

PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

Thursday, October 15, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.

NOVI CIVIC CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with Commissioner Jewell presiding.

ROLL CALL: Jewell (Present), Bauss (Present), Dooley(Ex-Absent), Pratt (Present), Staab (Present), Torimoto (Present), Wingfield (Ex-Absent), Student Representative Thakore (Present), Student Representative Wei (Present).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved that the agenda be approved as written by Commissioner Bauss and seconded by Commissioner Pratt.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

PRESENTATION: Matt George, Boy Scout Troop 1826, Eagle Scout Project Rotary Park trail improvement

Matt George gave a power point presentation of the restoration of Guernsey Trail. The Commissioners commended Matthew George.

Commissioner Pratt asked about on-going maintenance and signage. Deputy Director Ringle added both are being evaluated and a comprehensive list of projects suitable for Eagle Scouts, civic organizations and local business is in the process of being compiled in collaboration with the Department of Public Services.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A. Approval of the September 17, 2015 minutes.

It was moved that the minutes for September be approved as written by Commissioner Pratt and seconded by Commissioner Bauss.

Voice Vote **Unanimous**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Walkable Novi – Commissioners Wingfield and Bauss

Commissioner Bauss reported the Committee had met prior to tonight’s Commission meeting and had discussed prioritization list of segments.

B. Novi Parks Foundation - Commissioners Torimoto and Jewell

Director Muck reported the Foundation had not met since the last Commission meeting and would be meeting in early November. The Foundation has been discussing public artwork initiatives, website improvements and a new fundraising event in fall 2016.

C. Grants Committee – Commissioners Pratt and Dooley

The Grants Committee plans to meet in late November or early December to discuss potential 2016 grant projects and applications

STAFF REPORTS:

A. Administration Division – Director Jeff Muck

1. Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grants

Director Muck updated the Commission that the City closed on the new Northwest Park property on 12 Mile Road on September 29th. The Northwest Park is planned to retain the natural wooded features of the property as much as possible while adding parking, nature trails, a nature based/themed playground and a shelter or pavilion. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services will begin working on steps to develop a conceptual plan for the property to assist with future budgeting and/or grant opportunities.

2. Dog Park – 1 Year Anniversary

Director Muck stated the Dog Park has been open for just over a year and the response has exceeded expectations with more than 400 memberships in the first year. The park allows dogs to run off leash while supervised by their owner or attendant. For the safety and comfort of dogs and their owners, nearly three-quarters of an acre is set aside for small and/or timid dogs and nearly one and a half acres are available for larger dogs. Membership is required for use of the Dog Park. Owners are required to provide proof of vaccinations and dog license. And watch a detailed training video prior to purchasing an entry key fob. Members of the Novi Dog Park are an engaged group, many of whom assist in self-policing the park.

B. Recreation Division – Deputy Director Tracie Ringle

1. Programs & Services

Deputy Director Ringle shared that youth basketball and volleyball registration has increased by 43% over 2014. The Trick or Trucks event on Thursday, October 22nd has more than 100 registered to date. Twelve trucks will be on display at the event. A Day of the Dead Celebration will be held on Friday, November 1st. The Mexican cultural event will have food, crafts, educational displays and dancing. Fireworks have been confirmed for Light Up the Night on Friday, December 4th. They are sponsored by Bright House Networks and will be launched from Power Park. The Marketing Plan, reviewed by Commission at the last meeting, has been shared with City Council.

C. Older Adults – Older Adult Services Manager Karen Kapchonick

1. Programs & Services

Manager Kapchonick stated the Annual Health Fair, “Know Your Numbers, Improve Your Health”, held on “October 10th was a success. Over 250 attended. There were twelve vendors and Meijer provided 78 flu shots. The 2nd Annual Euchre Tournament had forty players. Older Adult Services has partnered with the DIA and hosted three sold out field trips serving over 115 residents. She discussed the new formatting of the Enhance. Older Adult Services is partnering with Novi Today which allows Enhance to be an eight page color insert in Novi Today which is mailed to all residents and is published four times a year. It will also have articles highlighting participants. The Commissioners thought it was creative and well done and hopefully leads to resident awareness of programs offered. Manager Kapchonick talked about the upcoming themed luncheons and their sponsors. She stated a 5-year Needs Assessment is being done at Meadowbrook Commons in preparation for the budget and Capital Improvement Program.

MATTERS FOR COMMISSION DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:

A. Commissioners shall select from the members a chairman and vice-chairman to preside at all Commission Meetings

A nomination by proxy of Charles Stabb for chairman and Doug Bauss for vice-chair by Jay Dooley was read and was seconded by Commissioner Pratt.

Voice Vote Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Pratt commented on the great programming and is looking forward to the fall events. He thanked staff for working with Matt George.

Commissioner Staab had a question about the toddler singletrack being maintained by the Motor City Mountain Bike Association. This was confirmed by Director Muck. He is looking forward to serving as Commission Chair. He asked about the early date for Trick or Trucks. Deputy Director Ringle stated it was to avoid competition with neighborhood and church parties

Commissioner Bauss congratulated Matt George. He stated it is great to see youth involved in parks.

Commissioner Jewell thanked Matt George. He hopes to see more people come forward to improve their parks. Great information was given on the Dog Park. He thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as Commission Chair this past year.

Student Representative Thakore stated she loves the Dog Park and has spent a lot of time there. It is a great place for dogs and their owners.

Student Representative Wei congratulated Matt George on completing his project.

Commissioner Torimoto stated his family has enjoyed the fall activities. He appreciated Matt George's efforts. It was a great presentation, very well thought out and good public speaking.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Torimoto and seconded by Commissioner Bauss.

Voice Vote Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned by Commissioner Jewell at 8:00 p.m.

DATE APPROVED: _____

Jerry Jewell, Chairperson

Charles Staab, Vice Chairperson