to physically get to the Library. Director Farkas noted that Older Adults have the highest usage of downloadable media.

Member Casey asked about adaptive technology at the library, and if there was a demand for items such as magnifiers, tablets, hot spots. Ms. Farkas said that there was not much demand at all. Most homes in the community already have the technology in their homes, and the need to check them out from the library is almost non-existent. She added that a very popular service is one-on-one sessions with a tech specialist. A resident can schedule a 20-minute appointment with someone who can teach them how to download materials or find webpages. They are also able to assist with filling out online paperwork such as Medicare/Medicaid forms (technology assistance only, not advise on how to complete the paperwork).

Member Crawford asked about the library as a gathering place. She mentioned that residents want to get out of the house and meet with their peers, but sometimes this leads to issues due to generational differences, especially during times right after school let out. Ms. Farkas spoke about the large teen population that use a Teen Space service that gives them an adult monitored safe place to hang out or study after school. More than 50 students come to the library café daily to grab a drink and snack and use a dedicated space to socialize, and a large majority of these students focus on their schoolwork and study quietly. She noted that the library has become a gathering place for the community, and many weekends they run out of seats.

Member Nice asked how many of the teen visitors would benefit from a recreation center more than a library. Ms. Farkas said that many would, but most students to use the Teen Space are quite studious and dedicate their time to schoolwork.

The library has new technologies coming soon that will help them become even more inclusive and accessible. A new Novi Library app will be a virtual trip to the library offering information about the artwork on display, library news, downloads, and so much more.

They also have a program called "Recite Me" that will read webpages for the vision impaired or users who speak/read in different languages.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:

Member Crawford presented results from a survey she conducted of 40 women between the ages of 50-94 who had recently traveled together on a 4-day trip to Petosky, Michigan. She asked each participant to write down three things that they need and/or want in their life right now. She summarized her findings in four categories, Socialization, Exercise/Fitness, Favorite Activities, and Miscellaneous. Members of the committee thanked her for taking the time to ask these questions and gather the information.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS:

Janet Censoni asked what percentage of Novi residents are considered Older Adults. Member Thomas said that approximately 15% of the population are aged 65 or older. Member Dooley confirmed this statistic. Ms. Censoni stated that gambling holds the highest addiction rate for seniors, mostly due to their need to be with others. She asked if the City had considered purchasing land to build a Senior Center, or if it was stuck on the idea of using an existing footprint. Member Casey said that it is being determined if Public Safety needs a new facility, and if that is deemed necessary, that the current building would be considered for a community center of some sort. It could be vacated and quickly retrofitted to meet the needs of the new facility.

ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 P.M.

Transcribed by Melissa Morris, Deputy City Clerk

Date approved: May 1, 2023